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The Shirt-Cuff Flying Cylinder

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This glider is described in several books of paper-planes.

It is also commercially marketed in a plastic version.

Fold a sheet of paper (A4, for example) in half, lengthways (see schematic diagram of folds below).

Fold one half, lengthways.

This leaves an unfolded half, and two quarters, folded together.

Fold the two folded quarters lengthways.

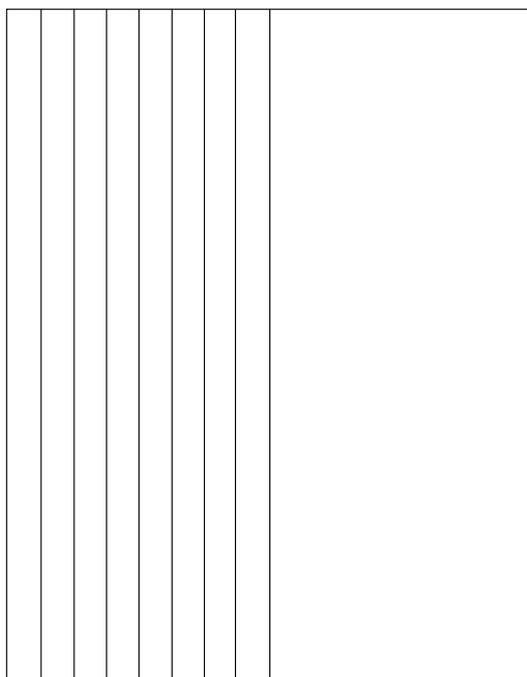
This leaves an unfolded half, and four eighths folded together.

Fold the four folded eighths lengthways.

Then fold the eight folded sixteenths across so they overlap the unfolded half.

This leaves an unfolded seven-sixteenths of the original, and a strip of eight folded one-sixteenths (a total of nine layers).

Use this to make a cylinder. (The diagram is not to scale.)



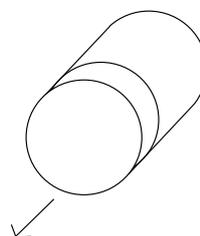
Pull the resulting whole strip (the seven-sixteenths of area, with the folded layers of one-sixteenths of area) firmly lengthwise across a ninety-degree edge, such as a table-side, so that the whole strip is given a firm curling.

Sticky-tape the edges of the curled section to make a cylinder.

Aiming the resulting cylinder forwards, with the folded sixteenths strips to the front, launch the cylinder in a quick forwards straight-line (like throwing a ball or a spear).

References and Further Reading

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Make an unbreakable model using slices of a plastic soft-drink bottle.