

How to Make a Paper Cut-Out Luther Rose

by Kelly Klages

This tutorial will teach you how to cut a traditional, 5-petal Luther rose out of paper, using the paper-folding technique for making a 5-point snowflake or star. The folding technique can be found elsewhere online, but rose patterns and technique are original. This tutorial is being made available for individual use, and may not be published without permission. If you'd like to use this project for a large group, class, VBS, or other event, please contact me at kellyklages@mymts.net for permission.

1. For this project, you need a paper square, a pencil, and a good pair of scissors. Thinner paper works better, since you are making many folds; a square of paper made from printer paper is fine. Origami paper is probably best. For this tutorial, I'm using a 6"x6" piece of white scrapbooking paper, but larger sizes are easier to cut details from.



2. Fold the bottom corner of your paper to the top point to make a triangle and crease well.



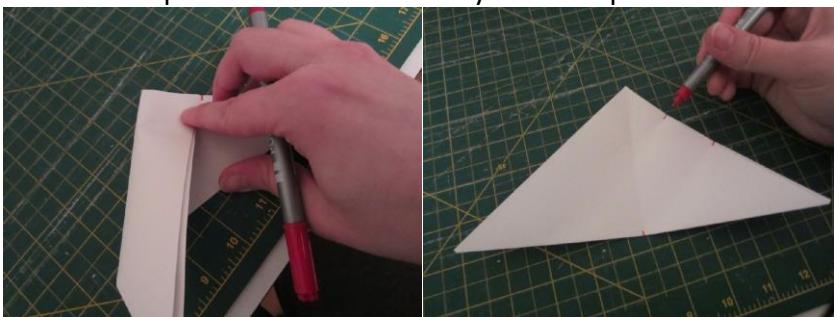
3. Fold the left point of your triangle over to the right point and pinch a crease at the bottom middle to find the midpoint. Unfold and mark the midpoint with a light pencil mark. (I'm using a red pen here so you can see it better.)



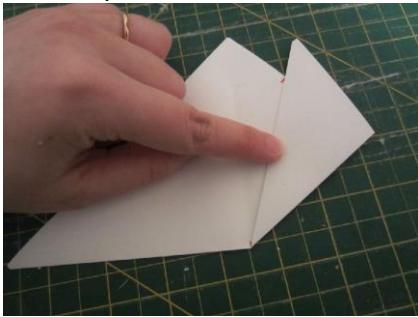
4. Fold the right point up to the top point and pinch a crease to find the midpoint of the right side of your triangle. Unfold and mark the midpoint with a light pencil mark.



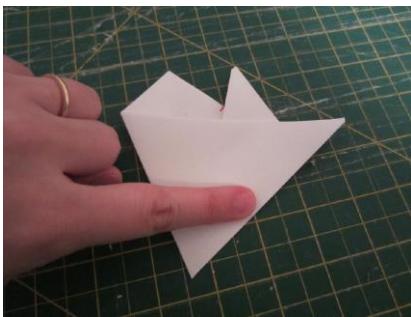
5. Fold the top point of the triangle over to the last mark you made, and pinch a crease to find another midpoint. Unfold and mark your third point.



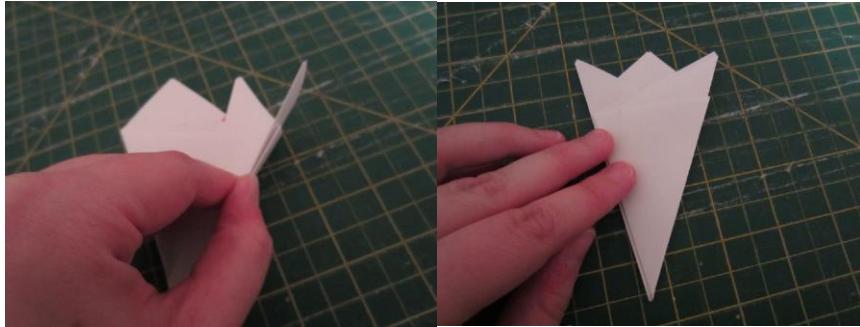
6. Slightly tricky: Fold the bottom right part of your triangle up so that it forms a line between the midpoint on the bottom of the triangle and the uppermost mark you've drawn. Crease well.



7. Next, fold the left point of your triangle to the right so that the fold aligns with the bottom right-side crease. Notice that the first point you drew is where this line begins at the bottom. Crease well.

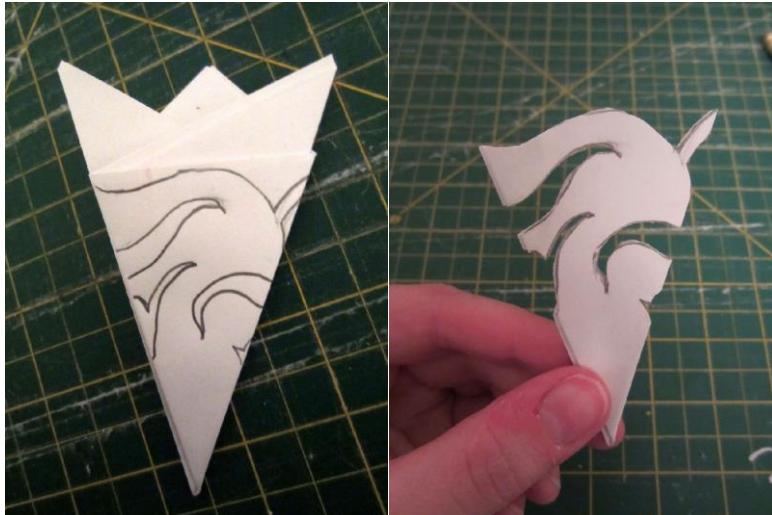


8. Finally, fold ALL the paper on the right side over to the left-side crease, align, and crease again. The paper will feel harder to fold by this point, but accuracy in your folding ensures a better final result.



9. You now have your shape to draw on. The first part that you will draw is the petals. A Luther's rose has two kinds of symmetry: radial and bilateral. Most flowers have radial symmetry; there is a center point and the design is symmetrical and has repeating sections from the center. The heart and the cross, however, have bilateral symmetry, which means you can draw a line down the center and have a "mirror reflection," like a human face. The trick of cutting out a paper Luther rose is to do it in two steps: the petals first, and the heart and cross afterwards. Below is a sample drawing of my standard Luther rose pattern.

Draw and cut out. **Be sure to leave 1-2 inches at the bottom with no cut-outs!** This is where the heart and cross will go later.



10. Unfold your paper to reveal your rose! One word of warning... I've made several of these, and once I've unfolded this paper, I haven't been able to re-fold it! So you may have to practice a couple of these before you get the hang of it. When cutting out the rose part, it's hard to go back and fix mistakes.



11. Decide which way you want your rose to point upward (it doesn't really matter; you can get different effects different ways). Fold rose in half and re-crease. Don't worry if all the cut-out details don't align perfectly at this stage.



12. Draw the shapes pictured below for your heart. Basically, it's half a heart with its outline, and a piece cut out in between to hold it in place in your rose. For a nice-looking heart, try to keep the thickness of the heart's outline consistent.



13. Next, draw the shape pictured for your cross. Notice that the vertical beam on the cross, where it lies on the fold, is about half the thickness of the horizontal beam.



14. Carefully cut the cross shape out first, then the heart pieces. Be especially careful with the “break” in the heart; you don’t want it to tear or to cut it through. Unfold and flatten out your design. You’re done!

