

Your first plane

Few folds and broad wings: start here.

Easy · 6 picture steps

You need one A4 sheet of ordinary printer paper and a ruler. No scissors needed.

Lumi's flight rule

Launch gently into clear space, never towards people or animals. Keep away from roads, stairs and open windows. Never throw from a balcony. An adult can help with tricky folds.

How to read the pictures

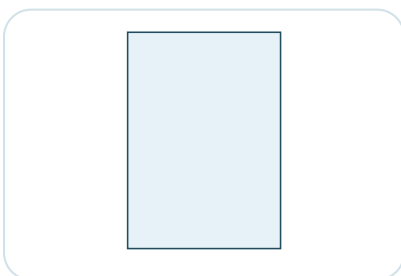
Each step shows Before, Fold and After. Blue shows the paper. Light orange marks the part you move. Thin blue-grey lines show existing creases. Orange dashes show the new crease. Follow the curved arrows. Two matching mirrored arrows mean: fold both sides, one at a time. "Turn over" means the other side faces up.

Let's fold

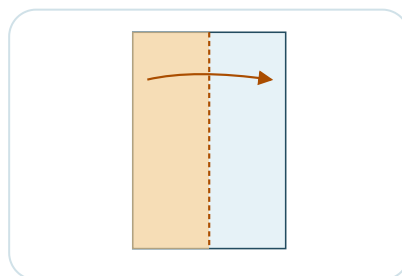
Step 1

Find the middle

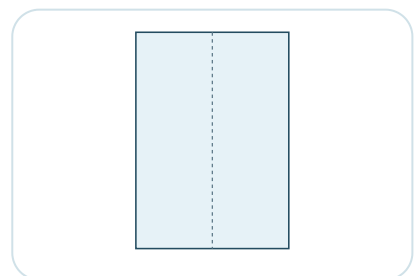
1. Before



2. Fold



3. After



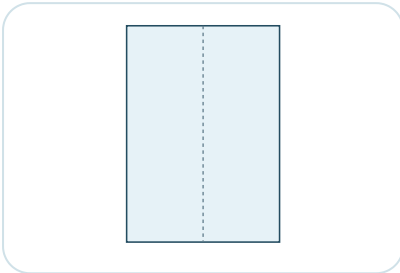
Fold, press flat, then reopen.

Place A4 upright. Fold lengthwise in half, then reopen.

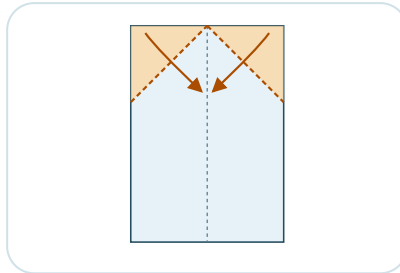
Step 2

Corners to the middle

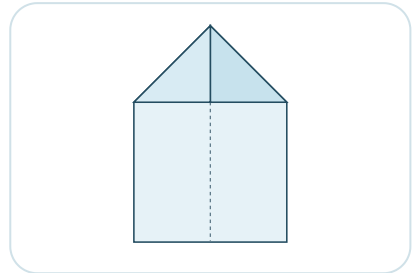
1. Before



2. Fold



3. After

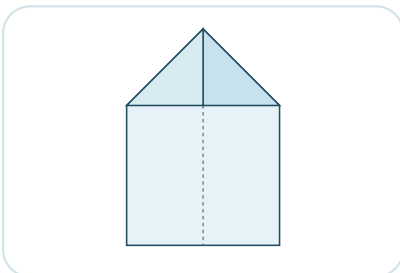


Fold both top corners to the centre crease.

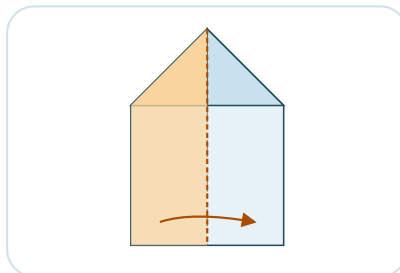
Step 3

Fold in half

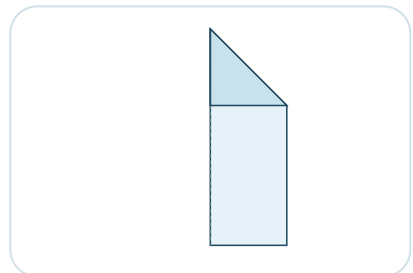
1. Before



2. Fold



3. After

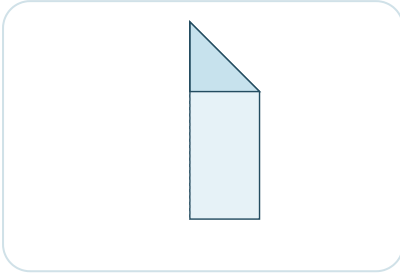


Close lengthwise. The folded corners stay inside.

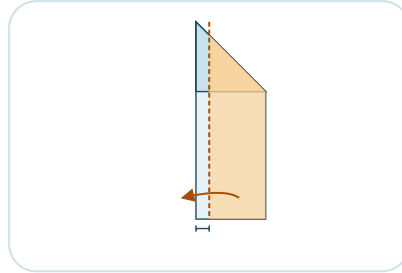
Step 4

First wing

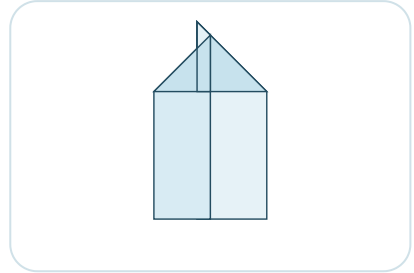
1. Before



2. Fold



3. After



Grip: 2 cm

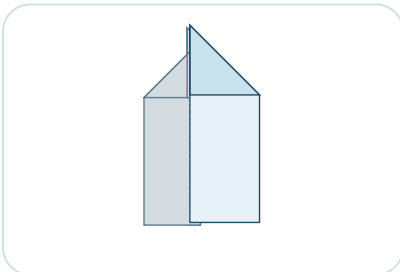
Only the top wing is folded. The second wing is still unfolded underneath.

Lay the plane on its side. At the bottom, measure 2 cm out from the closed centre fold. Fold the upper half, including all its paper layers, down along a parallel line; the 2 cm strip stays as the grip.

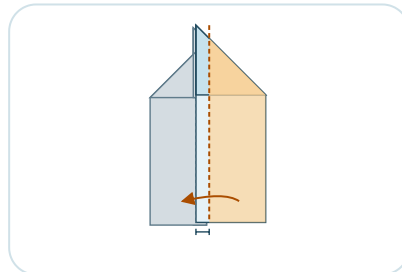
Step 5

Second wing

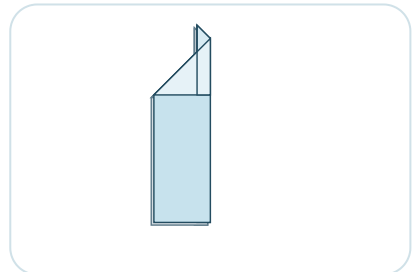
1. Before



2. Fold



3. After



Grip: 2 cm

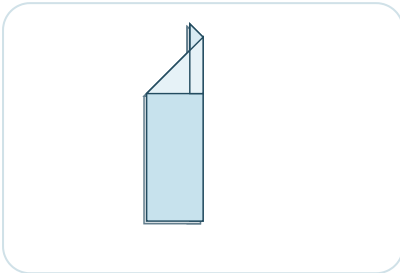
Turn over first: the unfolded side faces up. The first wing stays underneath.

Turn the paper over like a book page. Fold the other wing to match.

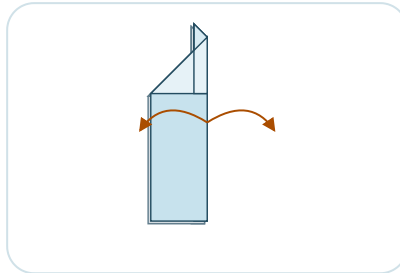
Step 6

Open the wings

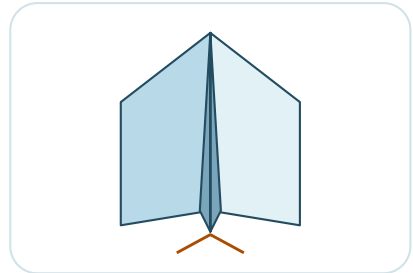
1. Before



2. Open



3. After



Open both wings; keep the narrow grip closed.

Open both wings. Hold underneath; launch gently forward.

Upright means the short edges are at the top and bottom. The centre crease is the long fold in the middle. The grip is the narrow part underneath the wings. Measure it sideways from the closed centre fold. Parallel means the new line stays the same distance from the centre fold all the way along. Press creases flat with your finger.

If the flight needs work

First check: are both wings folded alike and open? Lift the left and right wings just slightly. Try several gentle launches. Change only one thing at a time; no model flies identically every time.

Folding principle checked against: NASA: Wingin' It – Basic, Dart und X-Plane. Our own simplified drawings and text.

Compare three flights →