



Napkin Folding

There are many napkin folding books on the market from which you can pick your favorites or to suit a special occasion. For the purposes of giving dinner parties, it isn't necessary to know that many folding techniques. Just pick a few that appeal to you and stick with them. We have included some fun, easy to learn ones on the following pages.

Pocket Napkins

Pocket napkins are used to keep utensils and napkins in one neat package. They can be used to hold festive decorations or other items such as flowers, herbs or a small gift. Pocket folds are often used when sets of silverware need to be distributed quickly or with buffets so guests can pick up and hold the silverware with one hand.

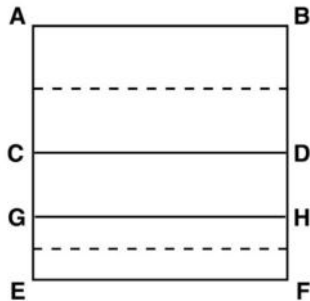
Single Pocket

This fold is very versatile and can be used with most any napkin. Special decorative napkins that are printed only on one side can be used.



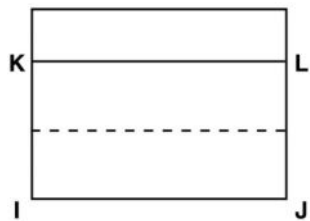


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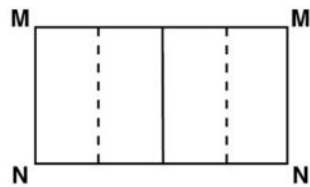


Fold edge AB to line CD and finger press.

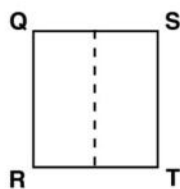
Fold edge EF up to line GH and finger press.



Bring IJ up to line KL and move it a little beyond the edge of the upper fold already made.



Turn the napkin over then fold both edges MN to the centerline OP.



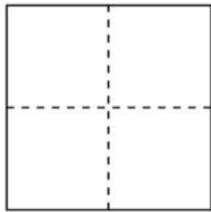
Fold the folded edge QR to the folded edge ST. Slip the utensils into the fold (or desired items).



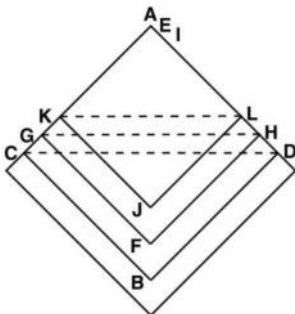
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Decorative Pocket

This pocket napkin has a more elegant look and is more conducive to a table setting or plate presentation.



Fold the napkin into quarters.

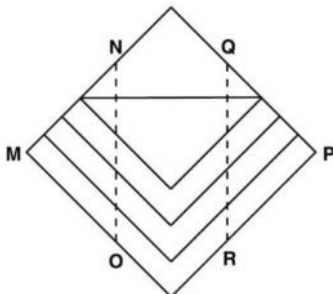


Place the free edges so they are facing away from you (Points A, E and I).

Fold the first corner A to point B (just above the bottom corner) creating the fold line CD.

Fold the second corner E to point F (just above the previous corner) creating the fold line GH.

Fold the third corner I to point J (just above the previous corner) creating the fold line KL.



Fold the side corners until they just overlap at the back (Point M to back along the fold NO and point P to back along fold QR).

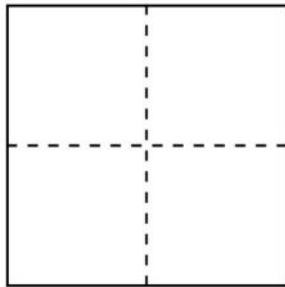


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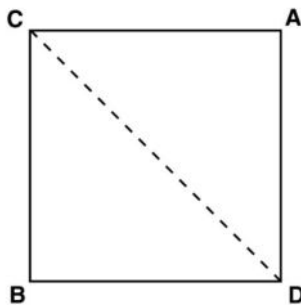
Diagonal Pocket

This is a unique design suitable for any occasion. It gives an elegant touch to the pocket idea and fits right in at everything from casual celebrations to high-class dinner parties.

You can use almost any napkin for this fold except for ones that are only printed on one side. A variation using two napkins of contrasting colors brings an unusual twist to the table.

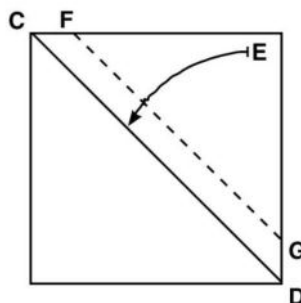


Fold the napkin into quarters.



Place all the open corners to the top right.

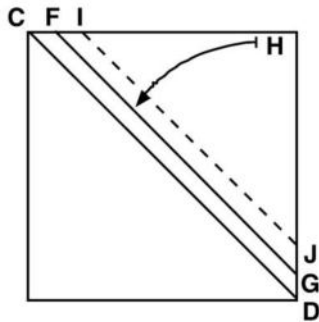
Fold down the first corner (point A) to the opposite corner of the napkin (Point B) forming the fold CD.



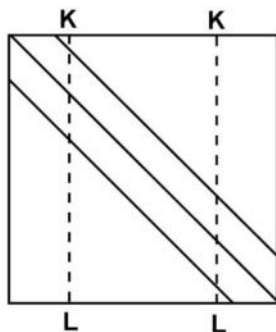
Take the second corner (point E) and tuck it behind the fold CD forming the fold FG, creating a parallel band to the fold CD.



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Take the third corner (point H) and tuck it behind the fold FG forming the fold IJ, creating a second parallel band to the fold CD.



Fold both of the sides (at folds KL) underneath the napkin to form a neat rectangle.

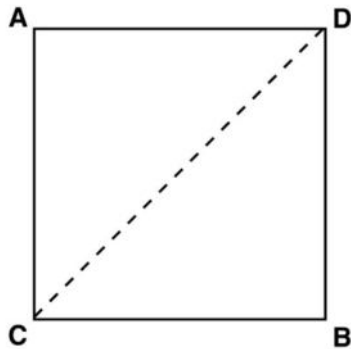


Napkin Folding

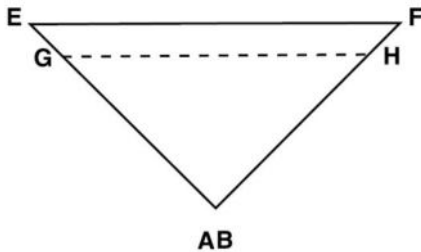
Danish Candle

These napkins are easy to do and can be arranged quickly just prior to dinner. They will certainly attract attention and will compliment a candlelight dinner.

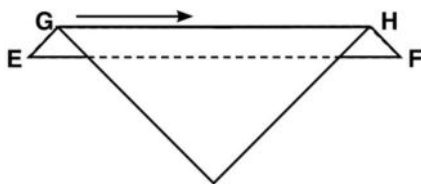
This a good fold for most napkins including any fabric napkins. Napkins with print on one side of the napkin works also.



Bring point B to A and finger press on fold CD.



Turn the napkin with AB point towards you. Fold EF at line GH and finger press.



Turn the napkin over placing it face down on the table. Roll the entire napkin from point G toward point H with the cuff on the outside. Roll evenly into a candle shape.

Tuck the remaining point of the cuff inside the cuff to hold the napkin together.

Stand the napkin upright in the center of the plate or on the table.

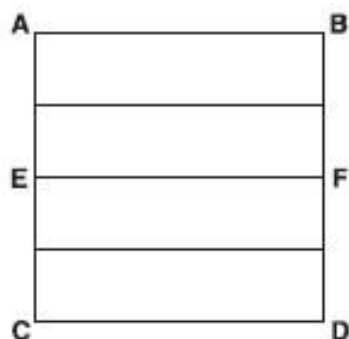


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Shell Fold

This sculpture-like fold is great for a romantic dinner or an elegant dinner party.

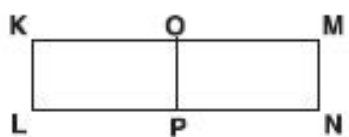
You can use any size napkin, but bigger is better (17 inches or more, especially if you use paper). Napkins with print on one side only will not work.



Bring the top edge AB to the centerline EF. Bring the bottom edge CD to the centerline EF. Press the folds firmly with your fingers.



Turn the napkin over face down on the table. Bring the top edge GH to the bottom edge IJ forming a long rectangle.



Fold edge KL in half to edge MN forming fold OP.

Turn the napkin placing the fold OP towards you. Start pleating (folding back and forth) the top half of the napkin from the center to the edge making approximately 1 1/2" pleats. The exact size of the pleat will vary based on the exact size of the napkin. Work the pleats until the pleating comes out even at the end. This should only take an attempt or two until you get the correct pleat width.



Turn the napkin over and repeat the pleating step on the remaining half of the napkin.

Pinch the base of the napkin at the fold OP and let the top portion spread as if it is a fan, then place it on a table or plate.

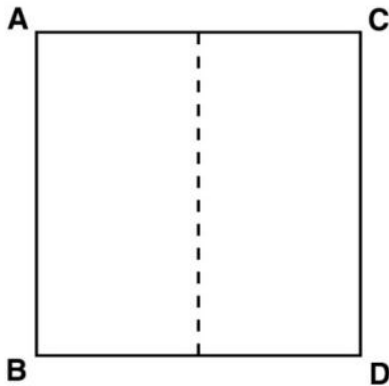


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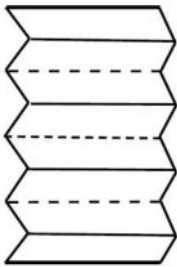
Flirt Fold

This fold is a great table decoration for formal dinner parties. The size of the glass should be carefully selected because glasses where the rim is too wide or the bowl too shallow will not allow the napkin to stand up properly.

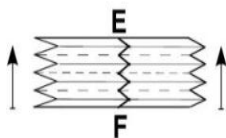
Fabric napkins with stemmed glasses are best for this fold. Napkins that are either a solid color or brightly colored are attractive choices.



Fold the edge AB in half to edge CD.



Carefully fold $\frac{1}{2}$ " pleats the entire length of the folded napkin.



Fold the pleated napkin up in half from both ends along line EF (the midpoint of the pleated napkin) so that the napkin forms a large U-shape.

Place the napkin in the glass so that $\frac{1}{3}$ of the napkin (at the folded point of the "U") is in the glass.

Gently fan out the pleats.

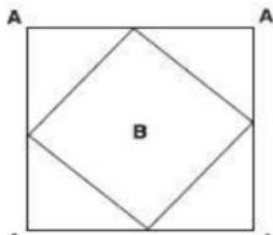
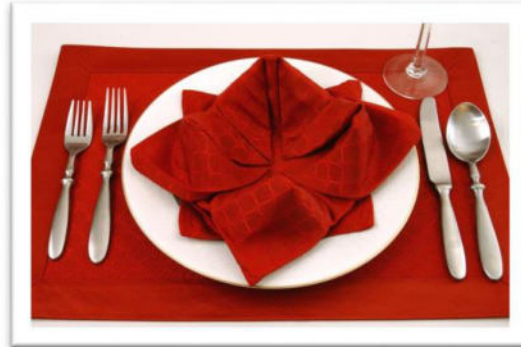


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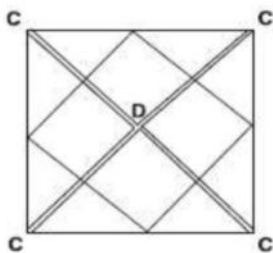
Rose Fold

This rose-like fold can make quite an impression. It can be used as a small centerpiece or to hold small items, flowers, gifts, special holiday decorations and even a small bowl or baskets.

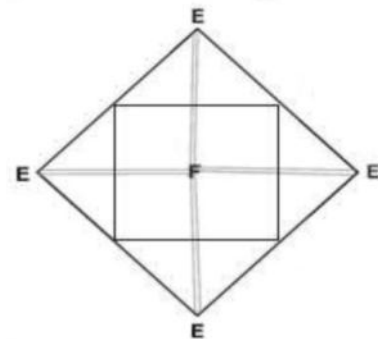
Square fabric napkins work best for this fold. Soft fabrics may need to be spray starched before folding. Napkins with print on one side only should not be used.



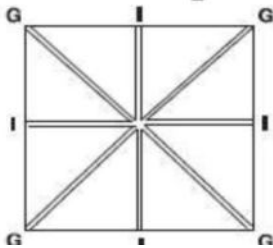
Fold points A to the center B (along dotted lines).



Turn the napkin 45 degrees. Repeat, bringing the new corners C (that were just created) to the new center D (The napkin will get smaller in size with each step. The diagrams remain full size for convenience).



Turn the napkin over then bring the corners E to the center F.



Holding down the center points with your fingers (or a small glass) reach under the napkin at points G and pull each doubled corner out and up forming a raised cone shaped point.

Reach under at points I and pull out the corners forming flat points.

Variation: Bring the corners to the center one extra time before turning the napkin over (between steps 2 and 3) then pull out a third set of points at the end.