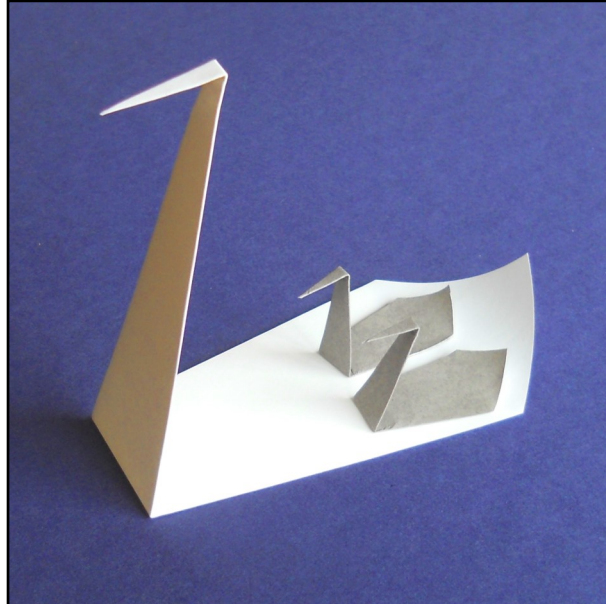


Swan with Cygnets

Designed by David Mitchell

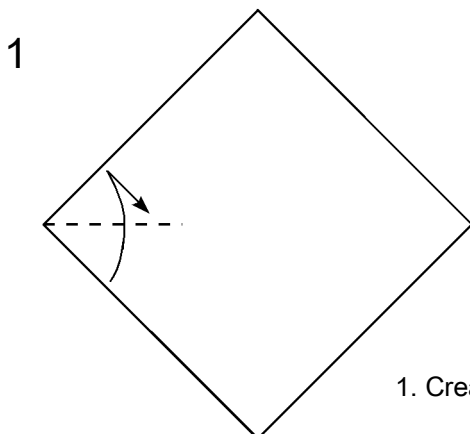
This minimalist, or almost minimalist, design, is based on the division of a right angle into fifths. The flat base of the design allows you to add hitchhiking cygnets, a sight that is common here in England in the Spring.

It is simple to vary the design by beginning by dividing the right angle into thirds, quarters, sixths or eighths instead, but, overall, I prefer the elegance of the original version.



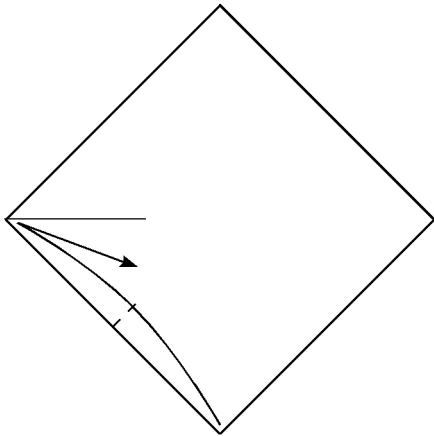
For the sake of clarity, the diagrams have been drawn showing one side of the paper shaded grey. This is fine for the cygnets, but you will probably want to fold the swan from paper that is white both sides. The cygnets in the photo are folded from paper one sixth the size of the square I have used to fold the swan from.

Swan and Cygnets was designed in 2017.



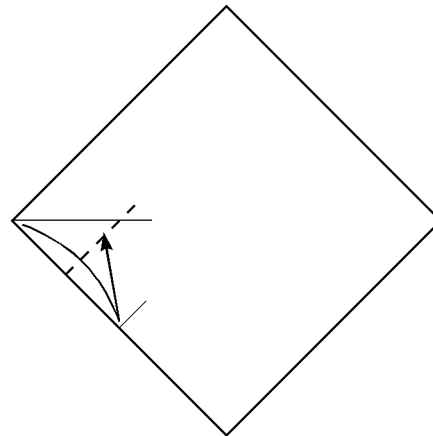
1. Crease part of one diagonal as shown.

2



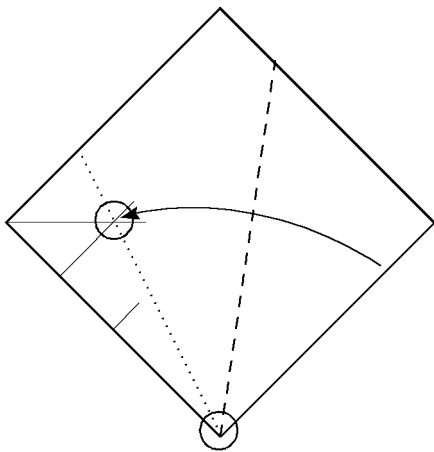
2. Make a tiny crease to mark the centre of the lower sloping left edge.

3



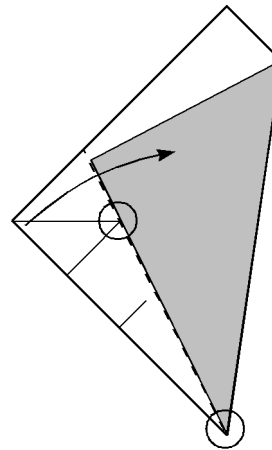
3. Fold the right corner onto the crease made in step 2 and crease enough of the fold to intersect the diagonal crease made in step 1.

4



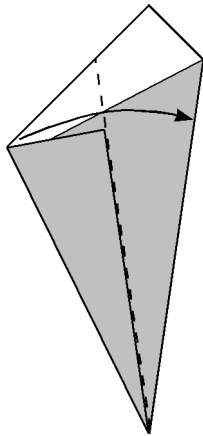
4. Fold the lower sloping right edge inwards so that it lies on the intersection of the folds made in steps 1 and 3. Flatten so that the crease begins from the bottom corner. Picture 5 shows what the result should look like.

5



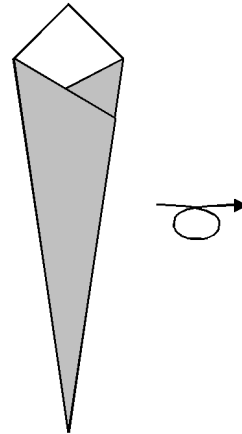
5. Fold the lower sloping left edge inwards so that the crease forms along the left edge of the front layer.

6



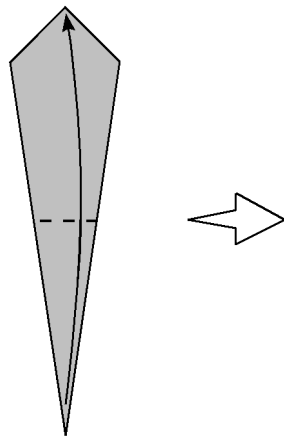
6. Fold the lower sloping left edge onto the lower sloping right edge.

7



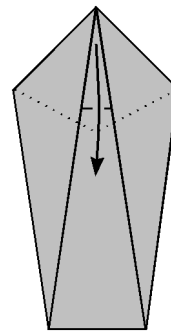
7. The result should look like this. Turn over sideways.

8



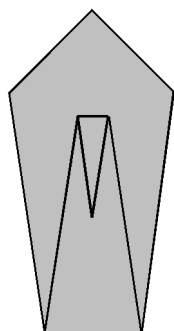
8. Fold the bottom point onto the top point.

9



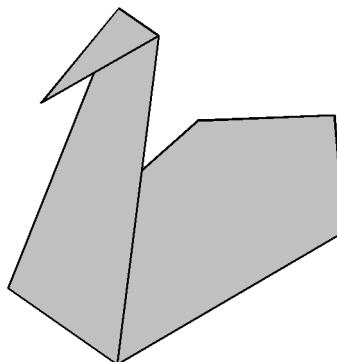
9. Fold the top point of the front layer downwards as shown. There is no exact location point for this fold. The dotted line marks the position of the hidden layers of paper at the back of the design.

10



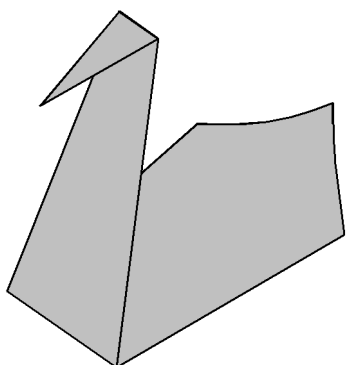
10. Lift up the front and middle layers so that the result looks like picture 11.

11



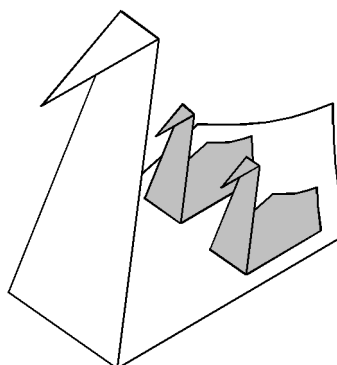
11. This is the minimalist version of the design. If you ignore the creases used to locate the fold made in step 5, it is made using just five folds. The design looks much better, however, if you add a sixth fold by curling the tail upwards.

12



12. This is the finished, almost minimalist, Swan. The Cygnets are made inexactly the same way using smaller paper. My preference is for squares one sixth of the size of that used to fold the Swan.

13



13. The Swan and Cygnets are complete.

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