Top 100 step-by-step Napkin Folds

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Napkin Rings
100 Napkin Folds

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Denise Vivaldo
# 15 Divided Fan

The showy look of this fold is completed with a tie or napkin ring, which gives you another opportunity to incorporate the party’s theme. I tied mine off with a piece of raffia and a sand dollar, but you can use any decorative ribbon or yarn, perhaps with a favor or bauble attached. Use a medium- to heavyweight fabric in any color or pattern. I chose a brown napkin with a black pattern. Iron napkins with spray starch before folding, and be sure to have your ties or napkin rings ready before you begin. Use 12-inch (30 cm) lengths if you’ll be tying a knot or 20-inch (50 cm) lengths if you’ll be tying a bow.

1. Lay the napkin out as a square, with the finished side facing down and the seamed edges facing up.
2. Fold the lower edge up to the horizontal centerline of the napkin.
3. Fold the upper edge down to the horizontal centerline.
4. Fold the left edge over toward the right, forming a vertical band about 1 1/2 inches (4 cm) wide.
5. Fold the band under, aligning the left edges.
6. Fold the band back over, aligning the left edges.
7. Continue folding the band, accordion-style, until you reach the right edge of the napkin.
8. Turn the napkin so that the pleats are facing up and use a tie, ribbon or napkin ring to secure the center.
9. Fan out the folds to create a double fan.
10. Working with the wider point, one layer at a time, separate the four layers, forming the swan’s tail feathers.
11. Fold the narrower point over, forming the swan’s head.
12. Arrange a swan at each place, supported by its tail feathers.
This fold works best with a thin fabric, but it needs to be stiff, too, so use plenty of starch and iron napkins before you begin folding. Choose a solid color so the layers of folds won’t be obscured by a busy pattern. I used a light green napkin here, but white would be pretty, too. A classic fancy fold the likes of which you’d see on a cruise ship or in an old-school restaurant, the Swan design is great to pull out when you really want to impress. It’s fun for the Girls’ Night In table setting (page 300), because ladies always appreciate such details.

1. Lay the napkin out as a square, with the finished side facing down and the seamed edges facing up.
2. Fold the upper edge down to the lower edge.
3. Fold the right edge over to the left edge, forming a square.
4. Arrange the square as a diamond, with the loose edges at the top. Holding the lower point with your left hand, use your right hand to fold the lower right edge over to the vertical centerline.
5. Holding the lower point with your right hand, use your left hand to fold the lower left edge over to the vertical centerline, forming a kite shape.
6. Flip the napkin over, keeping the same point up. Holding the lower point with your left hand, use your right hand to fold the lower right edge over to the vertical centerline.
7. Continue folding the band, accordion-style, until you reach the right edge of the napkin.
8. Turn the napkin so that the pleats are facing up and use a tie, ribbon or napkin ring to secure the center.
9. Fan out the folds to create a double fan.
**#61 Fleur**

Arranged in a coffee cup or teacup, this is a lovely fold for serving after-dinner coffee, tea or dessert. Use a slightly smaller napkin that is ironed without starch. Any color or pattern and any fabric weight will work well. I chose a silky purple napkin arranged in a white china coffee cup. For larger latte-style mugs, use a full-size dinner napkin.

1. Lay the napkin out as a square, with the finished side facing down and the seamed edges facing up.
2. Fold the lower edge up to the horizontal centerline of the napkin.
3. Fold the upper edge down to the horizontal centerline.
4. Fold the upper edge down to the lower edge, forming a narrow horizontal rectangle.
5. Fold the right edge over to the left edge, forming a smaller rectangle.
6. Fold the top layer back over to the right, leaving a small overlapped area about three-quarters of the way along the napkin.
7. Fold the right side back over to the left, aligning the right edges.
8. Fold the loose edges in the center of the napkin back over to the right, aligning the left edges. If necessary, fold the end of the right edge back over to the left to align the right edges.
9. Flip the napkin over, arranging the stack of folded edges on the left and the loose end on the right. Fold the right edge over to the left, aligning the right edges.
10. Continue folding accordion-style until napkin is completely folded into a stack.
11. Place napkin in cup with the loose edges facing you. Pull gently from the sides to fan the napkin out.
12. Working with the three folded edges facing you, pull each apart at the top to give the napkin more volume. Arrange a cup at each place with the loose edges facing the center of the table.