

Reuse Colorful Paper to Make Treasure Boxes*

Start with a square piece of paper.

1. With a pencil draw a line across one diagonal. Repeat with 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 shape. Fold the bottom edge of the triangle up to the diagonal line, crease it, and unfold.
3. Do the same to each of the other three corners.
4. Unfold the paper completely. You should see a square creased in the middle of the paper (see figure 3-4).
5. Put a pencil dot in each corner of the box bottom square. Holding the paper where the box bottom looks like a square (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 visible square shape in box bottom with cuts up to corners of center “box” shape and with all creases.)
6. Fold the left and right corners to the center while lifting and turning inwards their creased sides making two “walls.” Be sure that the points of the two cut ends are extended over each other (figure 5). Carefully bring the remaining sides down and over the sides of the first two “walls” (figure 6) creating the final “walls” of the box. Crease all around the interior.
7. Make a second box approximately ½-inch smaller than your first box for a bottom.

Notes: You may glue or tape the points in the center of the box to keep them down. If you want the box to be stronger, place a lightweight cardboard piece in the box bottom between steps 6 and 7. Use old calendars or recycled paper for your box or decorate your paper with markers, paint, stamps, etc. before you start folding.

*This project brought to you by the Texas Master Naturalists in the El Camino Real Chapter, txmn.org/elcamino/.

