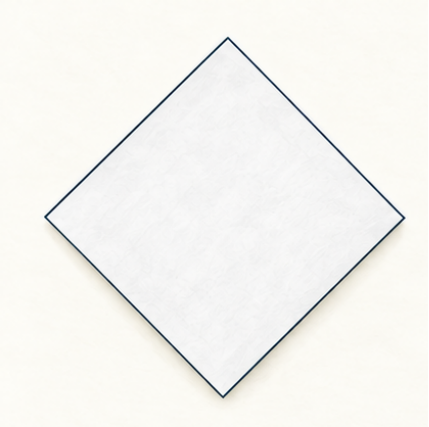
Origami paper cup

Storyboard · 1–3



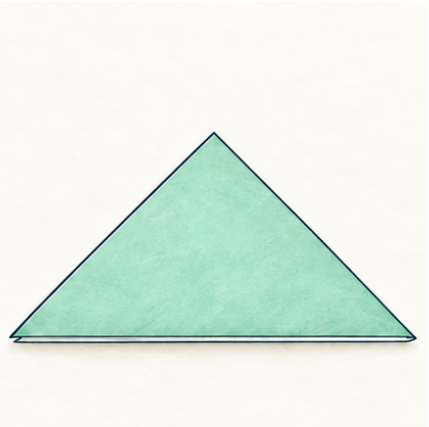
1. Orient the square

Place the square white side up as a diamond, with one corner pointing toward you.

Why: The side facing the table becomes the main outside color after the first fold.

Check: Four equal sides, one point up and one point down; there are no folds yet.

Repair: If you have a rectangle, prepare a square before continuing; rotating a rectangle will not make its sides equal.



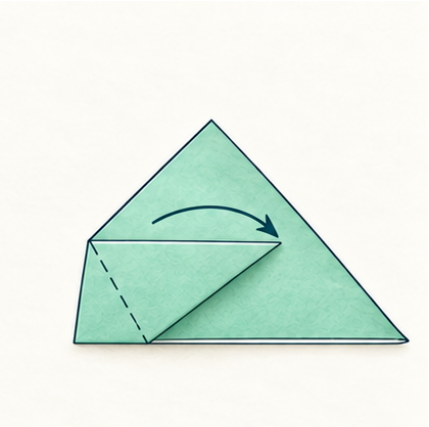
2. Fold the triangle

Bring the bottom corner to the top corner. Match the two sloping edges, then press the long bottom fold.

Why: The diagonal closes the eventual bottom and creates two layers to separate later.

Check: A mint triangle points up; the long folded edge lies horizontally along the table.

Repair: Lift the upper layer and align the corners again before smoothing from the middle toward both ends.



3. Cross the left corner

Bring the left corner, including both layers, onto the right sloping edge. Adjust until the flap’s upper edge is parallel to the bottom; press.

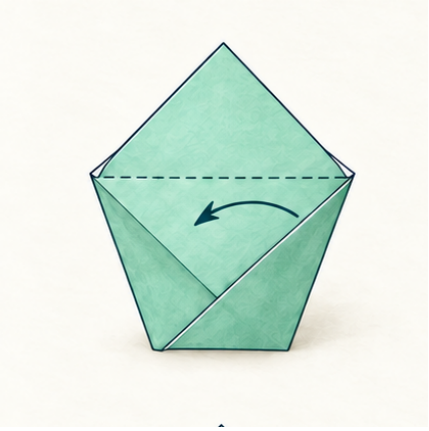
Why: This level edge sets the height of the opening; it is a more useful guide than an estimated distance.

Check: The folded tip touches the right slope and its upper edge forms a level shelf.

Repair: Before pressing firmly, slide the tip along the right slope until the shelf is level with the base.

Origami paper cup

Storyboard · 4–6



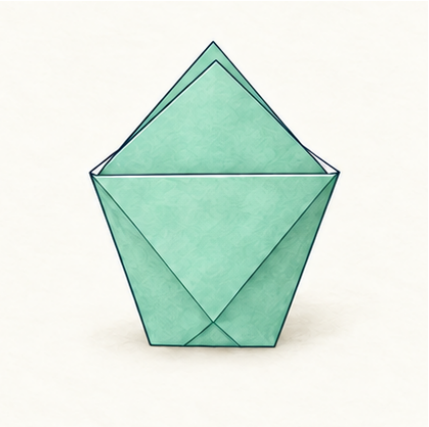
4. Cross the right corner

Bring the right corner, including both layers, across to the left end of the level shelf. Press the new side fold.

Why: The second flap overlaps the first and gives the pocket two side boundaries.

Check: Both flap edges meet at one height; the upper triangle still has two pointed layers.

Repair: Reopen only this corner if the edges form a step. Aim at the left end of the first shelf again.



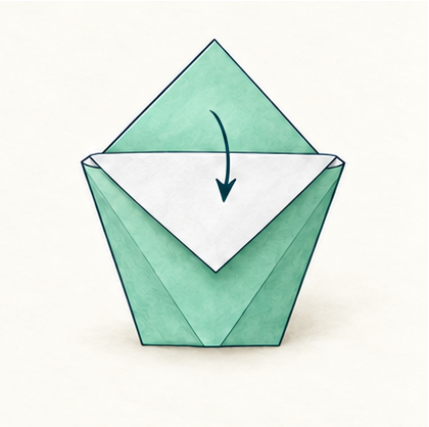
5. Find the two top layers

Gently separate the two pointed tips above the shelf. Hold the back tip upright and identify the tip nearest you.

Why: The opening depends on sending these two layers to different faces, rather than folding them together.

Check: Two separate tips are visible above the crossed corners; neither has been folded down yet.

Repair: Use a fingertip at the very top to find the gap. Do not pry apart the crossed side flaps.



6. Lower the front tip

Fold only the nearest top tip down over the crossed flaps, along the level shelf. Keep the rear tip upright.

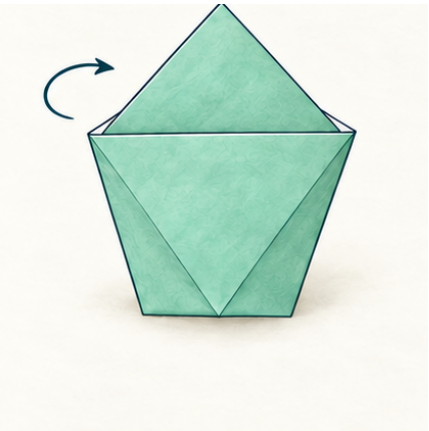
Why: This closes the front face while leaving the original gap available as the opening.

Check: A white triangular flap lies on the front; one mint point still stands above it.

Repair: If both points moved, lift the rear one back up and crease only the front layer.

Origami paper cup

Storyboard · 7–9



7. Turn the whole model

Turn the whole cup over from left to right. Keep the remaining point at the top and the narrower folded base below.

Why: Turning brings the unused top layer to the front so its flap can close the opposite face.

Check: One mint point faces you; the first white flap is now on the back.

Repair: If the first flap lifts, hold it against the body while turning. Do not rotate the base to the top.



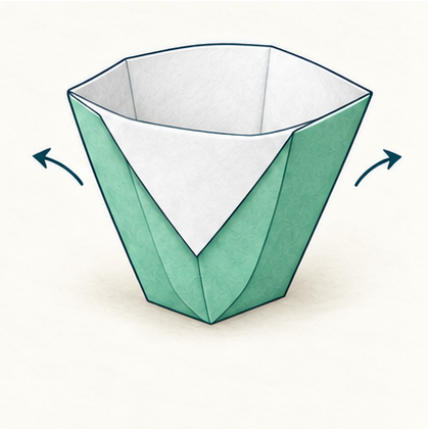
8. Lower the remaining tip

Fold the last top tip down on this face along the same horizontal rim. Press it flat.

Why: The two top flaps now lie on opposite faces rather than sealing the opening together.

Check: The flat cup has a wide level rim, a narrower base and no upward point.

Repair: If a point still sticks above the rim, reopen that tip and reposition the fold on the rim line.



9. Open the cup

Separate the front and back walls at the wide rim. Ease the pocket open while keeping the crossed side corners folded.

Why: The usable space is between the original triangle’s two layers; the diagonal fold keeps the bottom closed.

Check: An open tapered pocket, white inside, with folded sides and a closed bottom.

Repair: If it stays shut, check steps 6–8: the tips must be on opposite faces. Open between the walls, not beneath a side flap.

Try independently: Use a new 12 × 12 cm square. Predict the rim and opening before folding; make a second cup without looking at each picture, then compare both rims.