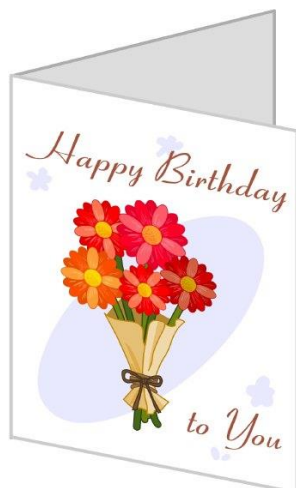


Make a box

Create a neat little box and lid, from a single sheet of paper or card!

1. Materials

Originally we used to make these neat little boxes from discarded greetings cards which the children would bring in to school.



The front of the card would become the box lid – with a lovely design printed on it. The back of the card would become the box itself. The thickness of the card itself was perfect. However, you can still make the box with *any* paper or card, but it will crush more easily with thin paper!

So it is best made with half a piece of A4 card. But it can be made with smaller or larger, or with paper.

The paper ratio (length vs width) will also have an effect – greetings cards are not always the same format.

NOTE: A longer-narrower card will generally give a better result than a squarer format.



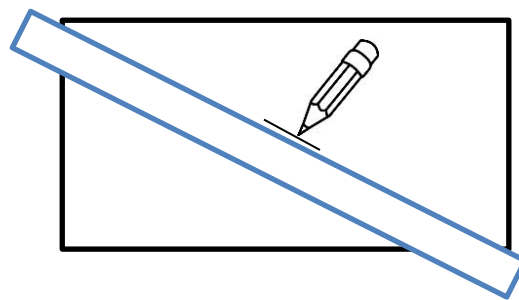
This is A5, or half of A4, folded in half.

2. How to prepare to make the box

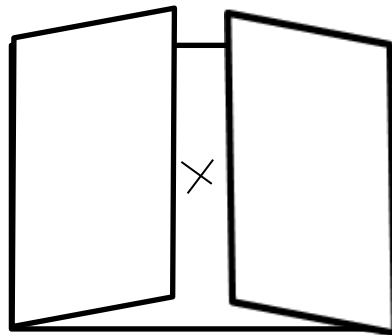
Firstly, cut the card in two, along the fold. (So if you are starting with a flat piece of paper or card, cut it in half!)

If you wish to have a design on the top of the box, you could draw or paste something onto one piece which will be the top – or you can do it later.

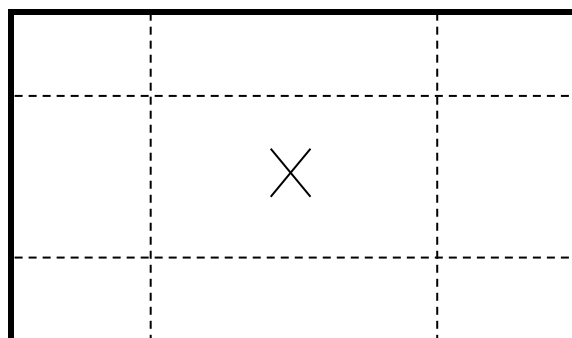
On the inside of both pieces (where it won't be visible) make a small mark to locate the centre of the piece of card. Don't do this by folding, as this will spoil your box! Use a ruler (or edge of a book or something) to trace part of a diagonal line from corner to corner in both directions, so that you end up with a neat little pencilled cross.



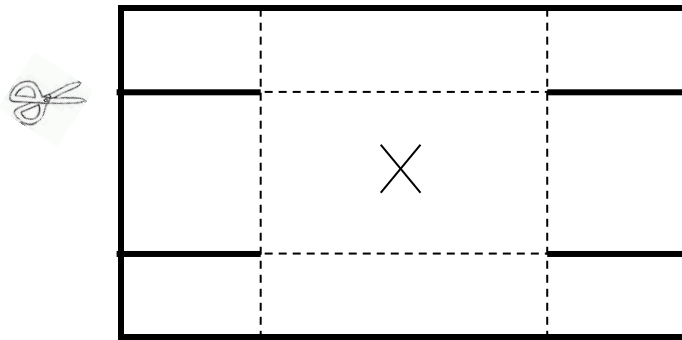
With the piece that is **the bottom of the box**, fold the two ends all the way in to the middle so that they meet at the 'x' you have drawn.



Unfold, and do the same with the side edges.

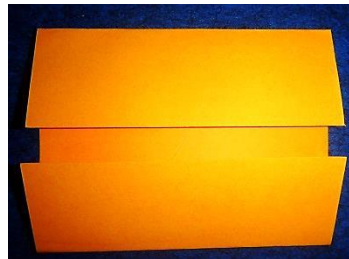


Now carefully cut on the longer fold into each corner:



With the piece that is **the top of the box**, looking at the underside (not where the design is) fold each side **ALMOST** to the cross in the middle.

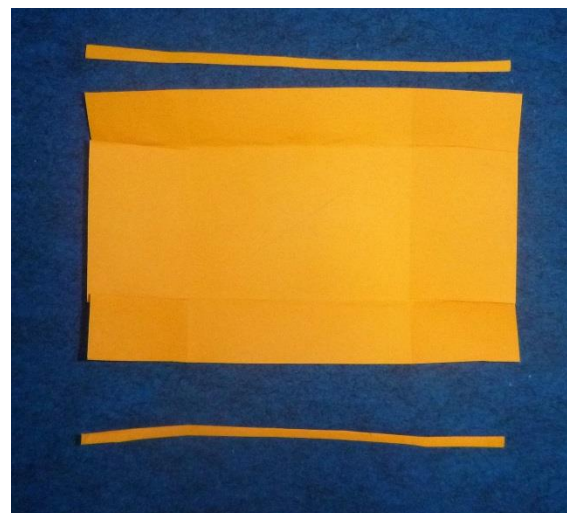
Leave a space of $\frac{1}{2}$ - 1 cm between the edges when they are folded in.



This is important because it will make the lid slightly larger than the bottom of the box.

And then cut into the corners the same as with the bottom of the box.

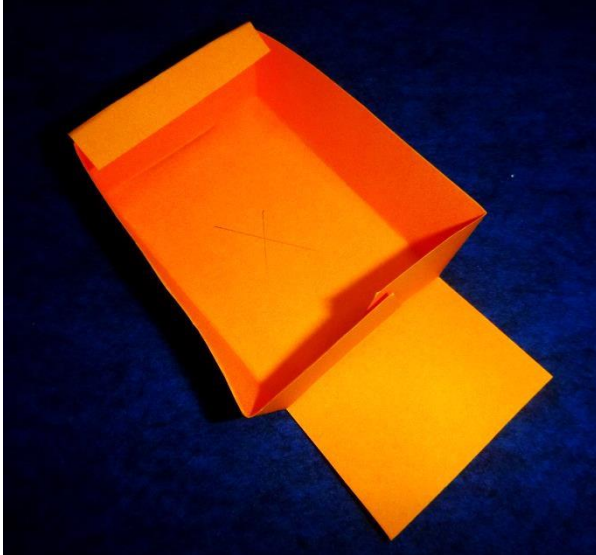
Optional: With the lid of the box (only) some people like to cut a thin strip off each of the sides, the longer edges. That way the lid is not quite so deep and the bottom of the box sticks out a little, making the lid easier to remove.



3. Putting it all together

Fold the four sides of each piece to make the sides of the box.

The flaps at the corners tuck nicely inside the box.



The taller piece at each end of the box can be folded over the two flaps, holding them in place. (This is why a longer, narrower format works better.)

If you wish, you can glue or staple the ends in place.



Put the lid neatly over the bottom of the box.

