Instructions

For this book I have created 28 animals to which I have given an expression, a movement, sometimes a look, and almost a soul. Every fold is a humorous wink at life. The models are worked out meticulously, down to the smallest details, while adhering to the spirit of creating a work of art in paper, with the minimum of folds required to achieve a beautiful effect.

Have you ever seen a heron spreading out his wings before flight, a panther lazing in the sun, a mouse sniffing a good piece of cheese? It is up to you to continue these stories by imagining what follows. Paper is a material as noble as wood and stone. This book is the expression of a modern designer who sculpts paper in an ephemeral way as others capture the moment by a photograph or a poem.

Folding paper is also a thought game, a logical development where someone's nimble fingers fold a simple sheet of paper to result in an absolutely personal portrayal of an animal, with the hope that it is sufficiently expressive to be recognized by others.

I wanted to dress my animals in fur or feathers by using beautiful papers in dazzling colors without ever wanting to reproduce reality. I hope that these poetic folds will make people think about our environment and our planet where certain species are disappearing one by one. I hope that you will derive as much pleasure as I do in producing these magnificent animals, some of which are truly small masterpieces.

Levels of Difficulty

In the summaries, the paper-foldings are marked according to three levels of difficulty: beginner ❱, intermediate ❱❱, and advanced ❱❱❱. You should start with the easiest ones. To succeed in making a fold, you need time, a sense of calm, and patience. Some people will not succeed in making the animal in their first attempt. Don't let this discourage you; the second try is often better than the first. If you stumble over a step, let your work sit for a few hours, or even several days. This will often allow you to approach the paper-folding with a new spirit and will get things moving again.

Symbols

Before beginning, you should practice with ordinary paper to make the mountain fold and valley fold, as well as the reverse folds that are used in all the models.

fold in front

fold behind

push/invert

turn the model over

rotate the model 180°
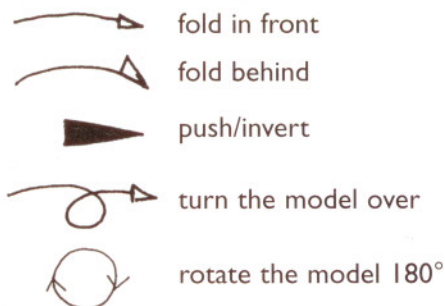
Bases

By combining some of the folds, you will achieve the bases needed to begin several animals in this book. In time, your fingertips will fold them automatically without your needing to look at the diagrams. With the preliminary base, you make the horse. With the bird base, you make the heron, the bird, the parrot and the dragonfly. With the fish base, you make the fish, the chicken, the elephant and the panther. With the water-bomb base, you make the seal and the eagle. The frog base is used for the frog and the crab. The other animals don't use any of these bases.

Diagrams

Every fold is explained step by step by the outline drawings. To achieve the folds, study the drawing carefully as well as the explanatory text instructions. Sometimes the diagrams are broken down into smaller details for head, feet, and so on. You should complete all these details before going on to the next step. The parts in color indicate that they are the reverse of the sheet of paper.
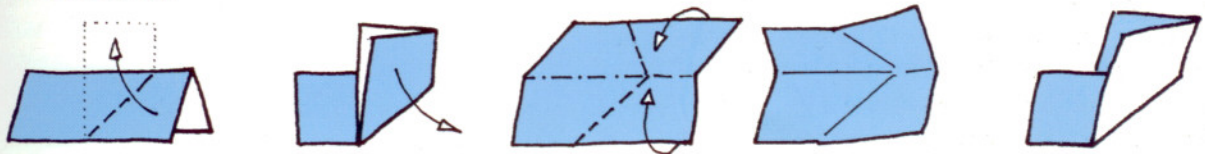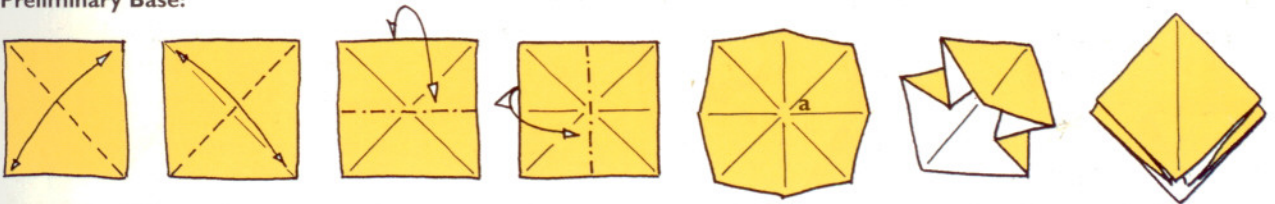
Principal folds

valley fold

mountain fold

crease

pleat fold

match the dots
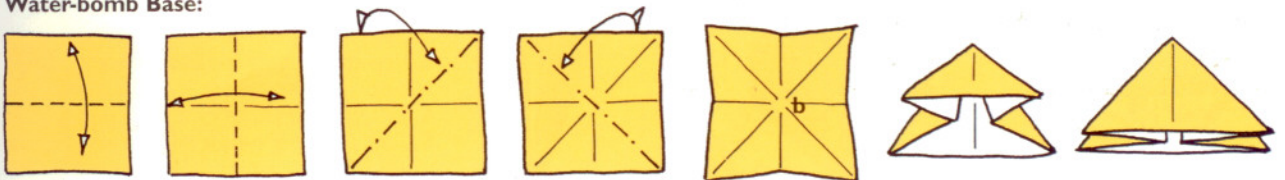
cut
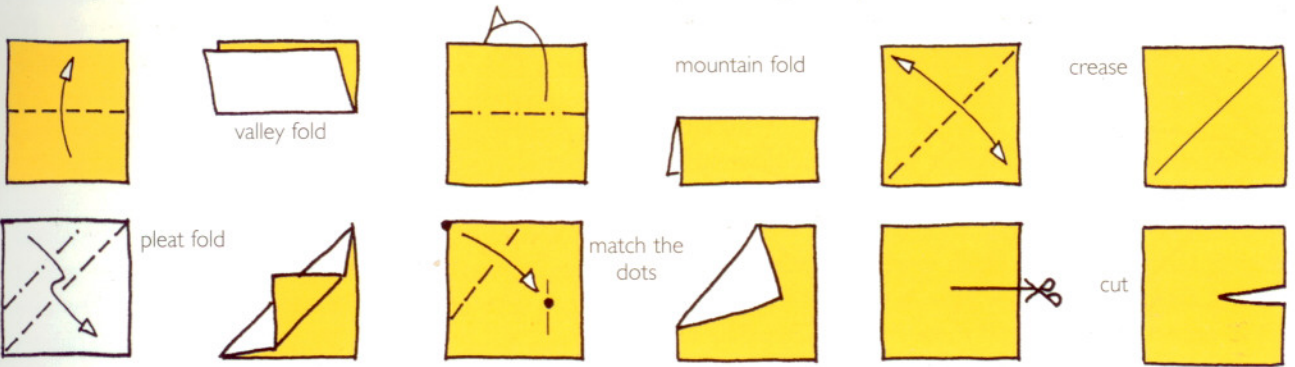
inside reverse fold
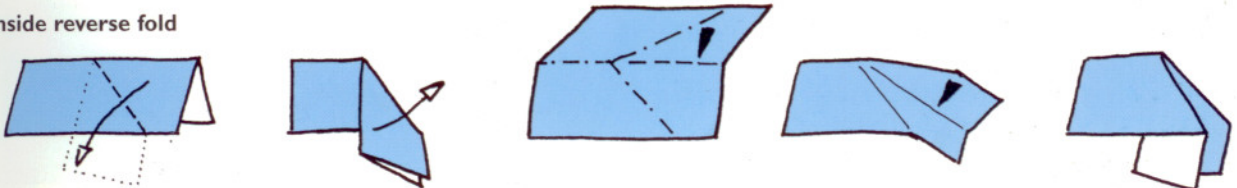
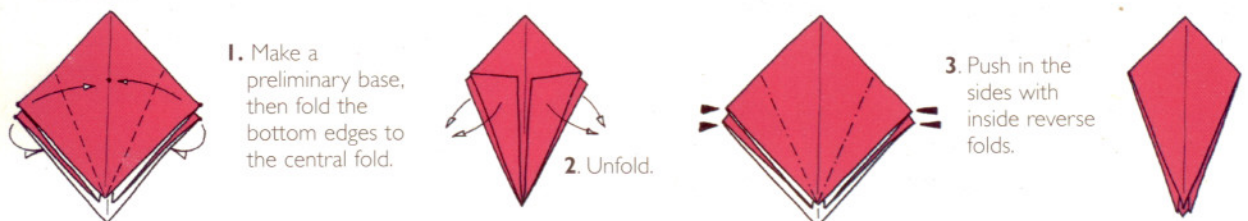**outside reverse fold**

Details of the Bases
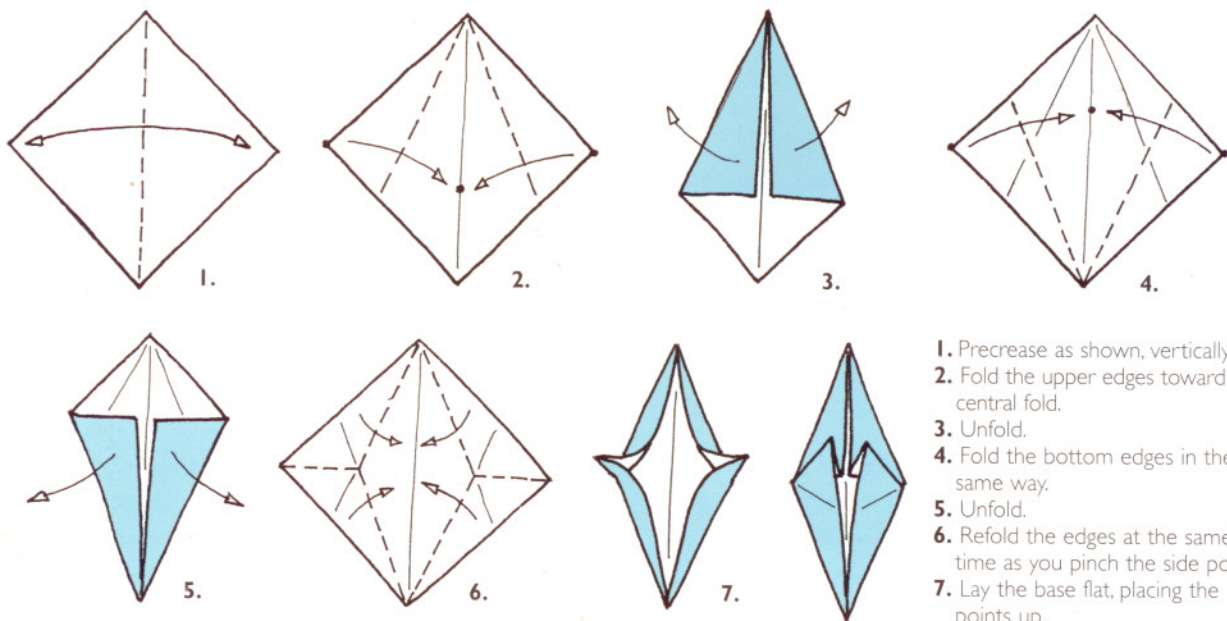
Preliminary Base:

Water-bomb Base:

By pressing with your finger on the center of **a** or **b**, you will obtain the other base.

Bird Base:

1. Make a preliminary base, then fold the bottom edges to the central fold.

2. Unfold.

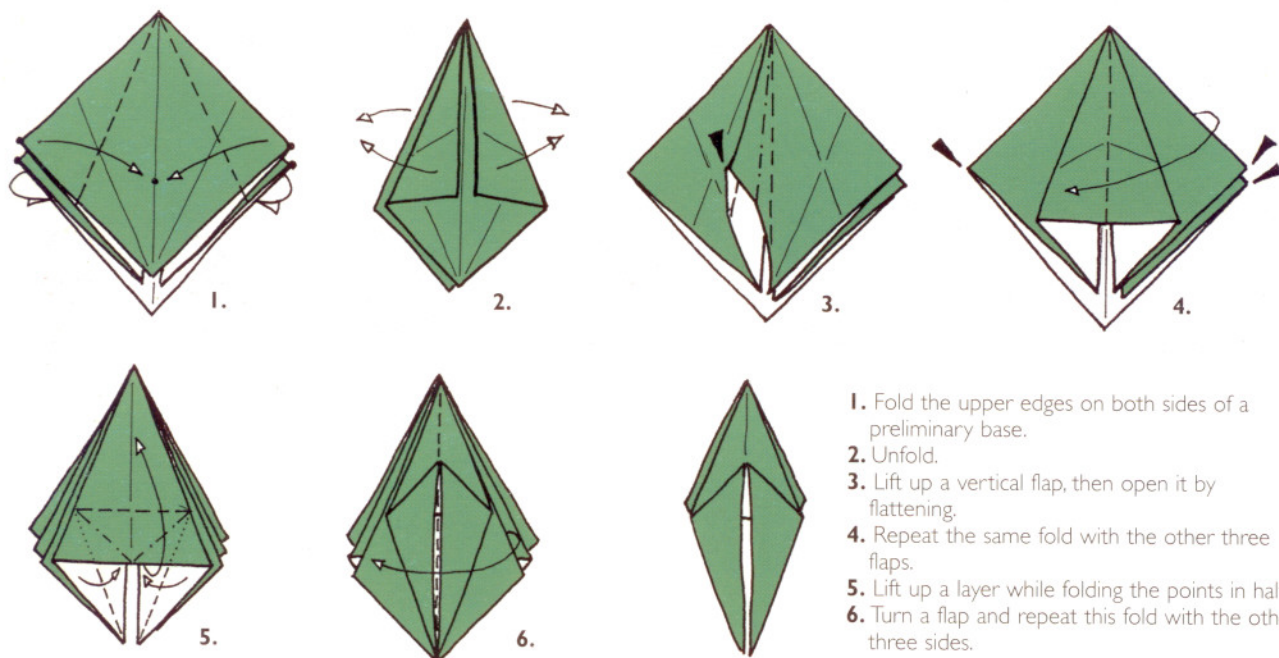3. Push in the sides with inside reverse folds.

5

Fish Base:

1. 2. 3. 4.

5. 6. 7.

1. Precrease as shown, vertically.
2. Fold the upper edges toward the central fold.
3. Unfold.
4. Fold the bottom edges in the same way.
5. Unfold.
6. Refold the edges at the same time as you pinch the side points.
7. Lay the base flat, placing the points up.

Frog Base:

1. 2. 3. 4.

5. 6.

1. Fold the upper edges on both sides of a preliminary base.
2. Unfold.
3. Lift up a vertical flap, then open it by flattening.
4. Repeat the same fold with the other three flaps.
5. Lift up a layer while folding the points in half.
6. Turn a flap and repeat this fold with the other three sides.

Horse Base:

1. 2. 3.
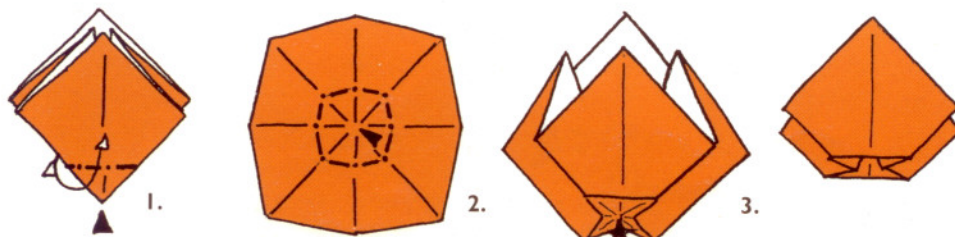
1. To make this base for the horse's belly, fold all the layers front and back, then unfold completely.
2. Mountain fold the central square, then push in its middle to sink the square.
3. In the center of the square, the diagonals are valley folds and the medians are mountain folds. Lay the base flat as in the beginning.

Papers

The best papers are those that crease well and are sufficiently strong for repeated folding and unfolding, with a weight between 70 and 90 grams (20 to 24 lb. bond weight). Avoid papers that tear after several folds, such as certain recycled papers. White or colored papers that are used for photocopying or computer printing, as well as drawing papers that are not too thick, are excellent for folding. In stores that specialize in art and craft supplies, you will find a variety of marbled and decorated papers. And in everyday or unexpected places you will also find many other fancy papers that will represent an animal with just the effect that you want. For example, the parrot was made from a recycled advertising flyer.

Sizes

Essentially, you will use squares and half-squares. Certain simple folds can be made in small sizes of paper; others, such as the heron, have numerous layers and require a larger size and a thinner paper. For experienced folders, any size of square will work. As a rule of thumb, it's best to start big, and then work down to smaller squares as you gain expertise.

You may purchase square Origami paper or cut your own squares from a sheet of letter-sized or A4 paper. (Origami instructions often refer to A4 paper. To get the proportion of an A4 sheet, trim ⅜ inch from the width of a letter-sized sheet.)
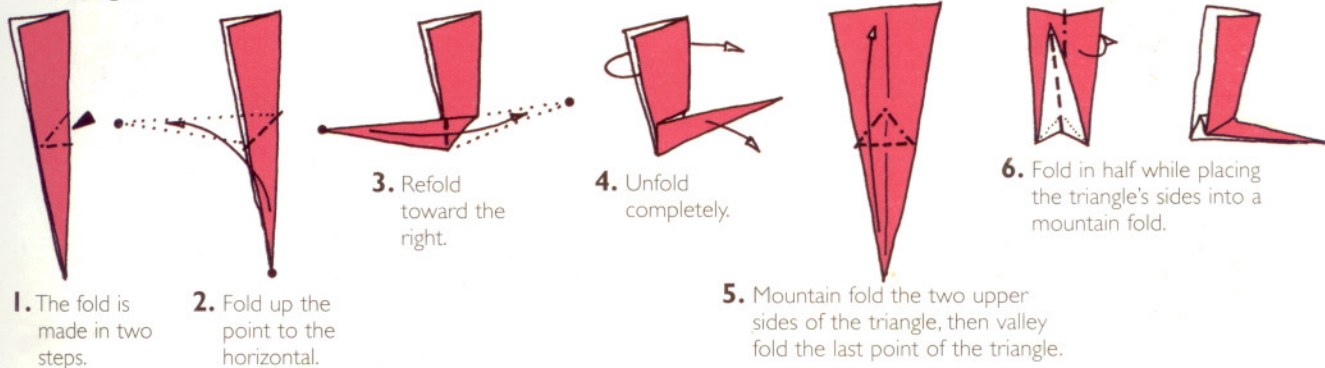
Folding and Cutting

A folding bone in wood or plastic is used in certain situations to make a crease by applying the flat side of the tool to achieve the fold.

Scissors are used to multiply the number of feet (the crab), to create the whiskers (panther), ears (rabbit), and crest (heron).

Birds' Legs:

1. The fold is made in two steps.

2. Fold up the point to the horizontal.

3. Refold toward the right.

4. Unfold completely.

5. Mountain fold the two upper sides of the triangle, then valley fold the last point of the triangle.

6. Fold in half while placing the triangle's sides into a mountain fold.

Foot/Beak:

1. To achieve this fold.

2. Fold up the point to the horizontal.

3. Fold the point down. To make a beak, fold the point toward the right to lie parallel.

4. Unfold completely.

5. Mountain fold and valley fold as indicated, then fold twice toward the vertical fold.

6. Fold flat.