Origami Crane Folding Instructions

1) Start with a square piece of paper right side away from you. Fold in half into a rectangle.

2) Fold this rectangle into a square.

3) Fold this square into a triangle.

4) Unfold paper with wrong side toward you. It should be marked with fold lines like this.

5) Using the fold lines, bring points A and B, and C and D together, while bringing together points 1, 2, 3, and 4, tucking in 2 and 3 to create a square.

6) Fold this square into a kite shape by picking up point 1 and folding it to the center to create line c-a. Then pick up point 2 and fold it to the center to create line b-a.

7) Turn paper over and repeat step 6 to make a kite on the other side.

8, 9) Fold top point down toward bottom point to create fold line a-b. Repeat on other side.

10) Unfold kite folds to recreate square.

11, 12) Pull up on point a in the first picture. Lift it back toward point d, the center point. As you do this, flaps 1 and 2 should naturally begin to fold in along fold lines b-a, and c-a. Pressing in from behind on fold line b-c will help you to lay point a back. The trick is to get the paper to lie flat in the long diamond shape shown here. Repeat with other side.

(over)
13, 14) When you have finished steps 11 and 12, your paper will look like this diamond with two “legs” at the bottom. Fold flap 1 to create fold line f-a. Then fold flap 2 to create fold line e-a. Then flip the entire figure over and repeat on the opposite side with flap 3 and flap 4.

15) Lift the upper flap at point f (be sure it’s just the upper flap), and fold it over in the direction of the arrow - as if turning the page of a book. Flip the entire figure over and repeat on the opposite side.

16, 17) This figure looks like a fox with two pointy ears at the top and a pointy nose at the bottom. Open the upper layer of the fox’s mouth at point a, and crease it along line g-h so that fox’s nose touches the top of the fox’s ears. Turn the figure over and repeat on the opposite side so that all four points touch.

18, 19) Lift the top layer at point f, and fold it in the direction of the arrow to create another book-type fold. Flip the entire figure over and repeat on the opposite side.

20) There are two points, a and b, below the upper flap. Pull out each one, in the direction of the arrows, as far as shown. Press down along the base at points x and y to make a and b stay in place.

22, 23) Take the end of one of the points, and bend it down to make the head of the crane. Using your thumbnail, reverse the crease in the head, and pinch it to form the beak. The other point becomes the tail.

24) Fold down wings OR Open the body by blowing into the hole underneath the crane, and then gently pull out the wings.