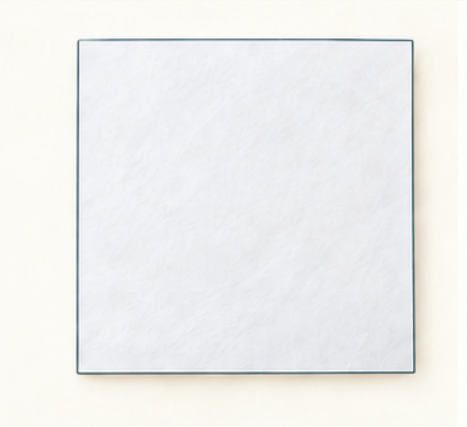
Origami foundations

Storyboard · 1–3

One 15 × 15 cm peach/white square and a spare square. Thin paper; a clear flat table.



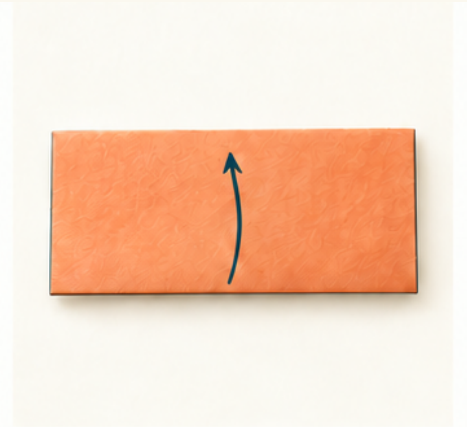
1. Check the square

Place a 15 × 15 cm square white side up, with its edges horizontal and vertical.

Why: Equal straight edges give you dependable targets; a rectangle changes the later alignment.

Check: Four equal sides; peach color is on the back and no crease has been made.

Repair: Compare neighboring edges before starting. Replace an uneven square rather than forcing unequal corners together.



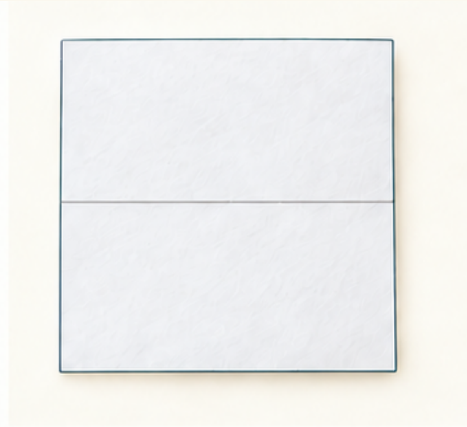
2. Fold edge to edge

Bring the bottom edge up to the top edge. Match both pairs of corners, hold them, then smooth the center fold outward.

Why: A valley fold moves the near half toward the visible side; matching both corners prevents a sloping fold.

Check: A peach rectangle with two aligned layers and a folded long edge below.

Repair: Open before pressing harder if one corner misses. Align both corners again, then smooth from the middle.



3. Unfold the precrease

Lift the upper half and reopen the sheet white side up. Leave the new horizontal center crease visible.

Why: Unfolding restores the outline but keeps a crease you can reuse as a landmark.

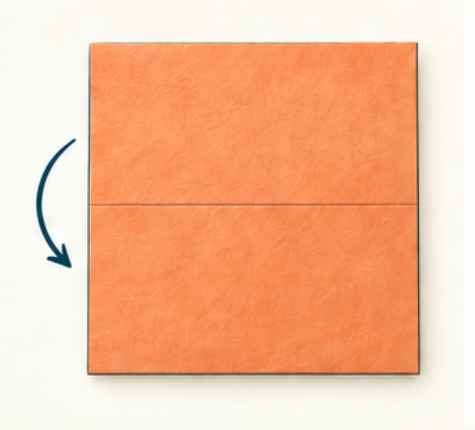
Check: A white square with one fine horizontal center line.

Repair: Stop at a flat square. Do not turn the sheet or add a second fold while reopening.

Origami foundations

Storyboard · 4–6

One 15 × 15 cm peach/white square and a spare square. Thin paper; a clear flat table.



4. Turn the sheet over

Turn the whole square over from left to right, keeping its edges horizontal. The peach side now faces you.

Why: The same crease changes its appearance when viewed from the other face; turning is not a new fold.

Check: A peach square with the existing center crease in the same horizontal position.

Repair: If the crease became vertical, rotate the sheet back on the table; keep the peach side facing you.



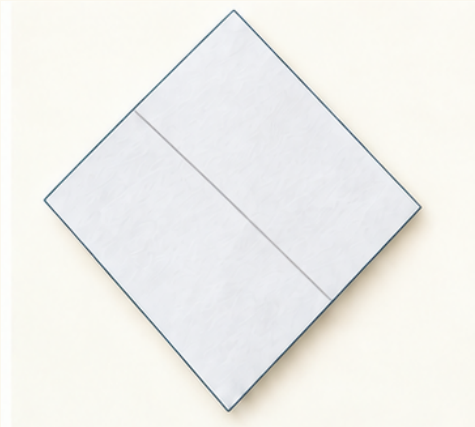
5. Feel a mountain ridge

Raise the existing center crease gently into a ridge with the peach side outside. Let both halves slope away without making another line.

Why: The same fold is a valley from one face and a mountain from the opposite face.

Check: A low peach ridge at the old crease, with the white underside visible beneath the halves.

Repair: Return to the peach square in step 4. Bend only on the existing line, not on a neighboring parallel line.



6. Reset and rotate

Open the sheet, turn it white side up and rotate it on the table into a diamond, with one corner nearest you.

Why: Opening, turning over and rotating do different jobs: restore shape, change face, change orientation.

Check: White diamond; the earlier edge-to-edge crease now slopes between two side midpoints.

Repair: Check the white face first, then the diamond orientation. Ignore the old sloping crease as a fold target for the next step.

Origami foundations

Storyboard · 7–9

One 15 × 15 cm peach/white square and a spare square. Thin paper; a clear flat table.



7. Make a diagonal triangle

Bring the bottom corner to the top corner. Match the sloping edges, hold the tips and press the long bottom crease.

Why: A corner-to-corner fold makes a triangle instead of the rectangle produced by an edge-to-edge fold.

Check: Peach triangle, two layers, apex above a horizontal folded base.

Repair: Reopen if one sloping edge extends beyond the other. Match the points before pressing again.



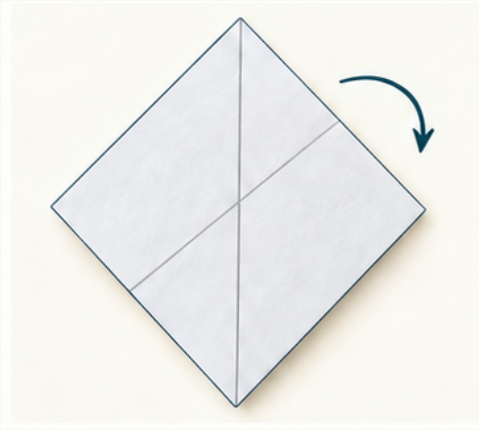
8. Open the triangle

Unfold back to a white diamond. Find the new horizontal diagonal running between the left and right corners.

Why: A precrease can guide another construction even when you no longer keep the triangle closed.

Check: White diamond with a corner-to-corner horizontal crease and the earlier faint sloping crease.

Repair: Trace from the left corner to the right corner to identify the diagonal; do not confuse it with the older midpoint line.



9. Rotate the guide upright

Rotate the diamond a quarter turn on the table, keeping the white face up. The corner-to-corner crease should now be vertical.

Why: A vertical center line makes the next two edge-to-crease folds easier to compare.

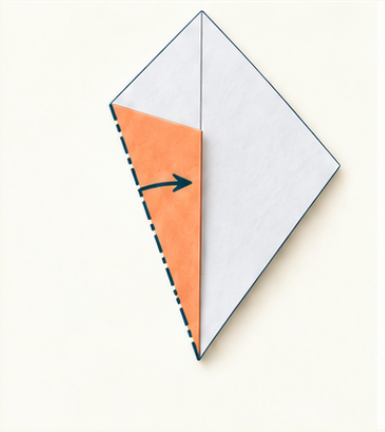
Check: White diamond with the diagonal joining the top and bottom points.

Repair: Rotate without flipping. If the peach face is showing, turn back to white before orienting the crease.

Origami foundations

Storyboard · 10–12

One 15 × 15 cm peach/white square and a spare square. Thin paper; a clear flat table.



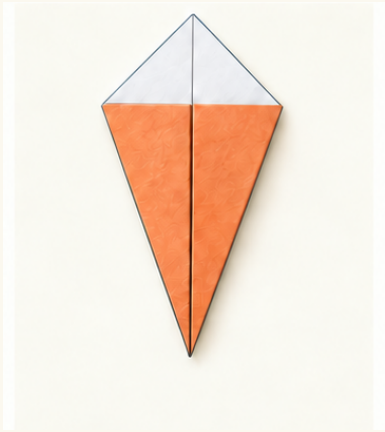
10. Bring one edge to the center

Fold the lower-left sloping edge onto the vertical center crease. Start at the bottom point, align the edge and press.

Why: Aligning an edge with a crease uses a landmark rather than a ruler or an estimated distance.

Check: A peach flap on the left, white paper on the right; the bottom point lies on the center line.

Repair: Lift the left flap if it crosses the line. Reposition its edge directly on the crease while keeping the bottom point fixed.



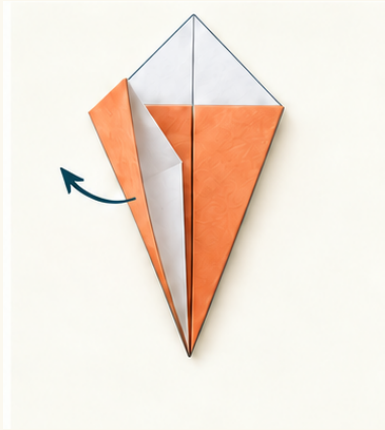
11. Complete the kite base

Fold the lower-right sloping edge onto the same center crease. Keep the first flap flat and press the new fold.

Why: Two matching edge-to-center folds create a kite base used at the start of other models.

Check: A narrow peach kite with meeting flap edges and a white triangle at the wide upper end.

Repair: Compare the two flap edges. Reopen only the side that overlaps the center or leaves a gap, then align again.



12. Identify a single flap

Lift only the left side flap slightly by its loose edge. Keep the right flap and main sheet still, then lower the left flap again.

Why: A layer instruction tells you which piece moves; moving one flap is different from folding the whole stack.

Check: Only the left flap opens; its white reverse appears, while the right side stays folded.

Repair: If both sides open, return to the kite in step 11 and hold the right side while lifting the left loose edge.

Try independently: On a fresh square, make a triangle, unfold it, rotate the diagonal upright and form a kite base without the pictures. Explain which edges you matched.