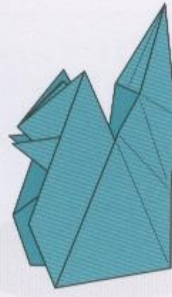


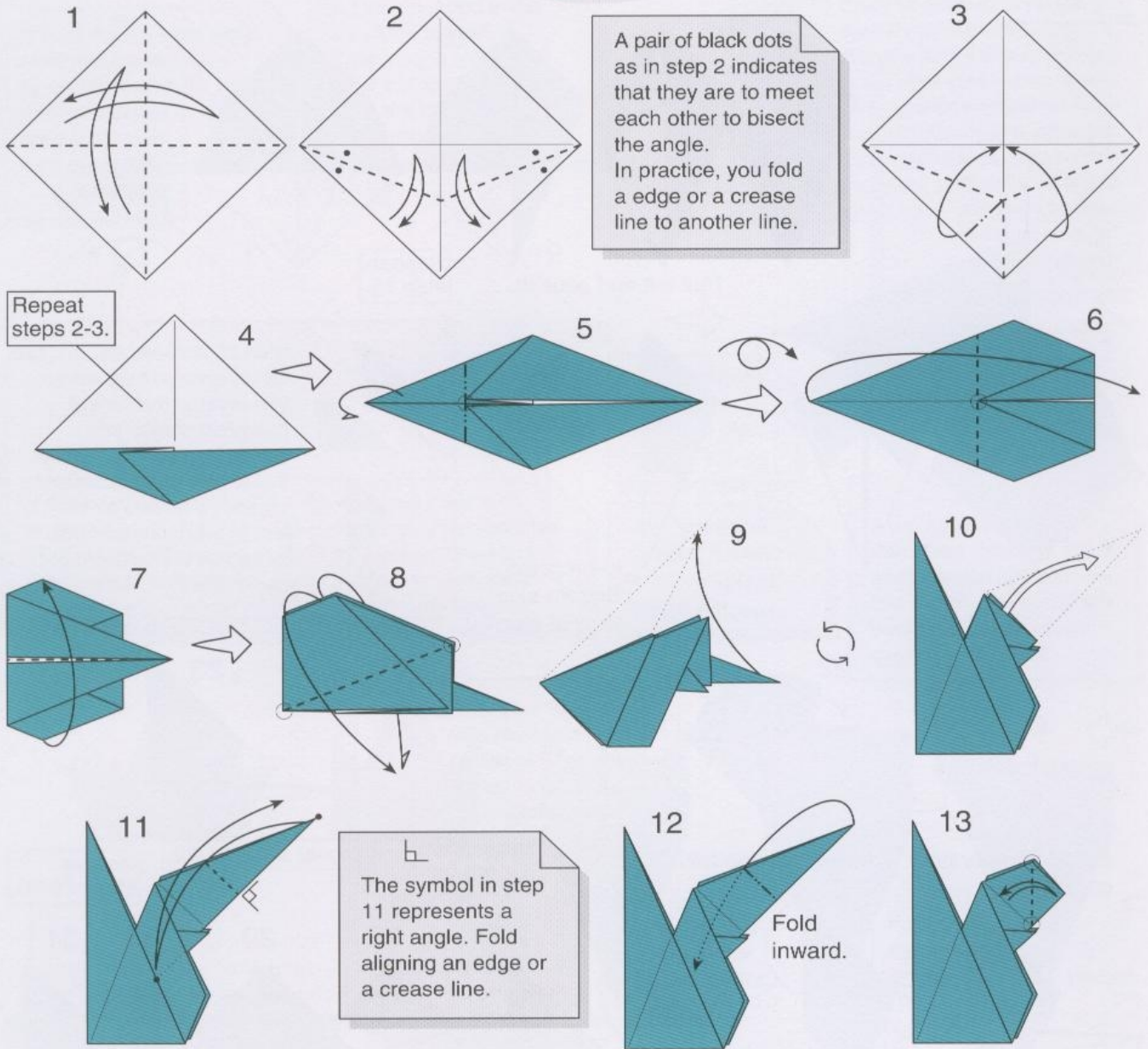
Squirrel

Theme: Base

Fold using 6" (15 cm) origami paper.

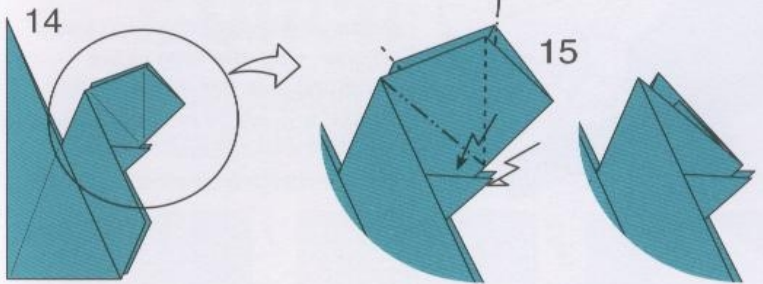


Step 5 is called a **Fish base**. And steps 3-4 show a typical **rabbit ear fold**. You can see that a Fish base consists of two rabbit ear folds.

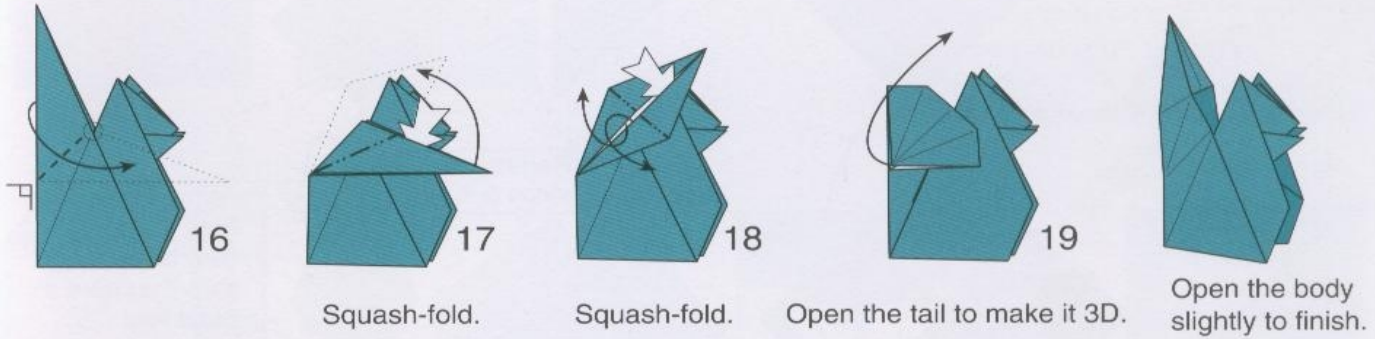


Tips: How to fold neatly (Part 1)

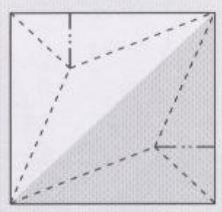
To fold origami models (at least the models in this book), you should fold accurately and firmly as a general rule. In diagrams, we usually draw layers as though they are not aligned to emphasize overlap of them. But you must fold precisely according to landmarks, which are shown as black dots or white circles, and descriptions. Moreover, unless otherwise stated, it is better to crease sharply, even using your nails, to make a good-looking model.



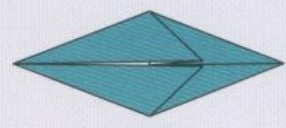
A zigzag arrow indicates to **pleat** or to **crimp**. In this case, you make angled pleats symmetrically on both layers to push the layers inward. This is sometimes called an **inside crimp**.



Squash-fold. Squash-fold. Open the tail to make it 3D. Open the body slightly to finish.



The crease pattern of a Fish base.



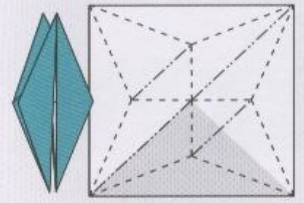
A Fish base



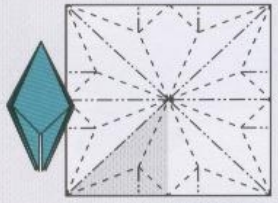
The tree structure of the Fish base



Fish (a.k.a. Carp)



A Bird base and its crease pattern



A Frog base (a.k.a. Iris base) and its crease pattern



The tree structure of the Bird base



The tree structure of the Frog base

Base

The name Fish base comes from traditional *Fish* (also known as *Carp*). This base is characterized by two long flaps and two short ones. In *Squirrel*, I have used two short flaps for the forelegs, one long flap for the tail, and the other for the body, and omitted the hind legs. Such flap-based design is one of the basic methods of origami design.

Bases have played an important role as starting point for design of various models. For example, the *Squirrel* starts from a Fish base. However, in recent years of creative origami, similar to inside reverse folds, it may be more accurate to regard bases as just another folding technique. I have already explained a step in *Mouse* as "fold like a Water-bomb base", which suggests that a base is a sort of fold technique.

There are about 10 important types of bases, which are described in this page and other parts of this book. The most important of all is the Bird base, which is in the same class as the Fish base, as well as the Frog base (also known as the Iris base).

You will figure out the reason why I say they are in the same class if you look at the crease patterns, or the creases left on unfolded sheets, of the bases.

Look at the crease patterns carefully. If we cut a Fish base in half along its diagonal line, we have a unit. A Bird base consists of four units, and a Frog base eight. One can also say a Frog base is composed of four Fish bases.