

The Nativity

an origami scene by
Lore Schirokauer



BRITISH
ORIGAMI
SOCIETY

booklet 66

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Lore Schirokauer

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booklet 66

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I am deeply grateful, both to my husband for typing and re-typing the instructions until they were error free, and to David Brill for all the time and effort spent on his computer to turn my designs into this booklet.

L.S.

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About Lore Schirokauer

Lore Schirokauer grew up in England where she studied photography and art history.

After marriage, she joined her husband in Paris for two years before emigrating to the United States. Subsequently the Schirokauers spent several years in Kyoto, where Lore became interested in the paper arts, including origami. Her work has been exhibited and published in Japan, Europe, and America.

Her goal is to use her training in photography and western art history to express her deep love for East Asian aesthetics, and to create something original.

Hints for successful folding

ALWAYS look ahead and study the next diagram to see the desired result, the correct placement of each fold, and whether it is repeated in the back.

To avoid confusion, face your model in the same direction as the diagram.

Be sure to complete all folds in each step and keep an eye out for landmarks to help place the folds correctly.

Do not assume inside or outside reverse folds are difficult: they are not!

Pre-crease whenever possible until you get a feel for the movement of the paper.

It is entirely legitimate to use tools such as toothpicks, tweezers, or bone creasers, etc.

Folded paper tends to unfold while you are not looking! If models are to be on display for some time, a little white glue in strategic places may be appropriate. Use a toothpick to place a very small amount of glue inside the model where there are at least two layers of paper. Do this also when joining the two piece models. A clip clothes pin will hold the paper together while the glue dries.

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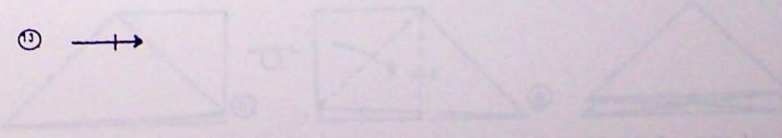
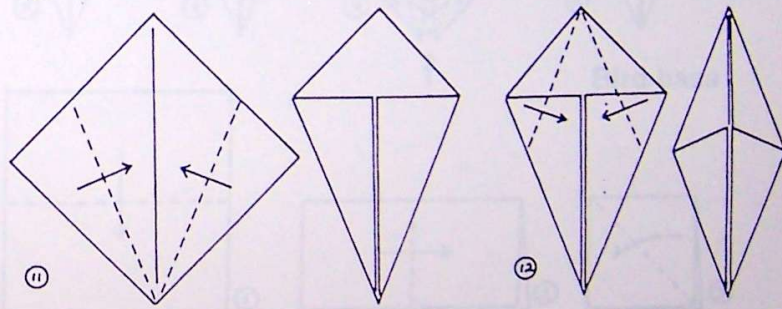
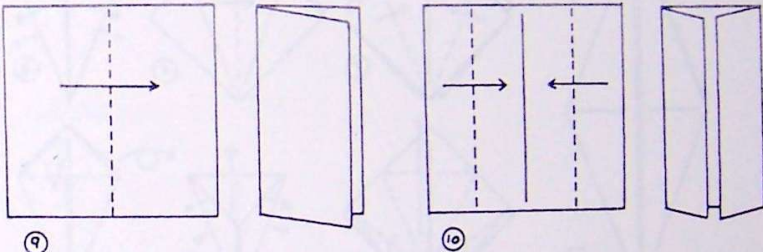
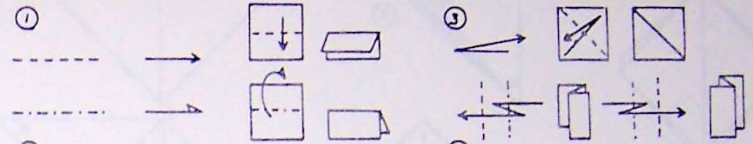
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Symbols

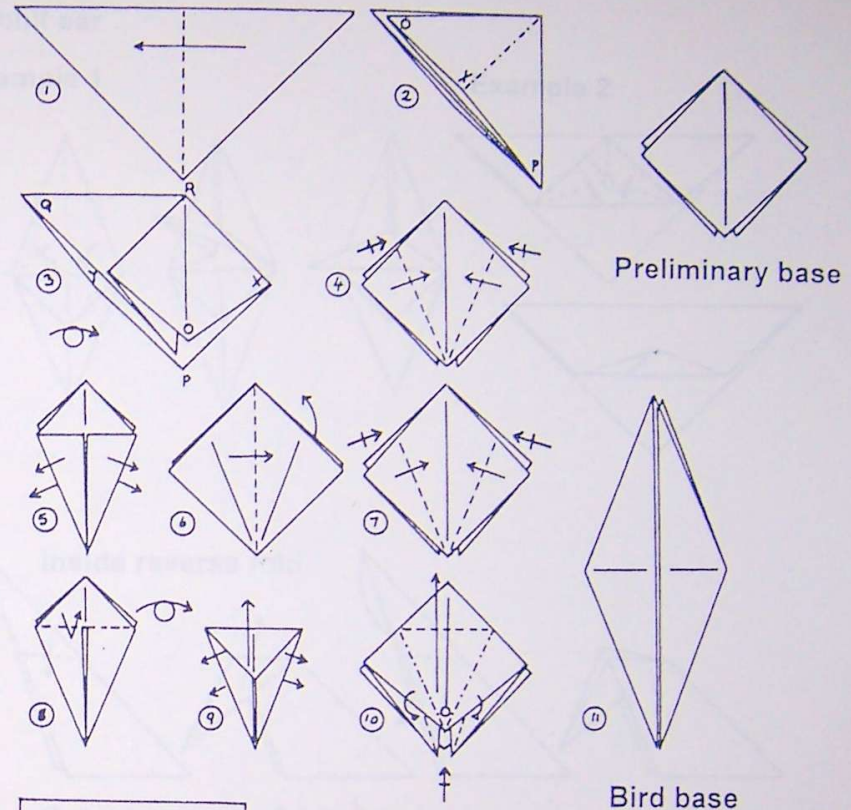
1. Valley fold
2. Mountain fold
3. Fold, crease and unfold (also known as pre-crease)
4. Crimp
5. Turn the model over
6. Diagrams get larger
7. The angle of the model changes
8. Squash or push the paper
9. Book fold
10. Cupboard fold
11. Ice cream cone base
12. Diamond base
13. Repeat behind

Symbols



Preliminary base and bird base

- 1 Begin with a square of paper folded diagonally in half. Fold triangle in half again.
- 2 Put two fingers inside top triangle and push point O down to point P. A mountain fold XR will form and point X will move out to form a square.
- 3 Diagram shows completion of step 2. Turn model over. Fold both layers of triangle PQR to the left by way of valley fold PR. Repeat step 2 bringing point Q down to point P. Y will move over to X to complete a second square.
- 4 Bring all the points together at the bottom, crease well. You now have completed the **preliminary base**. Valley fold lower raw edges of top layer to centre line. Turn model over and repeat the same steps.
- 5 Unfold all four flaps, return to preliminary base
- 6 Swing left side of upper layers to the right, on the back swing right flap to the left.
- 7 Repeat step 4. This time make the valley folds on existing mountain creases.
- 8 Valley fold top point along top edge of flaps. Crease sharply, unfold, turn model over and repeat the same step.
- 9 Unfold all flaps, and return to preliminary base.
- 10 Lift top layer at point O, fold back on existing valley crease, allow pre-creased mountain and valley folds to form left and right, bringing both raw edges to centre line. Turn model over and repeat the same step.
- 11 You have now completed the **bird base**.

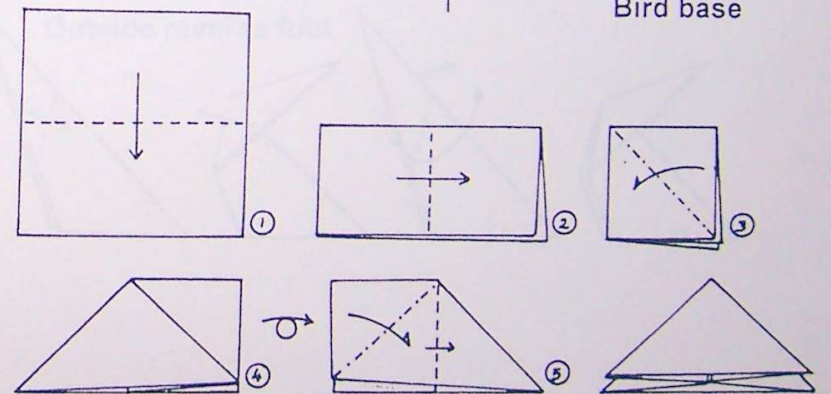


Preliminary base

Bird base

Waterbomb base

- 1 Start with a square, white side up and valley fold in half.
- 2 Valley fold again.
- 3 Slip a finger between the top layers. Open up the square area and squash by means of a mountain fold. A triangle will form.
- 4 Turn model over and repeat step 3.



Waterbomb base

Rabbit ear

The rabbit ear is commonly folded from a loose triangular shape of paper within a model. It can appear at any time from the beginning to the end of a folding method. The first example uses one of the flaps of a bird base. One at a time, pre-crease the two long sides to the base of the triangle. Then, on those existing creases, fold both sides at the same time until they meet. Pinch the remaining part of the triangle which will stand up like a rabbit ear. Press flat to the left or right.

The folds made to form the fish base are two rabbit ears.

Inside and outside reverse folds

Do not assume that inside or outside reverse folds are difficult. They are not. Pre-crease the point to the desired angle whenever possible until you get a feel for the movement of the paper.

Inside reverse fold

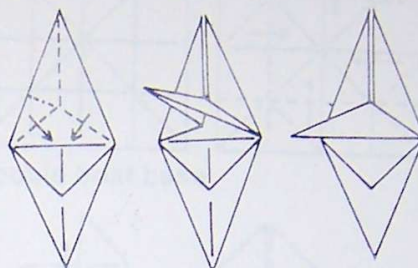
Pre-crease the point sharply to the desired angle. Put your thumb inside the opening, and with your forefinger bring the point down between the sides and crease on the existing lines.

Outside reverse fold

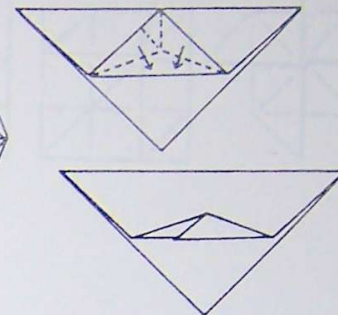
Pre-crease sharply away from the opening, to the desired angle. Open the point and turn it inside out as far as the existing crease lines. Close the model and crease on those lines.

Rabbit ear

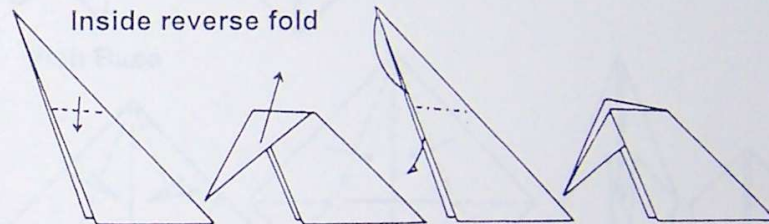
Example 1



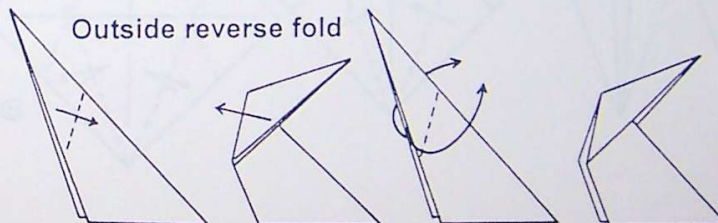
Example 2



Inside reverse fold



Outside reverse fold



Windmill base

For a coloured base start with a square white side up. Pre-crease both diagonals, both book folds and cupboard folds. Valley fold two adjacent cupboard folds as the same time. Pinch the corner, which will stand up, and press flat. Repeat the procedure with the other three corners.

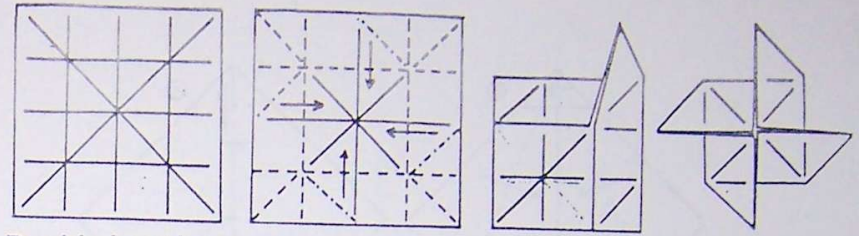
Double boat base

Start with a windmill base. Valley fold two diagonal opposite paddles as indicated.

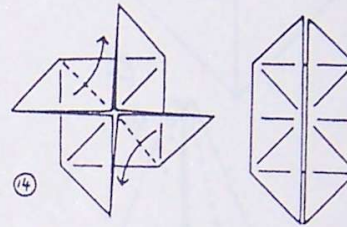
Fish Base

For a coloured fish base, start with a square, white side up. Pre-crease both diagonals. Bring two adjacent sides to the centre line, crease and unfold. Bring the other two adjacent sides to the centre line, crease and unfold. Bring the other two adjacent sides to the same centre line. On the left, at the same time, valley fold on the existing creases as indicated, allowing a triangle to stand up in the middle, and press flat. Repeat on the right. The last diagram shows the fish base with the flap down.

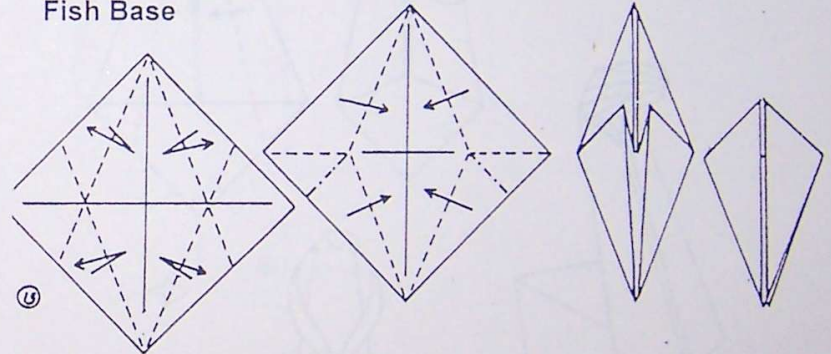
Windmill base



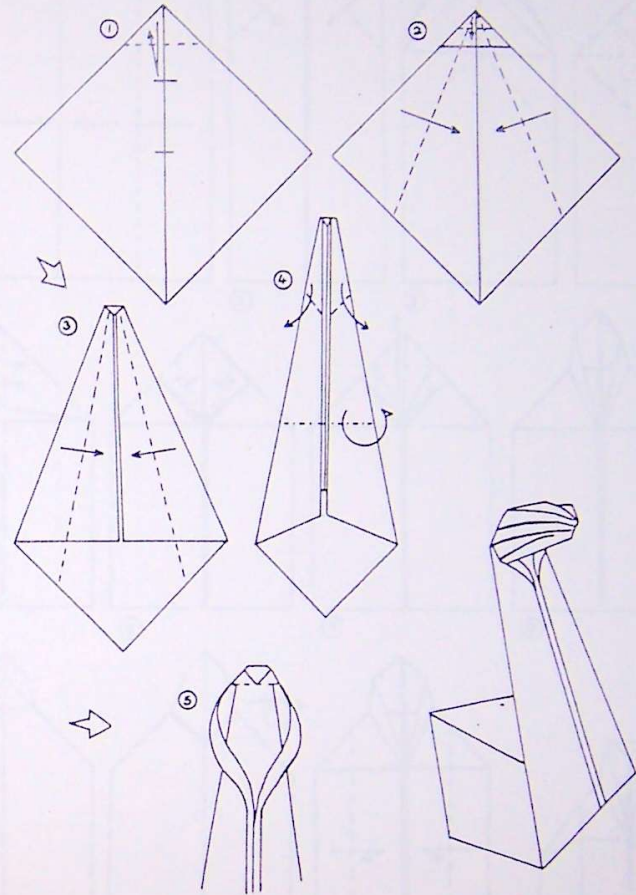
Double boat base



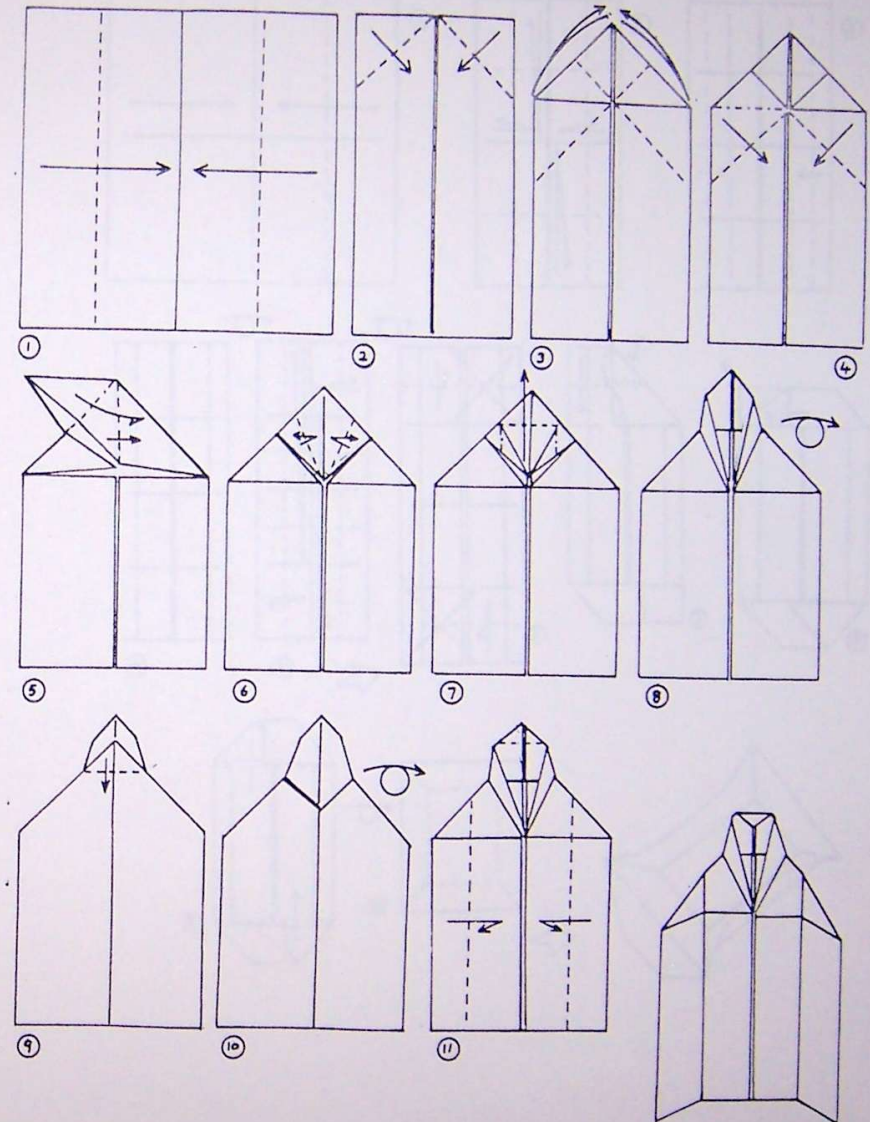
Fish Base



1. Start with a square, white side up, pre-creased on the diagonal. Find the eighth mark and crease. Unfold.
2. Fold the point to the eighth mark. Continue as indicated. Diagrams get larger.
4. With your thumb, open up all layers down to the white side. Then bring the top section forward by means of the two valley folds, and mould into shape.
5. This is a view into the opened up section. Reinforce the valley fold made in step one.



1. Start with a square, white side up, pre-creased edge to edge in one direction.
3. Pre-crease in preparation for the rabbit ear fold by bringing the top point to the top left and right corners of the rectangle.
5. Squash the rabbit ear.
7. Lift the point, as if to petal fold, but do not bring the sides to form a point. Let them diverge creating a mountain fold as indicated.
11. Valley fold sides to the centre line and open up partially. Valley fold tip to a right angle.

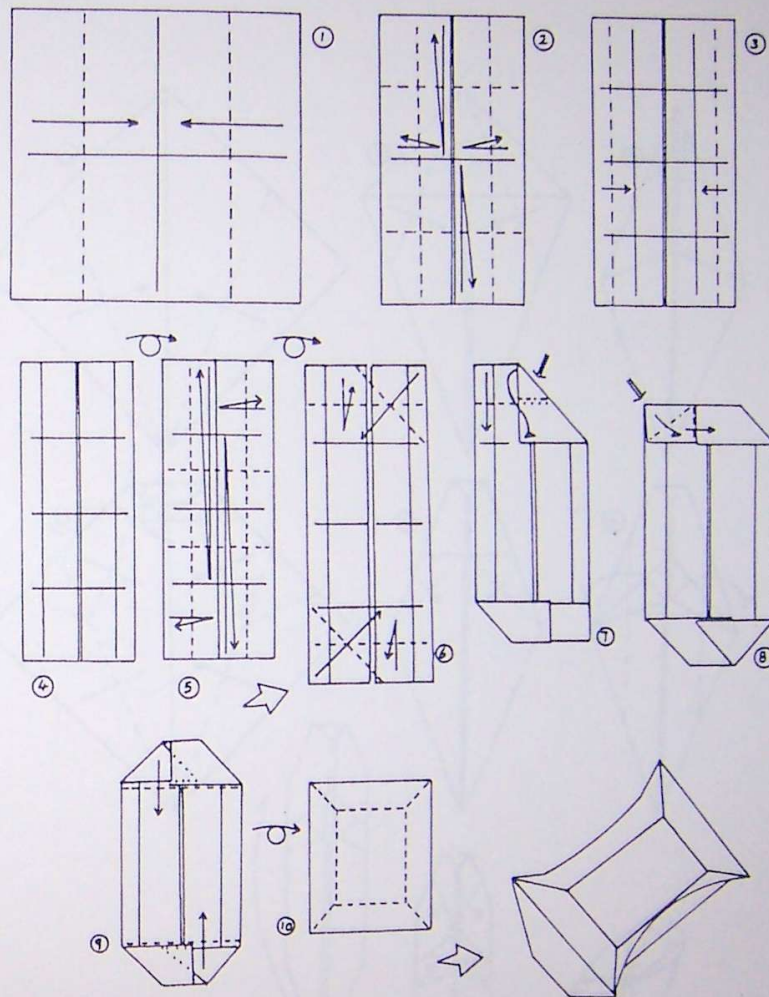


MANGER

Suggested paper size: 6 in. sq.

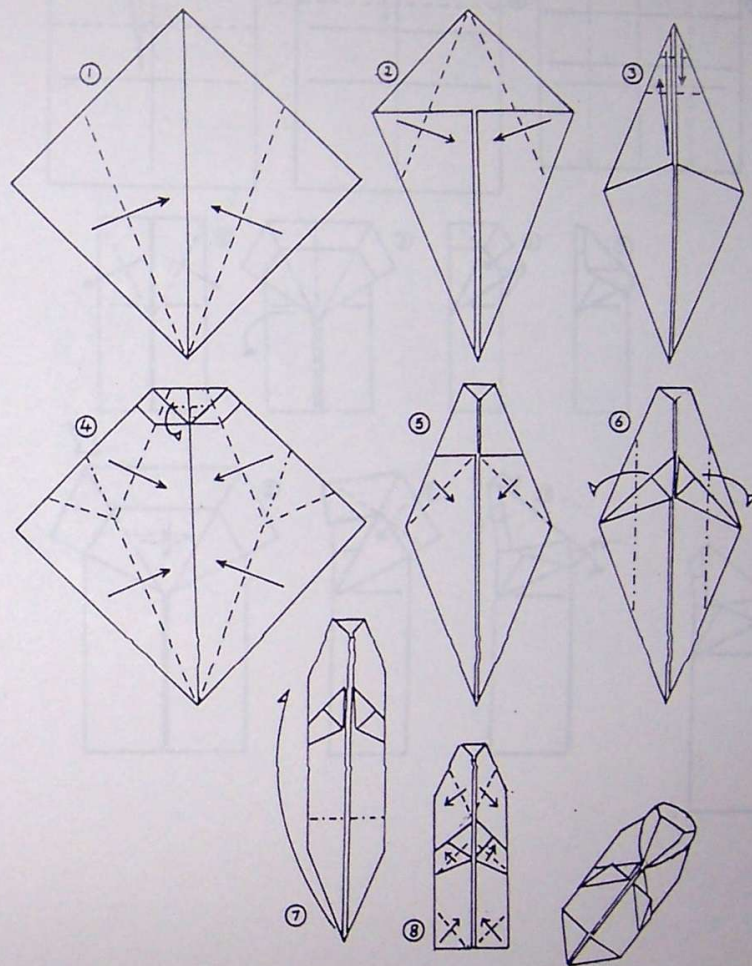
1. Start with a square, white side up, pre-creased edge to edge in both directions. Cupboard fold.
2. Pre-crease to the centre line in both directions.
3. Valley fold the long creased edges to the half way line on both sides. Leave creases in place.
4. Turn the model over.
5. Pre-crease long creased edges to the center line. Pre-crease short raw edges to the opposite quarter line. Turn the model over.
6. Diagrams get larger. Pre-crease short edges to the quarter line. Then fold one corner at each end to the quarter line.
7. Refold valley fold, and inside reverse fold top triangle so that the edges line up on the quarter line. Bottom of diagram shows completed step.
8. Squash left hand corner, and valley fold point to the right. Bottom of diagram shows completed step.
9. Tuck the loose corner into the folded edge underneath. Valley fold the ends. Turn the model over.
10. Mould the inside of the manger by pinching the corners and reinforcing the valley folds.

MANGER



If you have difficulty folding from such a small square, practice with a large square first. You can also use a square up to 2½ in. for the infant. However, the smaller size is preferable.

1. Start with a square, coloured side up, pre-creased along one diagonal. Put in all valley folds from steps 1-3.
4. Unfold the model. Refold the tip on pre-creased valley fold. Mountain fold the coloured triangle to leave a narrow coloured band along the top. Refold all the raw edges to the centre line. The short existing creases will change from mountain to valley and valley to mountain. NOTE: this is not a rabbit ear.
6. Mountain fold parallel to the centre line, so that the points meet at the centre line in back.
7. Hold the model up to the light. Mountain fold the point to the level of the tip the hands.
8. Open up the raw edges and with your thumb, mould the face and the head. Narrow the arms. Valley fold the corners.

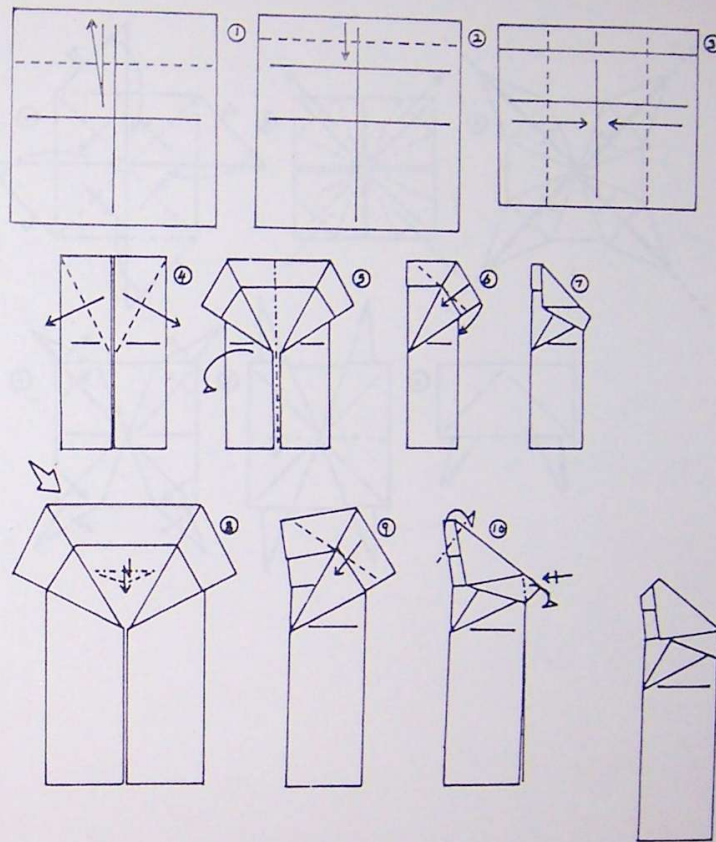


SHEPHERD

Suggested paper size: 5 ¼ in. sq

1. Start with a square, white side up, pre-creased edge to edge in both directions. Fold the top edge to the centre line, crease and unfold.
2. Fold the same edge to the creased line made in step 1. Cupboard fold.
4. Place the valley folds from just below the horizontal centre crease line to the top corners.
5. Mountain fold the model in half.
6. Note: the valley fold does not run from corner to corner. As indicated by an arrow, the point should meet the folded edge. Repeat in back by matching the folded edges.
7. Step 6 completed.
8. Diagrams get larger. Unfold the model to step 5. To make the crimp, lay the model flat, pinch the mountain fold and lift it down a little bit. The sides will lift up a fraction as you do this. Refold the model in half while holding down the crimp. Note: the model will not refold completely flat, it will be more three dimensional.
9. Put back the fold made in step 6.
10. Make an inside reverse fold to shape the head. Mountain fold each of the two corners protruding beyond the back

SHEPHERD



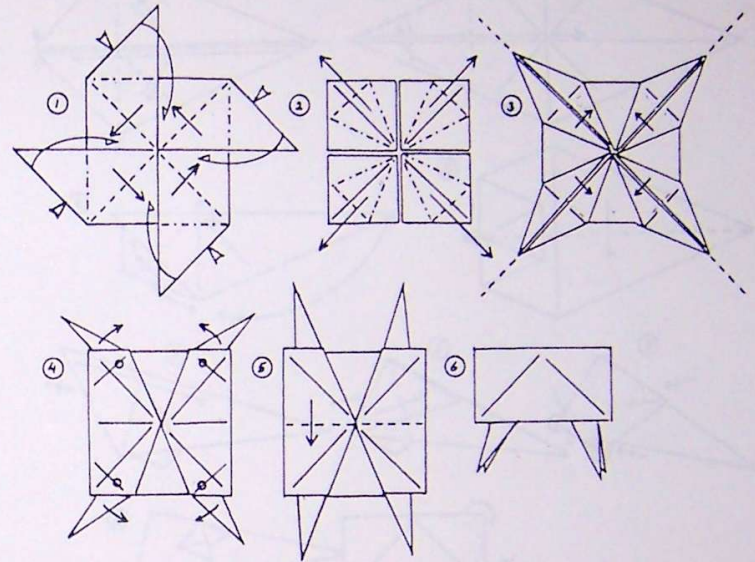
SHEEP

Suggested paper size: 3 in. sq.

Body

- 1 Start with a coloured windmill base. Squash each paddle.
- 2-3 Petal fold, then valley fold each corner as indicated.
- 4 One corner at a time, hold the model at the circle mark. Gently pull the point in the direction indicated until there is a straight line from the point to the centre. Flatten.

SHEEP



SHEEP

Suggested paper size: 2¼ in. sq.

Head

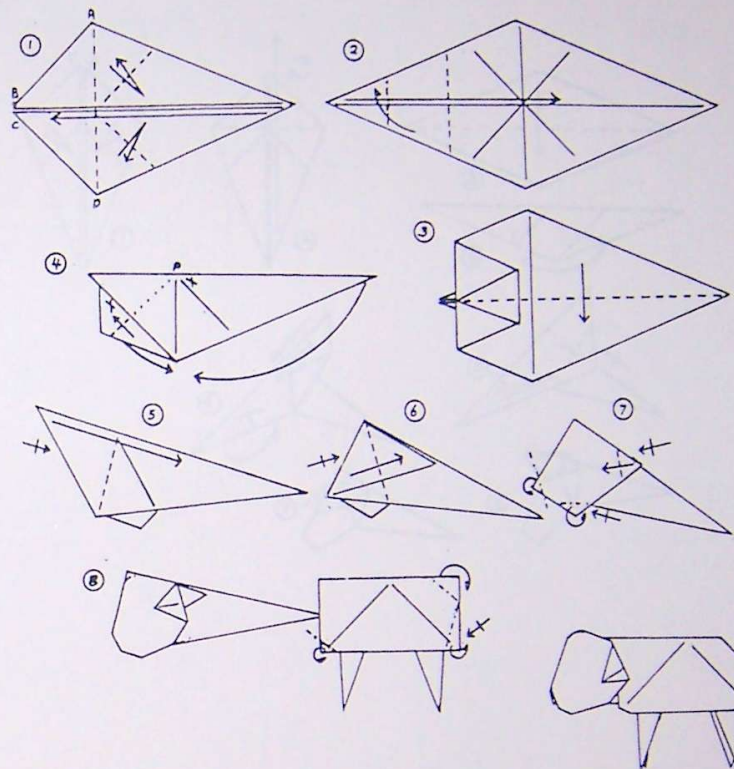
1. Start with a coloured fish base. Pre-crease hard when folding point B to point D and point C to point A. Fold the top flap to the left.
2. Fold the tip to the point indicated. You can put the mountain fold in as a valley fold as shown in step 3.
4. Hold the model with both hands at the X marks. P designates the pivot. Swing both ends towards each other. As you do this, fold the two flaps forward. Compare your model with the diagram.
- 5-7 Note all folding is done in front and in back.
8. Join the head and body, and put in the cosmetic reverse folds.

LAMB

Same folds as for sheep.

Suggested paper size: body 2¼ in. sq, head 2 in. sq.

SHEEP



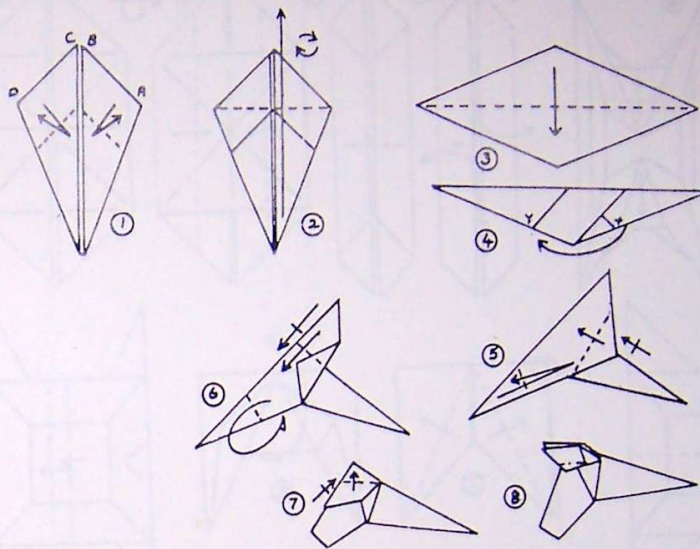
DONKEY

Suggested paper size: 3 in. sq.

Head

1. Fold a coloured fish base and follow step 1 of the sheep's head (p. 28).
2. Valley fold top flap up. Turn model 90 degrees clockwise, smooth side up.
3. Valley fold model in half lengthwise.
4. Hold model at points X and Y. Swing point X to point Y. Compare your model to step five.
- 5-6. Pre-crease point to desired length of head. Then mountain fold to the inside.
7. Fold ears up back and front.
8. If desired, narrow ears by making a tiny mountain fold. Join head and body.

DONKEY



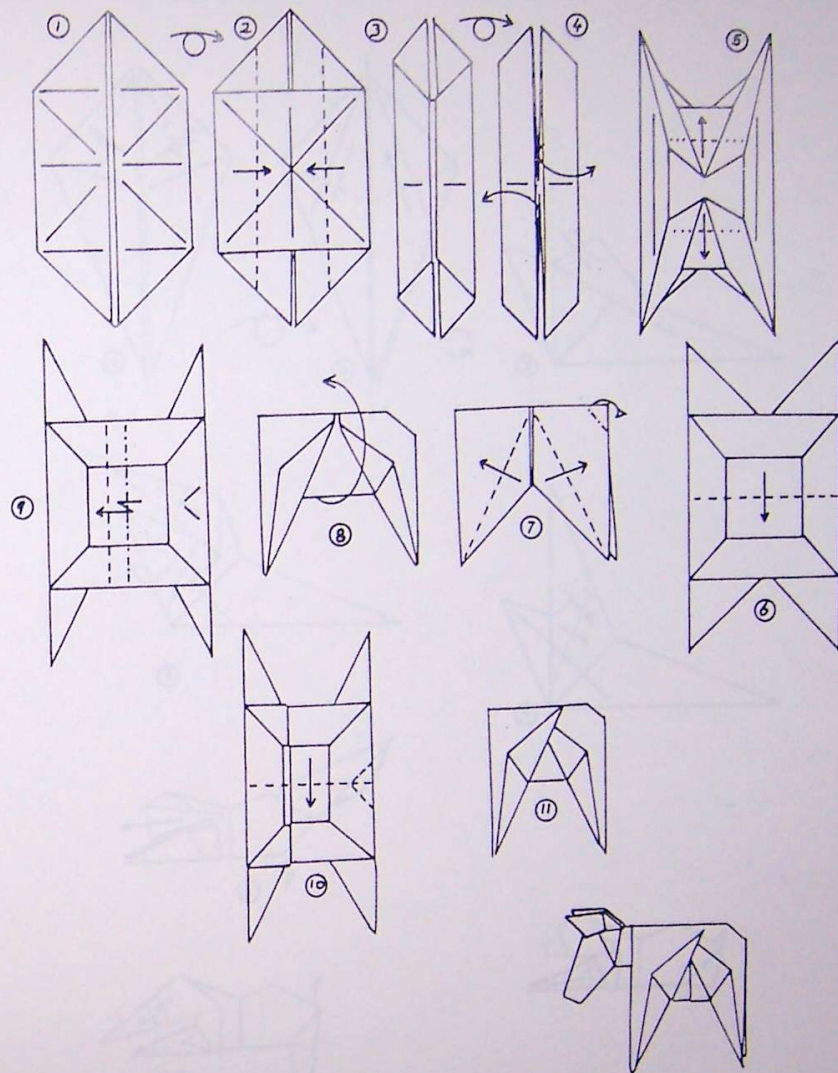
DONKEY

Suggested paper size: 4 1/2 in. sq.

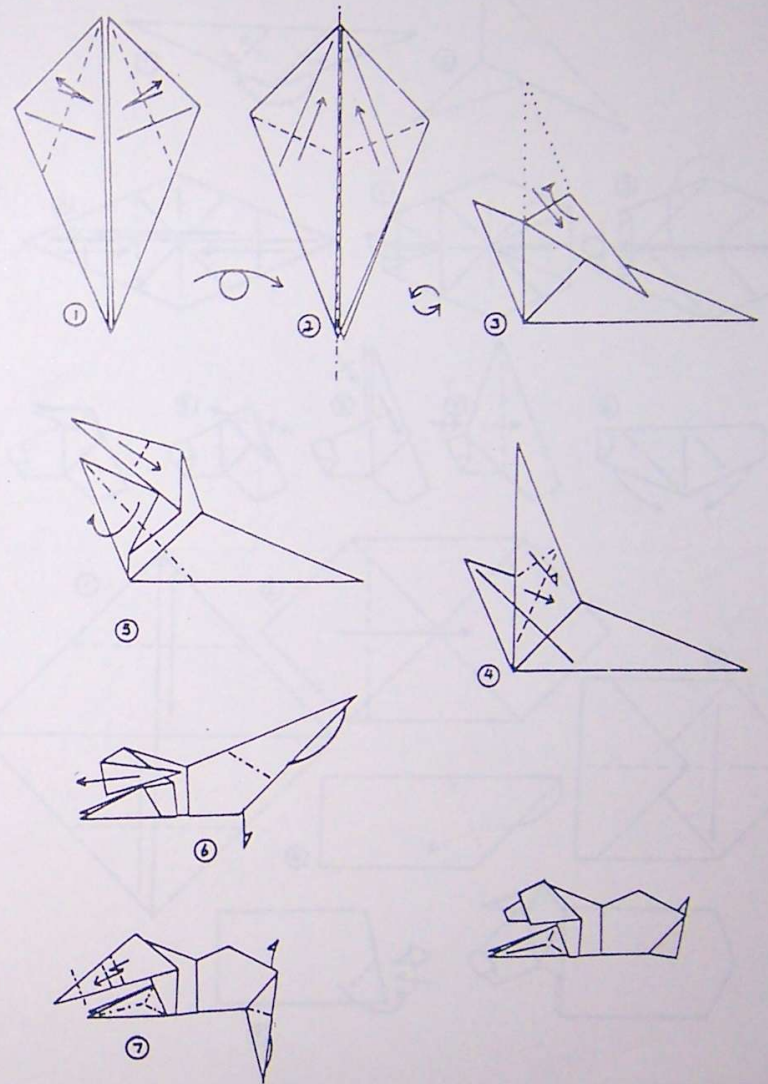
Body

- 1-2 Start with a coloured double boat base. (made from a windmill base). Turn the model over, crease sides to centre line.
3. Turn model over.
4. Open up the raw edges.
5. By means of valley folds, flatten the two points until the raw edges meet the folded edges top and bottom.
- 6-8 Fold model in half and narrow legs as shown, then open model up again.
9. To shorten the body a little, put in a crimp by pinching a mountain fold along the centre line and lifting it toward the creased edge of the inside square.

DONKEY



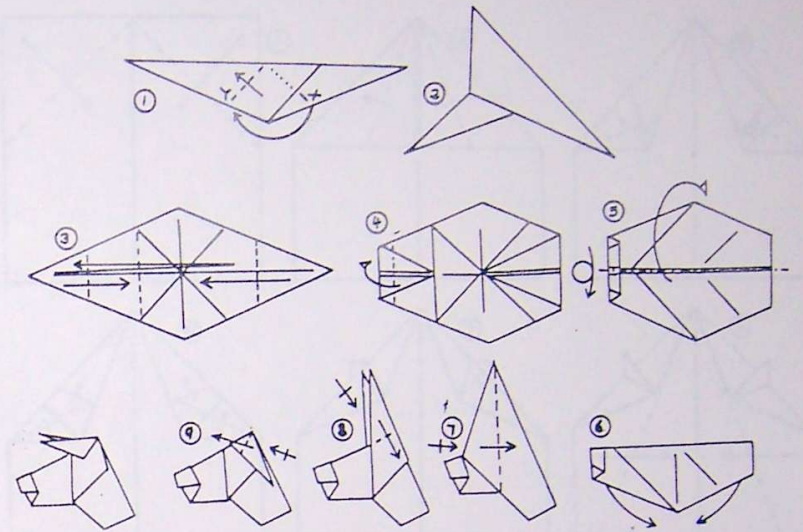
1. Prepare a coloured fish base. As you do this, pre-crease the ice cream cone folds the entire length so that the mountain fold mentioned in step 2 will be indicated. Valley fold and crease sharply the short folded edges on each side. Unfold and turn the model over.
2. Change the mountain folds indicated into valley folds, and produce an outside reverse fold in the top layer only.
3. Pre-crease to the front and back. This is important.
4. Push back inside the outside reverse fold making the same valley fold on each side. At the same time bring the tip down using the pre-creased mountain folds.
5. Put back as mountain folds the pre-creased folds in step 1
6. Pre-crease point to the desired length of head
7. Mountain fold point to inside and valley fold back to the outside. Blunt the point by means of a mountain fold to form the snout. When you have completed the snout, pull it down so that the bottom of it almost lines up with the bottom of the head. Make a reverse fold up to form the tail. Squeeze the front legs to the inside to give them some shape.



Head

Suggested paper size: 3 1/2 in. sq.

1. Start with step 4 of the donkey's head (p.30) and follow the instructions.
2. Compare your model with the diagram.
3. Open up the model to the fish base, smooth side up. On the left side, crease and unfold the valley fold across the model. Note the landmarks for the placement of this crease, then fold the points left and right as indicated.
4. When you make the mountain fold, leave the point in place. Turn the model over as indicated. Mountain fold the model lengthwise.
6. Move the paper as in step 1 with all the folds in place.
- 7,8,9 Put in all the valley folds as indicated in the front and back of the model to form the horns.

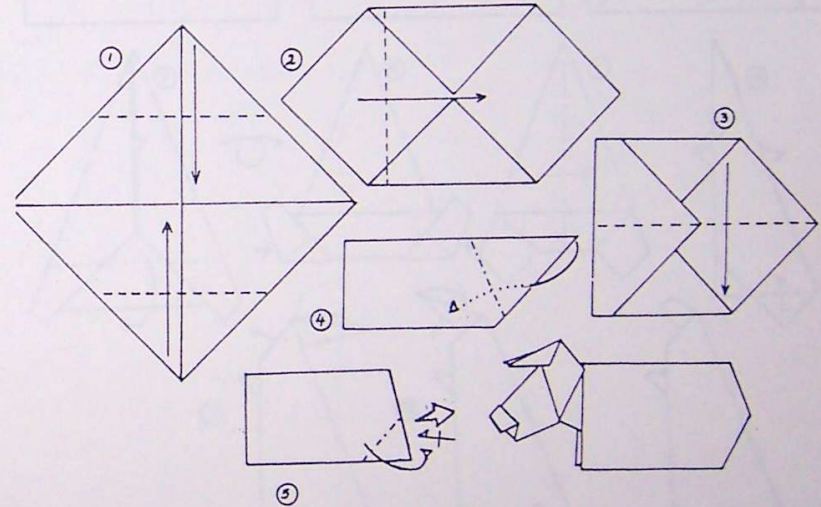


Body

Suggested paper size: 4 1/2 in. sq.

1. Start with a square white side up precreased on both diagonals.
4. Bring the reverse fold in to form a point at the bottom right corner.
5. Make the mountain folds back and front to shape the rump.

Join head and body.

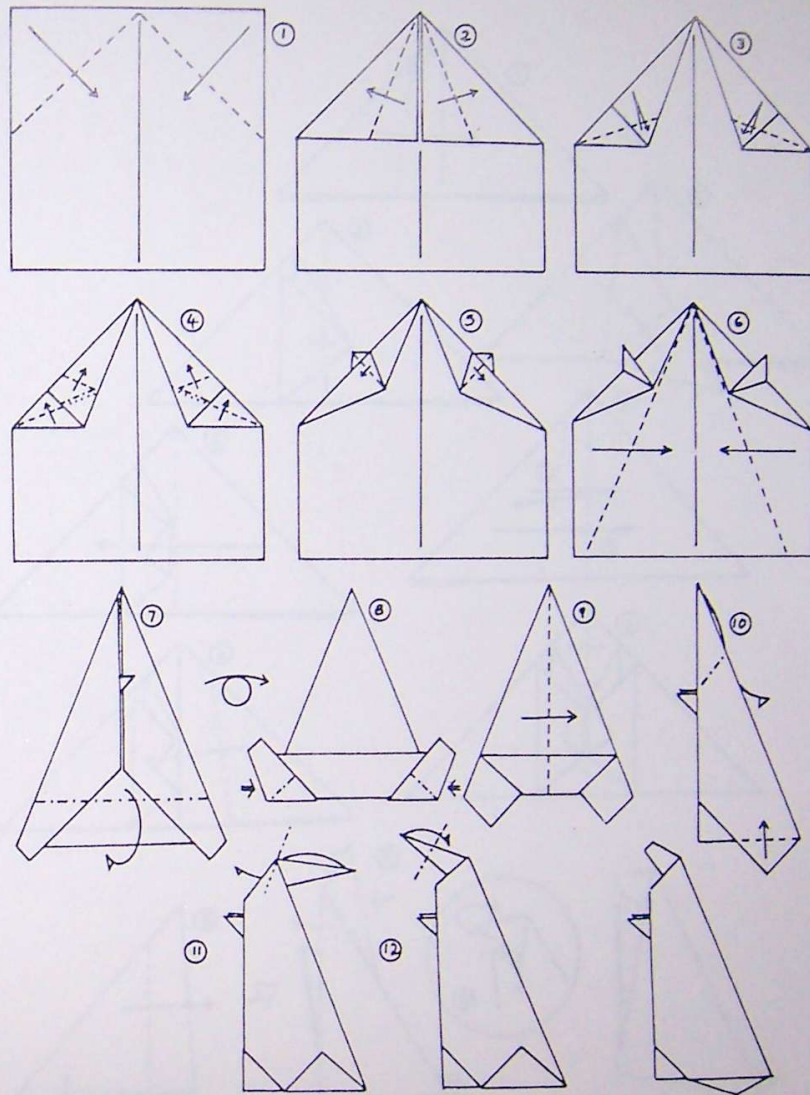


STANDING KING

Suggested paper size: 7 in. sq.

- 1-2. Start with a square, white side up, pre-creased one way edge to edge. Valley fold two adjacent corners as indicated.
3. Crease flush to edge, unfold.
4. Lift the white triangle, replace the valley fold underneath. Allow the existing valley fold in the white triangle above to change into a mountain fold. Flatten upward towards the point.
7. This fold determines the height of the figure. Turn the model over.
8. Squash corners until raw edges meet.
- 9-10. Fold model in half. Then reverse fold the tip to the back. Valley fold protruding triangle at the base.
11. Reverse fold the tip forward again at the top of the model.
12. Mountain fold the point to the inside of the head. Bring down the base triangle.

STANDING KING

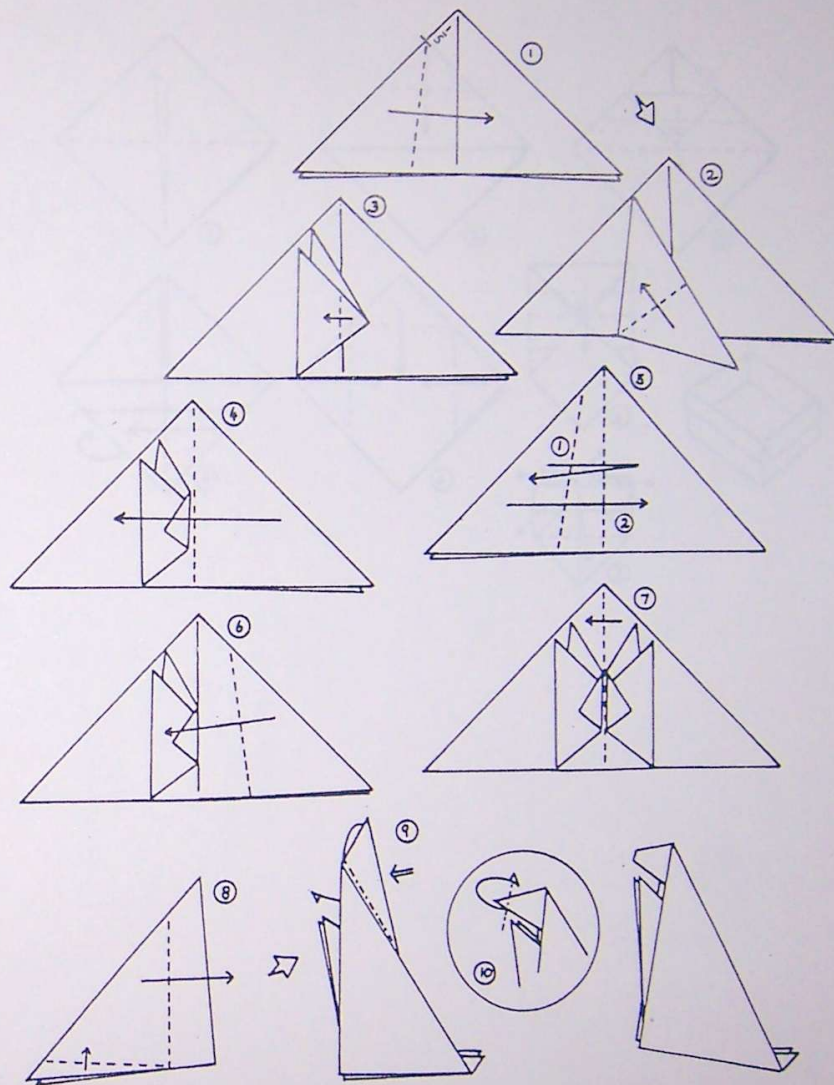


KNEELING KING

Suggested paper size: 4 1/2 in. sq.

1. Start with a coloured waterbomb base. Make a valley fold in the left top triangle. Start up the crease approximately 1/5" from the top point. The point of the triangle will extend beyond the base line to the right of the centre line.
2. The diagrams get larger. Valley fold the point to the outside edge of the triangle underneath. Study step 3 to see the placement of that point.
3. Valley fold the two layer tip which extends over the centre line, so that the crease is just the other side of the centre line.
4. In order to match the right side to the left side, fold the top right triangle to the left side.
5. First, make the crease as in step 1 lining it up with the folded edge underneath. Secondly, unfold and flip the triangle back to the right.
6. Using the crease made in step 5 as a guide line, repeat steps 1, 2, and 3 on the right side.
7. Valley fold the model in half.
8. Valley fold each triangles separately, lining up the creases with the folded edges underneath. This crease line will indicate the location for the shallow valley fold, front and back, that will form the feet.
- 9-10 The diagrams get larger. Push and inside reverse fold the triangle protruding beyond the back of the figure. Mountain fold the tip of the head to the inside. If the head comes too close to the hands, make a small adjustment of the head or the hands.

KNEELING KING



BOX CARRIED BY KING

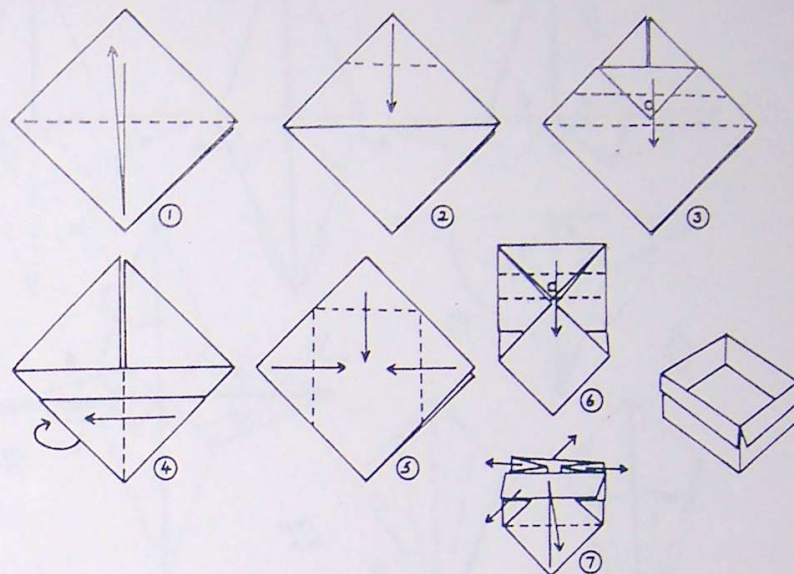
Suggested paper size: 2 in. sq.

You can also use other designs to represent the gifts. Steps 1-6 are carried out both in front and in back of the model. The existing vertical fold in the preliminary base is used to establish the centre point. The line for that fold is omitted in the diagrams for the sake of clarity.

1. Start with a coloured preliminary base. Fold the loose corner to the opposite closed point. Unfold.
2. Fold the same corner to the centre point established in step 1.
3. Take the folded edge of the small white triangle, bring it to the centre fold, and refold the centre fold downwards. The arrow indicates a rolling procedure. Repeat in back.
4. Swing the top layer to the left and to the right in back.
5. Establish the centre point. Then bring the three loose corners of the top layer to the center. Repeat in back.
6. Repeat step three in front and back.
7. Fold up the triangular colored area, crease sharply, unfold. This area becomes the base of the box as you spread out the top.

This box can be used right way up, upside down or it can be started with a white preliminary base.

BOX CARRIED BY KING



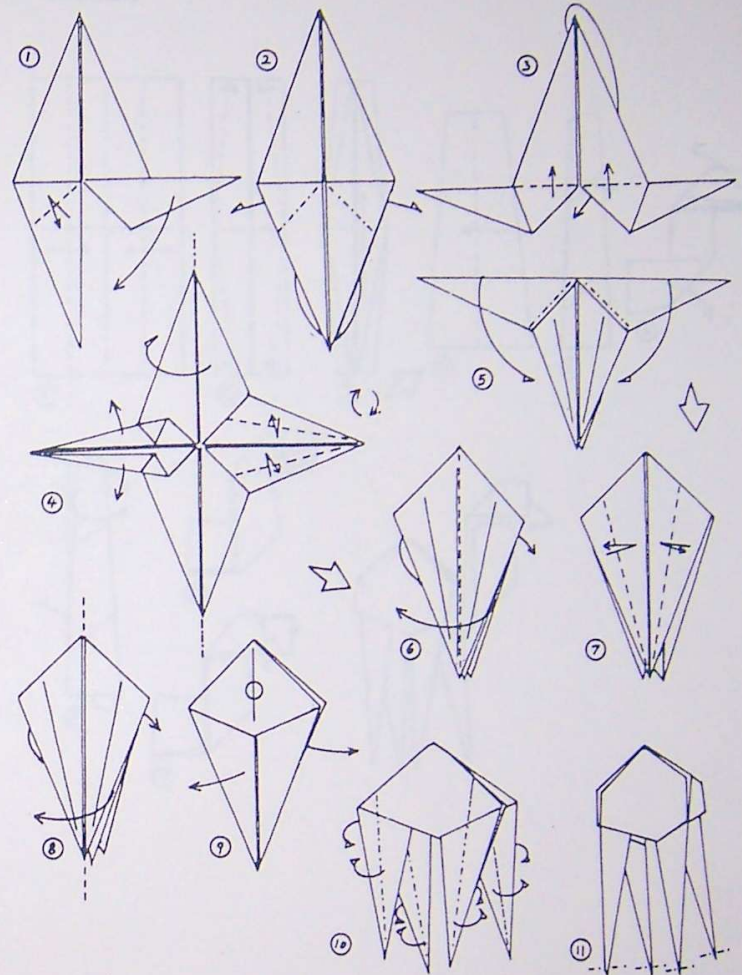
CAMEL

Body

Suggested paper size: 6 in. sq.

1. Start with a coloured bird base. Pre-crease the two loose triangles, lining up their raw edges with the centre line across the diamond.
2. Inside reverse fold the loose triangles on the pre-creased lines.
3. Bring down the top flap behind. Open the inside reverse folds to form a star shape.
4. Narrow the two kite shapes by bringing the folded edges to the raw edged center lines. Crease hard and unfold. Mountain fold the model in half along the length of the diamond shape. Turn the model 90 degrees.
5. Inside reverse fold the two triangles on either side so that all points meet at the bottom. One side will have several layers. Reverse fold all of them.
6. The diagrams get larger. Flip over the top two layers in front and in back.
7. Pre-crease as in step 4 both in front and back of the model.
8. Flip over one layer only, front and back.
9. Hold the model at the circle mark and pull out two legs side ways, one in front on the left and one behind on the right.
10. Narrow the legs by putting back the mountain folds pre-creased in steps 4 and 7.
11. Make a tiny mountain fold going to the inside of each leg. If necessary, use these folds to adjust the length of any one of the legs so that the camel will stand.

CAMEL



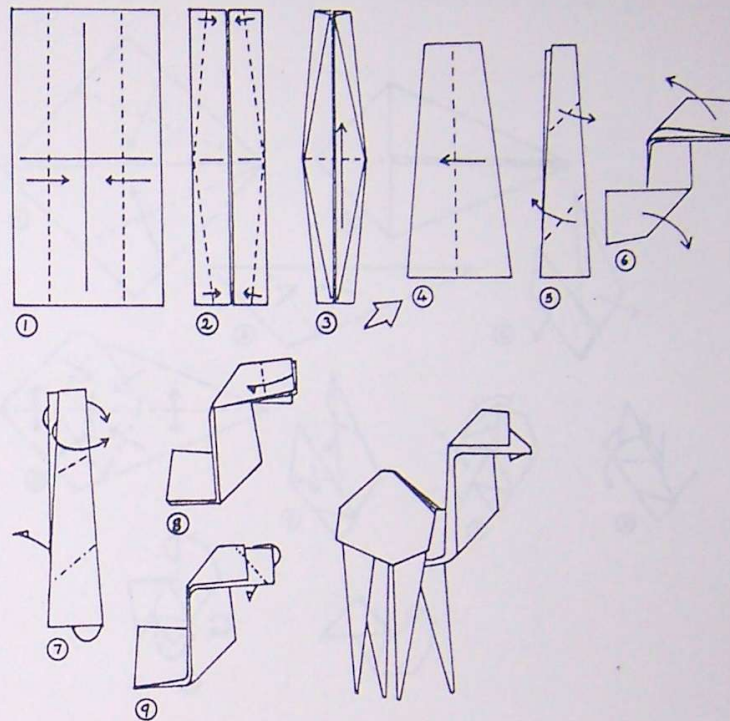
CAMEL

Head

Suggested paper size: rectangle, half of 6 in. sq.

1. Start with a rectangle, white side up. Pre-crease book fold in both directions, then cupboard fold lengthwise.
2. Put in valley folds from the centre of the creased edges so that the corners come to the centre line.
3. Bring the short ends of the model together.
4. Diagrams get larger. Fold the model in half lengthwise.
5. Precrease in preparation for reverse folds.
6. Unfold.
7. Outside reverse fold the top, narrower end of the model to form the head. Inside reverse fold the wider end to form the neck.
8. Mountain fold the top layer only. Open up the model a little to put in this fold.
9. To shape the head make an inside reverse fold starting just under the crease made in step 8. Allow a small triangle to protrude.

CAMEL

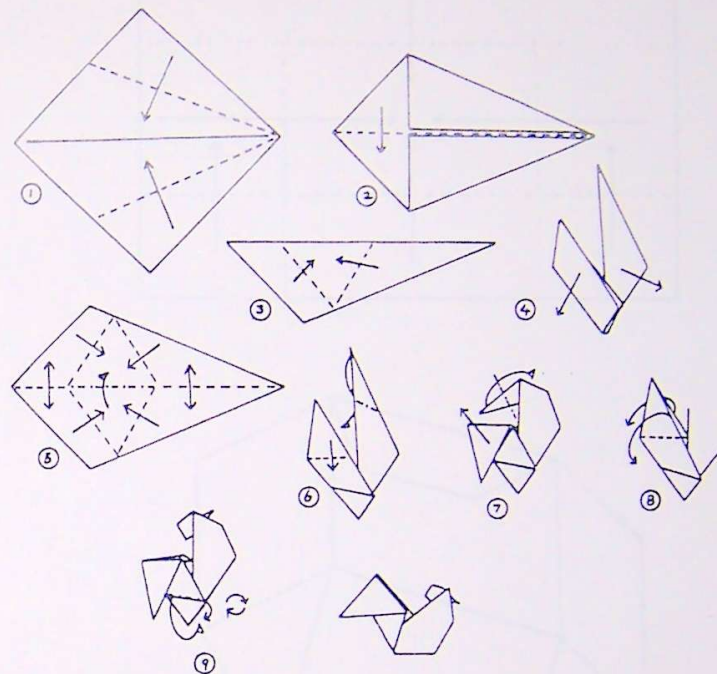


ROOSTER

Suggested paper size: 2 in. sq.

- 1 Start with a square, white side up, pre-creased on one diagonal.
- 3 Pre-crease in preparation for outside reverse folds.
- 5 To ease the folding of the outside reverse folds, open the model to step 2, smooth side up. Form a rabbit ear on the existing crease lines left and right, then mountain fold in half.
- 6 Inside reverse fold the head (pre-crease if necessary.)
- 7 Reverse fold head: see step 9 for result.
- 8 Outside reverse fold the tail.

ROOSTER



STABLE

Use high quality thick paper such as card stock: an 18 x 12 inch sheet makes a nice size stable.

Cut on the dotted lines.

Score along the dashed lines.

Turn the page over and valley fold sharply along the lines you have scored. The scored lines will fold easily.

STABLE

