

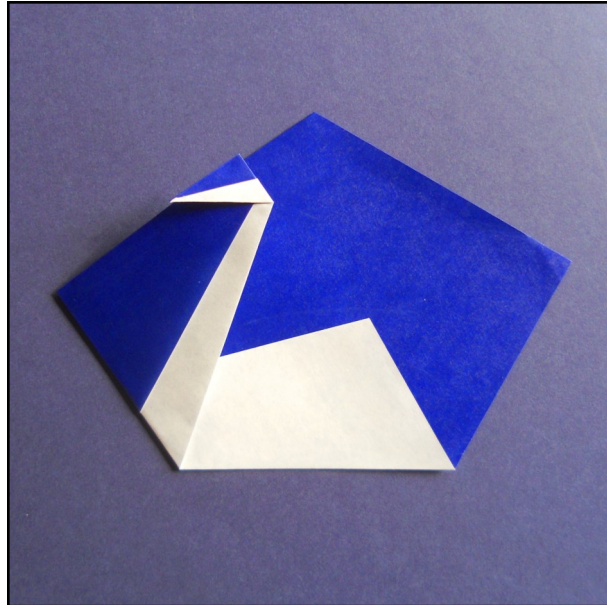
Swannet

Designed by David Mitchell

This minimalist swan was designed in response to an informal challenge issued as part of the celebrations of the 50th birthday celebrations of the British Origami Society in September 2017, which were held at Stratford-upon-Avon.

This is, of course, the birthplace of William Shakespeare who was famous, not only for his plays but for his sonnets. It seems to me that creating a minimalist origami design

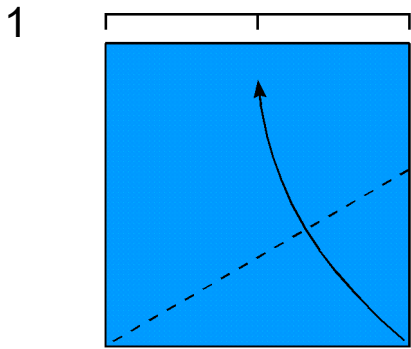
and writing a sonnet are in some ways quite similar, in that both are constrained, as opposed to freeform, creative endeavours. This design, therefore, is not just a swan but, forsooth, a Swannet.



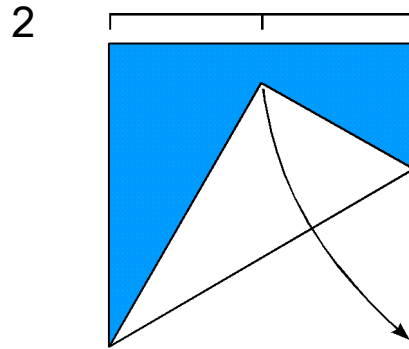
It can be argued that the ideal number of active folds (that is a fold used in the finished design rather than one just used to locate other folds) for a minimalist origami design is five or less. The flat form of Swannet uses just five active folds. The three-dimensional version (see photograph on page 3) uses just one more, but I believe it represents a great improvement to the design and that adding the sixth active fold is justified by the result in this instance.

This folding sequence for Swannet is an interesting mix of located and non-located folds.

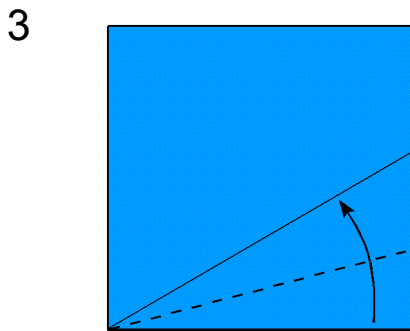
You will need a single square of blue and white irogami. Begin folding with your paper arranged coloured side up.



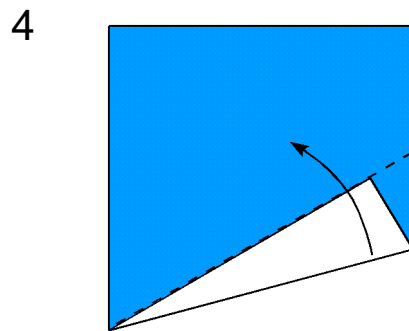
1. Fold the bottom right corner inwards so that it lies on an imaginary vertical line in the centre of the paper. Make sure the crease starts exactly from the bottom left corner. This will become the swan's beak. This is the first active fold.



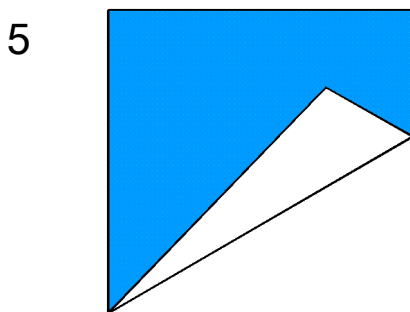
2. Open out.



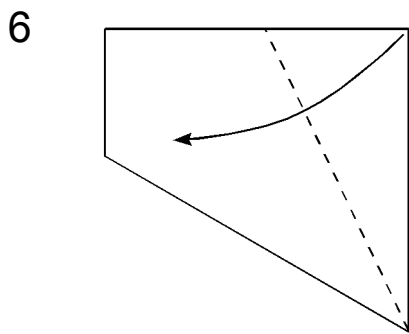
3. Fold the bottom edge inwards so that it lies along the crease made in step 1. Make sure the crease starts exactly from the bottom left corner. This is the second active fold.



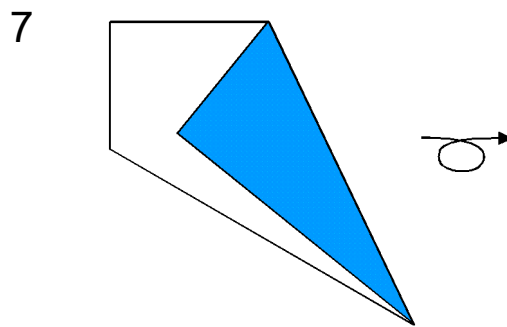
4. Remake fold 1 making sure the bottom left corner remains sharp.



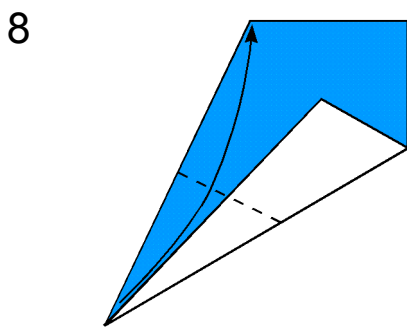
5. Turn over sideways.



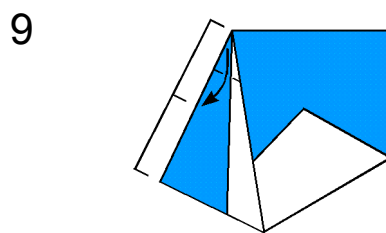
6. Fold the top right corner inwards like this, making sure the bottom right corner remains sharp. This is the third active fold.



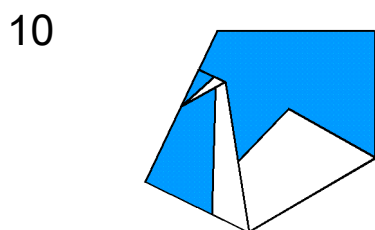
7. The thin white area leading down to the bottom right corner will become the swan's neck. Make sure that it is then enough to look elegant. Turn over sideways.



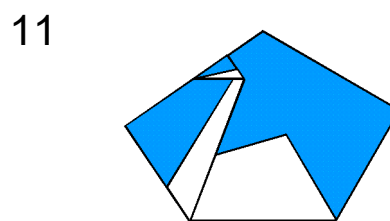
8. Fold the bottom left point up to the top left point. This is the fourth active fold.



9. Fold the top point of the front layers down to the halfway point of the top sloping left edge. This is the fifth active fold.

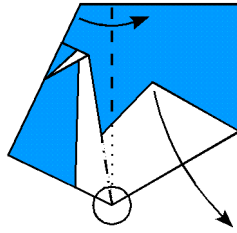


10. Rotate to look like picture 11.



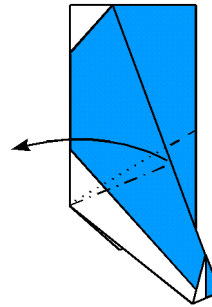
11. The flat version of Swannet is finished.

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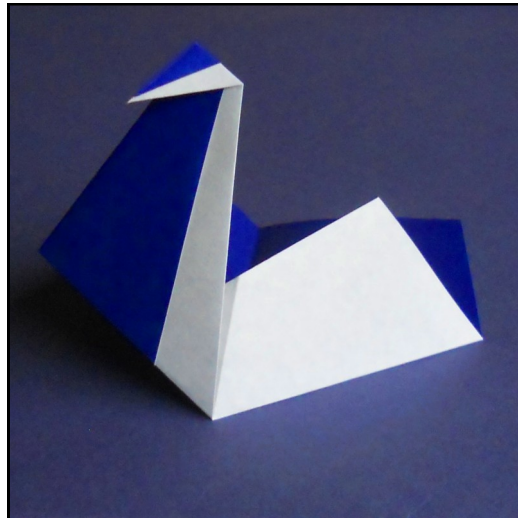
12. To three-dimensionalise the design first open the body out diagonally downwards then make a vertical crease leading to the bottom corner that allows you to squash the design flat in the way shown in picture 13.

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13. Open up and adjust if necessary to look like picture 14. The back layers will form a flat base for the design to stand on.

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14. The three-dimensional version of Swannet is finished.

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