



Origami is the ancient Japanese art of paper folding.

All kinds of amazing 3-D shapes can be made without scissors or glue, and most objects can be folded from just a single piece of ordinary paper. See for yourself how origami works by trying the two simple folded-paper projects below.

Ingredients

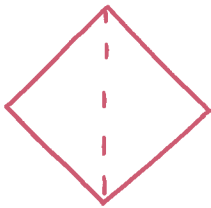
- 1 square sheet of paper (20 x 20cm is a good size to begin with, but once you've got the hang of folding, the square can be as big or small as you'd like)

Equipment

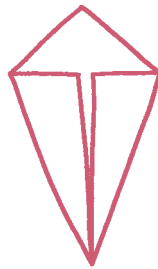
- A smooth, flat surface to fold on

Instructions Origami Swan

- 1** Take a square of paper and fold it in half from corner to corner. Press along the fold to crease the paper and then unfold so the square lies flat again.



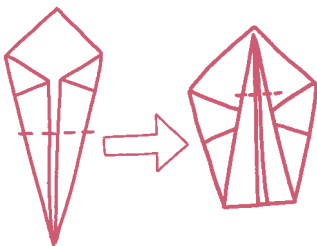
- 2** Fold each of the lower sides up to meet the centre crease and make a kite shape.



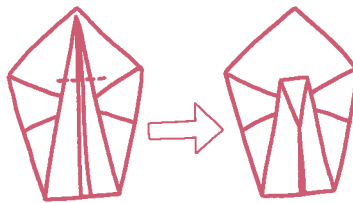
- 3** Turn the paper over so the edges you've just folded are now face down. Turn the lower side edges in to meet the centre crease, as before.



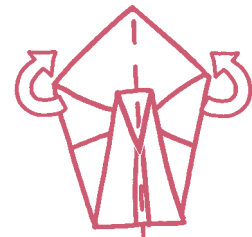
- 4** Turn the point at the bottom of your paper up to meet the point at the top, pressing firmly along the fold line.



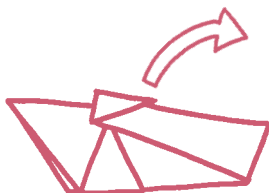
- 5** Measure down roughly 4cm from the narrow point at the top of your paper and fold over. This will make your swan's head.



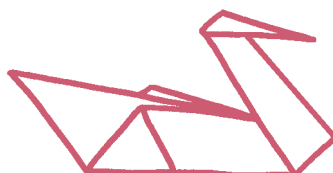
- 6** Fold the paper in half along the crease you made in the very first step, turning both sides away from you.



- 7** Gently pull the section that's sitting on top of the fold upwards to make the swan's neck. Crease the paper at the bottom of the neck to hold it in place.

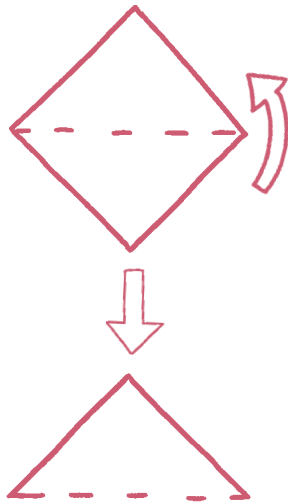


- 8** Lift the swan's head up (the folded point at the top of the neck) and lastly, open out the bottom of the body section so your swan can sit down.

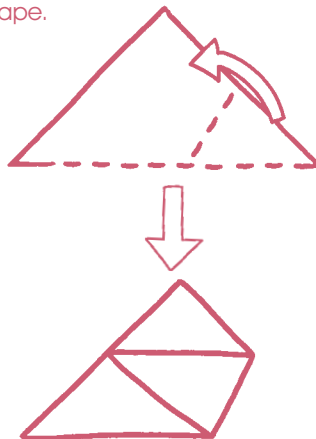


Instructions Origami Pocket

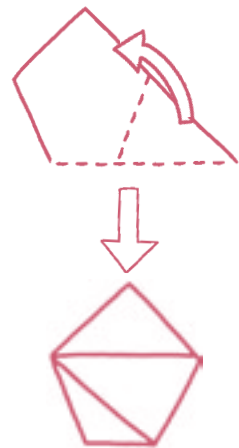
1 Fold a square piece of paper in half diagonally to make a triangle and press firmly along the crease.



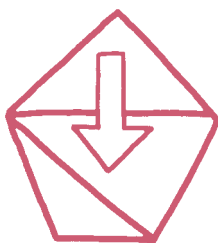
2 Fold the bottom right-hand corner over to the left hand edge. It should meet just over half way up and the top edge of the piece you fold needs to go straight across the paper, parallel with the bottom of the paper shape.



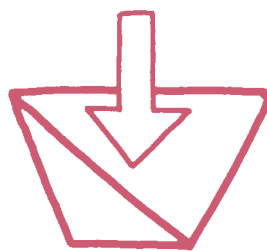
3 Turn the paper over so the point you've just folded is now face down. Repeat step 2, folding the bottom right-hand corner across to the opposite side.



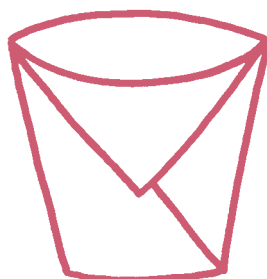
4 You now have a pointed section at the top of your folded paper, made up of two layers of paper. Take the upper piece and fold the point down over the fold you made in step 3.



5 Flip the paper over again, and fold the point of the remaining triangle downwards in the same way.



6 If you gently squeeze the top corners inwards, your folded paper pocket will open up, ready for you to store tiny goodies inside.



TOP TIP:

Clamp one edge of your origami pocket in a bulldog clip to hang it from a hook and use to stash small items of stationery by your desk, or hair accessories by your dressing table. You could even pin one to a notice board and use it to hold ticket stubs, reminders and those all-important party invitations.

Paper pockets make lovely presents, too, especially if you fill them with tiny treats. Try stashing bath pearls, sweets or fun in a pocket folded from a sheet of funky patterned wrapping paper.