
How To Make A Paper Tricorn Hat

WHY A NEWSPAPER HAT? THE *Developed from*
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AHOY, MATEY! THE TIMELESS APPEAL OF A NEWSPAPER PIRATE HAT

There is a certain magic in transforming the ordinary into the extraordinary. Few activities capture this alchemy quite like the simple, joyful process of learning **how to make a paper pirate hat out of newspaper**. It is a rite of passage, a rainy-day savior, and a bridge between generations. Before the age of digital tablets and streaming services, a stack of old newspapers was a treasure chest of potential. With a few strategic folds, that discarded broadsheet could become a crown of adventure, turning a living room into a galleon and a child into a swashbuckling captain.

This guide is not just about folding paper; it is about rediscovering a classic craft. Whether you are a parent looking for a quick costume fix, a teacher planning a nautical-themed lesson, or simply someone nostalgic for simpler times, mastering this origami staple is a skill worth having. We will walk you through every crease, from the initial rectangle to the final triumphant peak. We will also explore why this particular craft remains so popular and how you can customize your creation to ensure your pirate hat is truly one-of-a-kind. So, gather a full sheet of newspaper, clear your table, and prepare to set sail on a journey of creativity.

PERFECT CRAFTING MATERIAL

Before we dive into the folds, it is worth appreciating the beauty of the medium. Newspaper is an ideal material for this project for several reasons. First, its large dimensions are perfect for creating a hat that fits an average adult or child head comfortably. Unlike standard printer paper, which would produce a tiny, doll-sized accessory, a full broadsheet page offers ample material for a wearable piece of headwear.

Second, the paper itself possesses a unique texture. It is stiff enough to hold a sharp crease, yet pliable enough to be manipulated without tearing (provided you are gentle). The subtle give of newsprint allows for the complex folds required to shape the hat's signature tricorn or bicorn silhouette. Finally, there is the aesthetic. The classic black and white text, often interspersed with faded photographs and headlines, gives the finished hat an authentic, vintage feel. It looks like a prop pulled straight from a period drama or a classic pirate film set. This inherent character is something that colored construction paper, while fun, simply cannot replicate.

MATERIALS YOU WILL NEED

One of the best parts of this project is the minimal list of required tools. You likely have everything you need already located in your home or office. There is no need for a trip to the craft store.

- **One Full Sheet of Newspaper:**

The center spread of a standard newspaper is ideal. Look for a sheet that is free from major rips or holes. A double-page spread is perfect, as it gives you a large, rectangular starting point.

- **A Flat Surface:** A table, desk, or even a clean, hard floor will work. The surface needs to be firm enough to allow you to press down firmly on the folds.
- **Your Hands:** That is truly the main tool. You will use your fingers to crease the paper. For sharper folds, you can run a fingernail or the edge of a ruler along the crease.
- **(Optional) Decorations:** While not essential for the structure, having markers, crayons, stickers, or even a drawn-on skull and crossbones can add personality to your hat after it is assembled.

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE: HOW TO MAKE A PAPER PIRATE HAT OUT OF NEWSPAPER

Follow these instructions carefully. The key to a successful hat is patience and making sharp, precise folds. Do not rush. Each crease builds upon the last.

Step 1: Prepare Your Canvas

Take your full sheet of newspaper. You should have a large rectangle. If you are using a double-page spread, fold it in half along the natural center crease so you have a single, thick sheet. Now, orient the paper so the longer edges are at the top and bottom (landscape orientation). If your paper is square-ish, you will need to ensure you are working

with a rectangle. The rectangular shape is critical for the proportions of the hat to work correctly.

Step 2: The First Major Crease

Fold the paper in half from top to bottom. Bring the top long edge down to meet the bottom long edge. Crease this fold firmly from left to right. You should now have a long, skinny rectangle. The open edges will be at the bottom, and the folded edge will be at the top. This forms the foundation of your hat.

Step 3: Fold in the Corners to the Center

This is the most important step. Take the top left corner of the rectangle (the folded edge) and fold it down diagonally towards the center of the paper. The goal is to create a triangle. The edge of your fold should line up with the center crease. Repeat this on the top right corner, bringing it down to meet the center crease as well. You are essentially creating the "roof" of a house shape. The two diagonal folds should meet perfectly in the center, creating a triangle at the top of your paper. Below this triangle, you will have a strip of paper at the bottom (the brim of the hat).

Step 4: The

Bottom Strips

Now, look at the bottom of your paper. You will see a long, rectangular strip of paper below the triangle you just created. This strip is actually two layers thick (front and back). We are going to fold one layer up and over the base of the triangle. Take the top layer of the bottom strip and fold it upwards. Fold it so that the edge meets the bottom edge of the triangle you made in Step 3. Crease this fold firmly. This forms the front brim of your pirate hat.

Flip the entire piece of paper over, keeping the triangle pointing upwards. You will now see the other layer of the bottom strip. Fold this strip up in the same manner, bringing its edge to meet the bottom edge of the triangle. Crease firmly. You now have a triangle with two flaps hanging down on the inside.

Step 5: Create the Crown

Now, you will open the hat from the bottom. Place your fingers inside the open edge (where the two strips you just folded are located). Gently pull the paper apart. The triangle shape will begin to morph into a three-dimensional hat. The center point of the triangle will become the peak of the hat. Keep pulling until the peak is standing up tall and the base forms a circle or oval shape. This step can feel a bit magical, as the flat paper suddenly becomes a wearable object.

Step 6: Fold Up

the Front and Back Brims (Optional but Recommended)

To transform your simple boat-shaped hat into a classic pirate tricorn, you will add two more folds. Look at the front of your hat. You will see a loose flap of paper created from the brim folds. Fold this flap up against the body of the hat. Crease it well. This will give the front of your hat a more authentic, folded-up look.

Now, turn the hat around and do the same to the back flap, folding it up and creasing it. This creates the classic three-pointed (tricorn) look. You can adjust the angle of these folds to change the style of the hat. For a more rakish, Captain Jack Sparrow look, fold one side up and let the other hang slightly loose.

Step 7: Shape and Wear

Open the hat fully and place it on your head. It should fit snugly but comfortably. You can gently push the peak to one side for a more dynamic, piratical silhouette. The hat is now complete and ready for adventure! Congratulations, you have successfully learned **how to make a paper pirate hat out of newspaper**.

TROUBLESHOOTING COMMON FOLDING ISSUES

Even with clear instructions, sometimes

a fold goes awry. The most common issue is a hat that is too small. This usually happens if the initial rectangle was not large enough or if the paper was folded in the wrong direction at the start. Ensure you are starting with the longest side of the rectangle at the top and bottom. Another common issue is the tape. If your newspaper is thin, the folds might spring open. A small piece of clear tape or a glue stick can be used discreetly to hold the critical folds in place, especially on the brim structures. There is no shame in using a little adhesive to perfect your masterpiece.

CREATIVE VARIATIONS AND PIRATE HAT CUSTOMIZATION

Once you have mastered the basic structure, the real fun begins. A plain newspaper hat is functional, but a decorated one is a true treasure. Here are some ways to make your hat stand out on the seven seas of your living room.

Painting and Coloring

While newspaper has a beautiful natural look, you can paint your hat with acrylic or tempera paints. Paint it black for a classic pirate look, or give it a weathered brown or grey tone. You can also color the paper with markers or crayons before you start folding, though the folds can be easier to see on the plain newsprint.

Adding Pirate

Emblems

No pirate hat is complete without a Jolly Roger. Cut a small skull and crossbones out of white paper or felt and glue it to the front of your hat. You can also draw one directly onto the hat with a white gel pen or paint. Add a feather by tucking a real feather or a paper one into the brim fold. A red or black feather looks particularly striking.

The "Buccaneer" Look

Instead of the tricorn, you can leave the flaps down to create a simpler, bucket-style hat. This is sometimes called a "buccaneer" or "musketeer" hat. It has a wider brim and a softer look. Experiment with the angles of your final folds to create different historical or fantastical styles.

Group Crafting and Party Themes

This activity is perfect for birthday parties, classroom activities, or family gatherings. Set up a "hat-making station" with stacks of newspapers, markers, stickers, and glue. Each person can create their own unique hat. It is a fantastic icebreaker and a memorable, hands-on activity that requires no screens and very little cost.

BEYOND THE HAT: THE

EDUCATIONAL VALUE OF PAPER

FOLDING

Learning **how to make a paper pirate hat out of newspaper** is more than just a craft. It is an exercise in following sequential instructions and spatial reasoning. When a child (or adult) folds paper, they are engaging with geometry in a highly tactile way. They learn about symmetry, angles, and the transformation of two-dimensional shapes into three-dimensional objects. This process strengthens fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. It also teaches patience and the value of precision. Making a mistake with a fold is a low-stakes way to learn problem-solving, as the instructions can be reversed or the paper can be unfolded and tried again.

CONCLUSION: UNFOLDING A WORLD OF ADVENTURE

The humble newspaper hat is a

testament to the power of simplicity. With nothing more than a sheet of yesterday's news and a few minutes of focused folding, you can create a symbol of adventure, daring, and imagination. You have now mastered a classic skill that is useful for costume parties, impromptu play, and creative projects. The next time you finish reading the Sunday paper, do not recycle it immediately. Instead, take a moment to fold it into a pirate hat. You might be surprised at the smile it brings to your face and the sense of accomplishment you feel.

So, go ahead. Grab that newspaper. Make the folds. Wear your creation with pride. The world needs more pirates, and every great adventure starts with a single step—or, in this case, a single, perfect crease. Now you know exactly **how to make a paper pirate hat out of newspaper**. Go forth and create your own seafaring legend. Fair winds and following seas, captain.