

Making Paper Boxes For Nature's Treasures

Start with a square piece of paper.

1. On the side that will be the interior, draw a light line across one diagonal. Repeat on the other diagonal.
2. Fold one corner of the paper to the intersection of the two lines – the center – and press a crease. It makes a triangle.
3. Fold the bottom edge of the triangle up to the diagonal line, crease it, and unfold completely.
4. Repeat steps #2 and #3 to other three corners.
5. Unfold the paper completely. You should see a square creased in the middle of the paper (see figure 4).
6. Put a pencil dot in each corner of the box bottom square. Holding the paper where two corners of your original paper will point up and down and two corners will point to the sides, find the vertical crease on the left side of the lower corner. Cut along this crease from the edge of the paper up to the dot you marked as a corner in the box bottom. Find the crease to the right of the lower corner and cut up to the dot above it. Now turn the sheet completely around to the opposite corner, and cut both creases the same way. (Figure 4 shows the cuts up to dots and all creases.)
7. Fold down the two opposite corners while lifting and turning in the two cut ends (figure 5). Carefully bring the remaining sides down and over the sides of the first two sides (figure 6).
8. Make a second box $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch larger than your first box for a lid.

Notes: Glue or tape the points in the center of the box to keep them down. To make the box stronger, place a lightweight cardboard piece in the box bottom between steps 7 and 8. Use old calendars or recycled paper for your box or decorate your box with markers, paint, stamps, etc.

