

JEWISH ORIGAMI WORKSHOP

Women's League for Conservative Judaism

Much of my material is drawn directly from Florence Temko, an artist and educator. She began using origami as a way to engage children learning about holidays and bible. Paraphrasing her words: Origami introduces Jewish children to their heritage with an activity they enjoy. Seniors have found in origami a magical bond with their grandchildren. At the same time, cost of materials is minimal, and the mess to clean up, minimal. "Beyond making one-time decorations, some children and adults find intellectual stimulation in folding pieces of paper and pursue origami as an educational hobby. In the US and Israel, it attracts many scientists, computer programmers and mathematicians, among others." (Temko at Association of Jewish Libraries Convention, 2001)

Program Ideas

Paper Crafting Program – Have a paper crafter come in before a holiday and make cards from the origami creations. Use stamps and inks to embellish the origami paper.

Mother Daughter (child) Program – Make holiday decorations and garlands

Jewelry Crafting Program – Have a precious metal clay art teacher come in and teach how to turn origami into jewelry (PMC sheets). This is more expensive than paper, but fun!

Build Your Own Seder Plate using origami being sure to discuss the meanings of the ritual foods.

Additional Suggestions

Fold a dollar bill or two to enclose in a card for your favorite gift recipient.

Use jumping frogs or locusts for Pesach place cards and see who has the most action at the end of the meal!

Glue origami shofars onto bamboo skewers and use in holiday floral arrangements.

Expand the shofar on the fold instead of cut edges and use as place cards

Cut your own origami paper using colorful gift wrap

Create mobiles

Sources

Jewish Origami, Florence Temko, Heian International, Inc., Union City, CA, 1991

Jewish Origami 2, Florence Temko, Heian International, Inc., Union City, CA, 2008

Bible Origami, Florence Temko, Heian International, Inc., Union City, CA, 1994

Jewish Holiday Origami, Joel Stern, Dover Publications, Mineola, NY, 2006

Fast, Clean and Cheap, Simon Kops, Torah Aura Productions, Los Angeles, CA, 1989

Origami-Resource-Center.com

Presenter: Wanda Pitzele

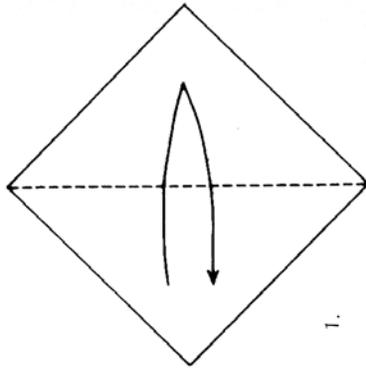
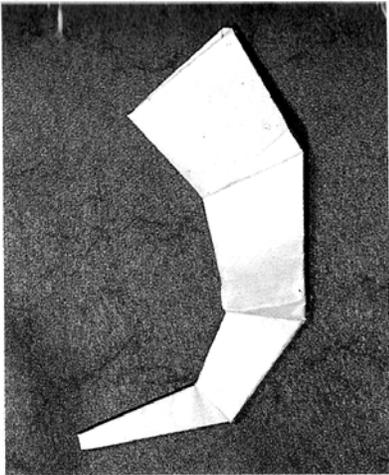
SHOFAR FOR THE NEW YEAR

The Jewish New Year (called *Rosh ha-Shanah* in Hebrew) is welcomed with the sounds of the *Shofar*. By blowing into this curved, hollow horn of a ram or another animal, several different notes can be produced. You can make a paper *shofar* for a New Year's greeting card and for other decorations.

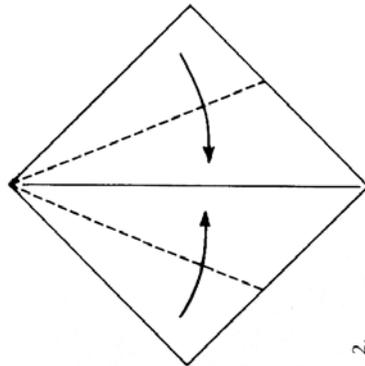
You need:

One 10 inch (25 cm) paper square

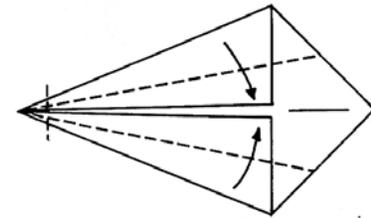
1. Fold the paper on the diagonal. Unfold.
2. Fold two outer edges to the diagonal crease.
- 3a. Fold the narrow top corner down.
- 3b. Bring the long edges to the middle.
4. Fold the bottom corner up.
5. Make three narrow pleats about 1 inch (2 cm) apart, on the wide part of the paper. First crease the paper up; then crease the paper down about 1/4 inch (5 mm) away.
6. Carefully fold the paper in half.
7. Curve the *shofar*: stretch each pleat at the double edge only, leaving the top of the paper pleated.



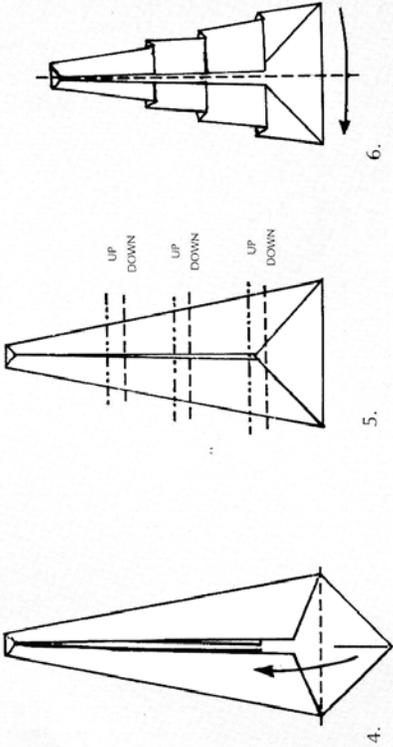
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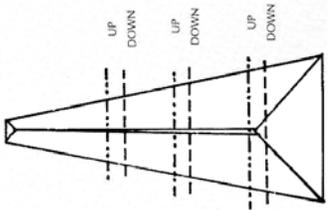
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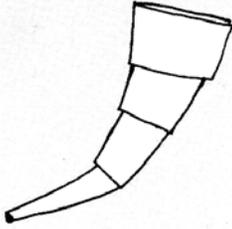
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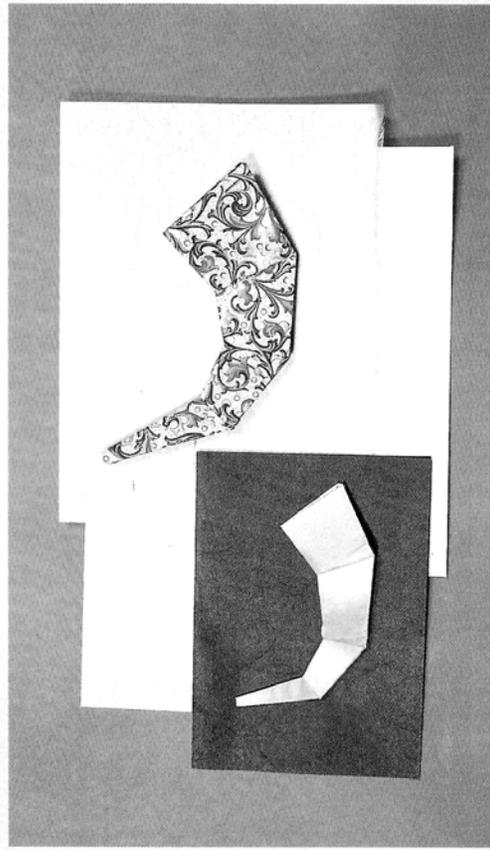
6.

DECORATION:

Attach a string to the *shofar* and hang it as a mobile.

NEW YEAR'S GREETING CARD:

Glue the *shofar* on a piece of construction paper which has been folded to the size of a greeting card.



▲ DREIDEL

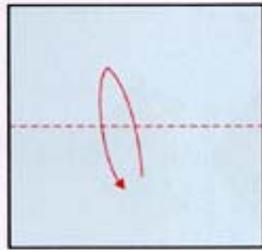
During the eight-day-long Hanukkah celebration, Jewish children like to play a game with a spinning top, called a dreidel. Its four sides are decorated with Hebrew letters.

You can make origami dreidel decorations from paper squares. They can be hung around the home or school, or made into gifts of necklaces for members of your family and friends.

You need:

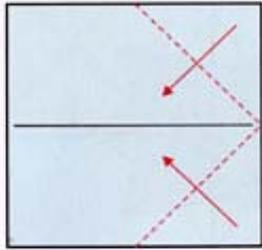
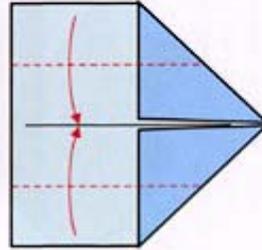
A paper square

If paper is colored on only one side, begin with the white side facing up.

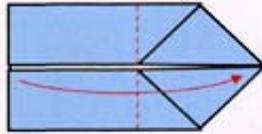


1a. Fold the square in half.

1b. Unfold it.

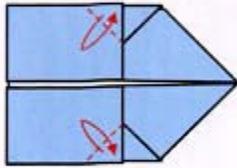


2. Fold two corners to the crease you just made.



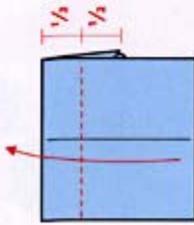
3. Fold both sides to the middle crease.

4. Fold the top edge to the bottom corner.

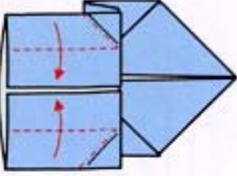


6a. Fold the corners in, as shown.

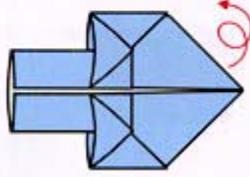
6b. Unfold them.



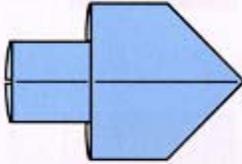
5. Fold the paper up again, making a pleat.



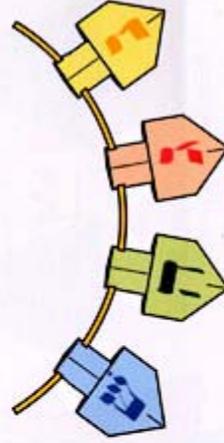
7. Fold the outside edges to the middle. As you do this, let the small triangles spread open on the creases made in Step 6. See the next drawing. Sharpen all creases.



8. Turn the paper over.



9. Completed Dreidel



The Hebrew Letters

The four Hebrew letters shown on the four dreidels in the garland are: *nun*, *gimel*, *heh*, and *shin*. They represent the words *no gadol haya sham*, which translates into "A great miracle happened there." This refers to the story of the Maccabees, which is celebrated on Hanukkah.

Origami Project #2— Star of David

Materials needed: bond, construction or typing paper, 9" x 12"
scissors

This project is a multipurpose Star of David. It can be used for decorative purposes, but can also serve as a tzedakah container, a small gift box, or a letter and envelope combined. Fold as described in the accompanying diagram. If using as a letter and envelope, complete the first four steps before writing the letter so that none of the message appears on the parts that will be cut away.

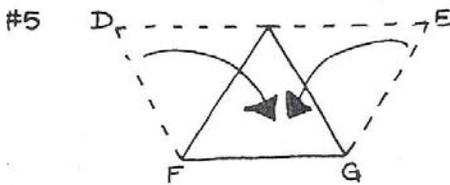
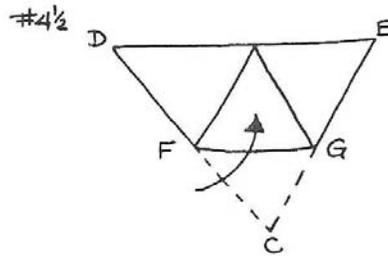
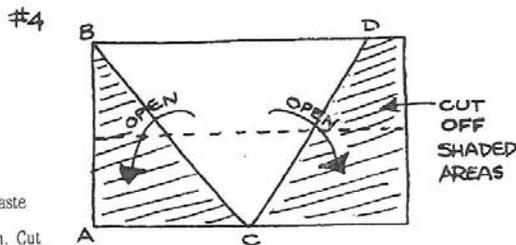
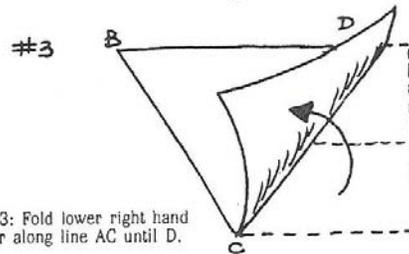
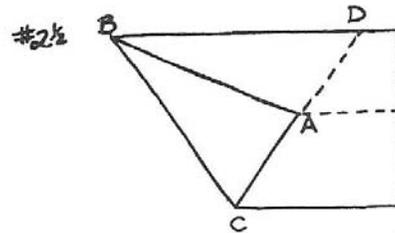
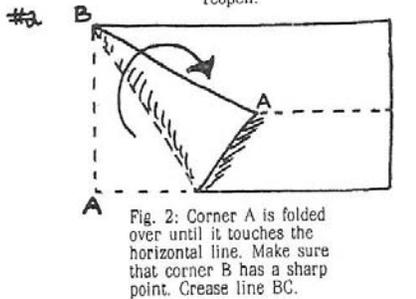
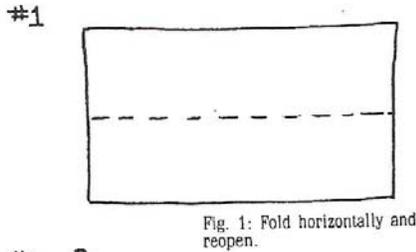


Fig. 5: Fold D to G. Fold E to F. Crease.

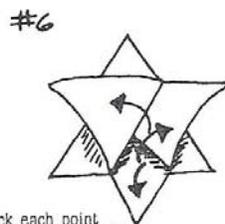


Fig. 6: Fold back each point 2/3 of the distance F to G.

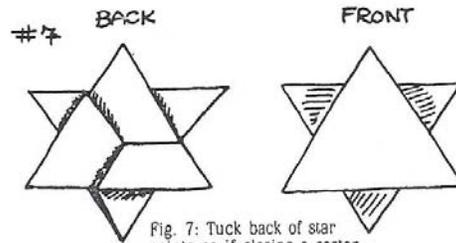


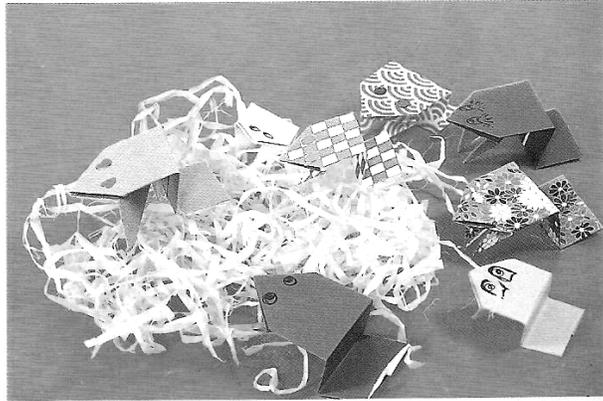
Fig. 7: Tuck back of star points as if closing a carton. This will lock the star.

PLAGUE OF FROGS

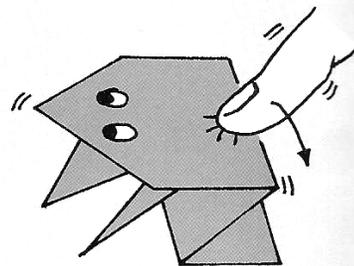
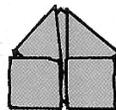
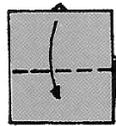
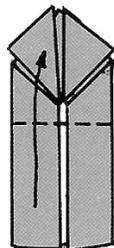
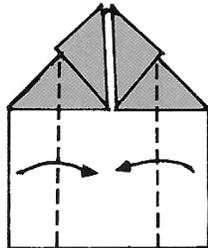
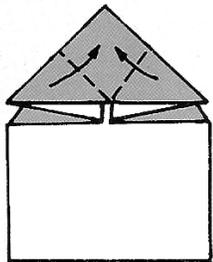
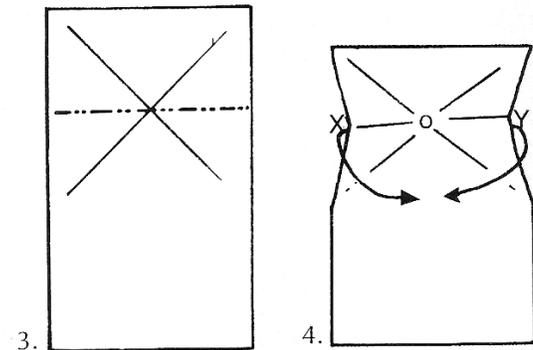
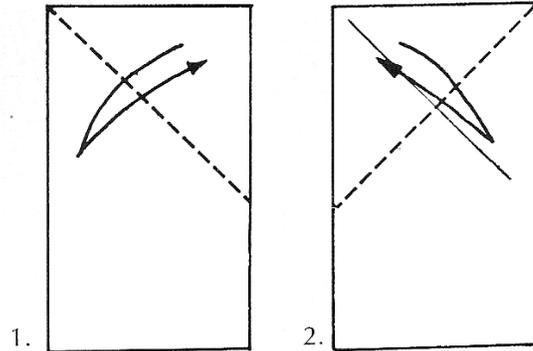
At one time Jews were slaves in Egypt, which was ruled by a Pharaoh. To persuade him to free the Jews, God sent ten terrible plagues. In one of them millions of frogs descended on the country. As a reminder of this event, make a lot of jumping paper frogs.

You need:

A business card or a 3 inch by 5 inch (8 cm by 13 cm) index card



1. Fold the top edge to the long edge, right through the middle of the corner. Open card flat.
2. Fold the top edge over to the other long edge, right through the middle of the other top corner. Open card flat.
3. Fold BACK (mountain fold) as shown where the creases cross. Open card flat.
4. Push down at O. Bring X and Y together. Push down and flatten the triangle just formed on the front. See next drawing.
5. Fold the outer corners of the triangle to the top corner.
6. Fold the sides of the card to the middle.
7. Fold the bottom edge to the top.
8. Bring the top edge of the front layer to the bottom edge.
9. SHARPEN ALL CREASES. Loosen the front and back legs a little. Tap the back of the frog and it will jump.



5.

6.

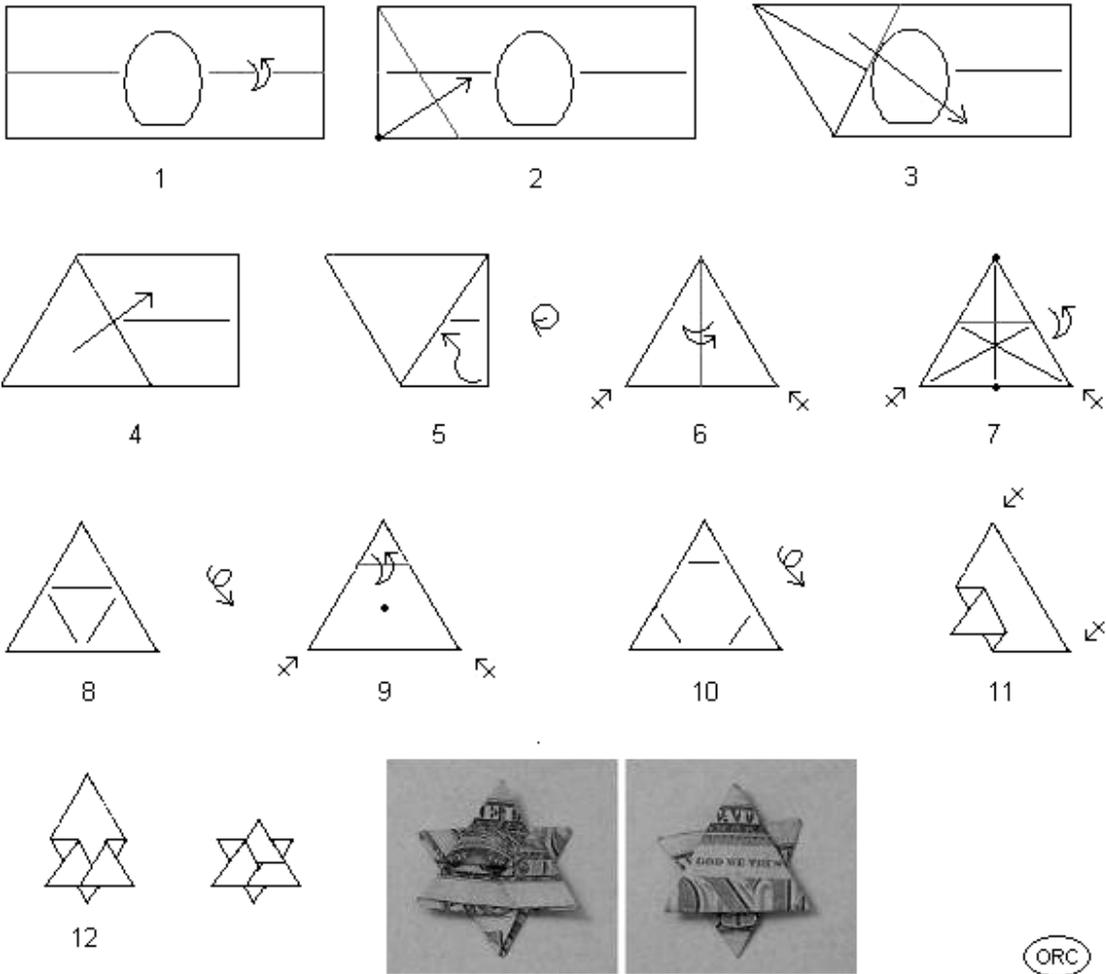
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8.

9.

From Jewish Origami by Florence Temko

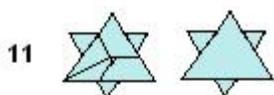
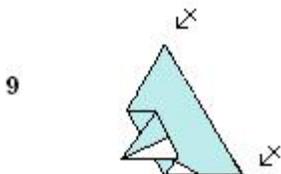
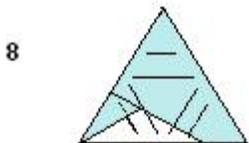
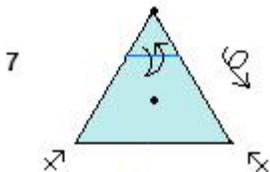
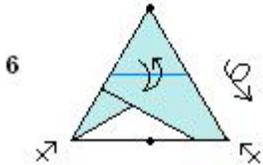
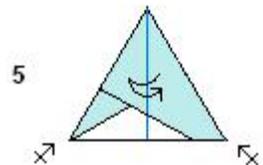
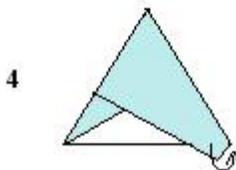
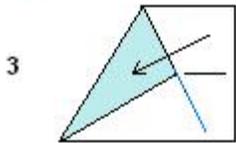
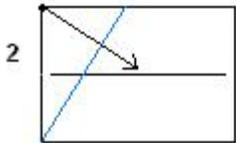
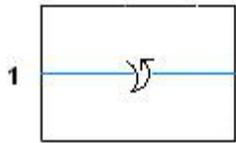
Dollar Bill Star of David



1. Take a US dollar bill and fold it in half lengthwise. Unfold.
2. Bring the bottom left corner to meet the crease made in step 1. Adjust so that the top left part of the bill forms a sharp corner point. Fold.
3. Fold the top left side of the bill downwards to meet the bottom edge of the bill. You should see an equilateral triangle.
4. Continue to wrap the bill around the triangle by folding the left side of the bill up to meet the top edge.
5. Tuck the remaining section into the equilateral triangle. Rotate slightly.
6. Fold the triangle in half and then unfold. Repeat this on the other two sides of the triangle. These creases will be landmarks for the next step.
7. Fold the top of the triangle to meet with the base of the triangle, unfold. Repeat on the other two points.
8. Only most recent crease lines shown. Turn the model over.
9. Fold the top of the triangle to meet the middle of the triangle, unfold. Repeat on the other two points.
10. Only most recent crease lines shown. Turn the model over.
11. Using the creases made in step 7 and 9, accordion pleat the bottom left corner of the triangle. Repeat on the other two corners.
12. In the last pleat, tuck the bill under the first pleat. Done.



1. Start with a rectangular piece of paper such as 8.5" x 11" or A4. Fold it in half lengthwise; unfold.
2. Bring the top left corner to meet the crease made in step 1. Adjust so that the bottom left part of the paper forms a sharp corner point. Fold.



3. Fold the top right side over top the layers made in step 2. You should see an equilateral triangle with a segment of paper overhanging the base of the triangle. With 8.5" x 11" the overhang is quite small. For A4, the overhang is almost the length of the base of the triangle.
4. Fold and tuck the overhang in between the layers of paper.
5. Make sure that the layers of paper do not shift. Fold the triangle in half and then unfold. Repeat this on the other two sides of the triangle. These creases will be landmarks for the next step.
6. Fold the top of the triangle to meet with the base of the triangle, unfold. Repeat on the other two points. Turn the model over.
7. Creases not shown. Fold the top of the triangle to meet the middle of the triangle, unfold. Repeat on the other two points.
8. Creases made in step 6 and 7 shown.
9. Using the pre-creases, accordion pleat the bottom left corner of the triangle. Repeat on the other two corners.
10. In the last pleat, tuck the paper under the first pleat. Done.



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