

Miranda's Easy Paper Dove



Materials:

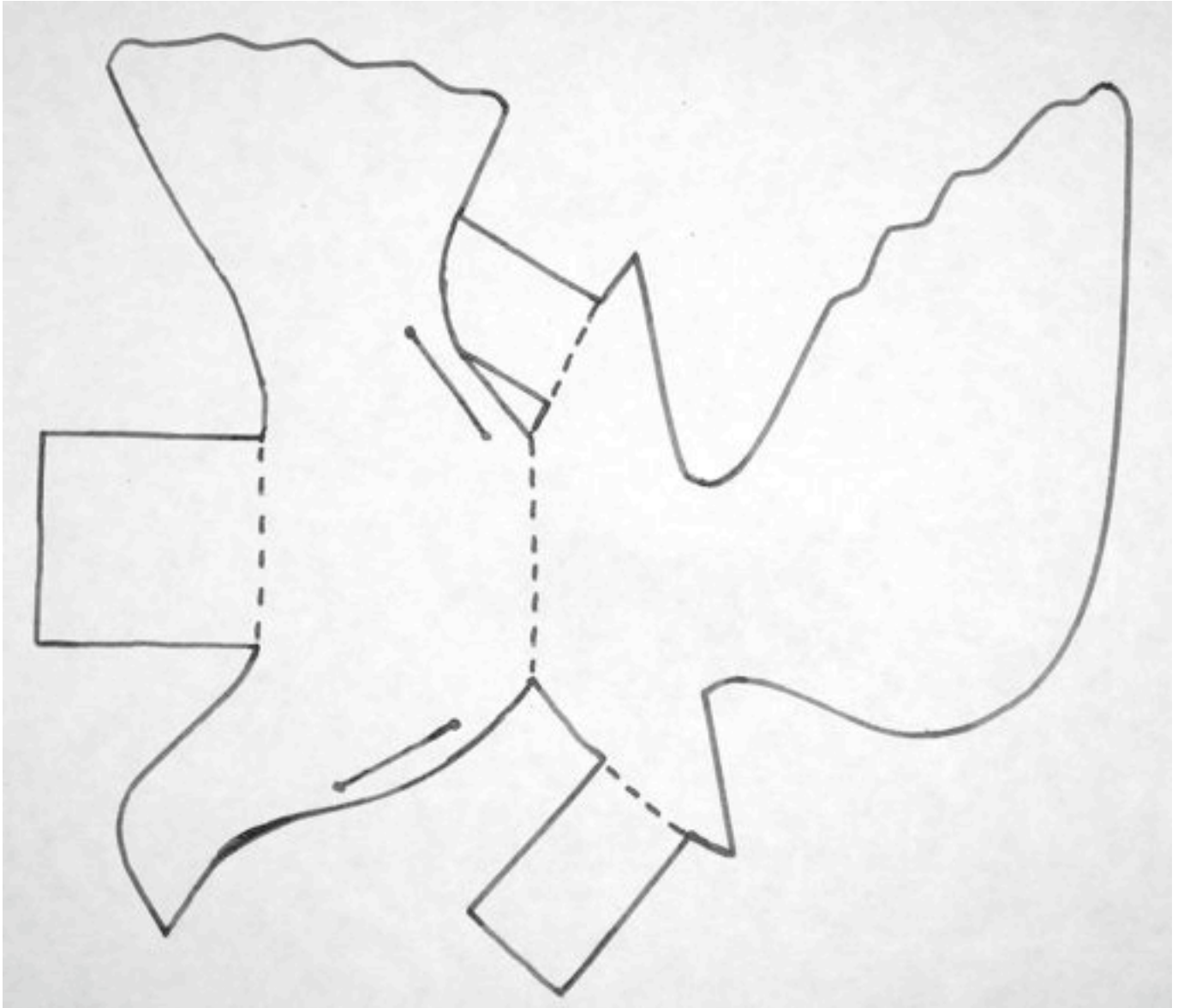
- Two sheets of paper – at least 8 1/2 x 11. You can make one dove from one sheet of legal paper, too. If you blow up the template, you could make some lovely big ones from 12x12 scrapbook paper.
- Xacto knife or scissors, and cutting mat if you're using an Xacto
- Stapler
- Hole punch or large needle, and string for hanging
- Template (see next page)



To make the template bigger or smaller, save it as an image, then drop it into a new document and stretch it to the size you want. To make it really big, you may want to cut it in half (in an application like iPhoto) and print out each half, as big as you can make it; then you can tape together the halves to use the template.

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Template:



1. Use the template as a guide and cut out two dove shapes. (I do this by placing the template over the two sheets of paper, then cutting through all 3 layers with my Xacto knife.) I'm using two different colors here, to make it easier to see what I'm doing. Don't forget the slits!!

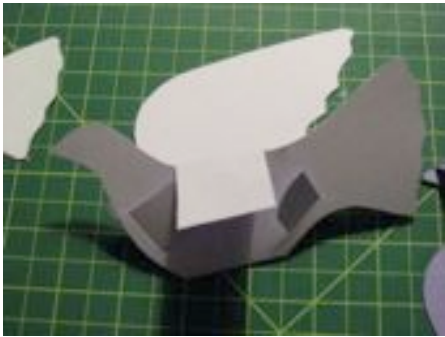


2. Fold everywhere you're supposed to fold (dotted lines on template). The tabs near the wing should be folded so they're between the wing and the body. The tab on the back should be folded away from the wing.

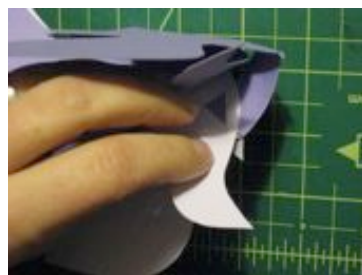


Fold them so they're symmetrical, not identical!

3. Take one dove half and slide the tabs on the body near the wing, into the slots on the main body.



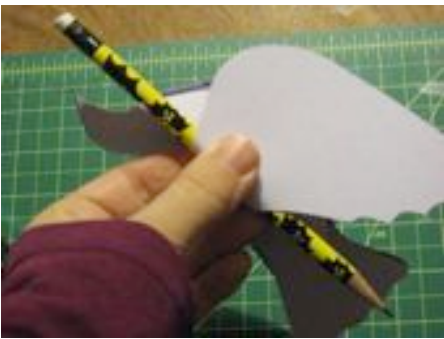
4. Take the other dove half and slide its tabs into the slits in the first dove half, the one you already completed. (You don't use the slits in one dove half.)



5. Fold the tab on the back of one dove half, over the other dove half. (The other back tab will be between the two dove bodies.) Staple in a couple of places, to hold the body together; try to capture the hidden ends of the lower body tabs in the staples, to secure them in place.



6. Fold the wings down, or roll them around a pencil (shown) to give a softer downward curve. You may also fold down the top part of the tail, to make it more 3-dimensional. Staple the tail just below the fold.



7. Punch or poke a hole in the back – in the area defined by the large folded-over back flaps, which will make the paper stronger around the hole. For the dove to hang level, the hole should be slightly back towards the tail, not right in the middle. Put string or wire through the hole, and hang it up!

Now make 80 more and hang them all over your church for Pentecost – or make 5 more and hang them over your baby's crib – or whatever pleases you!