

# How to; - Make Paper Bangle

## You will need: -

### Paper

- newspaper, junk mail, old wrapping paper - you'll need roughly 4 x magazine pages or A4 sheets

### Scissors to cut the paper

Ruler and pencil to mark out cutting lines

PVA type glue (kids white glue) or similar

Paper clips or similar to hold sections in place as you start to grow the bangle...



## Paper Strips

Start by cutting your paper strips - use pages from magazines, wrapping paper, used envelopes, old pizza menus - whatever you have handy.

You will need 22 or 24 pieces, each piece to be 11cm long x 5cm wide (roughly 4.5 x 2 inches). See the separate template sheet. Cut these as neatly as you can - use scissors, or if you have one - use an office guillotine, or a scalpel and ruler to cut them (make sure you protect your table underneath!).

Sort the strips into different colour groups if you want to.

My green and pink bangles in the picture used magazine pages - you can see that the pictures/text aren't identifiable - once it's folded down you just get a general colour.

**Tip** - Try different papers to get different effects - but keep it to thinner papers or it'll be hard to fold neatly.

## Step 1

Take a paper strip and fold in half lengthways - start with the side that you want to see in the bangle face down. Open it back out so you can see the crease in the centre, and then fold each side in to meet that middle crease.

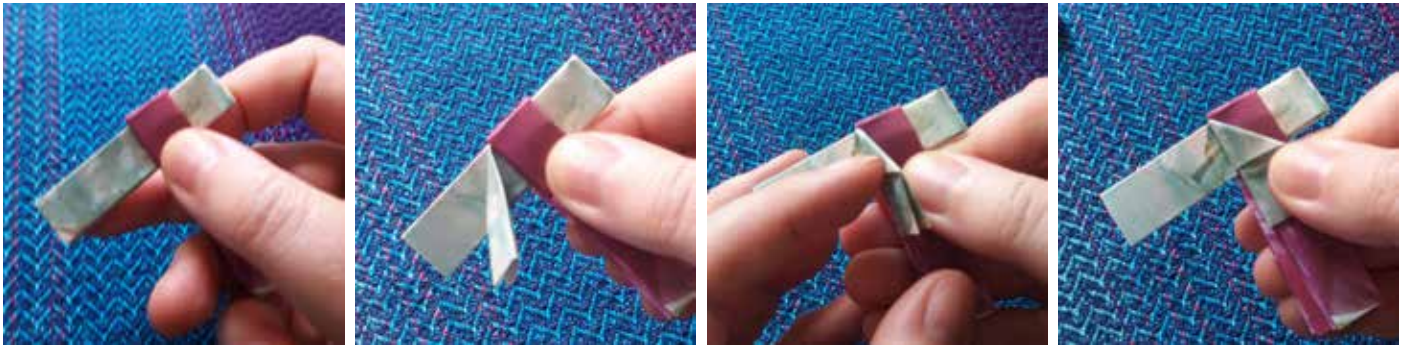
Fold the centre crease again so you now have a long thin piece that has 4 layers of paper.

Fold in half the other way to bring the short ends together.





This piece is now ready to use - carry on and fold all of your paper strips in this way. If you want to create a colour pattern in the bangle, such as alternating between two colours of paper, lay out your folded strips in a colour order ready. We are going to fold these strips over each other to interlock them and create a pattern of square units in a zig zag pattern.



## Step 2

Pick up two of your folded strips - A and B. Pass A through the middle of B to form a T shape.

The folded end of the first strip (A) should stick out from B enough so that later you'll be able to slot another strip through the middle of it, so make sure this sticks out just a fraction more than the width of another strip.



Hold these two together so you can access the tail / open ends of the inner strip (A). Fold each of the two tail ends down at an angle - away from each other. Fold them each again so that they fold around each side of strip B. Adjust them so they sit straight and are lined up with strip B. If needed, use a paper clip or clothes peg to hold them in place.

## Step 3

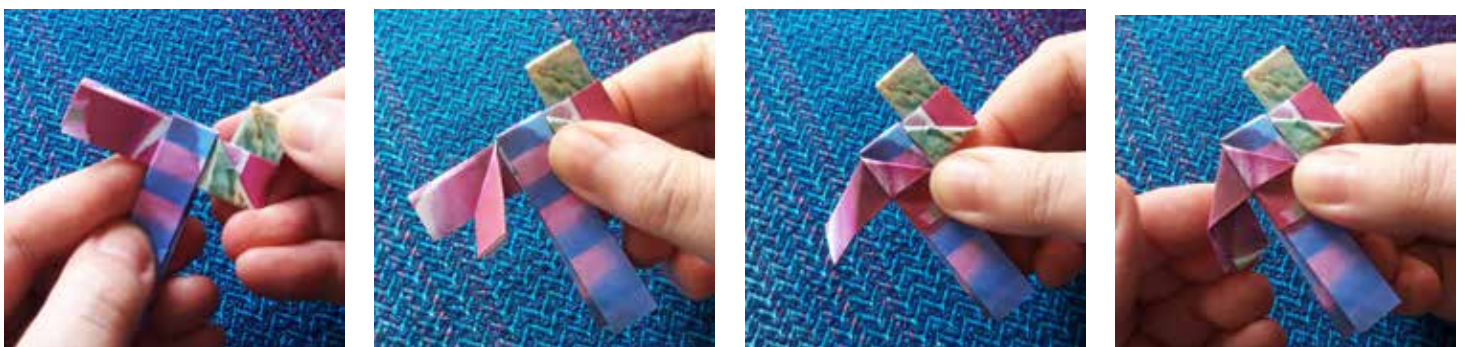
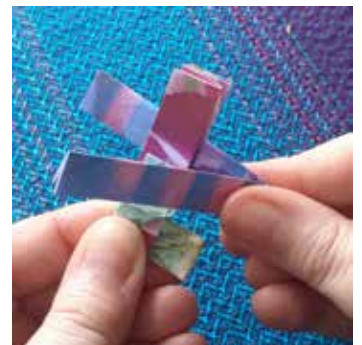
This step will be repeated until you have used all your paper strips.

Take a new strip and sit it over the tails of the previous strips (if you had a paper clip holding them - take this off and the new strip sits over this point).

Check which direction it is going so that it keeps the zig zag pattern.

Arrange so that the new strip sits neatly up to the previous folded square.

One by one, fold the two tails from the inner strip down at an angle, away from each other and then over the new strip.







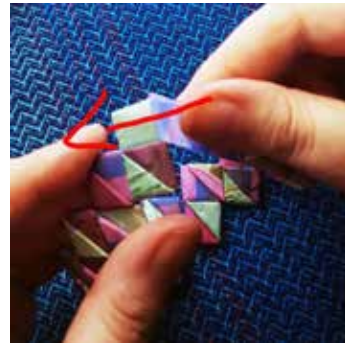
Add the next strip and continue in the same way. Each new strip sits over the tails you've just folded. The next tails fold down over this new strip.

## Step 4

To close the bangle - you need to end on an even number of strips - 22 or 24 strips work well for average hands, but check the length yourself to see what works for you - add more strips if needed, or take a couple off if it looks too long. The bangle needs to fit over the widest part of your hand, so measure around your fist / knuckles.



If you're happy with the length, then use your nails or a paper clip to open the slot in the first strip from the start of the bracelet. Take the tails from the other end, and thread



them through this slot until the two ends of the bracelet fit together neatly.

If the tails won't fit into the slot then carefully cut a wafer off one edge of the tails with your scissors until they do fit. Don't cut them too thin.

Pull the tails up tight so the first and the last sections of the bangle sit together neatly.



Fold down the final tails, just as you've done with the previous strips.

Once folded down, take these short tails now and tuck them inside / under the fold on the next 'square' section to tidy them away and secure them.

Add a touch of glue if you like to hold them in place.

Your bracelet is now done and ready to wear.

If you want to, you can varnish the bangle (with an acrylic varnish, or clear drying glue) to make it more durable, or paint it, or decorate it further in all sorts of ways!

**Tip** - If you enjoy this - you could also look at origami or folding / pleating skills - have a look online for some ideas!