



NAPKIN FOLDING

Demonstration

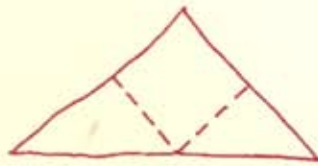
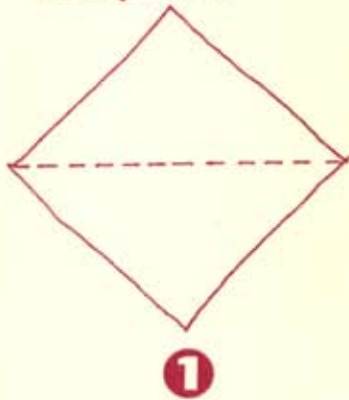
**YOUR ONBOARD DINING STAFF SHOWS
HOW YOU CAN BEAUTIFY YOUR TABLE
WITH ARTISTICALLY FOLDED NAPKINS**

During the rollicking 16th century, the nobility and the well-to-do realized there was little differentiating their plain wooden dining tables from those on which the peasantry dined (apart, of course, from the quantity of the bounty under which their tables were laden). So they started laying diagonally-placed, overlapping squares of ornate cloth along the length of the table. Contrasting this extravagance, there was little in the way of table manners, and dinner guests soon discovered the flaps of cloth that conveniently flopped in front of each person's seat could be tucked into one's collar, thus protecting the diner's elaborate ruffles and silks from the splatter and grease of sloppily consumed food. While their clothes were spared, the table cloths, on the other hand, rapidly deteriorated into food-flecked, grease-stained rags, as folks found they could also use them to wipe off their hands and faces after dinner. As replacing the expensive tablecloths started eating into the lesser nobs' delicately-balanced household budgets, something better was needed, and by the mid-1500s, the napkin was invented. After the ravages of a few meals, these smaller cloths were a lot less expensive to replace than the larger table cloths. In the 1700s, napkins were not only in popular use throughout the better homes and palaces of Europe, but many hosts, notably the French, started inventing elaborate ways of folding their napkins as well. Today the napkin is an integral part of any proper place setting, and napkin folding is a unique way to make one's table even more distinctive. Indeed, many finer restaurants pride themselves in their signature napkin folds. We're pleased to offer this demonstration of an historic art.

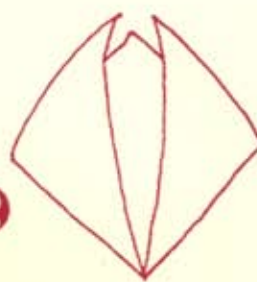
THE BASIC FOLD

Many napkin folds begin with this *Basic Fold*.

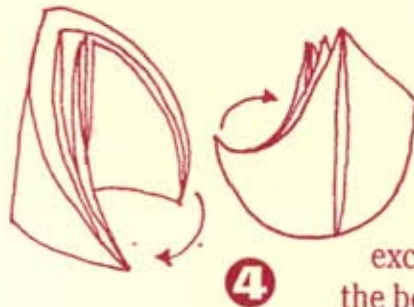
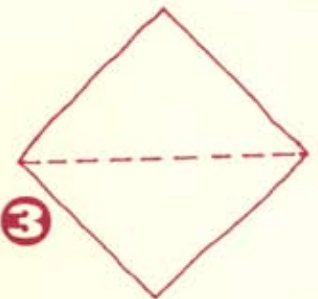
- 1 Holding the napkin diagonally as shown, fold the bottom corner up to meet the top corner.
- 2 Folding on the dotted lines, take the bottom two corners and fold them up to meet the top corner. You now have a square with a "pocket" in the middle.
- 3 Still holding the napkin on a diagonal, turn it over and fold the bottom corner up to meet the top corner



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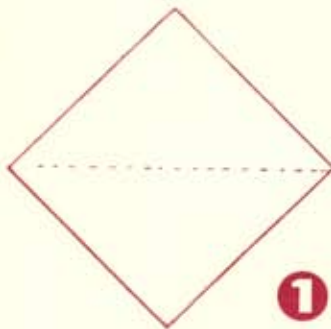
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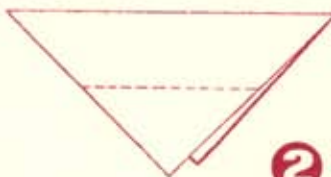
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THE FLYING NUN

This fold is similar to *The Bishop's Hat*, except the "open" side faces outwards when the bottom tips are brought together. Allow the loose tips to fall gracefully downwards towards the table. Sally Field would love it.



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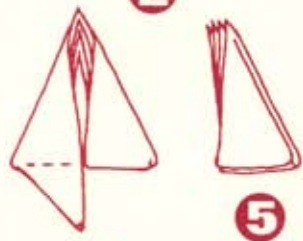
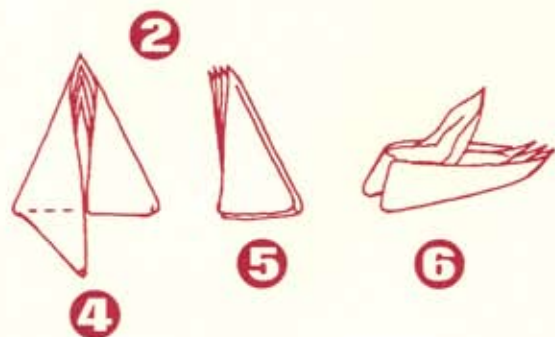
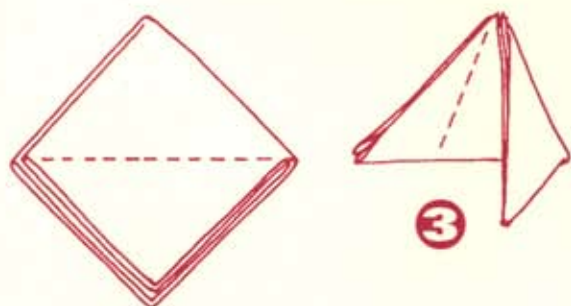
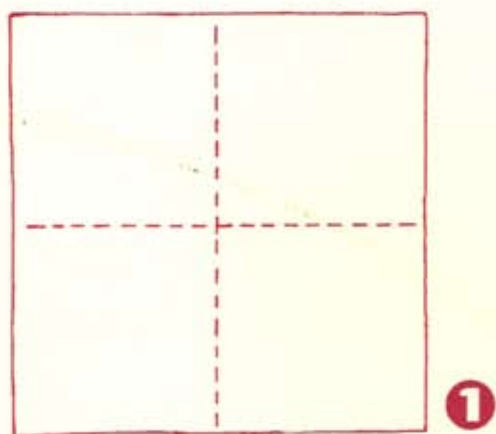


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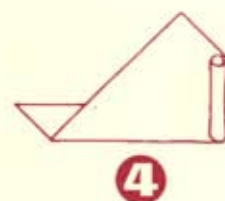
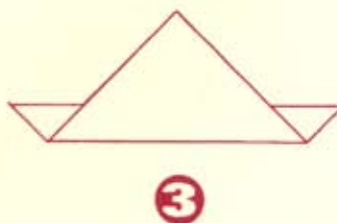
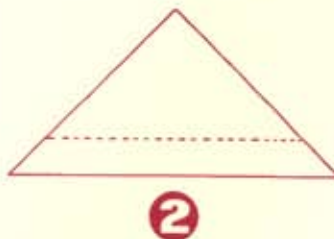
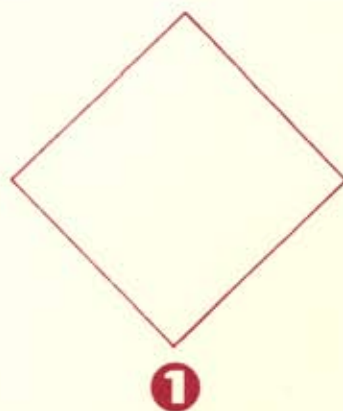
THE FLEUR-DE-LIS

- 1 Fold the napkin in half to form a triangle.
- 2 Now fold the points back on both sides as shown.
- 3 Pleat the napkin from left to right, folding it back and forth as you did when making paper fans as a child.
- 4 Open the "leaves" and arrange the napkin in a small glass or in a napkin ring.



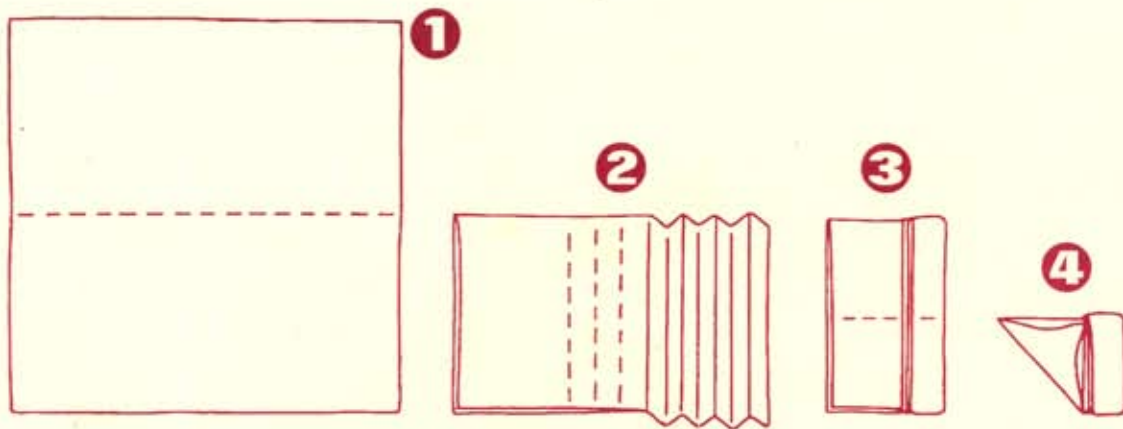
THE BIRD OF PARADISE

- 1** Fold the napkin into quarters (half and half again).
- 2** Hold the napkin so the free corners are towards the bottom, then fold diagonally to form a triangle. The free corners should be on the top.
- 3** Hold the napkin by placing a finger on the top corner, then fold first the right side, then the left, to the center.
- 4** Fold the lower points under the napkin.
- 5** Fold the triangle in half by bringing the left side under the right side. The center fold will open slightly.
- 6** Lay the napkin down so the corner points are on top. Holding the broad end of the napkin with one hand, pull up on the four corner points to form "petals."



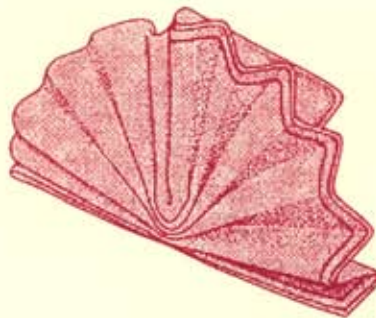
THE CANDLESTICK

- 1** Holding the napkin so it is a diamond, fold it in half to form a triangle (sounds familiar, huh?).
- 2** Fold the bottom portion up as shown.
- 3** Turn the napkin around so the fold is away from you.
- 4** Roll the napkin inwards starting from the right side. Tuck the end in to fasten it together, and stand the "candle" in the center of the plate.



THE FAN

- 1** Fold the napkin in half to make a rectangle. (What?! Not a triangle this time?)
- 2** From the right side, fold the napkin into one-inch-wide pleats. Leave the last four inches unfolded.
- 3** Fold in half with the pleats on the outside.
- 4** Fold up the bottom left corner and tuck it into the pleats, then stand the napkin up and let the folds fall to make a fan.



These are just a few of the dozens of creative napkin folds you can produce. When you get the basics perfected, the variations are endless. For more inspiration, we recommend *Napkin Folding: 44 Ways to Turn a Square of Linen Into a Work of Art* by James Ginders (published 1980 by Three Rivers Press, New York) and *The Simple Art of Napkin Folding* by Linda Hetzer (published 1980 by Hearst Books, New York). Most of the folds we've presented in this handout come from these sources. Happy folding!



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