



## The LOTUS

The paper-folding known to magicians as the Bow-tie is actually the Lovers' Knot or Lotus. It is described in Mrs. Margaret W. Campbell's Paper Toy Making (London: Isaac Pitman, 1937), the best manual of paper-folding in English. This gives (page 40) the standard fold, which I learned from Cyril Endfield in 1934.

Here is a new and better method, giving the Lotus four petals instead of two, and hiding the loose ends so the spectator can be challenged to take the Lotus apart without tearing it. A surprise solution is also given.

Use square paper 8" or larger. If it is decorated on one side only, begin steps 1 and 3 with the undecorated side facing up. Observe all turnings-over of the work as indicated. They are important.

1. Fold diagonal AB. Open. Fold other diagonal CD. Open. Turn work over.
2. Fold across EF. Open. Fold across GH. Open. Turn over.
3. That side of the paper should be facing up on which the diagonals show as valleys and the cross-lines as mountains. Fold all corners to the center. Turn over.
4. Fold all corners to the center. Unfold these.
5. (For speed combine this with step 4.) Fold corner H to line JK in figure 4. Then fold over to center on line JK. Do this with all four corners. You now have figure 5. Turn over. Other side is figure 6.
6. Fold all corners to center, as in figure 7.
7. Turn over. You now have figure 8.
8. This is the key fold. Squeeze work in half toward you, allowing the side corners to pop up. Thus: Squeeze together points L and M with left thumb and forefinger, allowing line LM to pop up. Simultaneously, squeeze together points N and O with right thumb and forefinger, allowing line NO to pop up. Now,

bring together points L-M and N-O by tipping your wrists together. Figure 9 is a bird's-eye view.

9. Flatten the work, by pressing together two points (S and P) at the left, and two points (R and Q) at the right. Lay work flat, and crease all edges well.
10. Lift out point T and bring it as far down to the left as it will go, as the arrow shows. Same with point U, to the right. Repeat on other side.
11. Crease top lines well. Fold W down on line U'V. Fold W2 down on line VT'. Repeat on other side.
12. Place left forefinger at X, holding down both W and W2. Insert left thumb under top two layers at WW, but do not grasp hidden points beneath. Lift work, and take hold of right side too. Hold on.
13. Turn WW up, so spectators can see it. Now bring your hands apart and down, while pressing upward with your middle finger at V. The Lotus opens.

Note: When using decorated paper, the petals and center will show the inner or undecorated side. After unfolding, the petals can be folded together over the center. Or fold the Lotus out of two thin, colored sheets held together back to back (the inner sheet bright red) for a beautiful unfolding.

Puzzle-ending: The completed Lotus has all four corners of the original sheet (the petals) visibly locked at the top. Hand the Lotus to a spectator, and ask that it be taken apart without tearing it. This can be done, but is very laborious, as all the operating folds are hidden underneath. For a surprise solution, refold whatever has been unfolded, or do a new Lotus. Then: Pull outward firmly but smoothly on the top and bottom points Y and Z (either with or without the petals). This will also open the Lovers' Knot.