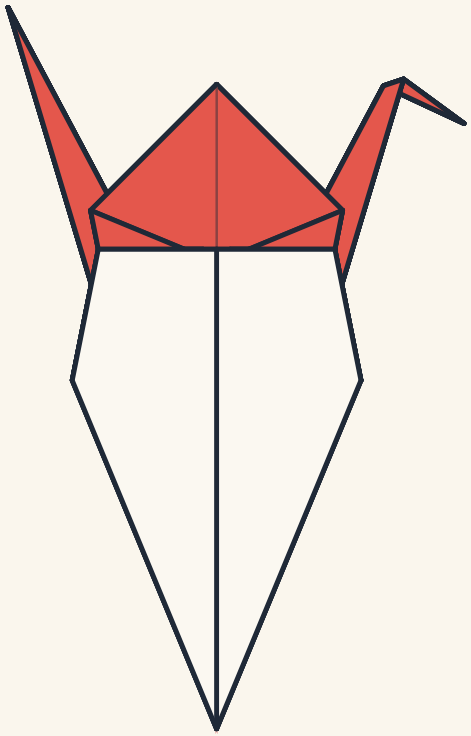
ORIGAMI DIAGRAMS

Paper Crane

The origami crane is the traditional Japanese orizuru, a bird with spread wings folded from a single square without cuts or glue. It is an advanced model: expect about 15 minutes for your first one, mostly spent learning the petal fold and inside reverse fold.



DIFFICULTY
Advanced

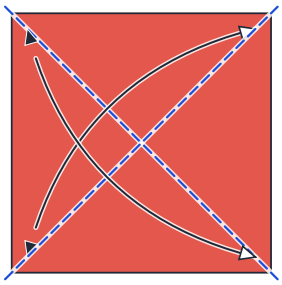
TIME
About 15 min

STEPS
19

PAPER
One square of thin origami paper, ideally 15 cm (6 in)

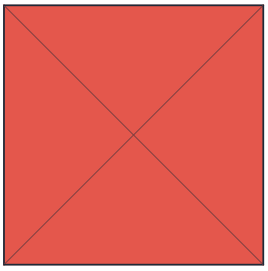
- Valley fold (toward you)
- Mountain fold (away)
- Existing crease

1



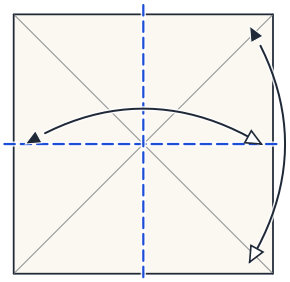
Colored side facing you, fold corner to corner along one diagonal, open it, and repeat along the other diagonal so an X is creased into the sheet.

2



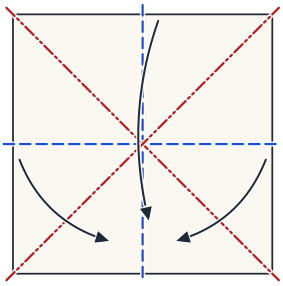
Flip the sheet so the white side faces you.

3



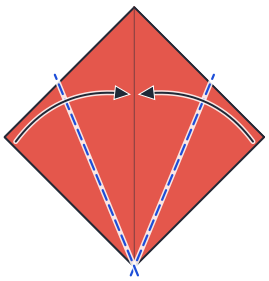
Crease both midlines by folding edge to edge, opening the paper after each fold.

4



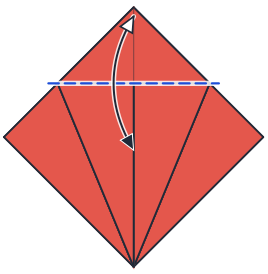
Guided by those creases, gather three edges (left, right and top) down onto the bottom edge; the sheet collapses into a small square whose loose corners point toward you. This shape is known as the preliminary base or square base.

5



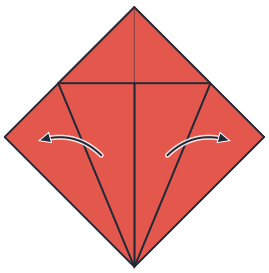
Working on the uppermost layer only, swing its two lower slanted edges inward so they lie exactly along the vertical middle crease.

6



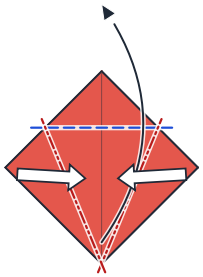
Fold the small top triangle down across those flaps, press a sharp crease, then lift it back up.

7



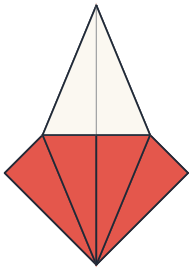
Open out the two side flaps you folded in a moment ago.

8



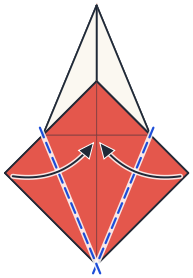
Now make the petal fold: raise the bottom corner of the upper layer, hinging it on the horizontal crease from the previous steps. Let the sides swing inward on their creases until they meet at the center, then press everything flat into a tall diamond.

9



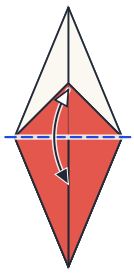
Flip the model over.

10



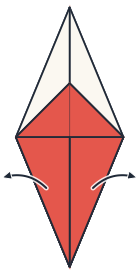
On this side, repeat the narrowing move: swing both lower slanted edges of the uppermost layer inward until they sit on the middle crease.

11



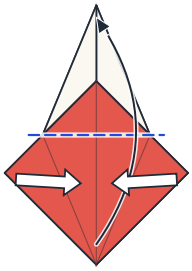
Once again, bring the little top triangle down, sharpen the fold, and lift it back into place.

12



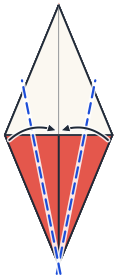
Release the two side flaps again.

13



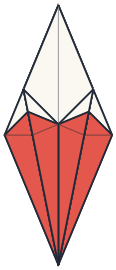
Complete a second petal fold on this side. The result is the bird base, with two narrow flaps above and two split flaps below.

14



Now narrow the bottom half: take the slanted lower edges of the upper layer and lay them along the middle crease.

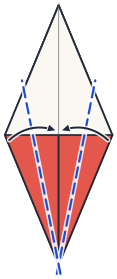
15



Turn over

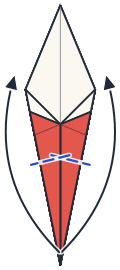
Flip the model over.

16



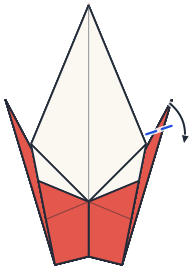
Give this side the same treatment, laying its lower edges on the middle crease so both halves match.

17



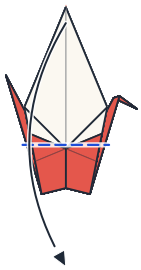
Inside reverse fold each skinny lower flap upward between the wing layers: ease the flap open slightly, tuck its bottom end upward inside itself on the crease, and press flat. One point will be the neck and the other the tail.

18



Pick one of the two points and inside reverse fold its tip downward to form the head.

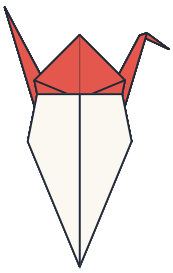
19



Repeat behind

Fold the near wing down so its crease runs along the top edge of the body, then fold the far wing down behind to match.

Done



Grip the neck at its base and the tail, and ease them apart so the body puffs open; then raise the wings outward. In Japan the folded crane, or orizuru, stands for longevity and good fortune.