How to make an origami crane.

1. Start with a square piece of paper — wish on one side, blank on the other side.

2. Lay the paper down flat in front of you — wish side facing down. Take the bottom right corner and fold the paper diagonally to form a triangle. Unfold the paper.

3. Take the bottom left corner and now fold the paper diagonally the opposite way. Unfold the paper again, and turn it over so that the wish side is facing up.

4. Fold the paper in half, bringing the bottom half of the paper up to meet the top half. Unfold the paper.

5. Fold the paper in half the other way, bringing the right side of the paper over the left side of the paper. Unfold the paper again, but do not flatten it.

6. Making sure that the wish side is facing up, lay the paper in front of you. Position the paper like a diamond, not a square.

7. Reestablish creases. Now think of your paper as having four smaller diamonds within the one bigger diamond. Place your thumbs on top of “point C diamond.” Place your index fingers on the other side of the paper under the middle crease in “point B diamond” and the middle crease in “point D diamond,” guiding both points down to meet point C — then crease sides. Now collapse point A down onto points B, D, and C, resulting in a small, compact diamond.

8. Make sure that the open corner is on the bottom. Also, make sure that the upper left and upper right sides of your diamond are creased.

9. Take the right top layer of your diamond (point F) and fold it inward, so that the right side now lies next to the crease in the middle. Take the left top layer of your diamond (point H) and fold it inward as well, making sure that the left side is now adjacent to the right side. Points F and H should be touching in the center of your diamond.

10. Flip your paper over and repeat step 9 so that points I and J are touching in the center. You should now have a kite shape in front of you.
How to make an origami crane. (contd.)

11. Take the top corner of your kite (point E) and fold it down and back up, creating a crease where points I and J meet. Turn your kite over and crease the other way.

12. Slightly unfold the flaps you just folded in steps 9-11 and grab the bottom corner (point G), but ONLY the top layer of paper. Pull the corner upward and crease so that the crease you made in step 11 is reestablished — it will look like an open bird’s beak.

13. Holding your bird beak wide open, and using the creases you just made in steps 9-12, fold the right and left sides of the beak inward and crease. Push the beak backwards and crease so that it now lies flat. Points I and J should be touching in the center of the beak. You should now have a flat symmetrical diamond shape.

14. Turn your paper over and repeat step 13. You should now have a symmetrical diamond shape in front of you. There should be two “legs” at the bottom of your diamond. (They are actually the neck and tail.)

15. Just as you did in steps 9-11, take the right top layer (point L) and fold it inward so that the right side now lies next to the crease in the middle. Take the left top layer (point K) and fold it inward as well, so that points K and L are touching in the center of your kite.

16. Flip your paper over and repeat step 15 so that points M and N are touching. You should now have a skinny kite shape.

17. Take the right “leg” and fold it all the way on an outward diagonal. Unfold it and return it to its original position. Do the same to the left leg.

18. Turn your crane so that you are looking at it from the side (it should be thin). Open the leg flat and, using the crease made in step 17, fold the leg as far as it can fold. Turn your paper over and do the same to the other leg. Now close the leg, bringing points O and P together. Do the same to the other side.

19. Now turn your crane so that you can see one “leg” sticking out of the top right side and the other “leg” sticking out of the top left side. To create the neck, take the right “leg” tip and gently pull it outward until it reaches 45 degrees. Then pinch and crease at the base of the neck. To create the tail, take the left “leg” tip and gently pull it outward until it reaches 45 degrees. Then pinch and crease at the base of the tail.

20. To create the head, grab the neck about ⅓ of an inch from the top. Push the top of the neck down so the crease folds the opposite way. Pinch the paper together so that you make a crease where the head meets the neck.

21. Take one wing and fold it down ⅓ of the way. Do the same to the other wing. Open the body by blowing into the underside cavity then gently pulling out the wings.