

# Knickfold / First Fold: Beginner Guide

Start with a small stack of ordinary paper, a little patience, and one fold you can see before you make it. This beginner guide moves through materials, page assembly, and basic construction in the order your hands need it.

**Edition:** First Fold / Beginner

**Format:** Printable field notes

**Focus:** Materials, page assembly, and basic construction

01 / MATERIALS  
The first useful tool is a little room to notice what the paper wants to do. Gather the simple pieces before you begin so the page can stay the focus.  
**MAKE A SMALL WORKING SET**  
1. Clear one corner of the table and place the paper, scraps, scissors, adhesive, ruler, and scoring tool where you can reach them. 2. Keep a few scraps separate from the page you want to keep. They are for testing folds, glue, and pocket depth without pressure.  
[PHOTO 01] A small working set  
Caption: Put the ordinary materials within reach and leave one clear place for the page.  
**CHOOSE PAPER THAT WANTS TO MOVE**  
Try one soft sheet and one firmer piece of cardstock. Fold each once, then open it and notice which one holds a crease without fighting your hands.  
[PHOTO 02] Paper test fold  
Caption: Test a scrap before committing the paper you want to keep.  
02 / PAGE ASSEMBLY  
Page assembly is mostly about sequence: measure, score, fold, and only then decide where the page needs support. A calm order makes the construction easier to repeat.  
**SCORE THE FIRST PAGE**  
1. Mark the fold line with a ruler and a light pencil, then check that the line runs in the direction you want the page to open. 2. Use a blunt scoring tool with steady pressure. The mark should guide the paper, not cut through it.  
[PHOTO 03] The first score  
Caption: A light score gives the first fold a clear path without bruising the paper.  
**FOLD, CHECK, AND FOLD AGAIN**  
Bring the edges together slowly and pause while the page is still loose. Open it once, check the alignment, and trim only what is keeping the fold from sitting flat.  
[PHOTO 04] Checking page alignment  
Caption: Check the open page before adhesive makes a small alignment issue permanent.  
03 / BASIC CONSTRUCTION  
Basic construction begins when a fold has a job: hold a note, make a pocket, or create a small reveal. Build the shape from scraps first, then bring the tested move to the page.  
**TURN ONE FOLD INTO A POCKET**  
1. Fold a scrap up from the bottom edge and leave the top edge open. Test the pocket with a real scrap of paper or ephemera. 2. Mark the side and bottom glue zones, keeping the opening edge clean so the pocket can still do its job.  
[PHOTO 05] A simple pocket  
Caption: Keep the opening edge free while you test the pocket with something it will hold.  
**TEST BEFORE YOU GLUE**  
Close and open the page several times. If a layer catches, trim the hidden corner or widen the fold before adding adhesive; a good page should move without a fight.  
[PHOTO 06] Testing the finished move  
Caption: Open the page slowly and fix the first point of resistance before finishing the surface.  
**MATERIALS CHECKLIST**  
[ ] Paper or light cardstock - A few sheets for pages and small experiments.  
[ ] Scrap paper - Keep a handful of pieces nearby for pockets and layers.  
[ ] Scissors - Small craft scissors are easiest to control.  
[ ] Glue or tape runner - Choose the adhesive you already trust on paper.  
[ ] Ruler - A straight edge helps with scoring and clean folds.  
[ ] Pencil and scoring tool - A blunt empty pen works for a gentle score.