

# How To: Origami Crane



The origami crane is the most classic origami model--it's what you picture when you think origami.

Legend says that folding 1,000 paper cranes will grant you a wish, and the best way to start is with one.

Let's get started!



1. Start with your origami paper white-side up.



2. Fold the paper in half.



3. Unfold your last fold.



4. Fold the paper in half in the other direction.



5. Unfold your last fold again.



6. Flip the paper over and rotate it.



7. Fold in half along the diagonal.



8. Unfold your last fold. Don't worry, we'll get to the interesting part soon.

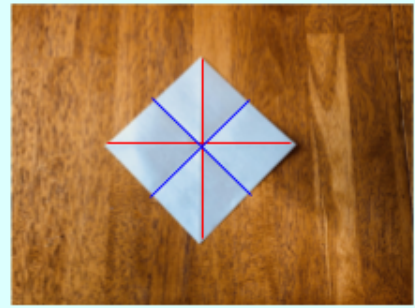


9. Fold along the other diagonal.



10. Unfold your last fold.

11. Flip the paper over. Notice that you've created two intersecting crosses? In the next step, we're going to use those crosses to guide the formation of the base of the crane.



12. Follow the creases to collapse your paper down into a square. The easiest way to do this is to drag each of the three corners of the paper one at a time down to meet the same bottom corner. The pictures above show the left corner, then the right corner, then the top corner being dragged down to meet the bottom corner. You should have two layers of paper on each side of the model.

If you've got that complete, great job! It's one of the hardest parts of the model.



13. Take one of the new corners you've created and fold it along the centerline of the square.



14. Fold the other corner along the centerline.



15. Flip the model over.

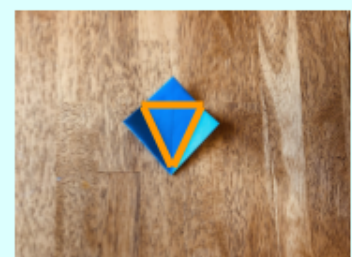


16. Fold the corners on this side along the centerline.



17. Take the triangle at the top of the model and fold it so that the base of the triangle meets the two corners you folded inward with the last step.

18. Unfold all the folds you made in steps 16 and 17. You'll have a triangle outlined on this side of the paper in creases, and like in step 12, these creases are going to be super helpful in the next step.







19. Grab the bottom corner of this side of the model. Following the creases, pull the corner upwards and push the sides inward to flatten into a diamond shape.



20. Flip the model over.



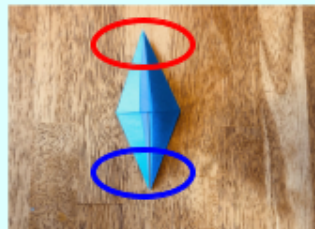
21. Fold the top triangle down like you did in step 17.



22. Unfold the fold you made in the last step and the folds you made along the centerline. We're going to repeat step 19; notice the same triangle of creases? Those are still great guides for the next step.



23. Repeat step 19! Grab the bottom corner and pull it upwards, following the creases you made. The sides should start to fold inward on their own, but you'll probably have to help them along.



It may not look like it, but the crane is nearly finished! The part circled in red will become its wings, and the part circled in blue will become its head and tail.



24. Fold the flap on this side toward the centerline.



25. Fold the other flap toward the centerline.



26. Flip the model over.



27. Fold the flaps on this side toward the centerline.



28. Fold the one of the flaps upward. The exact angle doesn't matter.



29. Fold the other flap upward; again, the exact angle doesn't matter.



30. Unfold.

The angle you fold those two flaps to will affect the angle that the crane's head and tail point at. The sharper the angle, the more upright your crane will look, and the wider the angle, the more stretched out your crane will be. If you don't like it when you finish the crane, you can always adjust it later.



31. Fold the rightmost flap on the top layer sideways, then fold the flap upwards following the crease you made in the last few steps. After that, fold that flap in half; the upper layer of paper will fold over on top of it.

32. Repeat the same method as in step 31 for the other flap--folding sideways, folding upward following the crease, and folding back sideways. You'll end up with something looking like this.



33. Pick one of the two flaps to be your crane's head. Personally, I'd recommend whichever side looks cleaner--it'll be easier to work with. Then, fold the top point down.







The exact amount that you fold the top point down doesn't matter, and neither does the angle. It's all up to aesthetic preference--do you want your crane to have a bigger or smaller head? Do you want it to look down or look up?

34. Unfold.

35. Using a similar method to when you folded these flaps upwards in step 31, unfold the flap and fold the point down along the crease you made in the last step. Then, fold the point in half and the top layer of paper should follow to lie flat.



36. Fold the wing down as far as it'll go.



37. Flip the model over.



38. Fold the other wing down as far as it'll go.



39. Unfold the wings partially, so they're outspread.



Congratulations! You've made an origami crane!

You can adjust the angle of the wings to make it look like your crane is diving by folding them at a different angle, or you can bend the paper to give your crane an ornate look.

You can also adjust the angle of the neck and tail by grabbing them and lightly pulling in the direction you want them to be.