

The locking glider

A small triangle holds the two flaps in place.

A little trickier · 9 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

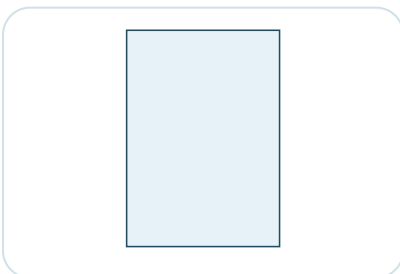
Each step shows Before, Fold and After. Blue shows the paper. Light orange marks the part you move. Thin blue-grey lines show existing creases. Orange dashes show the new crease. Follow the curved arrows. Two matching mirrored arrows mean: fold both sides, one at a time. "Turn over" means the other side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

Let's fold

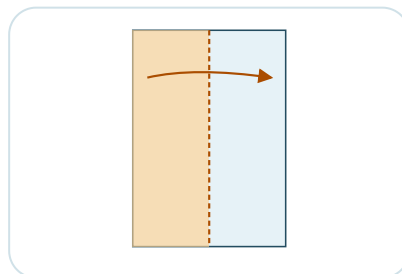
Step 1

Centre crease

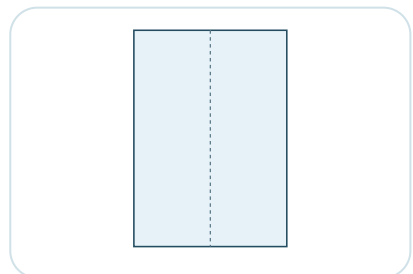
1. Before



2. Fold



3. After



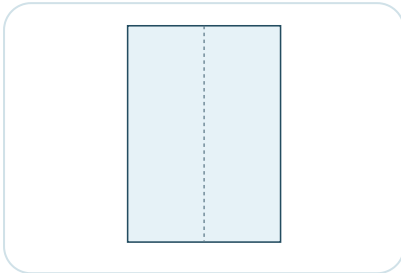
Fold, press flat, then reopen.

Place A4 upright. Fold lengthwise in half and reopen.

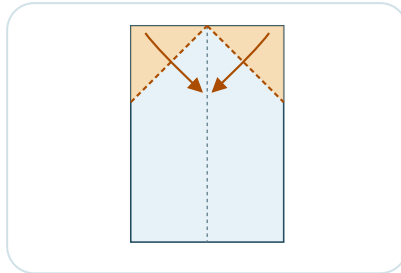
Step 2

Top corners

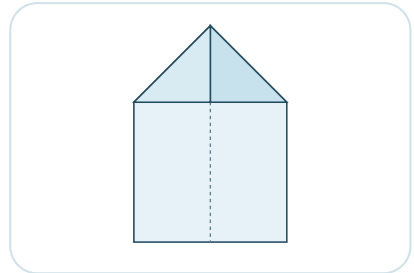
1. Before



2. Fold



3. After

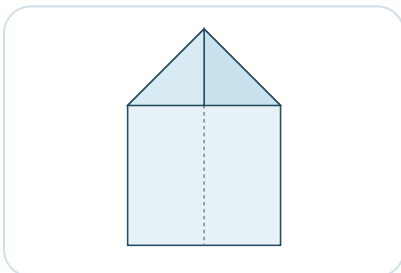


Fold both top corners to the centre.

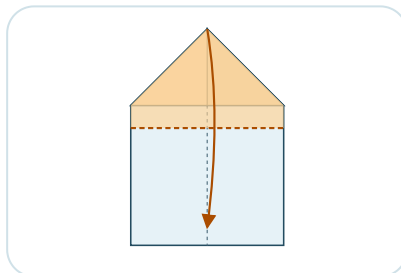
Step 3

Tip downward

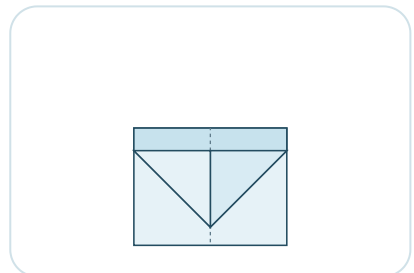
1. Before



2. Fold



3. After

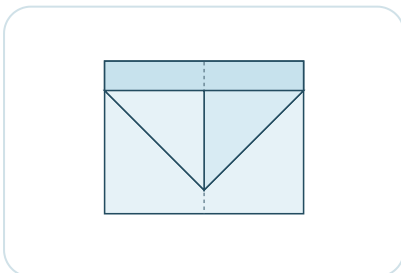


Fold the tip down to 2.5 cm above the bottom.

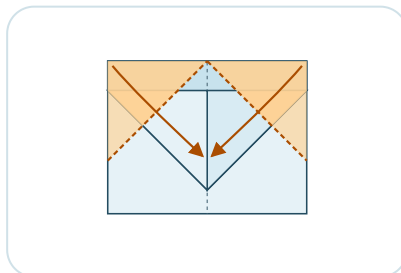
Step 4

New corners

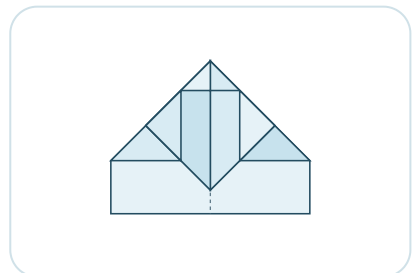
1. Before



2. Fold



3. After

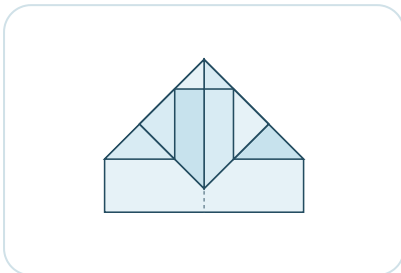


The downward tip stays free below the two new flaps. Do not fold it underneath them.
Fold the new top corners to the centre; leave the triangle free.

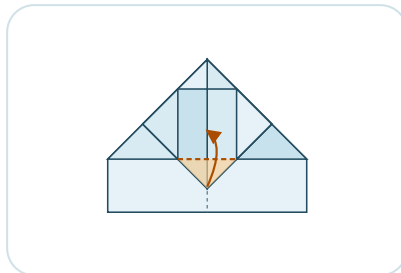
Step 5

Lock it

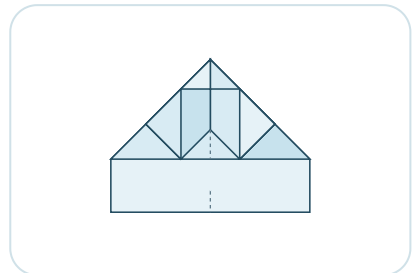
1. Before



2. Fold



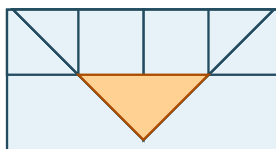
3. After



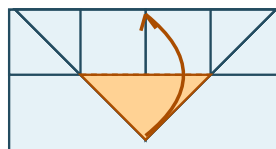
Lift only the small loose triangle. Fold it upward over both flaps; the large sheet underneath stays flat.

The small triangle – enlarged

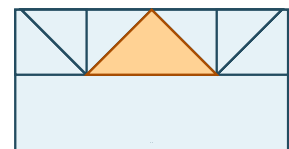
Before: loose tip



Fold only the triangle



After: above both flaps



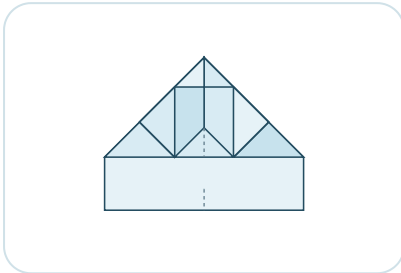
Orange marks the same small triangle in all three pictures. Its base stays in place; the tip moves upward. Press it flat over both flaps.

Fold the small exposed triangle upward over both flaps.

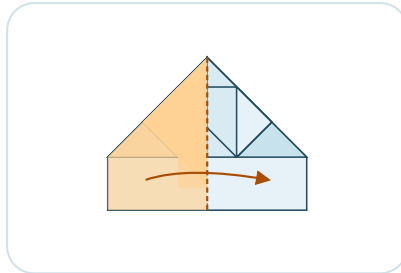
Step 6

Fold outward in half

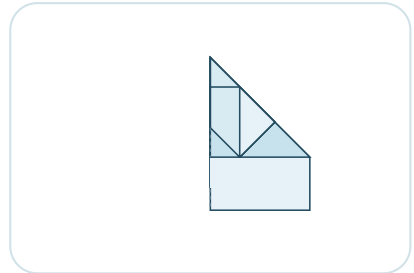
1. Before



2. Fold



3. After



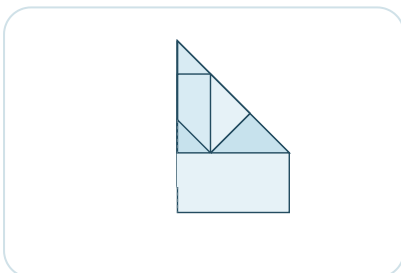
Fold the left half backward, away from you, along the centre crease. The small lock stays on the outside. Lay the closed plane on its side with the lock visible.

Fold lengthwise outward in half. Keep the lock outside.

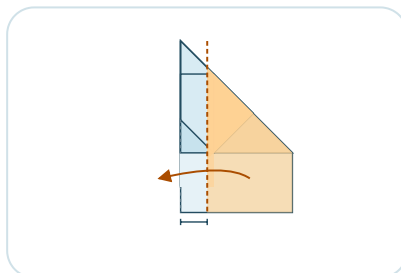
Step 7

First wing

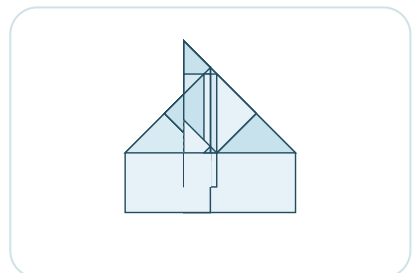
1. Before



2. Fold



3. After



Grip: 2.5 cm

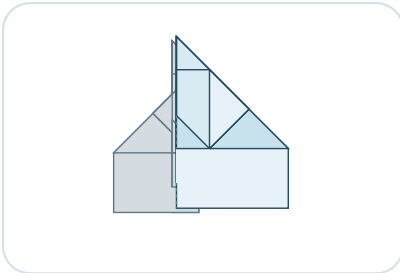
Only the top wing is folded. The second wing is still unfolded underneath.

At the bottom, measure 2.5 cm out from the closed centre fold. Fold the upper half, including all its paper layers, down along a parallel line; the narrow strip stays as the grip.

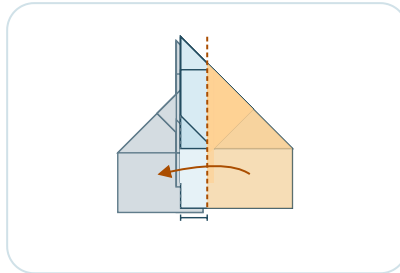
Step 8

Second wing

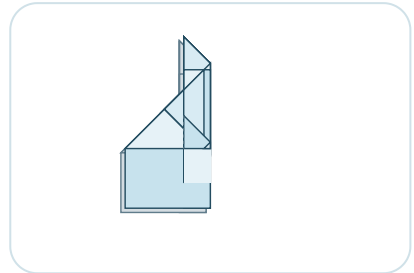
1. Before



2. Fold



3. After



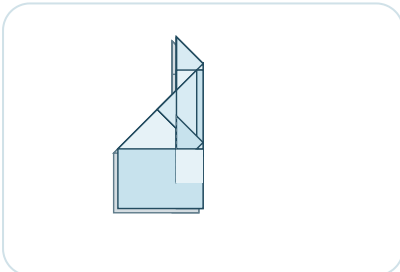
Grip: 2.5 cm

Turn over first: the unfolded side faces up. The first wing stays underneath.
Turn the paper over like a book page and fold the other wing to match.

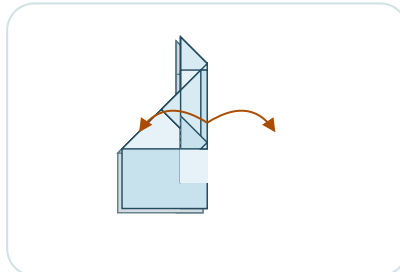
Step 9

Open and launch

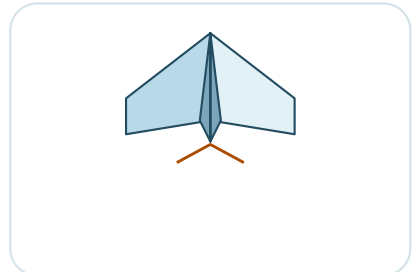
1. Before



2. Open



3. After



Open both wings; keep the narrow grip closed.
Open the wings slightly upward. Launch gently.

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. The lock is a small paper flap, not glue. The tip must stick out below the two newly folded corners before you fold it upward.

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: Fold 'N Fly: Lock-Bottom. Our own simplified drawings and text. Our version needs no scissors: we omit the extra cuts and wingtip folds in the reference guide.

Compare three flights →