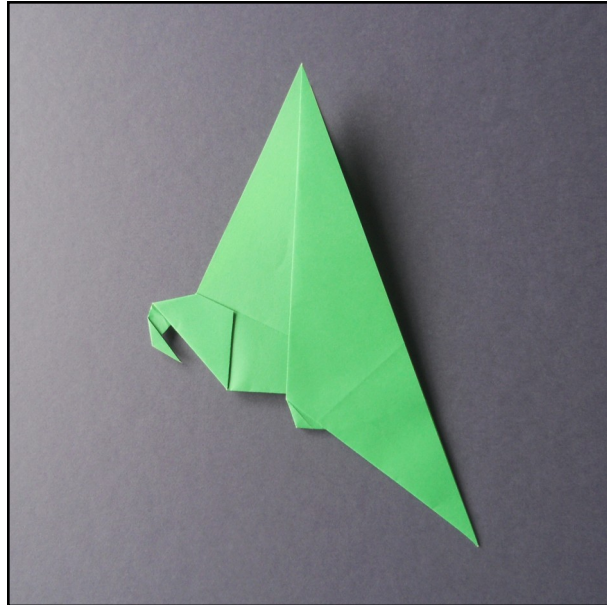# Flapping Parrot

Designed by David Mitchell

My Flapping Parrot is a variation of Merlyn's Bird by Merlyn Wilcox,.

The original design was folded from a kite shape. I created this variation, which is folded from a square, in 1998.
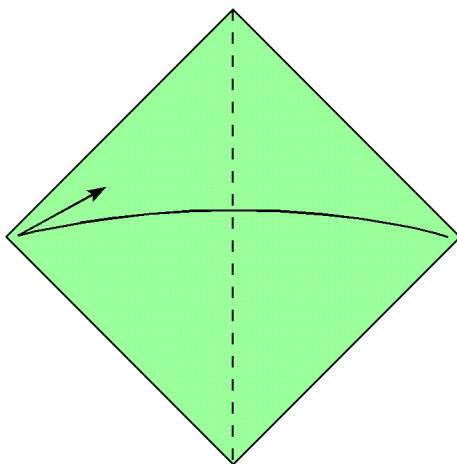
The flapping mechanism is the same in both designs.

For the sake of clarity the diagrams have been drawn with one surface of the paper shaded and the other white, although homogeneous paper works equally for this design.

Begin with the surface you want to show on the outside of the design facing up towards you.
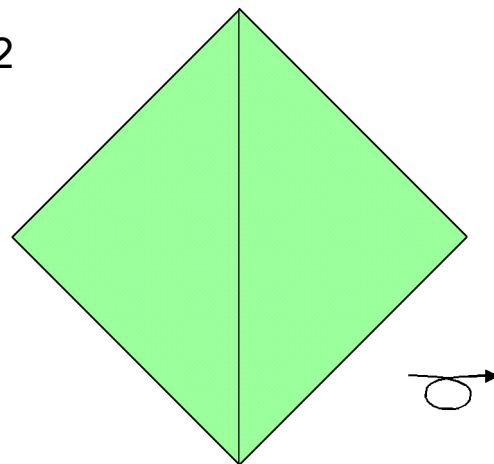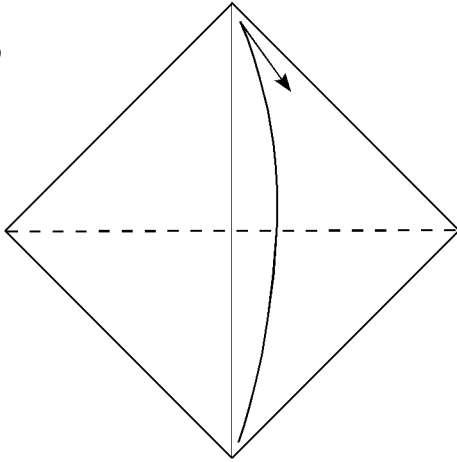
1

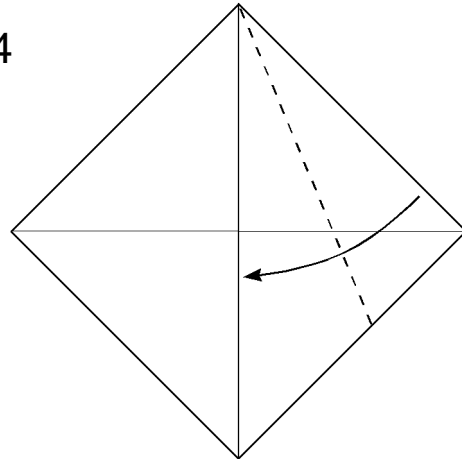1. Fold in half sideways, crease, then unfold.
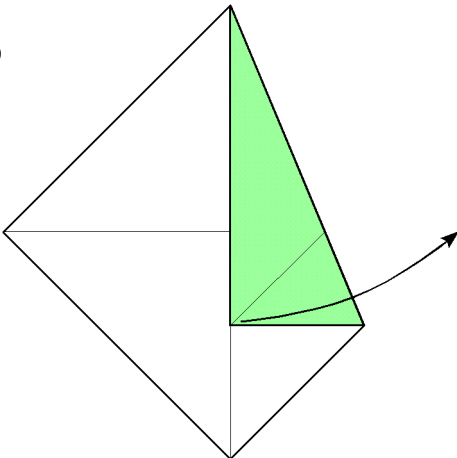
2

2. Turn over sideways.

3

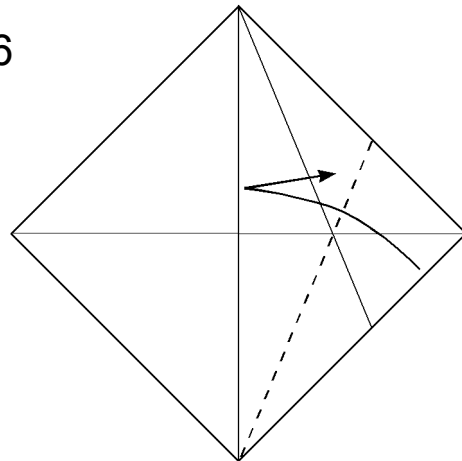3. Fold in half upwards, crease, then unfold.

4

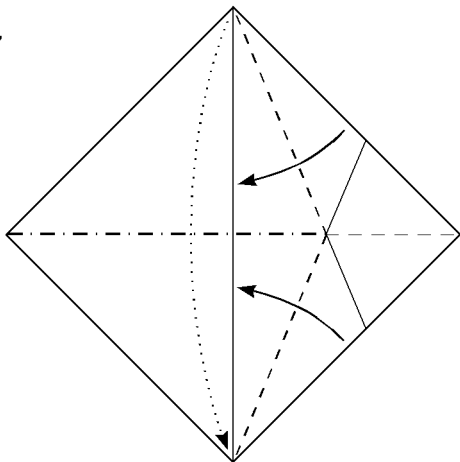4. Fold the top sloping right hand edge onto the vertical centre crease.
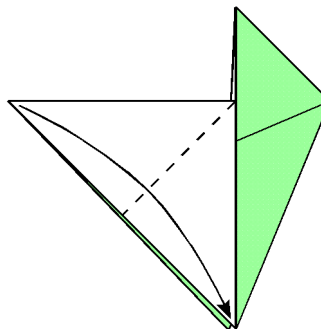
5

5. Crease, then unfold.

6

6. Repeat folds 4 and 5 on the bottom sloping right hand edge, crease, then unfold.
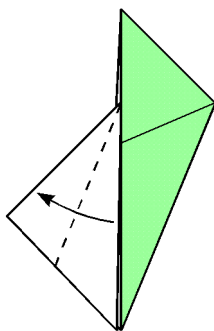
David Mitchell / Flapping Parrot

7

8

7. You will need to pick the paper up to make this fold. Fold the paper in half backwards while allowing the folds made in steps 4 through 6 to reform. The result should look like picture 8.
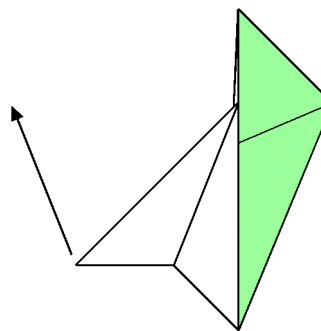
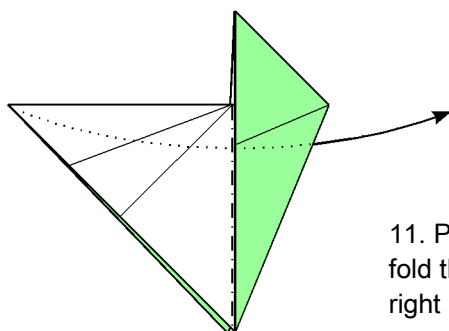8. Fold the left hand point in half inwards like this.

9

10

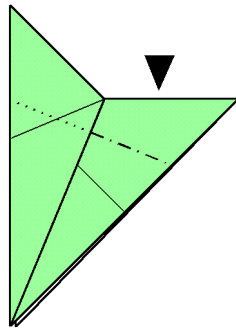9. Fold the front flap in half again outwards as shown.

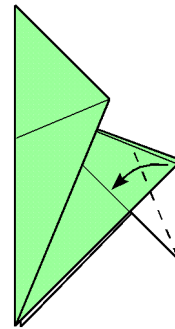10. Crease, then pull the left hand point upwards to open out the folds made in steps 8 and 9.

11

11. Pick the paper up again and fold the left hand point to the right in between the layers.
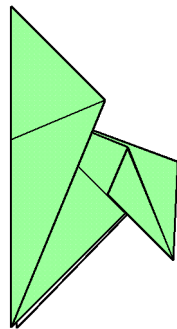
12

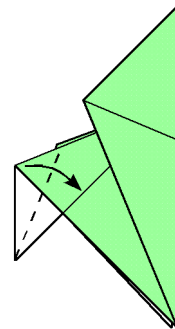12. Fold the right hand point down in between the layers using the crease made in step 9.

13

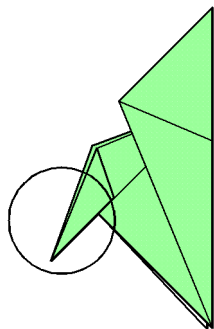13. Fold the front layer of the right hand point in half.

14
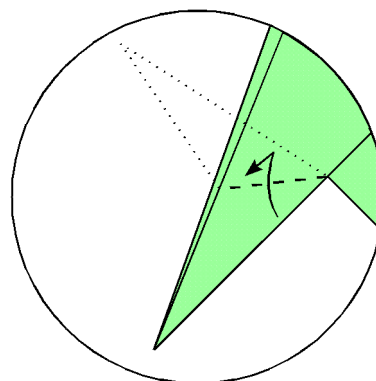
14. Turn over sideways.

15

15. Repeat fold 13 on this side of the design.
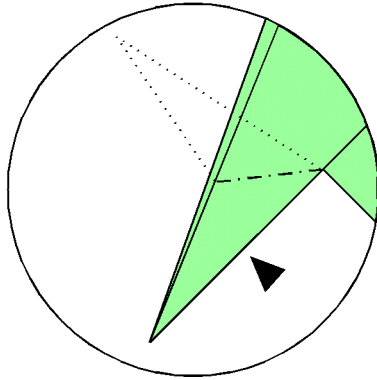
16

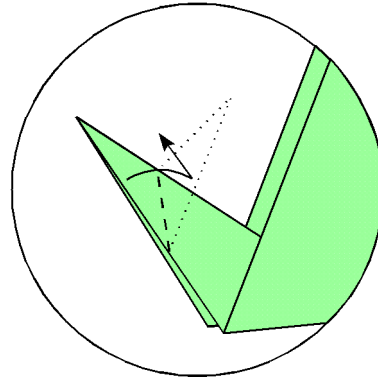16. The enlargements show how to form the head and beak.

17

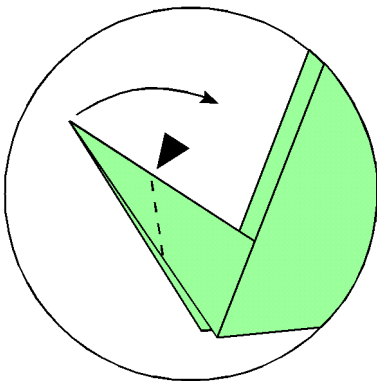17. old the point upwards as shown, crease, then unfold.

18

18. Inside reverse fold the point to form the head using the creases made in step 17. The next enlargement is on a larger scale.
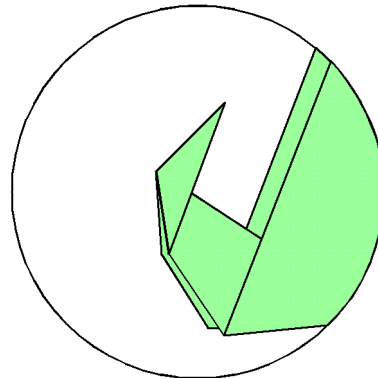
19

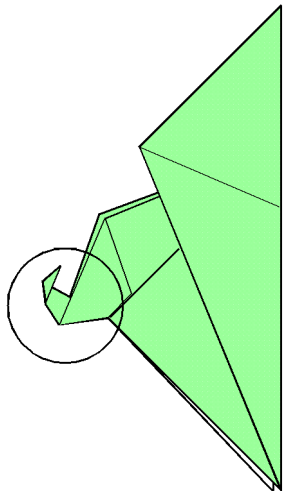19. Fold the point upwards again as shown, crease, then unfold.

20

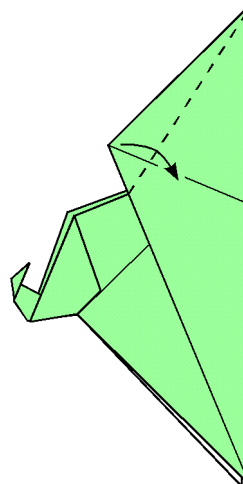20. Outside reverse fold to form the beak.

21

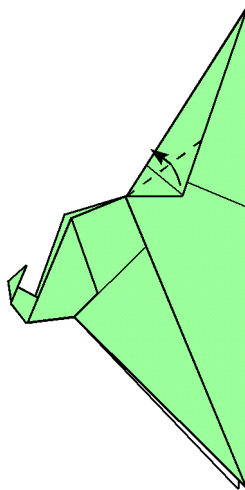21. This is what the result should look like. Adjust if necessary.

22

22. This is the simplest form of the Flapping Parrot. If you prefer you can go straight to step 31 now, or follow steps 23 through 29 to create a more sophisticated bird.
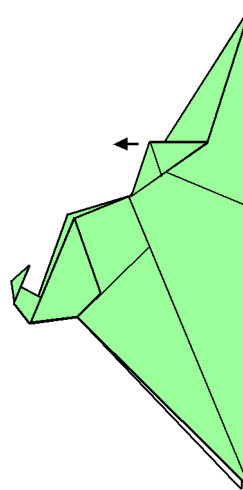
23

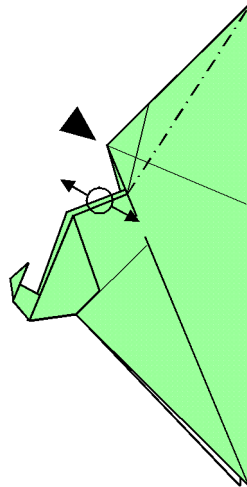23. Fold the sloping edge of the top point inwards as shown.

24

24. Fold the obtuse point of the front flap outwards again so that the result looks like picture 25.
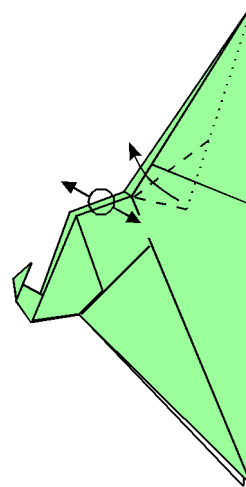
25

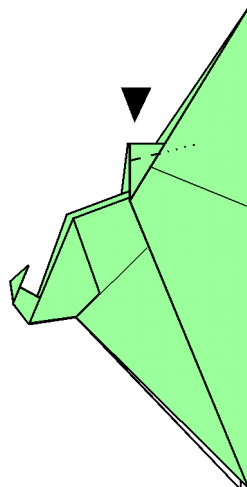25. Open out the folds made in steps 23 and 24.

26

26. Open out the layers at the point marked with a circle and turn the sloping edge of the top point inside out between them.
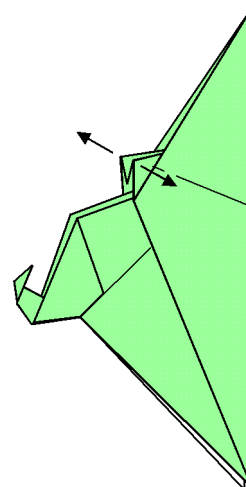
27

27. Open out the folds at the point marked with a circle and pull out the small flap inside using the creases made in step 24.
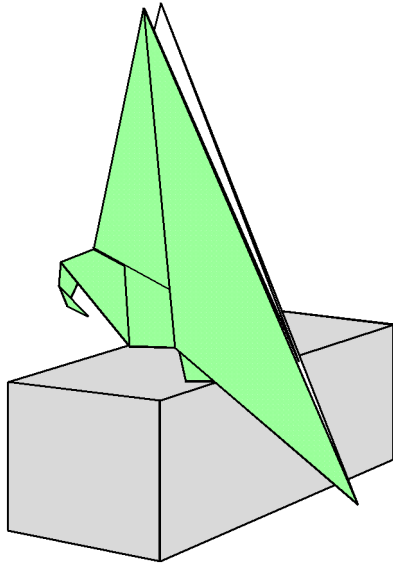
28

28. Turn the top corner of the small flap inside out between the layers to form the feet.
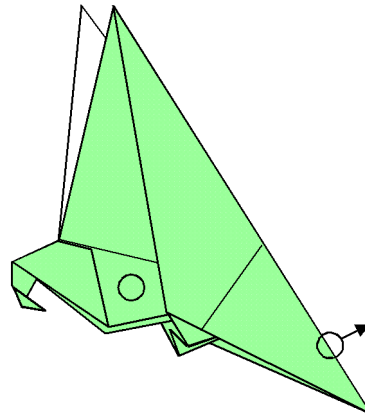
29

29. Gently separate the feet and rotate the design to align it with picture 30.

30

31

30. This more sophisticated version of the Flapping Parrot will perch on the edge of a small box.

31. To make either version of the Flapping Parrot flap, hold the front layers together at the point marked with a circle and gently pull the tail upwards to the right.