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# Folding the American Flag



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Unfurl and straighten the flag to full length and span



Fold the flag lengthwise, keeping the edges straight and aligned



Fold it lengthwise a second time, aligning the edges, and making sure that the blue field remains in full view.

A triangular fold is started by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to the open folded edge, with the stripes forming perpendicular lines



The outer point is then folded forward, forming a straight fold with the open edge to form a second triangle, bringing the stripes into parallel lines



The triangular fold is continued to the blue union, until the folds reach a point where no further complete folds can be made.



The remaining edged of the flag is tucked into the open edge of the triangular fold, with only the blue showing, forming the shape of a tri-cornered hat.



# Symbols of each of the Folds the American Flag

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1. The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.
2. The second fold is a symbol of our belief in the eternal life.
3. The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veteran departing our ranks and who gave a portion of life for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.
4. The fourth fold represents our weaker nature; for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in times of war for His divine guidance.
5. The fifth fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right, but it is still our country, right or wrong."
6. The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.
7. The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.
8. The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor our mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.
9. The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood, for it has been through their faith, love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great have been molded.
10. The tenth fold is a tribute to father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since he or she was first born.
11. The eleventh fold, in the eyes of Hebrew citizens, represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies, in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

12. The twelfth fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son and Holy Ghost.
13. When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto, "In God We Trust."

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the Soldiers who served under General George Washington and the Sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the Rights, Privileges, and Freedoms we continue to enjoy today.

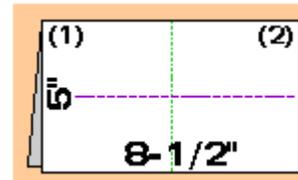
*Courtesy of The American Legion*

# Forming the 5-Pointed Star in One Snip of the Shears

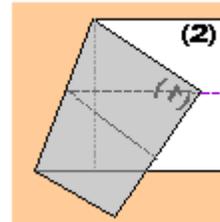
George Washington's original pencil sketch for the flag showed 6-pointed stars, a form which he preferred. Betsy Ross recommended a 5-pointed star. When the committee protested that it was too difficult to make such a star, she took a piece of paper, folded it, and with a single snip of her scissors, produced a symmetrical five-pointed star. This task seemed so impressive and simple, that her audience agreed to her suggestion, resulting in the five pointed stars present on our Flag to this day.

The procedure for cutting a five pointed star is simple, and detailed below:

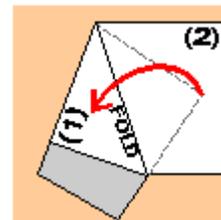
1. Fold an 8-1/2" x 10" piece of paper in half. Fold and unfold in half again to form four equal sections of the paper. Ensure the paper is still folded along the original fold.



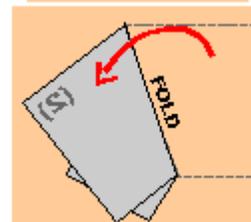
2. Fold corner 1 to meet the right center horizontal line. Extend the fold to the vertical center crease line.



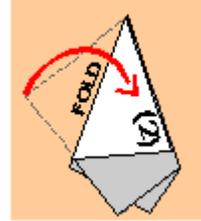
3. Fold corner 1 back to meet the outer left edge, and then crease the fold.



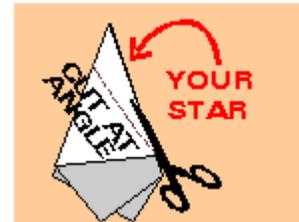
4. Fold corner 2 to the left until the side overlaps the left side that you have already folded. The fold should extend to the center vertical crease line.



5. Fold corner 2 back to the right, overlapping until the edge meets the right edge crease, and then crease the left fold.



6. Cut along the angle from the edge where the corner you just folded meets the left crease edge about 1/3 of the way from the top point as shown in the illustration.



7. Unfold the paper, and the result will be a five pointed star.

