Peacock

Designed by Robert J. Lang
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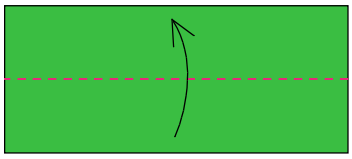
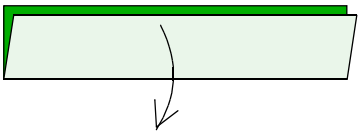
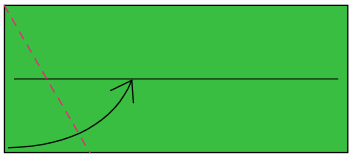
Use a rectangle a bit more than twice as long as it is wide (the exact dimensions aren't critical). You can divide a page of National Geographic magazine in half vertically to get two suitable rectangles or fold it from a U.S. dollar bill!



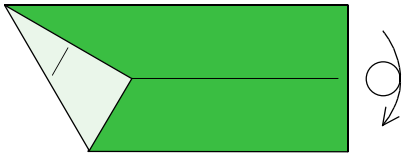
1. Begin with the rectangle oriented horizontally. Fold it in half lengthwise.



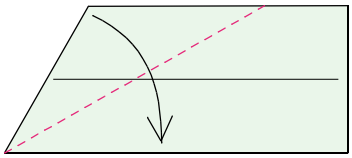
2. Unfold.



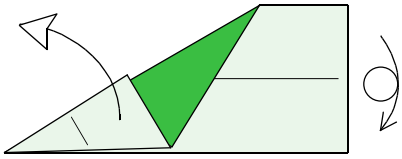
3. Fold the bottom left corner upward to lie on the horizontal center line. The crease should run through the upper left corner.



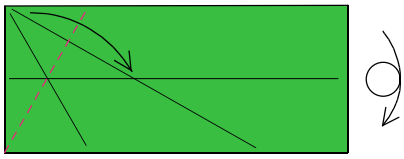
4. Like this. Turn the paper over from top to bottom.



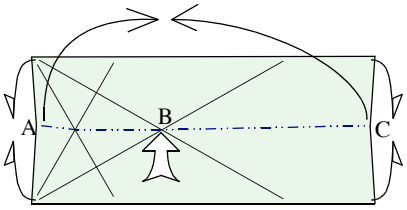
5. Fold the left edge down to lie along the bottom edge.



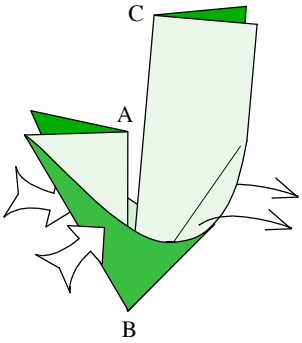
6. Like this. Unfold completely, and turn the paper back over.



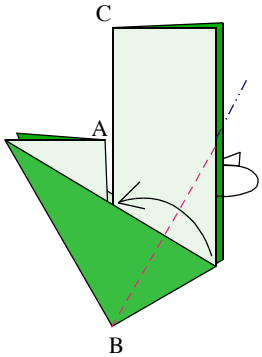
7. Repeat steps 3–6, but begin with the upper left corner rather than the lower left. When you have completed step 6 (unfolding the paper), don't turn it over again, but leave it white side up, with the creases to the left.



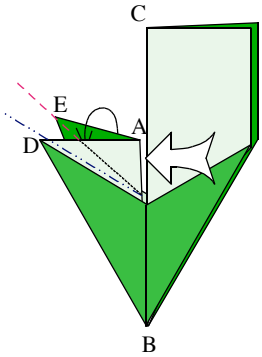
8. Push down point B (where the two diagonal creases cross) and bring points A and C toward each other. As you do this, bring the two left corners of the dollar toward each other and the two right corners toward each other, folding along the crease made in step 1, so that the white side is on the outside at each end.



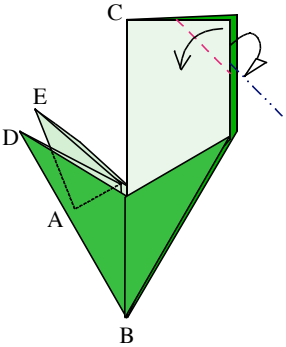
9. Pinch the left side of the model flat using the existing creases. Then, while holding edges AB and BC together, flatten out the rest of the model, forming new creases as necessary.



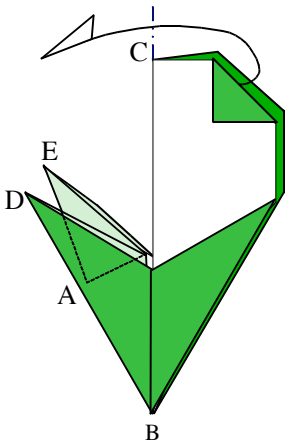
10. Fold the front lower right edge up to touch the two vertical edges; repeat behind.



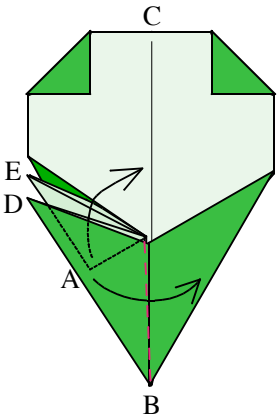
11. Push corner A down so that it goes between corners D and E, using existing creases.



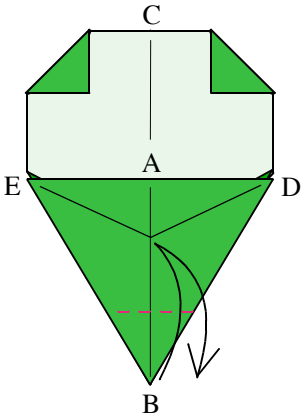
12. The dotted line shows where corner A winds up. Now fold one of the upper right corners down along a diagonal—the exact amount isn't critical. Fold an equal amount down on the other flap (on the other side).



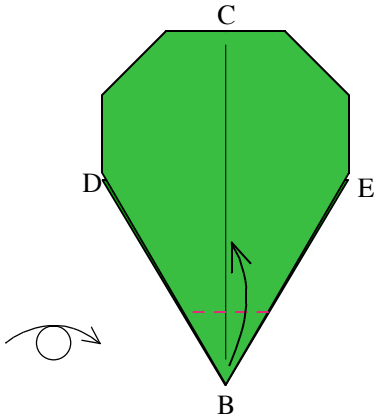
13. Hold flaps D and E together, and fold the back flap from the right side to the left, as if you were turning a page of a book facing away from you.



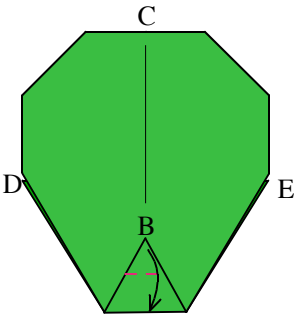
14. Fold flap D over to the right; in the process, corner A comes up, undoing step 11.



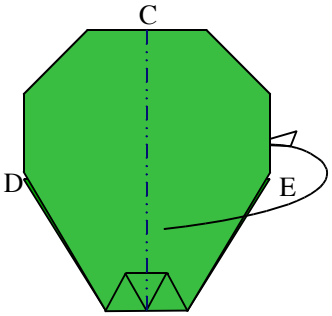
15. Fold the thick point at the bottom (point B) up to touch the junction of three creases in the middle of the green triangle; make a small crease, unfold, and turn the model over, keeping the point at the bottom.



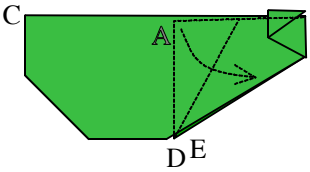
16. Fold point B upward on the crease you just made (reversing its direction).



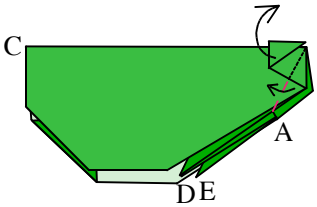
Fold point B back down to touch the bottom edge.



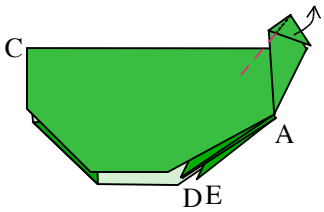
18. Carefully (because of the thickness) fold the model in half vertically.



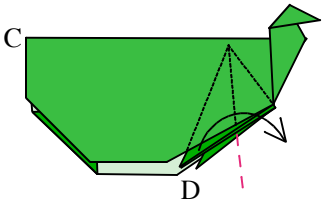
19. Fold corner A (which is hidden inside the model) back down between corners D and E (as you did in step 11).



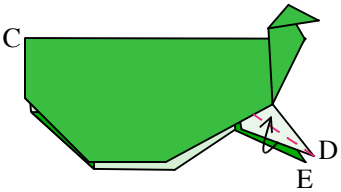
20. The zig-zag corner at the right is the neck and head. Pinch the head between two fingers and pull it upward so that its left edge becomes vertical (look ahead to step 21 to see the result). Note that the creases that form touch corner A.



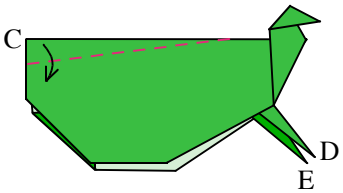
21. Now, pinch the head near its beak and pull it upward, so that the bottom edge is nearly horizontal.



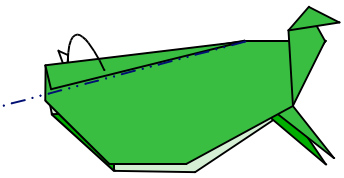
22. Take the nearest hidden point (point D) and fold it over to the right and downward as far as possible; the action is a combination of twisting and pulling. Repeat on the other side (point E).



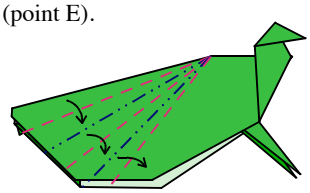
23. Fold both of the legs (points D and E) in half to narrow them. This is difficult with small paper, and if you don't mind a fat-legged peacock, you can skip this step.



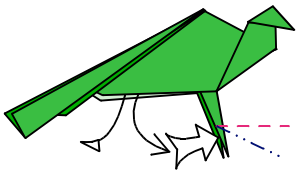
24. Fold a narrow strip of the back edge (the exact amount isn't critical) downward, tapering to a point where the paper gets thick.



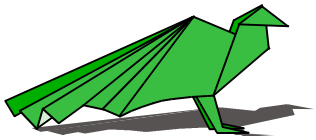
25. Fold the same width of paper behind, folding over the first pleat you made.



26. Continue pleating the tail back and forth, making a fan. The exact amount isn't critical, but look at the next step for an idea of how far to go.



27. The tail consists of a double layer of pleats; separate the edges of the bottom of the tail and the layers of the pleats from each other. Working from the center, spread the tail out like a fan. Fold the tips of the legs forward to form feet.



28. The finished peacock.