

How To Make A Paper Helicopter

This Paper aeroplanes are great and a great way to learn about science but they've got nothing on paper helicopters, that's for sure! All you'll need is some paper, scissors and maybe a paperclip!!

What do I need:

- A piece of paper
- Some scissors
- A paperclip

How do I do it?

STEP 1 - The perfect size to make your helicopter is 1/8th of a piece of paper. Great news as you can make 8 of them out of one sheet of A4 paper! Fold your paper into eights and cut one out ready.

STEP 2 - I've marked on the image how to make it! Just make a cut where you see a solid line and make a fold where you see a dashed line!

STEP 3 - Make the two small cuts and fold the paper over and use a paperclip to hold it in place, as shown.

STEP 4 - To make the wings, simply make the cut down the middle solid line and fold the wings down so you've got something that looks like our final helicopter!

STEP 5 - No pre-flight checks needed! Simply hold the helicopter up high and drop it! Watch how it spins! If you're feeling brave you can try throwing it but pretty soon you might need to make another helicopter!

What's going on?

As your helicopter starts to fall the air pushes past the wings. Most of this air pushes upwards against the falling helicopter (which is why it falls slowly) but each wing causes some of that air to push to the side. There's an equal sideways push on each of the wings but in opposite directions and that's what causes the helicopter to spin!

More Fun Please - Experiment like a real scientist!

- What happens if you add more weight? Blue Tac is great for this!
- What are the perfect proportions to make your helicopter spin as fast as possible?
- How big a helicopter can you make?

