

Origami Shark

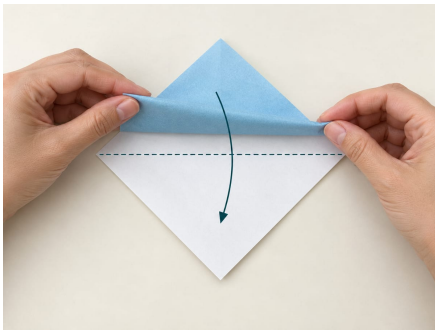
13 steps | About 8 min | Easy | Updated 2026-10-28

Turn a square of everyday paper into an origami shark with a pointed tail and a raised dorsal fin. This easy cut-and-fold version uses two short snips, so keep scissors nearby and help young folders with the cutting. Start with a six-inch square cut from printer or notebook paper. Plain paper works well; color is optional, and a small drawn eye finishes the face.

Materials: One 6-inch (15 cm) square of printer paper, notebook paper, or origami paper; Scissors for two short cuts; adult help for young folders; Pencil or marker for an optional eye and gill.

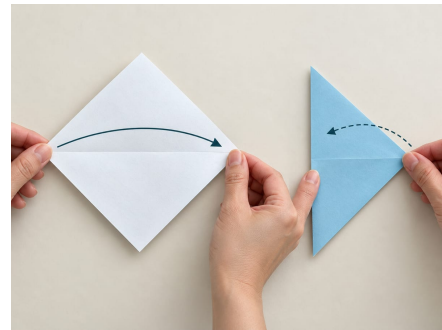


01 Make the first guide



Fold the top corner onto the bottom corner; press the crease, then open the paper.

02 Cross the center



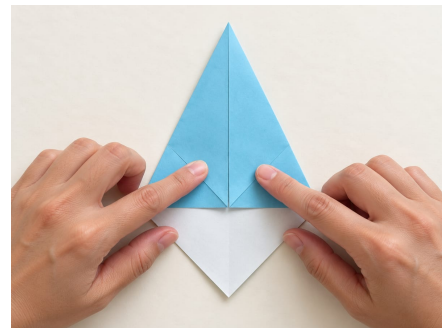
Bring the left corner to the right corner; crease firmly, then open the square.

03 Shape the right side



Fold the upper-right sloping edge inward until it meets the vertical center crease.

04 Complete the kite



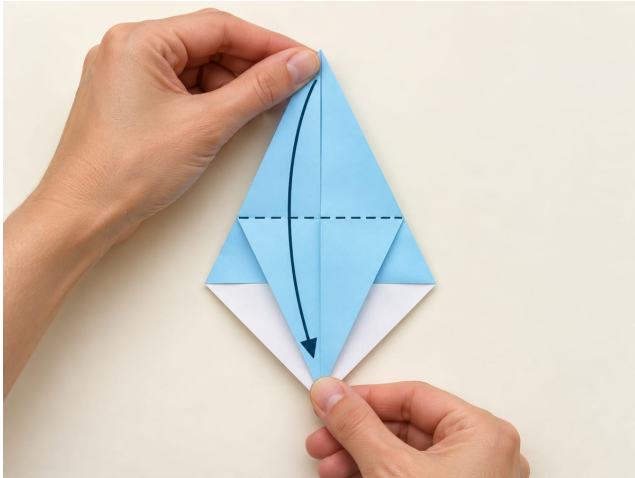
Fold the upper-left sloping edge to the same center crease, making a long kite.

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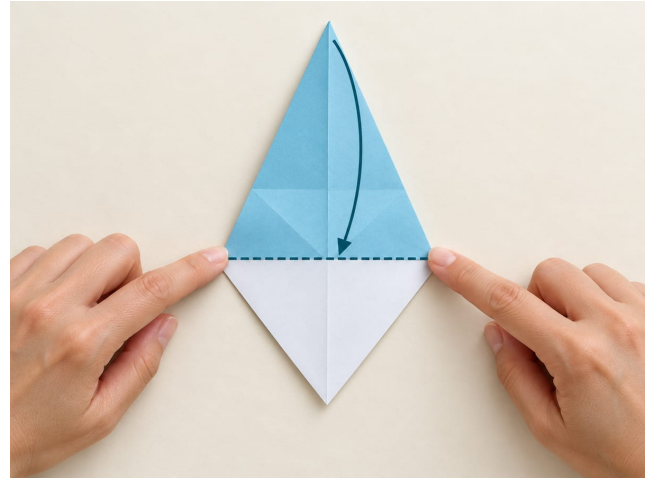
Keep the pictures in order. Steps 5-8 continue the same model.

05 Mark the long fold



Bring the narrow top tip to the bottom tip; crease, then open it back up.

06 Add the middle guide



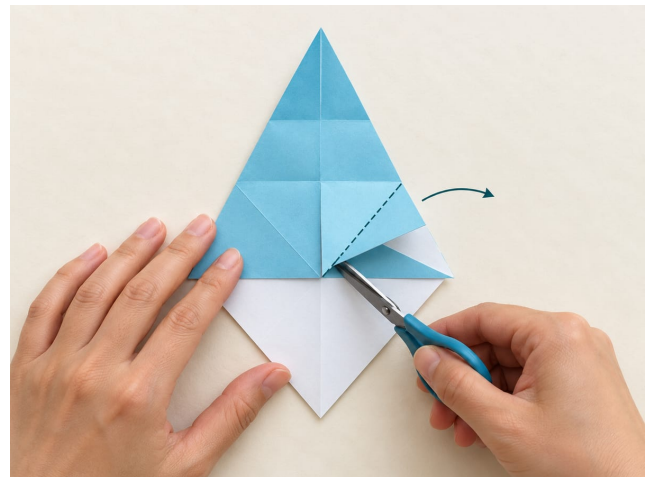
Bring the narrow top tip to the bottom edge of the folded flaps; crease and reopen.

07 Mark the tail guide



Fold the narrow top tip down to the crease from Step 5; press, then reopen.

08 Release the dorsal fin



Cut the lower-right folded flap along its diagonal crease toward the center; open the freed triangle to the right.

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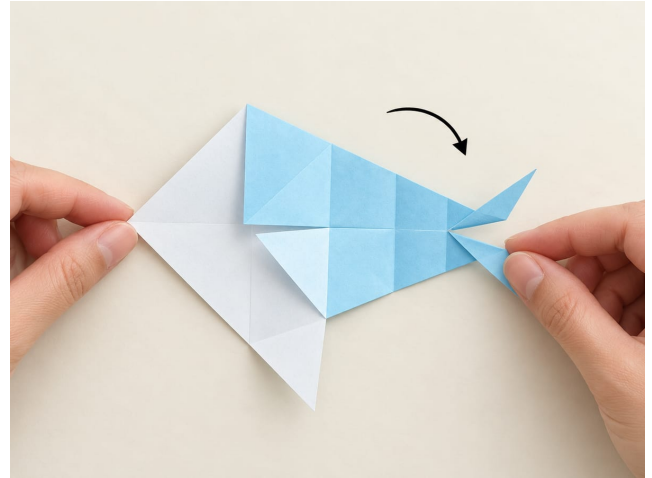
Keep the pictures in order. Steps 9-12 continue the same model.

09 Separate the tail tips



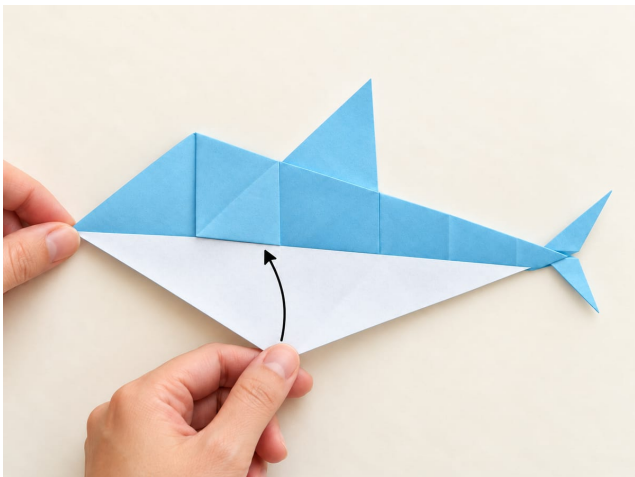
Snip the top tip along the center crease to the nearest horizontal guide; fold the two tips outward.

10 Turn the body



Rotate the paper clockwise a quarter turn, placing the split tail on the right.

11 Close the shark



Fold the lower half behind the upper half along the long center crease, keeping the dorsal triangle above the body.

12 Fan out the tail



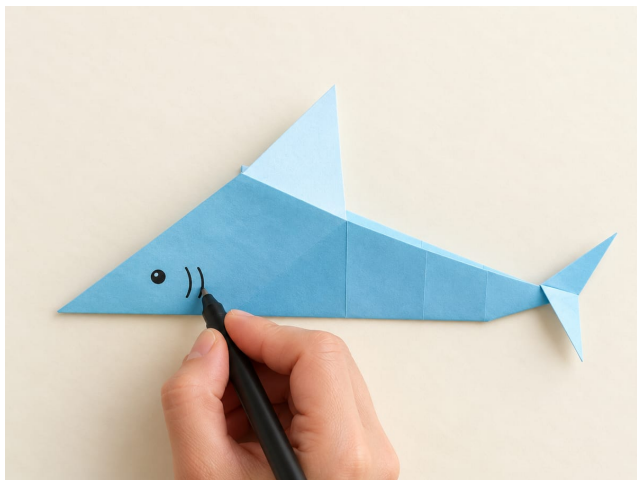
Fold the nearer tail tip downward at its base so the two tail points spread apart.

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Keep the pictures in order. Steps 13-13 continue the same model.

13 Finish the face



Draw a small eye and a curved gill near the broad left end; press the body flat.