

I'm not a bot



Download Article Simple step-by-step instructions for making the most iconic piece of origami art Download Article When most people think of origami, their mind jumps straight to the elegant paper crane. The idea of folding a paper crane yourself might seem intimidating at first, but the process is super straightforward and even first-time origami makers can make one in just a few minutes. In this article, we'll show you how to make a traditional origami crane step-by-step (with visuals to help you bring your beautiful bird to life). All you need is a square of paper and a flat surface. Let's get started! Use traditional origami paper in the shape of a square for the best results. Choose paper with a color or design you enjoy to make your paper crane pop. Make all of your folds slowly and carefully. Line up corners or edges as perfectly to each other as you can for the sharpest looking crane. Display your crane on a tabletop or shelf, give it as a gift, or make 999 more and string them together to make your own senbazuru! Choose square origami paper with a design you enjoy. Then, lay your paper flat with the colored side facing up. Traditional origami paper is thin but durable and measures 6 in by 6 in (15 cm by 15 cm), but 3 in (7.6 cm) and 10 inches (25 cm) are common too.[1] Advertisement Fold the top right corner down to meet the bottom left corner. Then, crease the fold. Unfold the paper and then repeat on the other side, bringing the top left corner down to meet the bottom right corner. Crease the fold, then unfold the paper. Now you have a large X-shaped crease in your paper.[2] Use your fingers, a ruler, or a bone folder tool to make neat, crisp creases. Making these kinds of folds is called making a valley fold. Flip the paper over and fold the right edge over to meet the left edge. Then, crease the fold. This will look like a vertical rectangle. Unfold the paper, then fold the top edge down to meet the bottom edge, forming a horizontal rectangle. Crease the fold, then unfold the paper without flattening it out.[3] You now have creases in the shape of an "X" and a "+" spanning your paper, dividing it into 8 triangles. Advertisement Bring all 4 corners together along the creases to form a square. First, angle the paper so one corner is facing you (like a diamond shape). Bring the side corners inward to meet the bottom corner. Because of your earlier creases, the top corner will also fold neatly and meet at the same point as the side and bottom corners.[4] Let the paper fold naturally along the creases you made earlier. The resulting square has an open end where all 4 corners of the paper come together (facing you). It also has 2 flaps on the right and 2 flaps on the left.[5] Fold the left and right corners of the square to meet the center crease. Work with the top layers only (not the bottom flaps on the left or right). Crease the folds. You now have a kite shape on top of your square base. Finish the squash fold by folding the triangular tip of the kite shape down.[6] Advertisement Unfold the top and side corners to return to your square base shape. Then, grab the bottom corner (top layer only) and lift it up and back (toward the top corner). The crease from when you folded the top of the kite shape down will act like a "hinge" for the fold, and the side corners will fold in to meet at the center.[7] The resulting shape looks like a thin, vertical diamond (top layer) on top of your square base (bottom layer). Once you've gotten the diamond shape, flatten all of the folds and creases. Turn over your paper, then make a new squash fold. Fold the left and right corners (top layer only) in to meet the vertical center crease, then fold the triangular tip of the resulting kite shape down. Then, unfold the top and side corners and open up the squash fold like you did on the other side of the paper.[8] Flatten the second squash fold as well. The paper now looks like a 2-layer diamond with 2 "legs" at the bottom. Advertisement Fold the left and right corners in to meet the center crease. Work with the top layer only, starting on either side of the paper. Crease the folds. Flip the paper over and do the same on the other side. The paper now resembles a skinny kite.[9] Fold the right half of the kite (top layer) over the center crease. Make sure the right corner of the kite is now touching the left corner. This fold is like turning the page of a book (hence the name "book fold"). Flip the paper over and repeat on the back side—fold the top layer of the right side of the kite over the center crease.[10] Advertisement Lift the bottom corner of the kite (top layer) up to meet the top corner. Make a crease along the fold. Then, flip the paper over and repeat on the backside—lift the bottom corner up to meet the top corner, then crease.[11] Start on one side of the paper and fold the right corner over the center. Make sure to only fold the top layer so the right corner is lined up perfectly with the left corner, then crease the fold. Flip the paper over and repeat—fold the right corner over the vertical center crease and line it up with the left corner.[12] Advertisement Look for the 2 points on either side of the topmost corner. Pull the left point out to the left and down until it's aligned vertically with the leftmost corner below it. Then, pinch the base of the paper on the left side to crease and hold the tab in place. Repeat on the right side of the paper.[13] One of these pointed tabs will be the tail and one will become the head. Choose one to fold into the head (either one will work). Bend one of the side points down to resemble a beak. Then, use your thumbnail to reverse the crease in the head (this is called an inside-reverse fold). Pinch the head to secure the crease and form the beak.[14] For the best look, fold the head down about 1 in (2.5 cm) from the tip. Leave the pointed tab on the other side untouched (it will be the tail). Advertisement Grab the top corner of one layer and fold it down, then crease the fold. Repeat on the other side of the paper to create the second wing. Turn the crane upside down and use your fingers to "fluff" the body of the crane to give it some 3-dimensional shape so it can stand.[15] Once the wings are folded and the body is fluffed up, your crane is ready for display! Display your crane on a flat surface, like a coffee table or shelf, give it as a gift, or make 999 more and string them together to make a senbazuru. Add New Question Question Is it harder to make a paper crane with writing paper? 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Repeat this on the left side. Fold the top of the diamond down so the crease lies along the horizontal line created by the previous two triangles. Then, unfold the top corner and the previous two triangles to return to the small diamond shape you created. From there, fold the topmost layer of the bottom point all the way up so that the left and right flaps naturally fold in, creating a long, narrow diamond shape. Carefully, crease and flatten the paper.Flip the paper over, and repeat the process to create another long, skinny diamond. At this point, your paper should look like one tall, skinny diamond with two legs at the bottom. Next, grab the point on the upper layer of the right side and fold the bottom outside edge inwards towards the central line. Repeat on the left side. Fold the entire right flap over the central line, as if you were turning the page of a book. At this point, both flaps should be on the left-hand side. Turn the shaper over and repeat the process. Next, grab the upper layer of the bottom point and fold it up so the bottom tip touches the top points. Fold the right flap over to the left. Repeat on the other side. Then, fold wings down so you can just see the body. Finally, fold the tip of the head down and pull the wings out gently. If you want to learn more, like how to make your crane look larger and three-dimensional, keep reading the article! Print Send fan mail to authors Thanks to all authors for creating a page that has been read 3,383,607 times. "Having bought origami paper, I set about folding a crane with my five-year-old grandson. The instructions included in the paper pack led to confusion halfway through. I came to your real-life, hands-on illustrations, and presto, it folded into place!". " more Share your story In this tutorial, I will be showing the steps to make a classic origami crane. I did not invent this set of instructions, but I did learn it in Japan. This should take anywhere between 3-10 minutes depending on your experience and skill with origami. The only materials you need is a square piece of paper. I hope you find this instructable helpful! If you're having trouble, there is a 5 minute video attached that I made as well. "Tip: The folds and creases will only be as precise as you make them."1. Take the paper and flip it over to the NON colored or patterned side (if there is).1. Mountain fold is where you fold the paper in half (making a rectangle).2. Fold it again to make a square.3. Then unfold. (There should now be creases that break up the paper into four squares). Take two opposing corners and fold together to make a triangle.3. Unfold. (There should be creases that make 4 triangles).1. Take two parallel corners and push the outsides into the center with your thumb and index finger. Then take two hands and grasp each tip with your index and thumb (as shown in picture two). 2. Once the sides are in the center, slowly move the two flaps down. The sides should easily fold because of the creases.3. Fold the top square down.4. Now you should have a square.5. Rotate the square so that the open corner is facing you.1. Fold one layer on both sides into the center. They should not overlap each
other.2. Repeat on the other side. 3. Then fold the top triangle down.*Make sure you really fold and crease this part well so that it will actually help later. All folds in origami are for a reason. 4. Unfold these last 3 mini-steps so that you are back with the small square with creases.1. Lift one layer of the square from the corner facing you with one hand. This should open a little pocket. 2. Then take both sides and fold them into the center line all the way from the top to bottom. 3. Repeat on the other side. (You should have a diamond looking shape).1. Fold one layer of both sides (on the bottom part) and fold into the center. 2. Flip it over and do it again.1. Turn the crane to the side and split the 'legs' open.2. Insert your index finger into the side (on the top part) forceful enough to leave an indent. 3. Hold the bottom of the leg with your middle finger and thumb while your index finger is still above holding the place.4. Slowly bring your middle finger and thumb up as it folds inside the socket. Start to remove your index finger once the leg starts to fold easily into the socket. 4. Do this on the other side. 1. Choose which side you want to be the head. 2. Pick it up by the neck and use your other hand to grab the tip and flatten all of the layers so that the top is not sharp anymore. 3. From the top, push your nail (or finger) down in the middle of the flattened part while holding the side of the head (where the top line is bent) with your index finger and thumb.4. While you push down on the flattened part, squish the sides to make the crease "official". *If you can't do this step for some reason, then just fold the top part down sideways to give the same head effect (not pictured). It will just not stay and will be a flap.1. Pull open the wings.2. At the bottom of your crane there should be a hole. Blow into the hole to make the core blow up.3. Enjoy your origami crane! Origami of a crane (bird) Paper cranes A paper crane A paper crane flattening in the wind. The orizuru (折鶴 or "folded," tsuru "crane"), origami crane or paper crane, is a design that is considered to be the most classic of all Japanese origami.[1][2] In Japanese culture, it is believed that its wings carry souls up to paradise.[2] and it is a representation of the Japanese red-crowned crane, referred to as the "Honourable Lord Crane" in Japanese culture(citation needed). It is often used as a ceremonial wrapper or restaurant table decoration.[3] A thousand orizuru strung together is called senbazuru (千羽鶴), meaning "thousand cranes", and it is said that if someone folds a thousand cranes, they are granted one wish.[4] The significance of senbazuru is featured in Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes, a classic story based on the life of Sadako Sasaki, a hibakusha girl at Hiroshima, and then later in a book The Complete Story of Sadako Sasaki: and the Thousand Paper Cranes. Since then, senbazuru and collective effort to complete it came to be recognized as synonyms of 'wish for recovering' or 'wish for peace'. Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum exhibits two paper cranes hand-crafted and presented to the museum by President Barack Obama when he visited the city in 2016, alongside his message. Renzuru, "HYAKKAKU (One hundred cranes)" in the Hidden Senbazuru Orikata The term renzuru (連鶴, "conjoined cranes") refers to an origami technique whereby one folds multiple cranes from a single sheet of paper (usually square), employing a number of strategic cuts to form a mosaic of semi-detached smaller squares from the original large square paper. The resulting cranes are attached to one another (e.g., at the tips of the beaks, wings, or tails) or at the tip of the body (e.g., a baby crane sitting on its mother's back). The trick is to fold all the cranes without breaking the small paper bridges that attach them to one another or, in some cases, to effectively conceal extra paper. Typical renzuru configurations include a circle of four or more cranes attached at the wing tips. One of the simplest forms, made from a half-square (2x1 rectangle) cut halfway through from one of the long sides, results in two cranes that share an entire wing, positioned vertically between their bodies; heads and tails may face in the same or opposite directions. This is known as inosemayari.[5] If made from paper colored differently on each side, the cranes will be different colors. This origami technique was first illustrated in one of the oldest known origami books, the Hidden Senbazuru Orikata (1797). (Updated diagrams from this early work can be found in a current book by Japanese origami author Kunihiko Kasahara.) Instructions on folding the origami crane, using the Yoshizawa-Randlett system of notation. ^ The East 1970 Page 293 "Follow the instructions on the next page. Crease the paper tightly, and you will obtain clear-cut J forms. The first in our series is the orizuru (folded crane), which is the most classic of all Japanese origami, dating back to the 6th century. The process of folding is not so simple." ^ a b Jccc Origami Crane Project - Materials For Teachers & Students. MEANING OF THE ORIGAMI CRANE (n.d.). n. pag. Web. 16 Feb. 2017. ^ Patsy Wang-Iverson, Robert J. Lang, Mark Yim Origami 5: Fifth International Meeting of Origami Science 2011 Page 8 "The older pieces are ceremonial wrappers, including ochō and mecho, and the newer ones are the traditional models we know well, such as the orizuru (crane) and yakko-san (servant) [Takagi 99]." ^ "Senbazuru." Senbazuru | TraditionsCustoms.com. N.p., n.d. Web. 16 Feb. 2017. ^ Joie Staff (2007). Crane Origami. Japan Publications Trading Company. ISBN 978-4-88996-224-6. Wikimedia Commons has media related to Origami crane. Video showing how to make an orizuru Retrieved from " Download Article Simple step-by-step instructions for making the most iconic piece of origami art Download Article When most people think of origami, their mind jumps straight to the elegant paper crane. The idea of folding a paper crane yourself might seem intimidating at first, but the process is super straightforward and even first-time origami makers can make one in just a few minutes. In this article, we'll show you how to make a traditional origami crane step-by-step (with visuals to help you bring your beautiful bird to life). All you need is a square of paper and a flat surface. Let's get started! Use traditional origami paper in the shape of a square for the best results. Choose paper with a color or design you enjoy to make your paper crane pop. Make all of your folds slowly and carefully. 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