Make a jumping frog!

This looks like a lot of steps but it’s actually quite simple once you get going, all you need is a square of paper.

Just as in nature, different sizes and shapes of frog have different specialities – try different types and sizes of paper and see which frog has the best jump.

1. Take a square of paper and fold it in half to make a rectangle with the colour side on the outside.
2. Bring the two short edges together and pinch the sides to mark the centre.
3. Fold the top right corner down to the left to meet your pinch mark. The top of the paper should lie along the side making a triangle. Press the paper flat and unfold.
4. Do the same on the left, pressing flat before unfolding.
5. Turn the paper over, fold the top down to meet the middle, press flat and unfold.
6. Turn the paper back over, push down with one finger at the point where all the folds meet in the centre. The sides of the paper should pop up a bit.
7. Place a finger against both sides of the centre line and bring them up and in to the centre.
8. Fold the sections down so that the meet in the centre, the top of the paper should start to come up.
9. Push down on the top and gently flatten to make a triangle. Your paper should look like a basic house shape.
10. Fold the bottom edge up to meet the bottom of the triangle (making your house into a bungalow)
11. Fold the sides in to meet the middle, leaving the top triangle flat (fold them underneath). Your paper should look a bit like an arrow.

12. Fold the bottom edge up to meet the bottom of the triangle again. You’ve now got a large triangle with a small rectangle underneath.

13. Fold the top corners of the rectangle down to meet in the bottom, forming two small triangles.

14. Pinch the corners of these two small at the centre of the object and pull the outer layers apart (making sure the rest stays flat)

15. The corners should meet the outer points of the large triangle into a flat sailing boat shape

16. Fold the outer points of the small triangles down to meet in the centre. These will become the frog legs

17. Fold the bottom points out again as shown by the dotted lines.

18. Fold the large triangle’s bottom corners out into the position shown by the dotted lines (along line 18 on the example square provided).

19. Taking the middle of the frog as the point where the legs join, fold the frog in half.

20. Fold the bottom section down, making a small pleat (along line 20). Be careful not to press down too hard as you want some spring in your frog.

21. Turn your frog over and put on a flat surface, make sure the back legs are folded in like a spring, run a finger down the centre of the frogs back and it should spring up.
Now it’s over to you!

You can make a frog using any square piece of paper: printing paper, wrapping paper and even post-it notes if you’re feeling ambitious.

To make a square out of a rectangle just fold one corner down diagonally so that the top lies along one side (like in step 3 above). Just cut along the bottom of the triangle and you have your square!

If you’d like a bit of help just cut out the square below, all the folds are marked with lines to help you. It’s quite a rough guide but once you’ve made your first frog you’ll be able to make them in all sorts of colours and sizes.