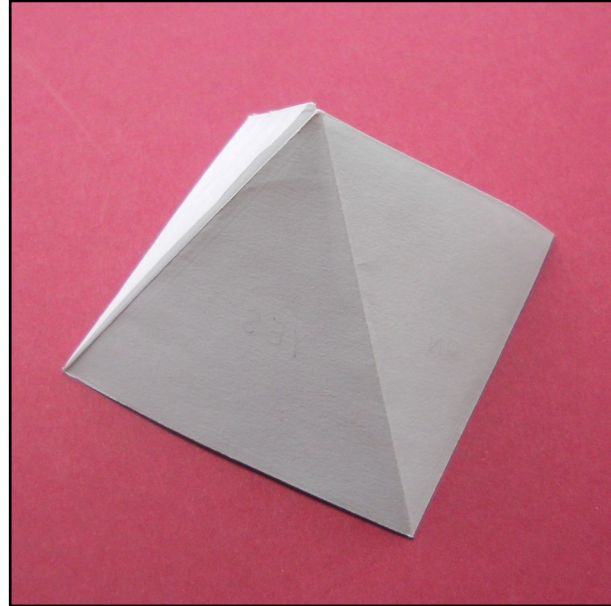


Cleopatra 's Pyramid

Designed by David Mitchell

Cleopatra's Pyramid is a devious device that looks like a perfectly normal pyramid but which can be opened up in two ways to show two entirely different interior faces. Because of this it lends itself to use as a magical effect.



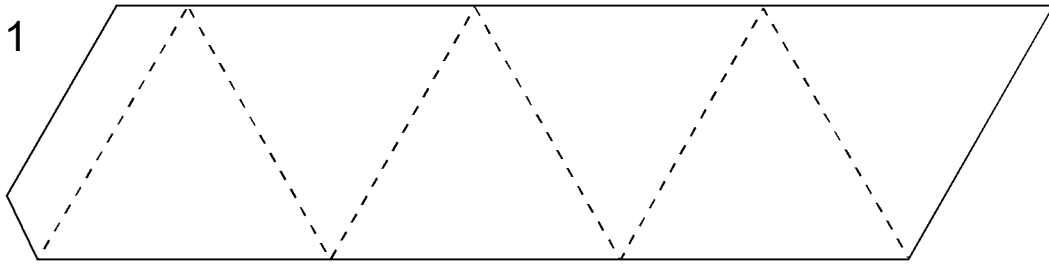
You will need to begin by making a strip divided into six equilateral triangles plus a small tab at one end as shown below. The tab should be small enough so

that when glued onto another triangle to close the device it will not obscure the decoration. The strip should be prepared so that all the hinges work easily in both direction, backwards as well as forwards.

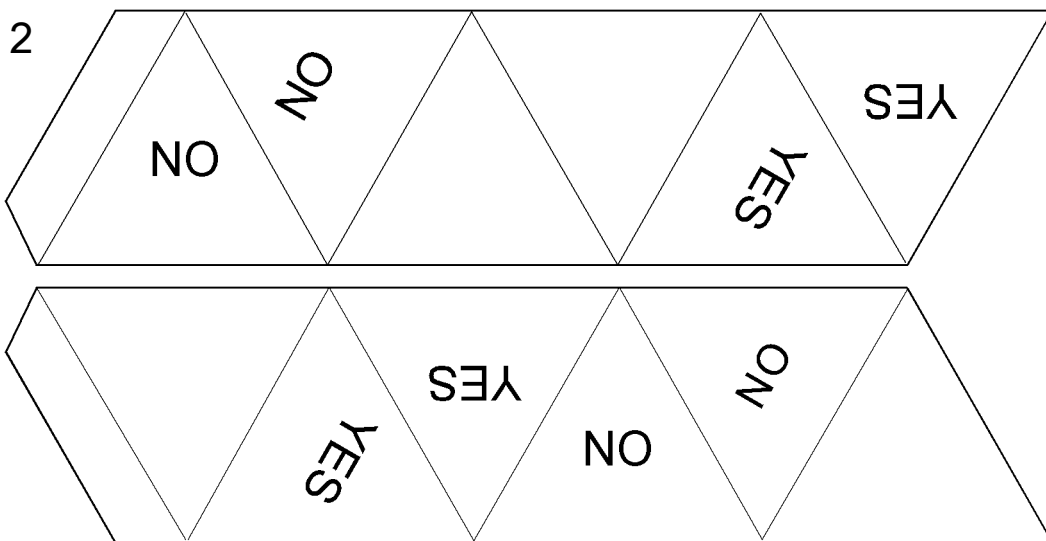
These diagrams explain one simple way the effect can be presented but there are many more.

For convenience, I have provided a template that you can fold in half and glue together, and which is therefore two sheets of paper thick. This is fine to show you how the device works, but if you were going to use it for performance it would be best made from a single sheet of heavy paper or light card. If you just use ordinary paper, like I did to make the one pictured above, the second set of answers, that you don't want anyone to know exist, tend to show through on the outer surface. Not ideal!

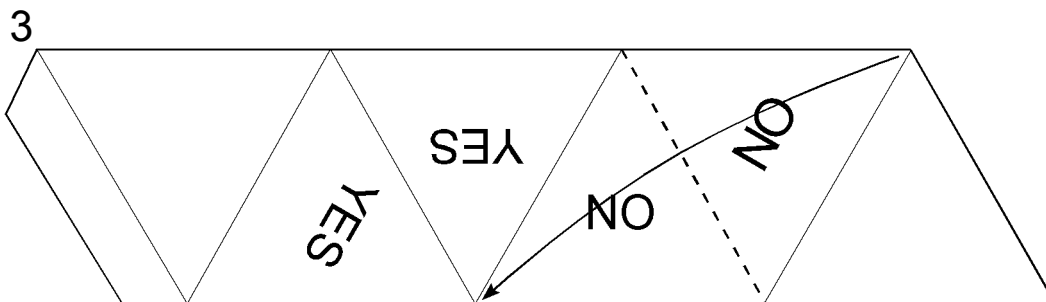
I designed Cleopatra's Pyramid in 1997 but it got tucked away in a file and forgotten about until now.



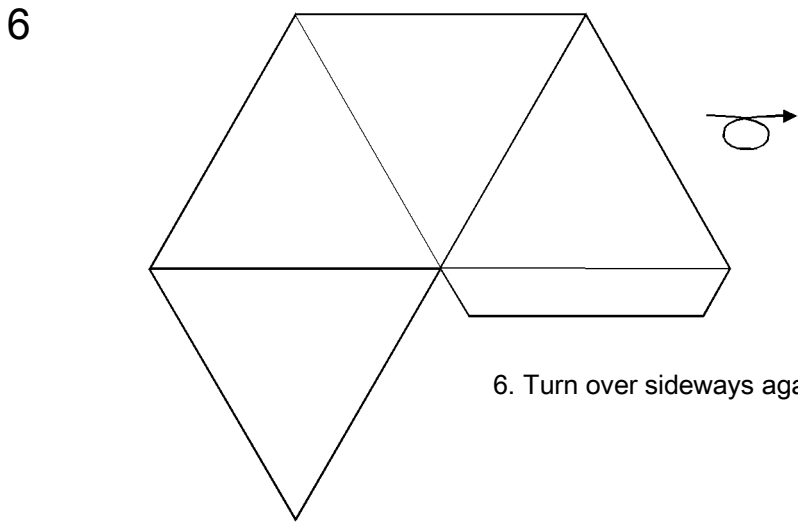
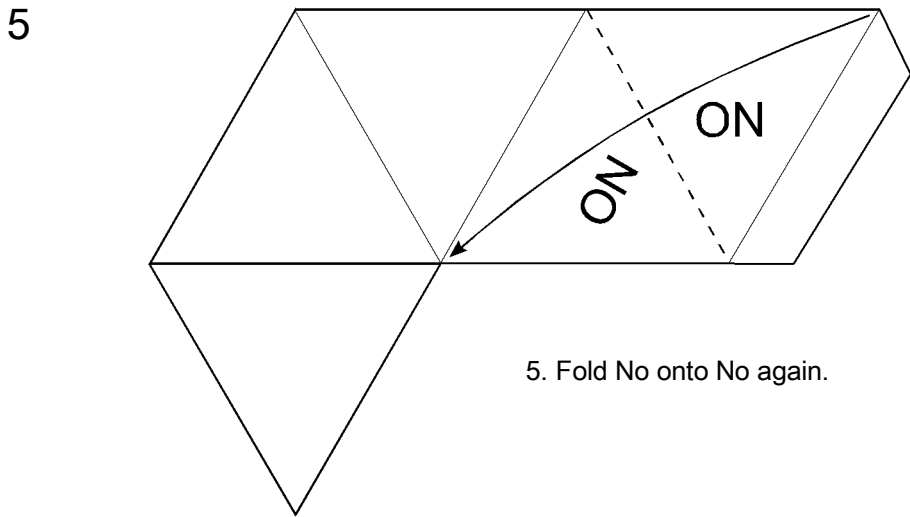
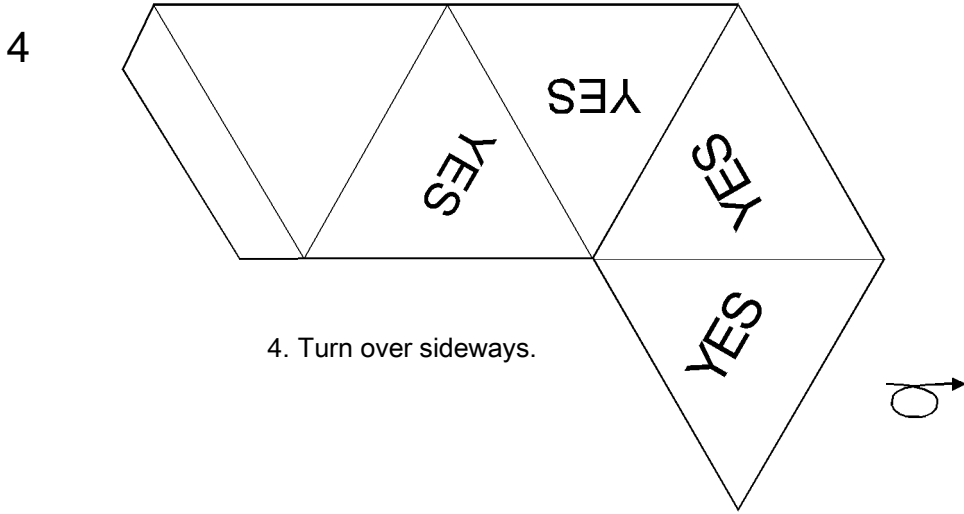
1. Prepare a strip of heavy paper or light card like this. Make sure it folds easily in both directions along all the dashed lines.



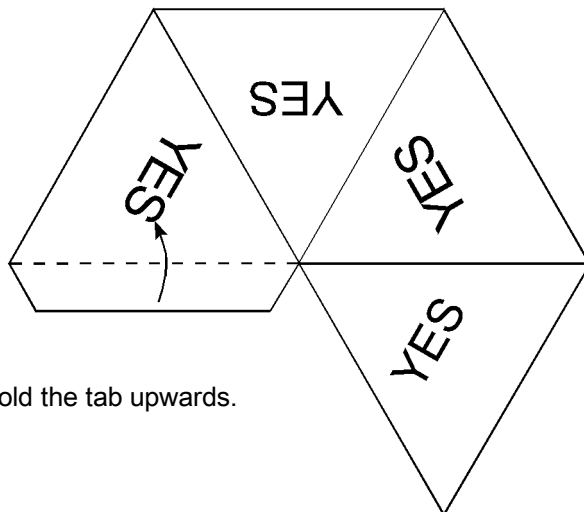
2. Decorate the two sides of the strip like this.



3. To construct Cleopatra's Pyramid begin with your strip arranged like this. Fold No onto No as shown.

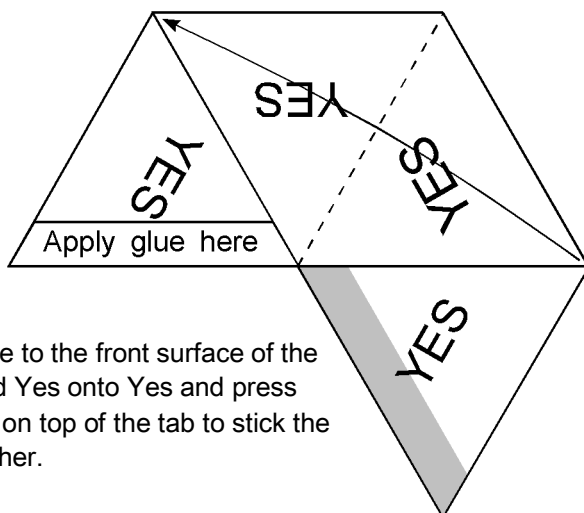


7



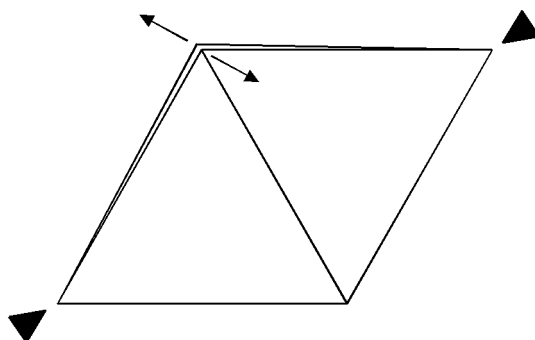
7. Fold the tab upwards.

8



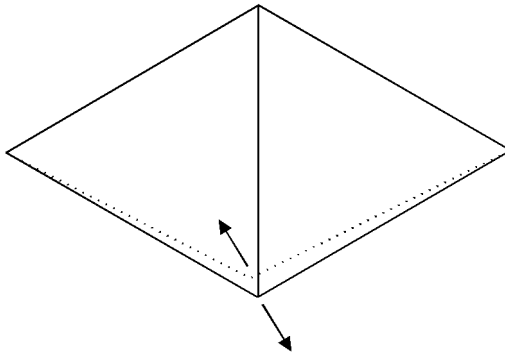
8. Apply glue to the front surface of the tab then fold Yes onto Yes and press down firmly on top of the tab to stick the layers together.

9



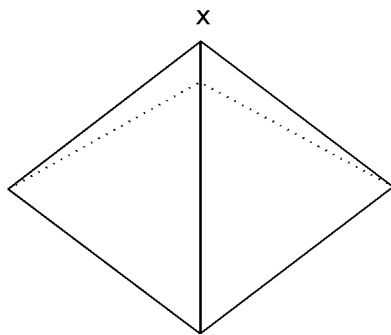
9. Open out the top and squash flat sideways.

10



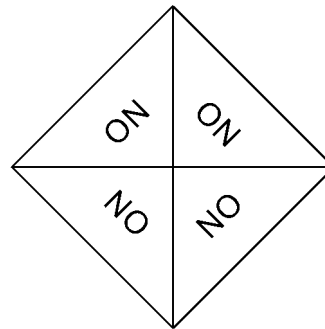
10. This is the finished design. If you open out the bottom layers you will obtain a square-based pyramid.

11



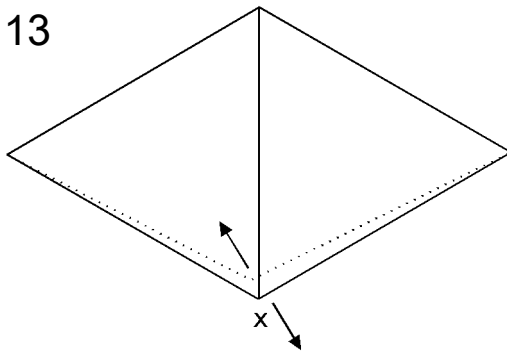
11. Pick the pyramid up and look inside.

12



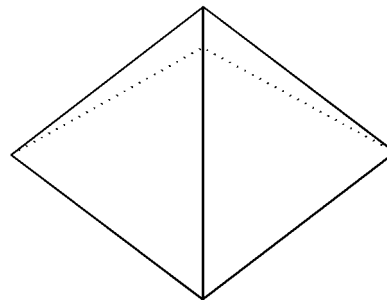
12. The interior faces will display the word No.

13



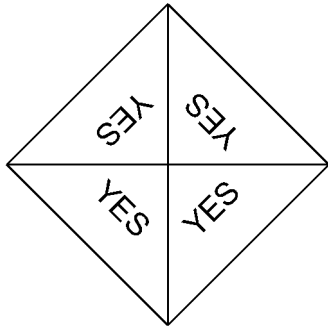
13. Flatten the pyramid and turn it over so that point x (see picture 11) is now at the bottom. Open out the new bottom layers.

14



14. The result will be a second pyramid which looks exactly identical to the first, except that ...

15



15. ... the interior surfaces of this pyramid will display the word Yes.

Presenting Cleopatra's Pyramid

Begin with the pyramid laid flat then open it up so that No is on the interior surfaces.

Say, 'This is Cleopatra's Pyramid. It will sharpen razorblades, wipe hard drives, restart watches, bend spoons and make life appear on distant planets. It will also answer questions.'

'I'll show you how it's done. 'Is it true that magic is all done with mirrors?'

Show the inside of the pyramid. The answer is No.

'Can Cleopatra's pyramid transmute sausages into gold?'

Show the inside of the pyramid. Apparently not.

It won't take long for the audience to realise that the answer to any question you or they ask will be No.

Once this is clear collapse the pyramid flat as if the effect is over. Then say, 'Ah just one more question, probably the question that is in everyone's mind ...

Reopen the pyramid in the alternate direction.

'Is the answer to every question No?'

Show the inside of the pyramid. The answer is Yes.

This seems to require you to open the Pyramid up so that No is visible. This is not, however, the case. If you opened it to Yes, the presentation would still work, except that the reveal will then be to No. You may think this is a more positive way to present the effect ...

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