

Tea Bag Folding

Scissors
Paper

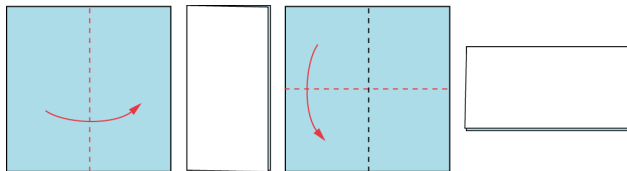
Ruler
Pencil

Glue

Tea bag folding uses some of the techniques of Origami combined with tiny squares of patterned paper. Once folded these squares are combined in attractive geometric patterns to form a larger design.

The art of tea bag folding is said to have been born when a clever Dutch crafter decided to work with the decorative envelopes used to hold fruit tea bags. As the craft developed specially printed sheets have been produced with patterned squares ready to cut out and fold.

On the diagram the blue shaded areas represent the right side of the paper (patterned side), the white areas the wrong side of the paper. The dotted lines in red represent folds you are about to make, the dotted lines in black represent folds you have already made.



Fold the paper into half and then unfold it.

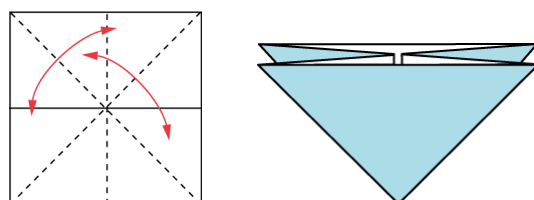
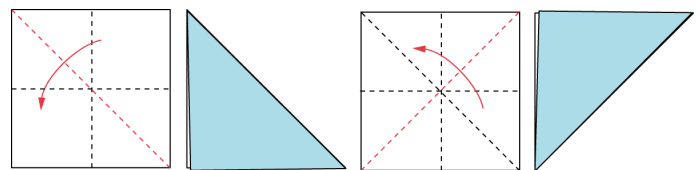
Turn the paper 90 degrees.

Fold in half the other way and unfold it.

Turn the paper over and fold from corner to corner then unfold it.

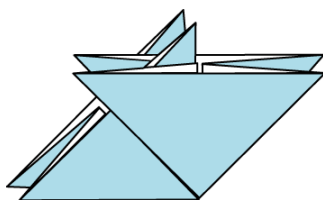
Turn the paper 90 degrees.

Fold the other two corners together then unfold it.



Fold the lower half up and the outer edges into the centre, manipulating the creased paper into the shape shown.

Fold a total of eight shapes to this stage.



Slide a second folded sheet between the V of the first shape.

Note the way the V's of each piece go together.

Fix the pieces with paper adhesive as you assemble the shape.

If this is your first try it might be best to assemble it dry to start with, then fix it with adhesive when you are satisfied you have the correct method.

Continue sliding new pieces into the V of the previous piece until the design is complete.

The last piece of the set will take a bit of manipulation to get it into the correct position. Study the finished diagram to see how it should look.

