

The

CLASSICS of *Magic*

By TOM OSBORNE



**NAPKIN
FOLDING**

—
VOLUME TWO

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Thomas James Osborne

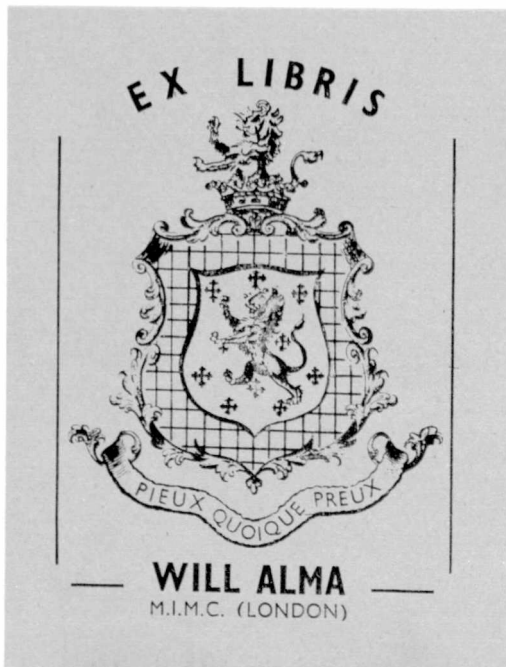


Dedicated to

JAMES C. WOBENSMITH

Nationally known Copyright and Patent Attorney of Philadelphia, and Past President of The Society of American Magicians

IN APPRECIATION OF HIS HELPFUL
SUGGESTIONS IN THIS BUSINESS OF
MAKING A LIVING OUT OF MAGIC



Introduction

by

TOM OSBORNE

This is not to be considered an encyclopedia on napkin folding, it is the fulfillment of the Author's desire to preserve for the future some of the most interesting of the napkin folds with his own illustrations and descriptions.

These folds have been gathered from all over the world. Some are the Author's creation, but the majority of them appear to be the "Property-of-Public-Domain," and of this latter group the Author has made an honest effort to trace the origin of the different folds, and in every case they seem to be lost in antiquity.

This is the second edition by the Auththor on this subject. The first one was titled: "Fun At Dinner With Napkin Folds," and the distinguished honor of receiving the Genii award greeted the first edition. The Genii is a Magician's magazine dealing with kindred arts, and Mr. William Larsen, the editor, is one well versed in the art of entertainment, and it is not surprising that he at once recognized the value of the book for future generations.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

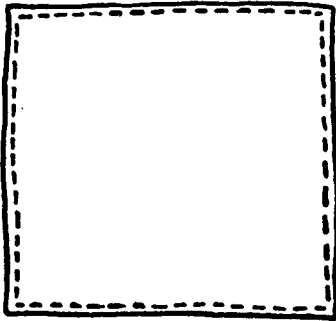
Jean Hugard, Charles H. Hopkins, Bert Ganz, Richard Herman, William Larsen, Will Goldston, John Braun, Harold Rice, Robert Ritchie, Tom Fitzgerald, Tom Selwyn and Charles Waller.

The Brassiere

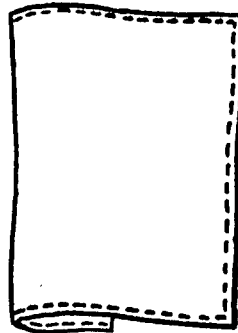
Fold the napkin as in drawings No. 1, No. 2, No. 3 and No. 4. The four corners marked X in No. 4 are pulled down as in No. 5.

Take the two corners on the left between the thumb and fingers of the left hand, and the two corners on the right between the thumb and fingers of the right hand. Hold tightly to these four corners, and pull the hands quickly apart, then bring the napkin up against the chest, the result being the drawing in No. 6.

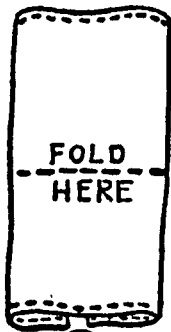
- BRASSIERE -



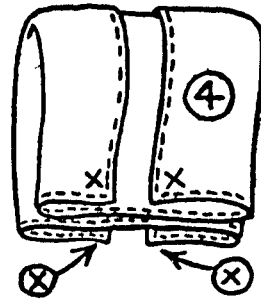
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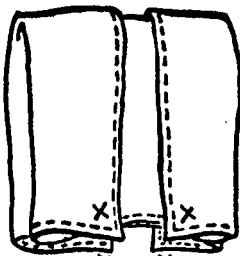
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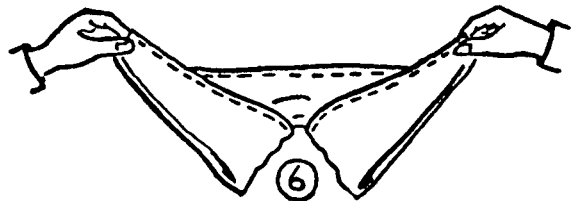
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The Cradle

Fold as in No. 2. Roll corner X in No. 2 so it will appear as in No. 3.

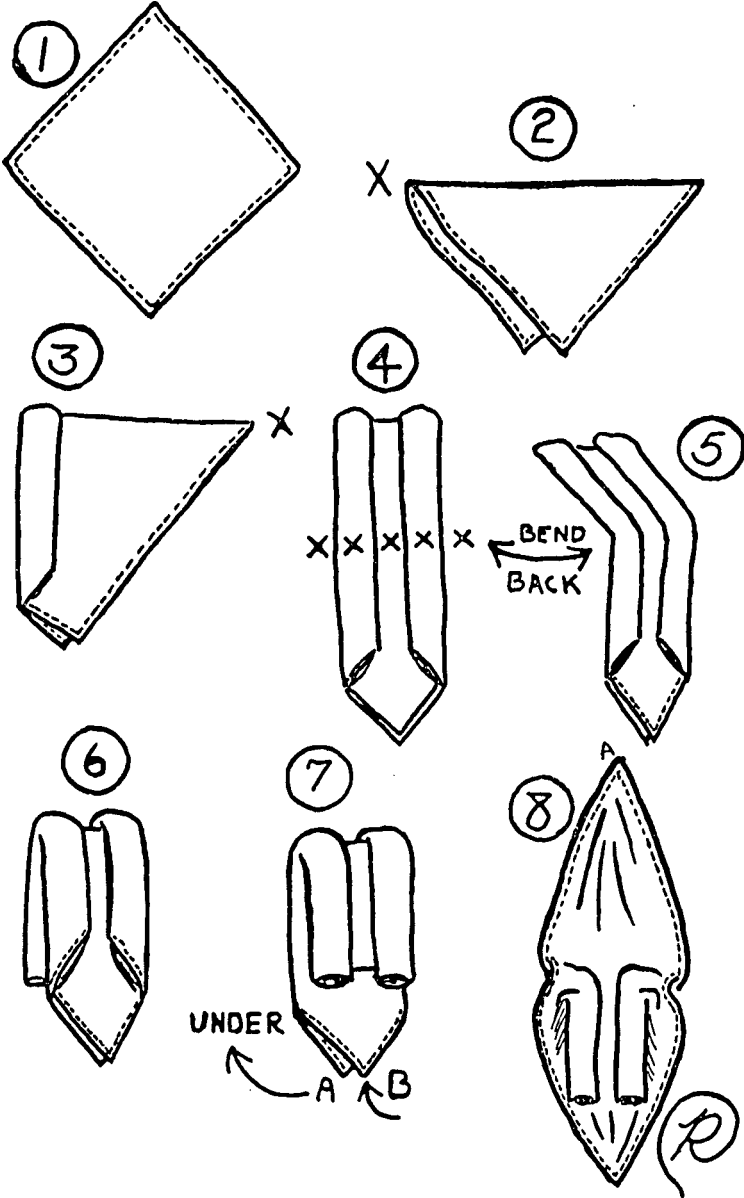
Roll corner X in No. 3 so it will appear as in No. 4.

Bend at the spots marked X in No. 4 and No. 5 so it will appear as in No. 6.

Turn the napkin over so it will be as in No. 7.

To complete you take hold of corner B and the two rolled ends with the right hand, and the corner marked A with the left hand. Now bring corner A around under the fold so it will appear as in No. 8. A slight shake of the hands will help at this point.

THE CRADLE



The Mouse

INSTRUCTIONS: Fold corners X in Figure No. 2 to No. 3. At points X in No. 3 the napkin is rolled upwards as in No. 4. The two points X in No. 4 are bent inwards as in No. 5. The right hand lifts up the napkin as in No. 6 with the thumb underneath and the fingers on top. Now turn the right hand over as in No. 7.

The two corners are pulled towards the wrist as in No. 8. The left hand takes hold of the napkin as in No. 9. The right hand is removed and takes the corners and pulls them to the position illustrated in drawing No. 10. These same corners are pulled under the left hand as in No. 11, after which the right hand assumes control of the napkin as in No. 12, so the left hand can get a firm hold. Both hands now hold the napkin as in No. 13.

The next move is to push the corners into the groove which is marked with a number of small X's (see No. 14). Notice how the hands are held in No. 15. This hold permits the napkin to be rolled easily after the two corners are tucked into the groove. Continue the rolling until the ends show as in No. 16.

Turn the napkin around so the groove marked X is toward you as in No. 17. Flatten out the head as in No. 18. Hold the head as in No. 19, and give it a twist away from you. The position is now No. 20. Pull the ends you are holding slightly apart and tie a knot as in No. 21. This knot is the head with two ears (see No. 22).

Bend the right arm at the elbow and rest the arm against the body. Set the Mouse in the right hand with the tail resting at the finger tips, and the head pointing toward the elbow. To make the Mouse appear alive is caused by the left hand stroking it several times, then the right fingers shoot the Mouse upwards, the left hand catching it at the elbow and allowing the Mouse to sort of squirm partly out of the hand. This is repeated several times.

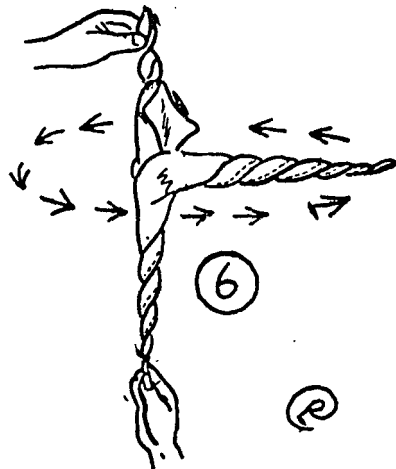
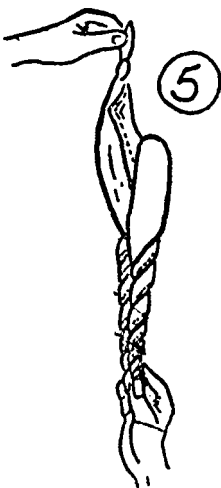
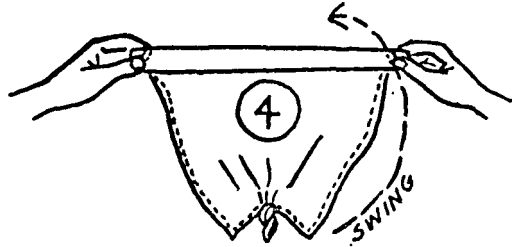
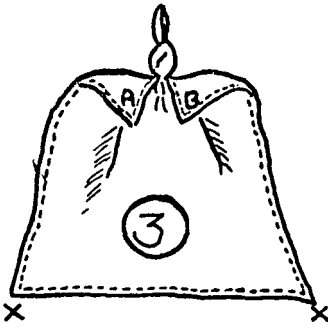
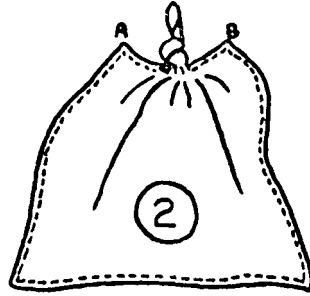
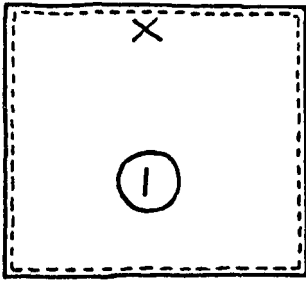
The Dancer

Tie a knot at X in No. 1. Neatly bring down corners A and B to positions in No. 3.

Each hand takes a corner X in No. 3 and lifts the napkin straight upwards, then it is twisted away from you as in No. 4 until it is fully twisted.

Hold the napkin as in No. 5. Let go one of the ends and it will revolve like a Ballet Dancer.

THE DANCER



The Old Fashioned Girl

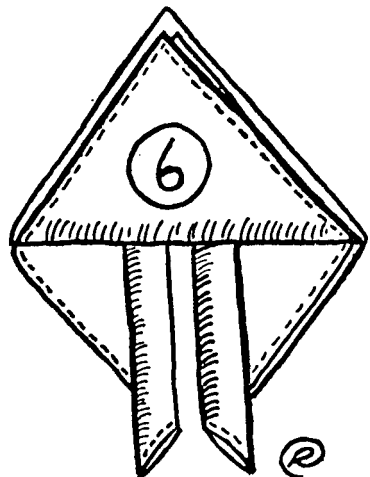
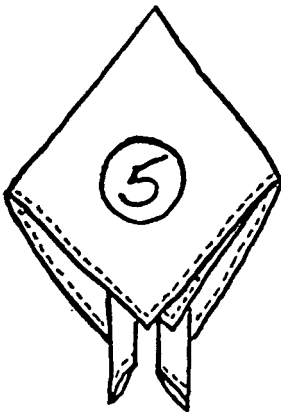
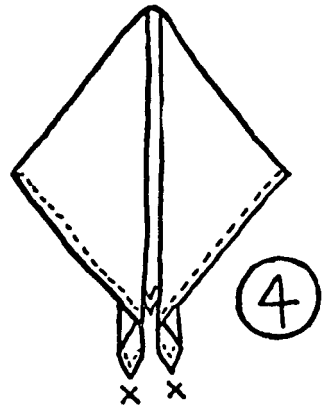
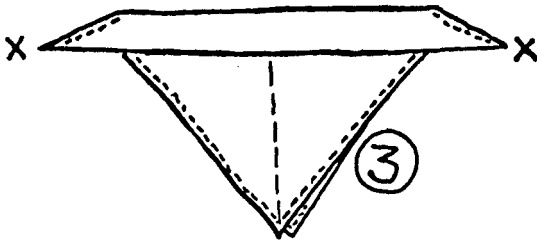
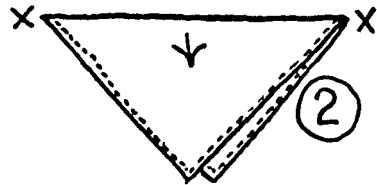
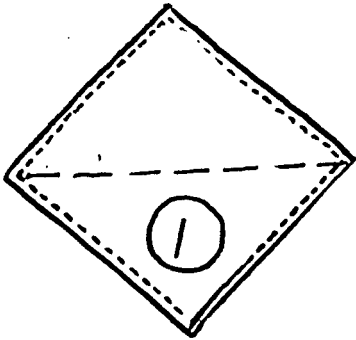
Roll one turn in No. 2 to No. 3. Fold the corners marked X to No. 4. Turn the napkin over as in No. 5.

Now say,

“Roses are Red,
Violets are Blue,
But my girl wears
The old fashioned ones too.”

After saying the above you lift up the two corners (dress and skirt) in No. 5, showing what appears to be an old fashioned pair of panties (see No. 6).

OLD FASHIONED GIRL



The Hindu

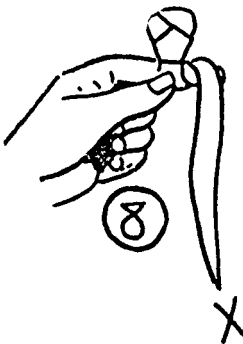
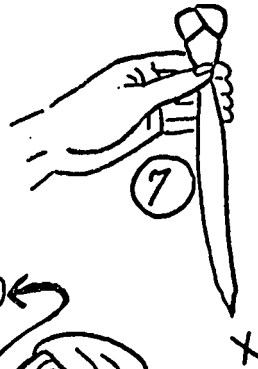
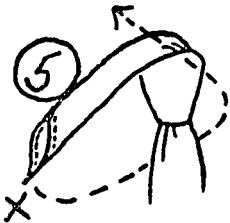
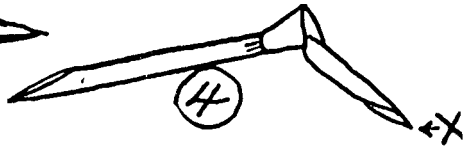
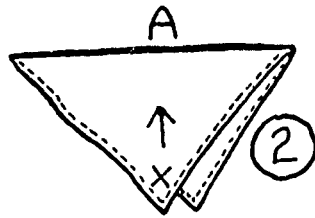
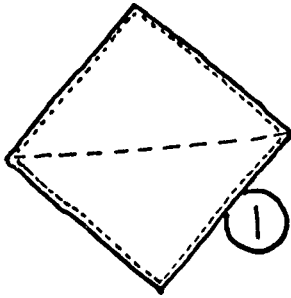
Roll corners X in No. 2 towards A as in No. 3. Tie a knot as in No. 4. Take corner X in No. 4 and bring it around the knot as in No. 5 and No. 6. Push this corner well down into the fold. A spoon handle will help.

Take corner X in No. 7 and fold it around the finger as in No. 8 and No. 9, and push it well into the fold, withdrawing the finger to form a tube.

Draw a face on the Hindu, and place it in a glass as in No. 10.

(Instead of wrapping the napkin around the finger, try using a table knife.)

THE HINDU



The Rabbit

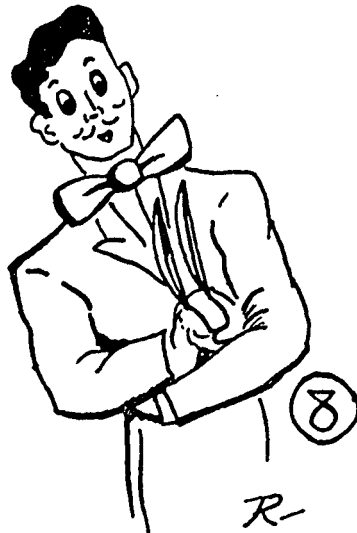
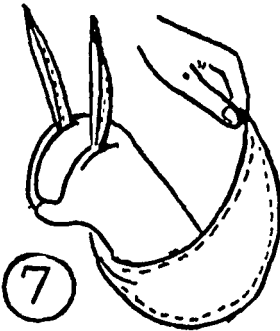
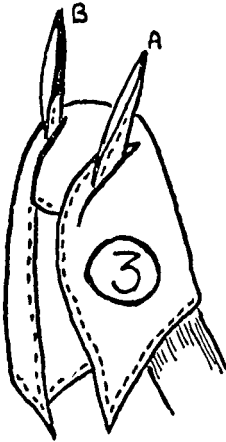
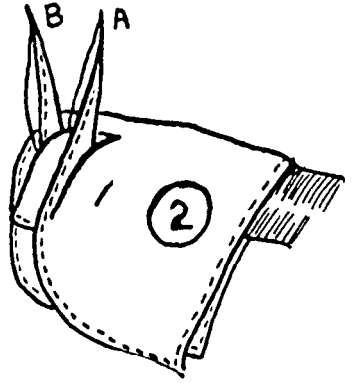
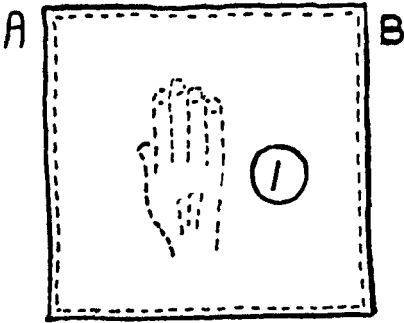
Drape the napkin over the hand as in No. 1. Bring up corner B and place it between the third and little fingers. Next bring up the other corner A and place it between the first and second fingers. Both corners are held tightly by the fingers (see No. 2).

Slightly curve the right hand. Push corners B and A well back between the fingers as far as they will go (see No. 3). At the spot marked X in No. 4 push the cloth under the fingers, and let the thumb hold it in place as in No. 4.

This thumb will be the lower lip, while the two middle fingers are the upper lip, and they move up and down, giving the Rabbit appearance of life. To make this movement, study drawings in No. 5 and No. 6.

Twist the lower draping corner around the arms as in No. 7, and place the Rabbit in position illustrated in No. 8.

RABBIT



The Basket Rosette

No. 1. Bring all corners marked X to the center, creasing the edges, and it will appear as in No. 2.

No. 2. Repeat the above so it will be as in No. 3.

No. 3. Repeat again so it will be as in No. 4.

No. 4. Turn the folded napkin over so it will be as in B.

No. 5. Once again bring all corners (X) to the center, creasing the edges, and it will be as in Figure No. 6.

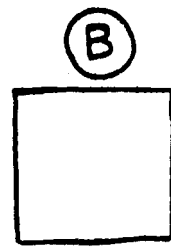
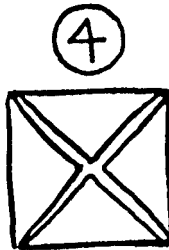
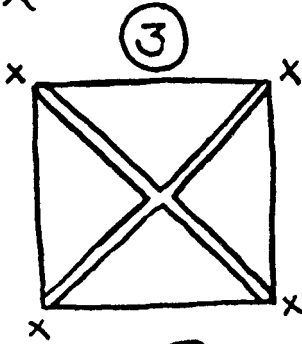
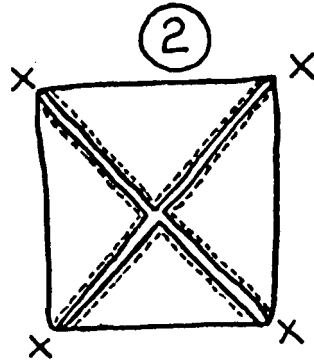
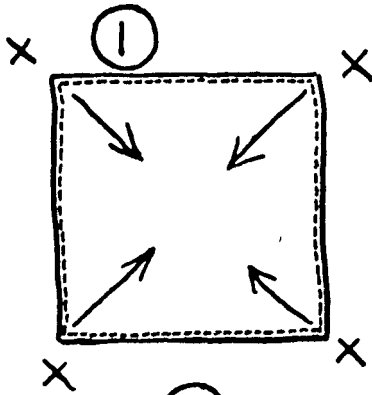
No. 6. Hold down the center with an inverted glass as in No. 7

No. 8. Pull out from the bottom 12 folds, or leaves (see No. 8), the first four folds are under each corner.

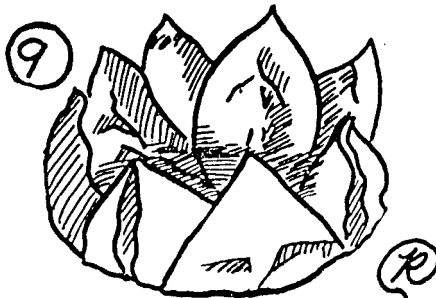
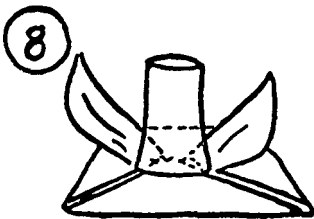
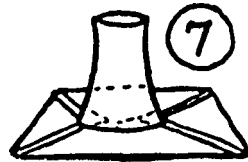
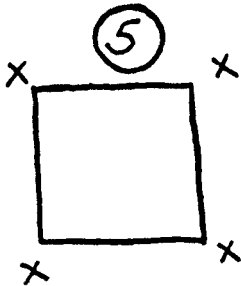
In Figure No. 8 it shows two of these folds pulled out from the under side. Continue until you have all 12 folds pulled from under, and No. 9 is the finished product.

If this is made out of a large tablecloth, you can take a napkin and fold a wire inside, then roll it up. Pin this napkin to each side. This will make a fancy basket with a handle for candy, nuts, etc.

THE BASKET ROSETTE



TURN OVER →



The Finger Marionette

Simple, but the children enjoy it as the Marionette jumps and dances around.

Fold the napkin so it will be as in No. 2.

Tie two knots in the napkin, one knot at A, and the other at B (see No. 3).

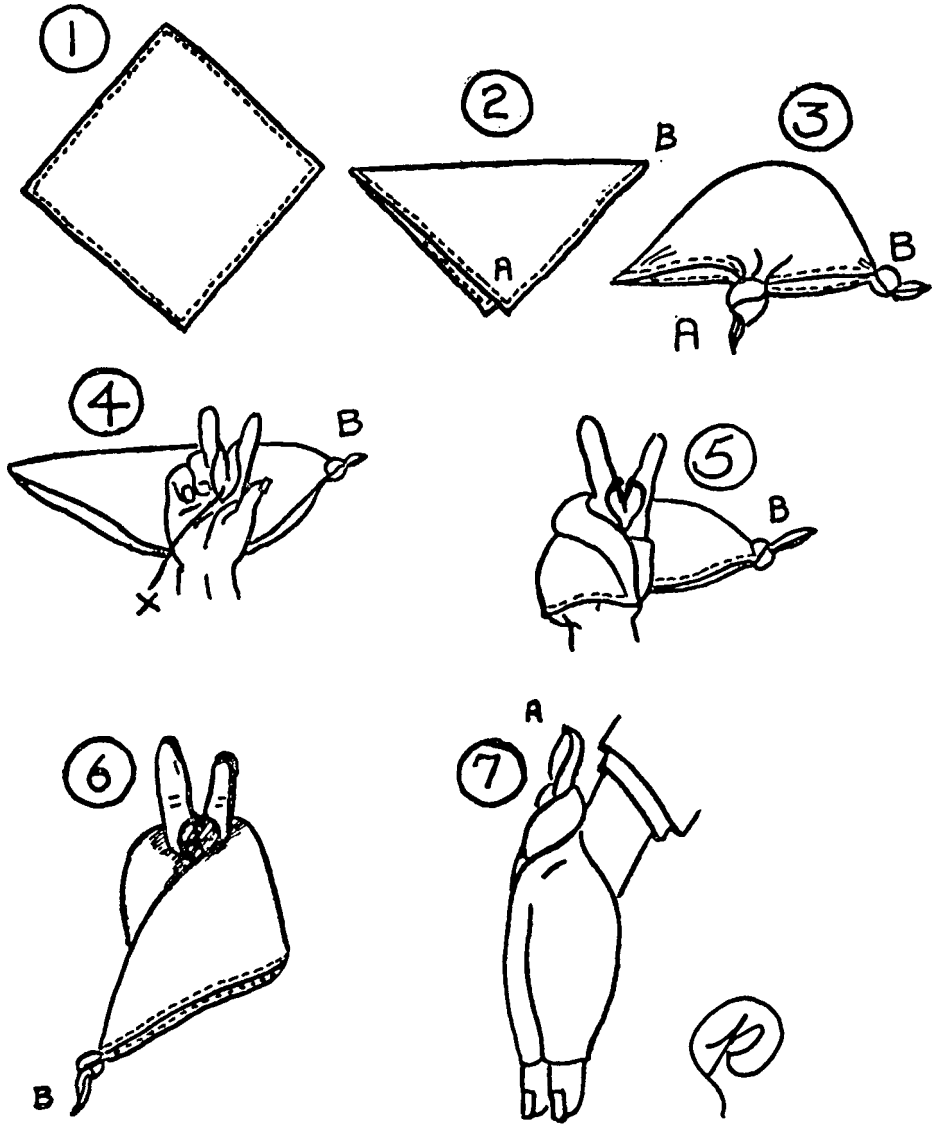
Rest the right hand on the napkin as in No. 4, then pull up the cloth at the spot marked X between the first and second fingers. Next bring over the right thumb and press it firmly against the cloth, holding it tightly.

Fold over one corner (see No. 5).

Fold over the other corner as in No. 6, and tuck the knot B under the cloth. This knot after it has been tucked in prevents the cloth from falling apart.

No. 7 is the finished product.

THE FINGER MARIONETTE



The Tulip

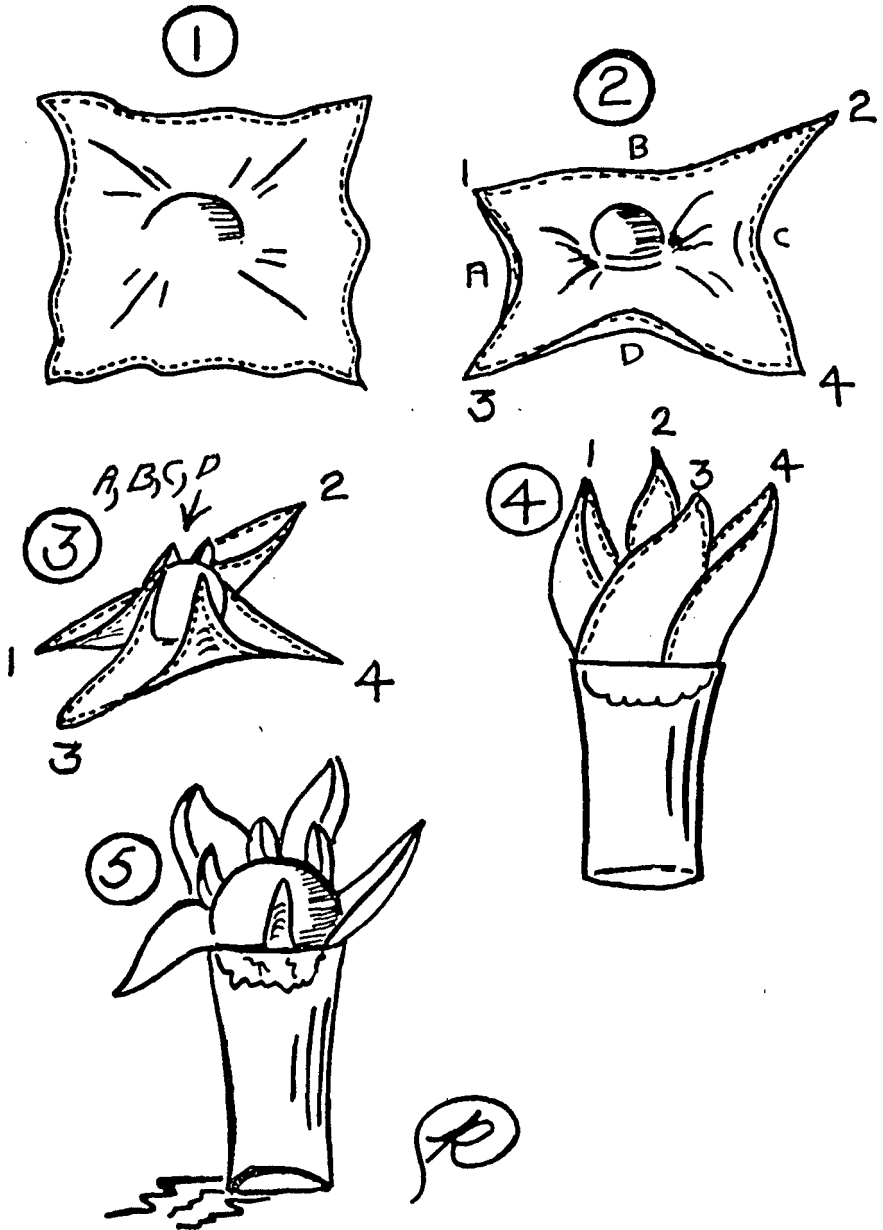
Place a napkin over a small orange (see No. 1). Hold the orange in the napkin with a rubber band as in No. 2.

Bring up A, B, C and D so they will appear as in No. 3.

Bring up the four corners in No. 3 and hold them in place with a rubber band. Set the napkin into a glass as in No. 4.

Spread out the corner and it will appear as in No. 5.

THE TULIP



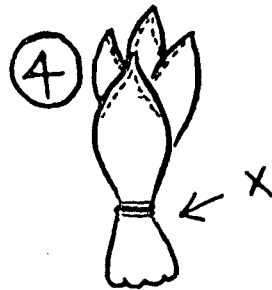
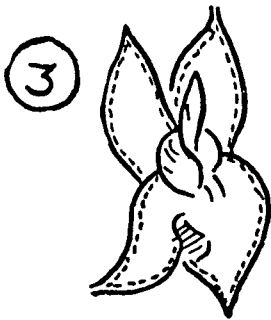
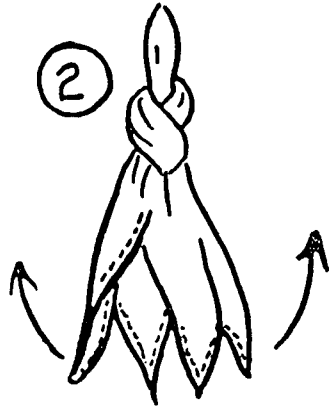
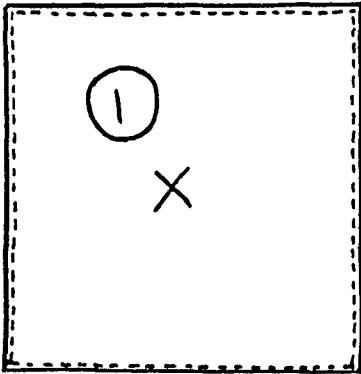
The Rose Bud

Tie a knot at X in No. 1.

Bring up the four corners in No. 2 so it will appear as in No. 3 and No. 4, placing a rubber band around the stem at X in No. 4.

Spread out the corners as in No. 5.

THE ROSE BUD



The Candle Stick Holder

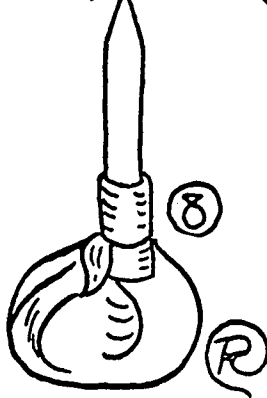
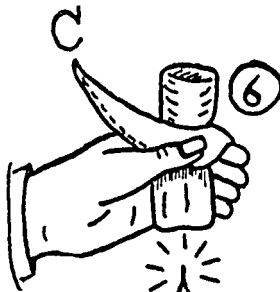
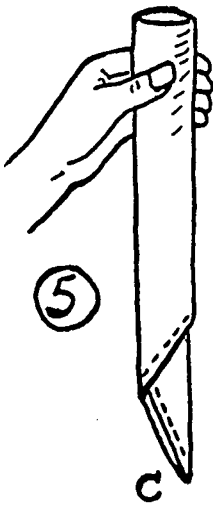
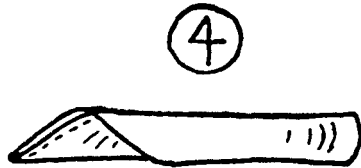
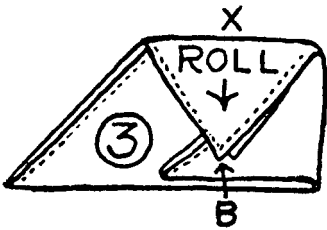
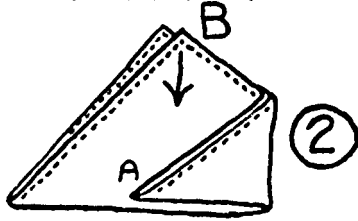
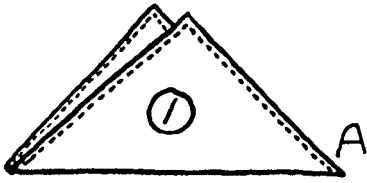
Fold corner A in No. 1, and corners B in No. 2 to position illustrated in No. 3.

Roll side X in No. 3 to No. 4.

Hold the napkin as in No. 5 and wrap it tightly around, tucking end C into the fold so it will appear as in No. 7.

Spread out the bottom of the napkin, and you have a perfect Candle Stick Holder as in No. 8.

CANDLESTICK HOLDER

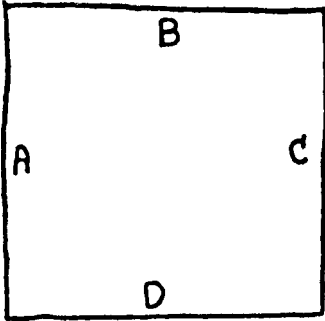


The Bouquet

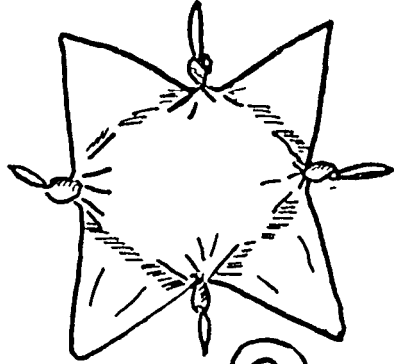
Tie four single knots at A, B, C and D in No. 1.

Bring the four knots together. Next bring up the four corners as in No. 3, and place it into a vase as in No. 4.

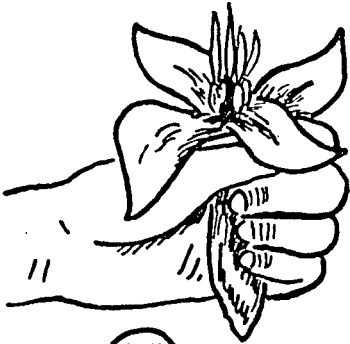
BOUQUET



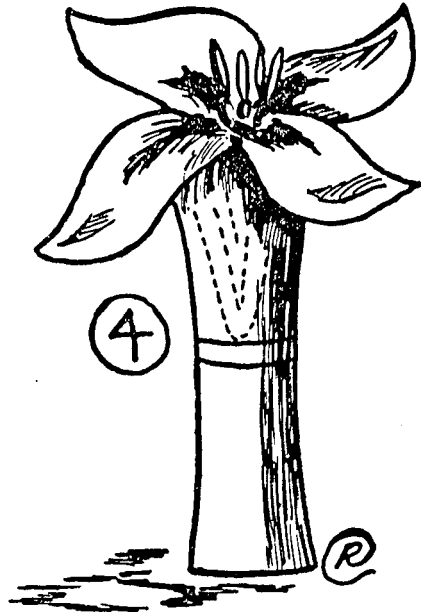
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2



3



4

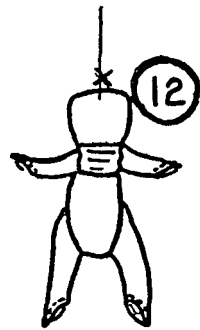
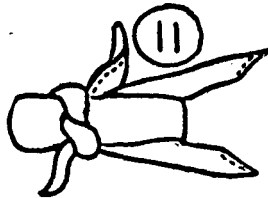
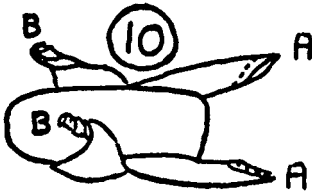
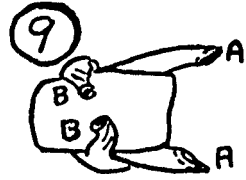
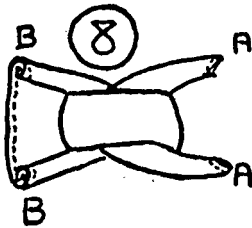
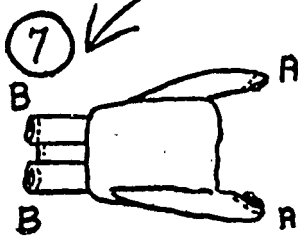
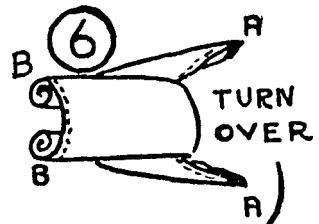
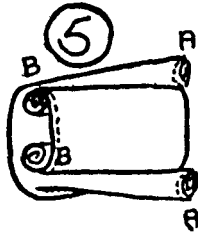
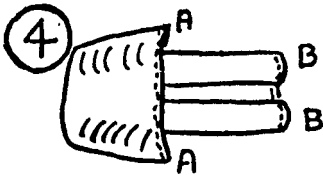
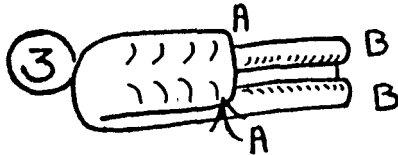
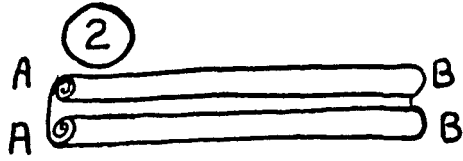
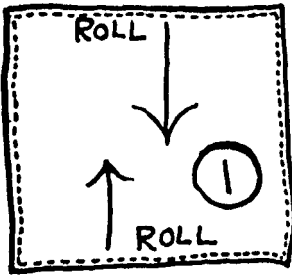
R

The Dancing Doll—Susie Q

Follow Drawings 1, 2 and 3. Spread A apart in No. 3 to No. 4. Bring up ends B in No. 4 to No. 5. Pull down ends A in No. 5 to No. 6. Turn the napkin over as in No. 7. Spread apart B in No. 7 to No. 8. Bring ends B in No. 8 under the body as in No. 9. Pull out the tips in B to No. 10, and tie them together as in No. 11.

Turn the napkin over and you have No. 12. Tie a thread at X in No. 12 and dance the doll around.

SUSIE-Q - THE DANCING DOLL



Grandma

Make one fold in No. 2, and it will appear as in No. 3.

Hold the right hand as in No. 4.

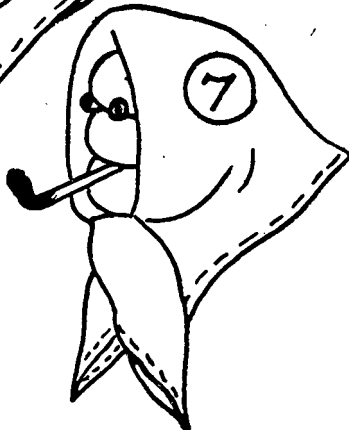
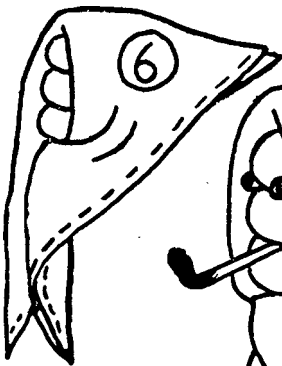
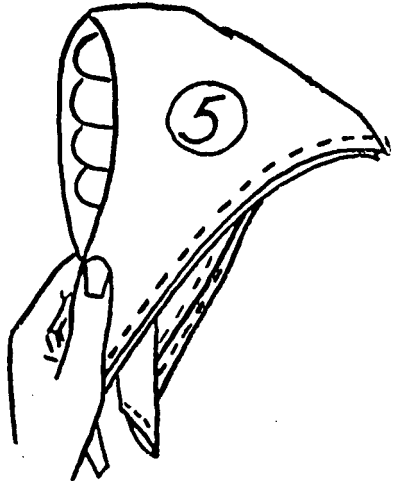
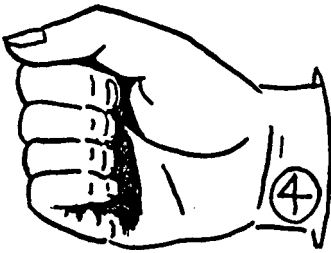
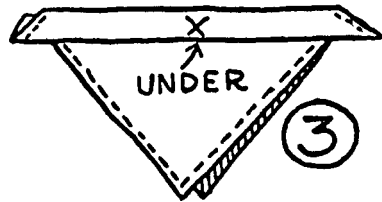
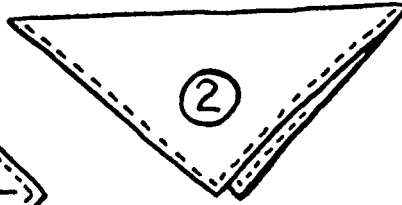
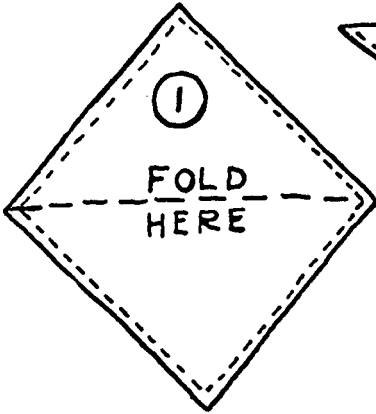
Place the napkin over this hand as in No. 5, letting the right thumb go under the fold at the point marked X in No. 3. This serves to keep a firm grip on the cloth.

Tuck one side of the napkin between the third and little finger as in No. 6. Tuck the other side as in No. 7.

Two unused matches are used for the eyes, and they are placed well back between the first and second fingers.

A burned match is placed between the second and third fingers. This has the appearance of a pipe (see No. 7).

- GRANDMA -



The Gordian Knot, No. 1

It will be better for two people to roll the napkin, and use one with a good hem. Spread the napkin on the table with one person at 1A, and the other at 1B. Start and roll edge A towards edge B; roll very tight. When the roll is completed, tie a thin string around each end, and as near the ends as possible. See No. 2.

Have one person hold one end and not to allow the roll to twist, whilst the other person bends the other tied end into and underneath the B edge of the napkin. Then start pulling at B over the end. This motion will turn the napkin inside out. Keep this up until it is difficult to pull any more on account of the twist in the roll, then turn end for end and do exactly the same with the other end, and so on until you have the napkin inside out, and it should look the same as in No. 3.

REMARKS: Two versions of this famous knot are supplied, and the effect is after they have been tied up it is impossible to untie them unless you know the secret. The secret of the first was given to the Author by Tom Selwyn with permission to publish. Remember the story about the disgruntled boarder (an Australian Juggler) who achieved immortality when he tied up his Landlady's sheets? This was the knot used for the infamous deed. Charles Waller supplied the instructions for the second one; the latter is the one of medieval fame. There is a certain knack required to make the Gordian Knot, and after many efforts you may catch on to it.

The Gordian Knot, No. 2

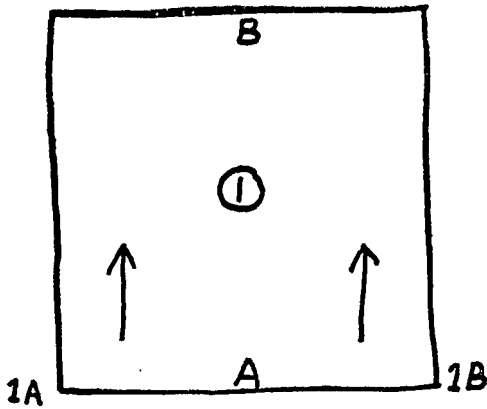
Fold to the center, corners A, B, C and D, then the E, F, G and H corners, and continue to fold in the four corners until you can do so no more. You will now have a loose ball which you must hold in your left hand, the thumb keeping down the folded points, and the fingers being behind the smooth back, the thumb pressing into the center, and bending the fingers forms the loose ball.

With the thumb and the forefinger of the right hand get hold of the outside part of the ball (the skin) and play with it until you separate the skin from the contents. Now draw the skin toward you and the center, pushing the contents with the left thumb. In this pushing the left thumb will go beyond the center, and the folded in corners will be held down by the ball of the left thumb. The pulling must be in a slanting direction across the left thumb, from the left corner of its nail to the right side of the ball.

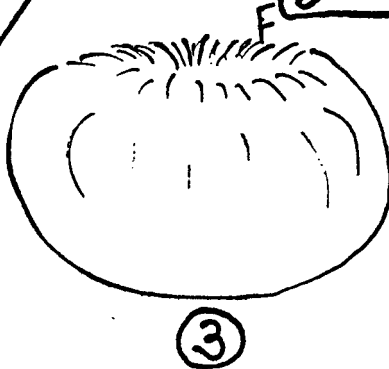
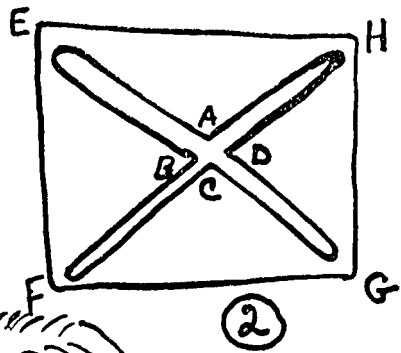
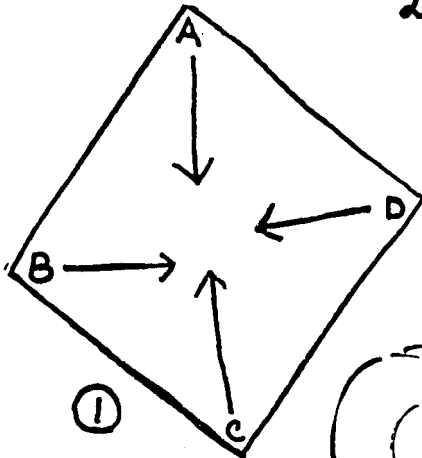
Go on with the pulling and pushing until you have established a whirlpool in which the thumb of the left hand is engulfed. Each time you will have to play with the skin to separate it from the contents. Your whirlpool once established will give you a ball which will not fall to pieces, but the longer you continue the firmer and harder will the ball become. It will be necessary also at intervals to knead it a little between the hand in order to equally distribute the contents throughout the ball. To undo the ball you reverse the process.

The Gordian KNOT

1st.



2nd.



The Baby Chick

Pleat a napkin and tie a knot in the middle as in No. 1.

Twist another napkin by the opposite ends. Bend the ends towards the center and wrap with yellow thread as in No. 2.

Lay the first formed napkin over the second as in No. 3.

Tie a knot in the second formed napkin as in No. 4.

Lay out a third napkin, pinch up the center and wrap with red thread, as in No. 5. This forms the Beak.

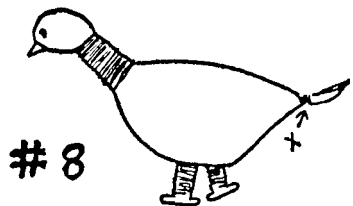
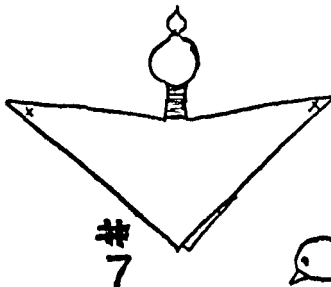
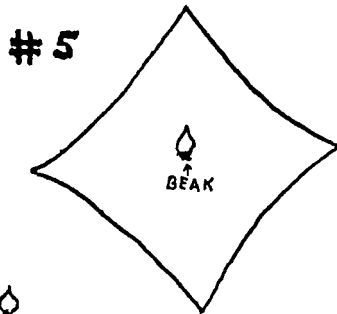
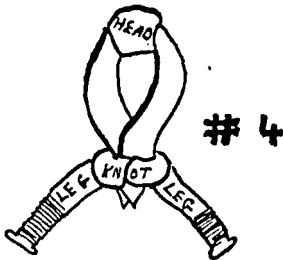
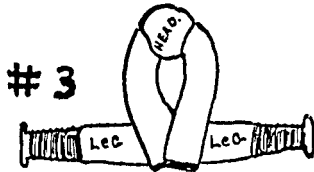
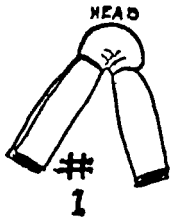
Drape this last napkin over the head, and wrap with white thread to form the neck as in Nos. 6 and 7.

Spread out the third napkin as in No. 7. Now take the two corners marked X and tie a knot. Make sure this knot goes under the now forming body.

Shape the napkins into the form of a Chick. During the first few attempts you may experience some difficulty in shaping the napkins; during this period try using a few pins.

At the point illustrated with an X in No. 8 wrap with white thread.

The Baby Chick



The Turkey

Lay out a white napkin with enough starch in it to give a body, and crease at the dotted lines as in No. 1, and with a heavy black pencil draw straight lines in the crevices. This forms the tail.

Twist another napkin and wrap with black thread as in No. 2.

Use a third napkin, preferably a red one, and tie a knot into it at the spot indicated in No. 3, then crease at the dotted lines to form the Comb. Now wrap black thread around the neck.

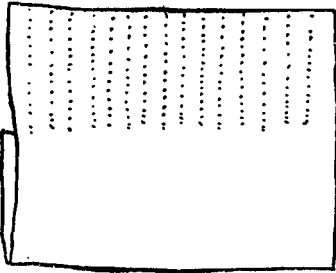
Take the two napkins illustrated in Nos. 2 and 3, and insert them into the first formed napkin as in No. 4.

Bring over the X corners in No. 4 and tie them into a knot. This is the underside of the bird, so tuck the knot out of sight. Hold the end of the neck which is marked with the letter A and bring it up to the head, pushing it into a knot and letting one corner protrude as in No. 5.

To form the wings you use still another napkin by tucking it into the body, letting a corner hang down on each side as in No. 6.

Shape up the bird, wrapping more dark thread around the neck, then straighten out the legs, the tail, and the comb.

The TURKEY



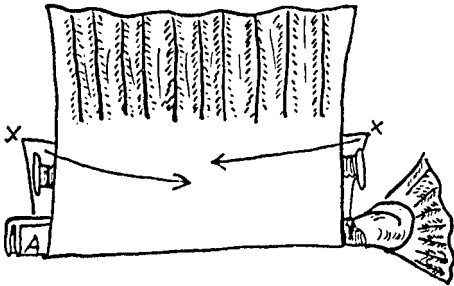
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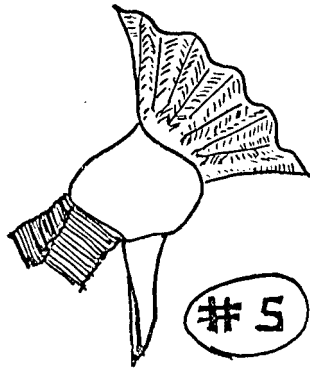
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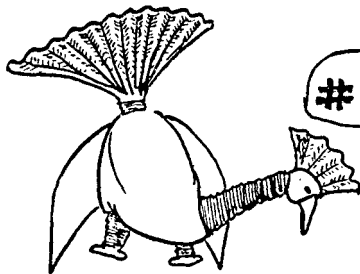
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6

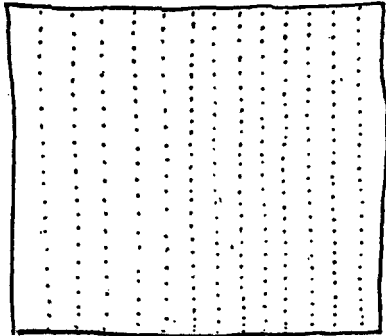
The Sister

Spread out a napkin and pleat it at the spots indicated by the dotted lines in No. 1.

Fold it so it will appear as in No. 2, and tie a knot near one end as in No. 3, and spread out the upper folds so it will be as in No. 4 and bring the two corners down in back and pin them to the neck.

Draw a face on the knot, and spread out the lower part to form a cloak. Push another napkin inside so it will stand erect. See No. 5.

The SISTER



1



2



3



4



5

The Crying Baby

Fold a napkin as illustrated in No. 1. Then tie a knot at the spot marked with the X, and spread out the corners B and C so it will be as in No. 2.

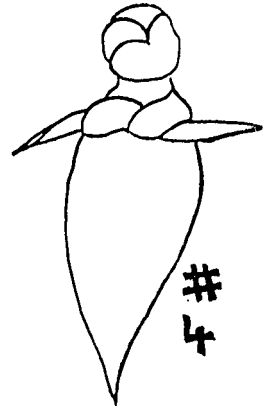
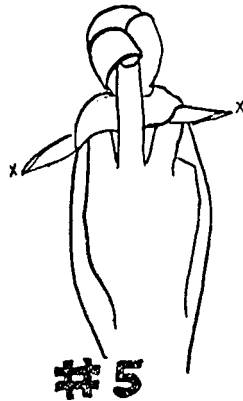
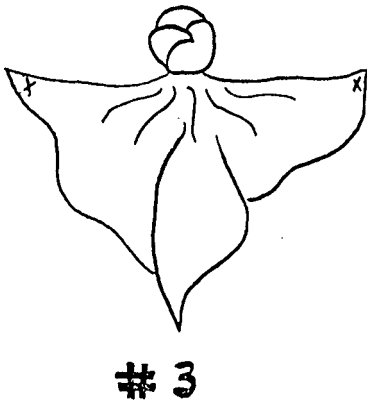
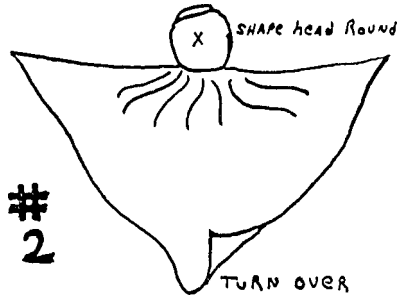
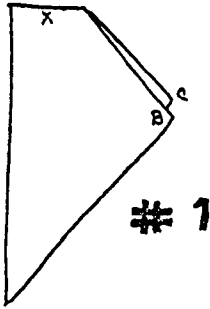
Draw a face at the spot marked with the X in No. 2 but be sure the folds in the face are to the rear before drawing.

Lay the napkin face down on the table as in No. 3, and tie the X corners together as in No. 4.

Rest the right hand on the fold as illustrated in No. 5, and please notice that the second finger goes into the knot. Now tie the two X corners around the second finger.

With the now formed Baby on the right hand you bend both arms at the elbow as if you were rocking a Baby. You now have three fingers to give the Baby action: the second finger for the head, and the first and second fingers can be used for kicking, and for the crying you do the squealing yourself.

Crying BABY



The Parasol

Roll up a napkin and tie a ribbon around the middle as in No. 1.

Drape another napkin over the end of the first one and make it secure by wrapping a rubber band around the spot indicated by the X in No. 2.

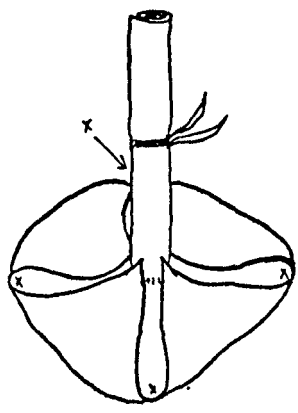
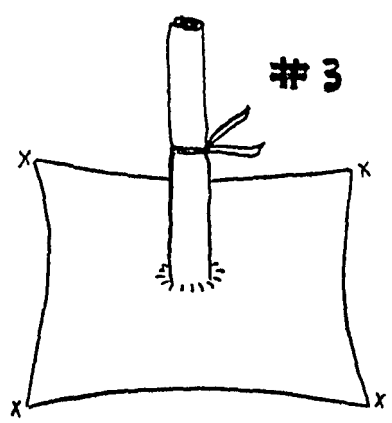
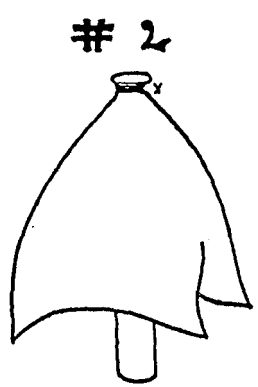
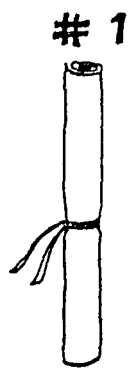
Lay both napkins on the table as in No. 3. Then fold over to the center the four X corners, and make them secure to the handle with a rubber band.

The spots marked with the X's in No. 4 are also brought to the center and made secure with another rubber band.

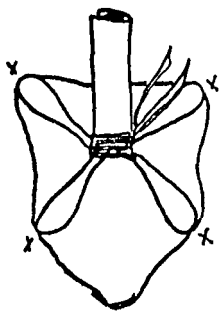
Finally the napkin, at the spots marked with the X's in No. 5 are also brought to the center. Now wrap them securely to the handle with a red ribbon.

No. 6 is the finished fold. Fill out the folds with enough tissue paper to give it shape.

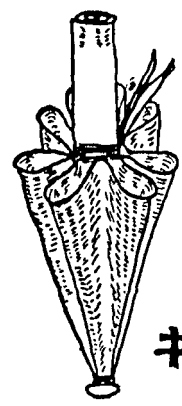
The PARASOL



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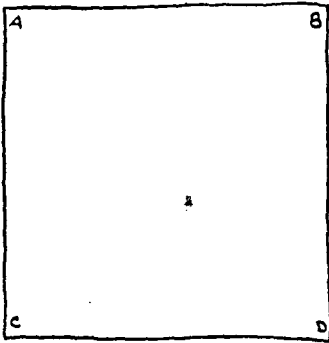
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The Napkin Roll

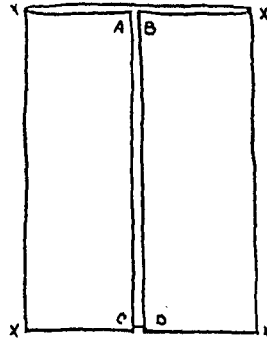
Bring the four X corners in No. 2 to the position illustrated in No. 3.

Fold over the two X corners to No. 4. Roll this end upwards and when you are near the upper end, pause while you bend down the upper end as in No. 5. The rolling is continued so it will go into the fold indicated by the dots in No. 5. This will lock the cloth together as in No. 6.

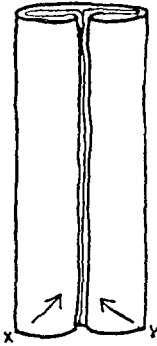
The Napkin ROLL



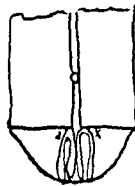
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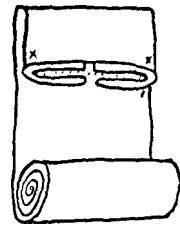
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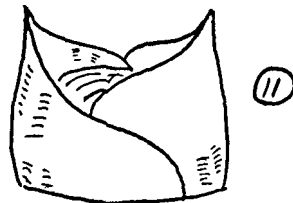
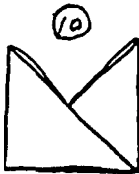
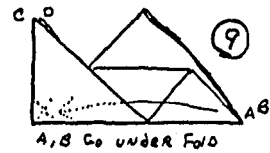
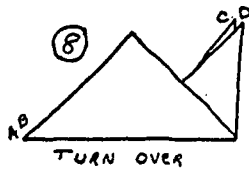
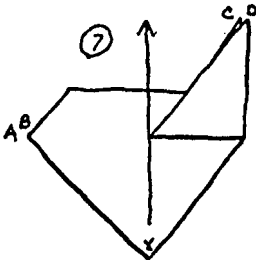
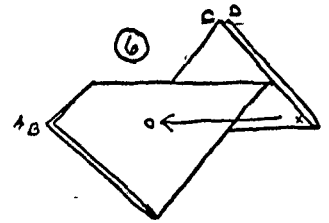
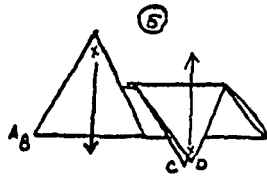
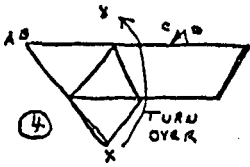
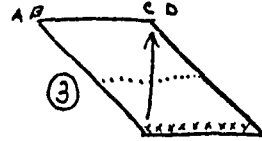
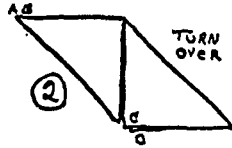
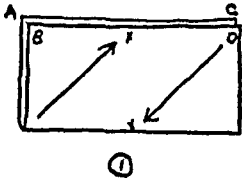


5

The King's Crown

Fold as illustrated. After No. 10 shape the cloth so it will appear as in No. 11.

The KINGS CROWN



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