

The Bow Tie

This is something I learned in high school in the late seventies, so it has been around a while. I wasn't planning on putting on my web pages, since I thought everyone already knew this one. I was wrong. I get quite a few requests for this one, so here goes...

(Thanks to "Rogue" / "hispeed" for sending in this version. I had always done bow ties slightly differently, and this way is easier and simpler to describe.)

As with all these instructions, try to start with a relatively clean, crisp bill. It will make the process easier. All folds should be sharply creased. It helps to go over the fold with a fingernail on a flat, hard surface.

For your first attempt, use a one dollar bill, as the description and illustrations are based on the features of that bill. After you've done a couple you can try out different denominations.



Fold the bill in half end-to-end with the portrait facing out (as shown at left). Without unfolding that, fold the bill in half top-to-bottom (as shown at right).



Okay this is simple, but the description is rough: The folded bill now has four *layers*. Gently peel back the top layer at the corner while holding the other three layers together. This will force half of your very first fold from the previous step to unfold. Help it to flatten out, keeping its crease in line with the second fold. Keeping it at this angle, crease over the two 45 degree angles formed.

Flip the whole thing over and repeat this for the other side, remembering to only lift the top *layer*. When you are finished both sides it should resemble the illustration. (If you can't seem to do this, you probably folded too many layers in the previous step. Go back and make it look like the picture.)





Starting from the position of the previous step, close the two sides like a book - keeping the last fold in place. (This will reverse the fold that you caused to unfold in the previous step.) Turn the whole thing over and repeat for the opposite side, created two steps up.

Looking at the previous illustration, consider the two top edges shown to be two sides of a triangle. Now we're going to make a fold along the bottom line of that triangle. Splitting the two ends of the bill apart, fold one end up to complete that triangle.



Turn the bill over and repeat the previous step for the other side.



Lift one folded corner over 45 degrees to the centerline fold crease. (There are two layers here, only fold the top layer at this point.) Do the same for the other folded corner as shown at right.



Turn the whole thing over a repeat the previous step for the other side.



If you carefully pull the two ends of the bill away from each other, with the front of the bill facing you, it will look something like this. Note that there's kind of a "point" in the middle of the portrait.

On the back side of the bill, you will need to hold your fingers over the points shown to complete this step. (If you don't hold these points together when you pull out the ends, the whole thing will come unfolded.)



Being sure to keep the folds closed as described in the previous paragraph, gently pull the two ends apart. This will cause the point (top illustration of this step, center of picture) to flatten out. This will tend to create four new fold lines around the portrait. When it is approximately flat, crease over these four folds and you're done.

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