

How To Fold A Paper Crane

All Together Now ...

Learning to fold a crane by a set of diagrams is challenging and satisfying. If you get stuck, find a partner to help.

Key for the accompanying diagrams

- The shaded portions represent the colored side of the paper.
- Arrows indicate folding direction.
- Fine dotted lines indicate creases already made.
- Hyphenated lines indicate creases to be made.

Be sure to make all creases sharp.

1. Begin with a *square* piece of paper - ideally, one side colored and the other plain. Place the colored side face down on the table and fold the paper in half to form a rectangle. Think of this as folding to the "East".

1a. Unfold and fold in half to the "North".

1b. Unfold and fold paper diagonally (to the "West") to form a triangle.

2. Unfold the paper and *turn it over* so that the colored side is up and fold to the "South", to form a triangle.

Unfold the paper gently and push up from the white side of the paper. The center will "pop" up and two opposing quarters will bend inward along a diagonal valley.

3. Press on the centers of the two quarters that do *not* have the valleys and collapse the paper into a small square.

4. Taking the top flap of paper, fold the two upper sides so that they meet along the center guideline. (Note that point **a** is the "open" end where all four corners of the paper come together.)

Take point **d** and fold down the top triangle along the line between points **b** and **c**.

Now it's time for the trickiest fold. Undo the folds you have just done in step 4. Lift the very top layer of paper at point **a**. Fold the paper up and back along lines **b-c** and make the figure lie flat in a long diamond by reversing the folds **a-b** and **a-c**. Think of this as opening a frog's mouth or the stretching of a wing to the sky.

Turn the paper over and repeat all of step 4 on the other side.

5. Now your paper looks like a diamond with two legs at the bottom. The next step is to taper the diamond at its legs by folding the sides of the top layer so that they meet at the center line. Turn over and repeat on other side to complete the tapering.

5a. Fold top right layer over the left. Turn over and repeat on other side.

6. Now you have a figure that looks like a fox with its pointy ears. Open the top layer of the fox's mouth from point **a** so that it touches the top of its ears.

Turn over and repeat on the other side.

6a. Fold the top right layer over the left as if you are turning the page of a book. Turn over and repeat on the other side.

7. You're almost done. The crane is formed in its egg. Pull the narrow tips out a little bit from the base — to the left and

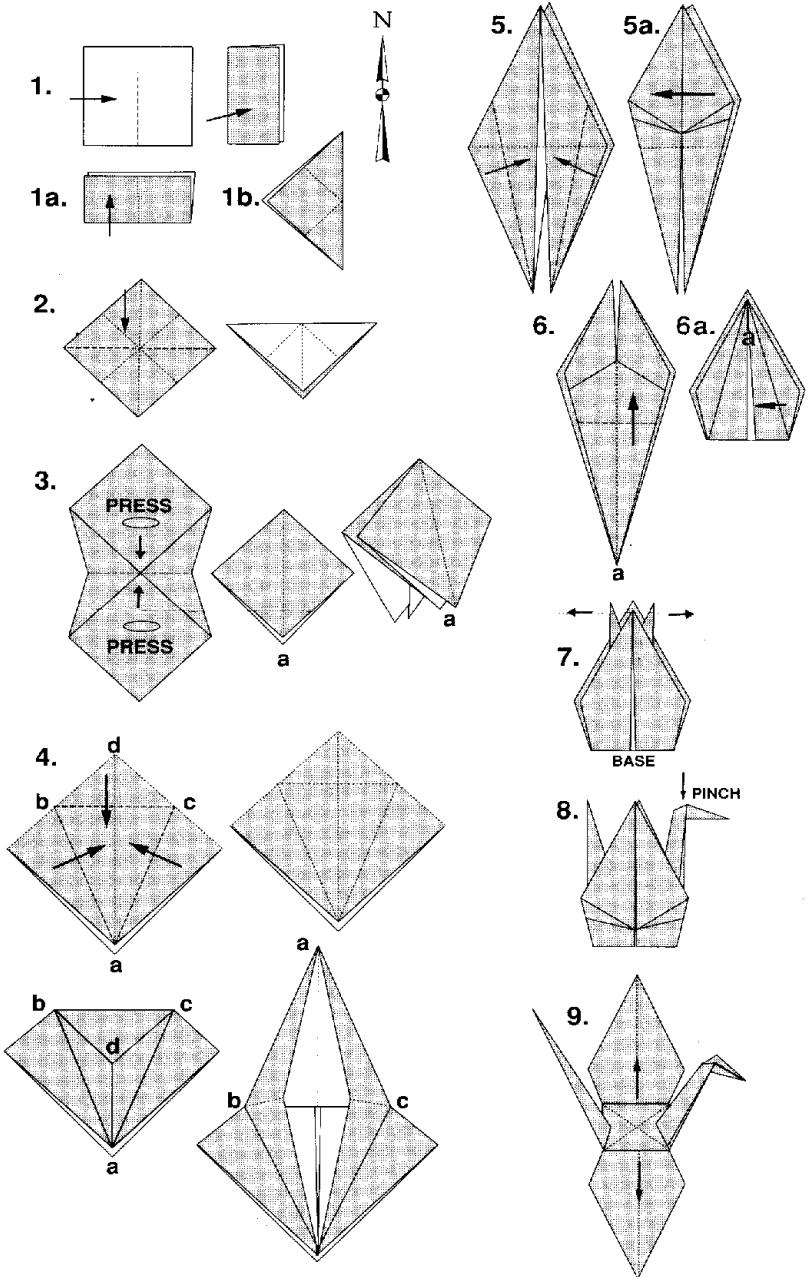
right respectively. Press along the base to make them stay in place.

8. Form the head of the crane by taking one of the narrow tips and bending it down and pinching it so as to reverse the crease that makes the point.

9. Your finished crane! Open the body by gently pulling outward at the base of the two large flaps which form the wings.

*"I will write peace
on your wings and you will fly
all over the world."*

SADAKO SASAKI



People all over the world have been inspired to fold paper cranes after hearing the true story of SADAKO AND THE THOUSAND PAPER CRANES.

To order the book and/or the award-winning video, call 1 800 827-0949

The Crane, Sadako, and You

History Crane-folding is an example of origami, the Japanese art of folding paper to resemble the shape of animals and objects. It dates back to the 8th century — or about 1200 BT (before television!). There are about 100 traditional origami figures, including birds, fish, and flowers. The crane has always been among the most popular origami figures, in part because of its elegance and also because of the old Japanese legend that anyone who folds a thousand will be granted a wish. In recent times, the paper crane has become an international symbol of peace stemming from its connection to the story of a young Japanese girl named Sadako Sasaki.

Sadako was born in Hiroshima, and she was two years old when atomic bomb exploded over her city on August 6, 1945. Ten years later, she felt the first stirrings of the sickness that soon would be diagnosed as leukemia — the "A-bomb disease". When her closest friend told her that folding a thousand paper cranes could result in the gods granting her wish to get well, Sadako set to work. Her courageous struggle with her illness eventually became the inspiration for a monument to memorialize all the children struck down by bomb. Today, people all over the world, after hearing Sadako's story, fold garlands of a thousand paper cranes and send them to Hiroshima.

In many ways, the process of folding a crane is like the process of making peace: at first it may look impossible; some of the steps are awkward; there is generally more than one way to do it; patience and consultation are definitely helpful; and the result, big or small, is ultimately quite graceful and beautiful.

Origami paper comes in a wide variety of colors, sizes, and textures. It is always square. Sadako made many of her cranes out of candy wrappers, and some were no bigger than a rice kernel! (She folded these with the help of a toothpick.) Most art and stationery stores carry traditional origami paper, though any available paper can be cut into squares and used to produce beautiful paper birds.

Mastery While the crane is one of the more advanced origami designs, it can be mastered by most nine-year-olds. Repetition is the key to getting all the steps memorized, and the best results come from making the creases just so. Don't be discouraged if your first few cranes look a little scrunched or lop-sided. After you get it right the first time, make five more within the next day, and it will stay with you for a long time. Crane-folding is like bike-riding in that once you learn how, you probably will never forget. It kind of gets into your genes. One of the best ways to remember the steps is to teach them to someone else.

Once the cranes are finished, they can be strung together into garlands. Attach a string to a long needle, push it through the hole in the bottom of each crane, and bring it out through the point in the center of the crane's back. Be sure to tie a knot at the end of the string. To separate the cranes on the string, add a 1/4" piece of a plastic straw or coffee stirrer between each crane.

Outreach In 1985, a group of returned Peace Corps Volunteers from Seattle, Washington, arranged for a 1,000 individuals and groups to send 1,000 paper cranes to 1,000 world leaders as a gesture for world peace. One woman, 26 year old Tina Koyama, folded a thousand cranes from the pages of TIME Magazine and sent them to the editor. He responded by writing her an open letter of thanks on the editorial page. Whether they are sent to the President of the United States, the mayor of a small town, or a sick person recovering from an illness, the gift of a thousand paper cranes is a powerful gesture of caring, devotion, and love.

If you would like send garlands of a thousand cranes to the statue of Sadako in Hiroshima's Peace Park, the address is: Office of the Mayor, City of Hiroshima, 6-34 Kokutaiji-Machi, 1 Chome Naka-ku, Hiroshima 730 Japan.

ONE THOUSAND CRANES

What if, in answer to need or pain,
you were to fold one thousand cranes —

taking the rice-white sheets of paper
one by one in your fingers

following the now ancient pattern
once someone's new creation

folding together edges, corners,
points along a line or at the center

creating the slender body, long
neck and beak, the wings

Believing with each motion
you move closer to your wish, that passion

filling your heart, white
flock aloft across the blue sky

doubting, for that is human,
for the moment what you've begun

persevering despite doubt, divine
voyage toward paradise

finishing the last fold
not once but over and over

setting each sacred bird down lightly
beside the ones already flying

counting how many you have done,
how many more are yet to come

losing count but not that memory
your hands and your heart keep

going, going over, forward toward
the end that is no end —

what would you ask to happen
that had not happened before then,

when you were at long last finished and knew
your longing and journeying are never through?

Michael Pettit

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and the thousand paper cranes

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