

## Blue Mussel *Mytilus edulis*

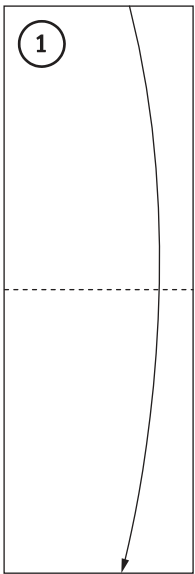
The mussel has a smooth, bluish black shell, which is elongated and somewhat pear-shaped. The inside of the shell is pearly violet or white and about 4 to 5 cm in length. The shell has got two halves, both about alike in shape. After a blue mussel's shell has been opened, the large closing muscle and four pairs of gills become visible. The mussel's foot is large and muscular. At the foot's end there is the byssus gland producing a hard thread that renders the mussel capable of attaching itself on the ground. Besides the mussel can move by its byssus thread by cutting it off and building it again. It even is able to defend itself with byssus thread by tying predator snails down with byssus threads.

They are cosmopolites and are distributed world-wide in most polar and temperate waters. Off North America, they occur from Canada to North Carolina.

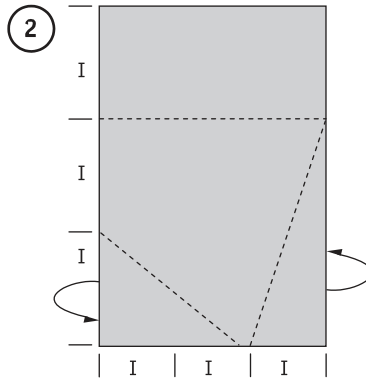
There even is a species of black mussels in Japanese coastal waters. Black and blue mussels are inhabitants of the litoral zone, the coastal region.

### Hints

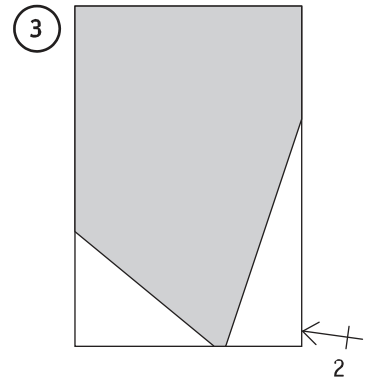
- level: ■ ■ □ □
- best result with wet folding
- paper size: 15x5 cm (3:1) for success
- use paper with 180-250 g/sqm



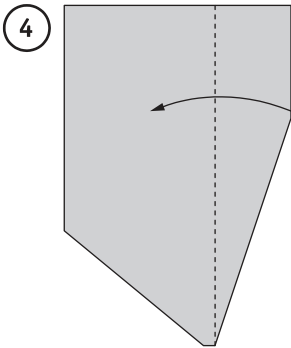
- colored side down
- fold in half



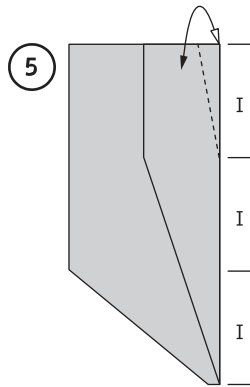
two folds to the inner with the upper flap



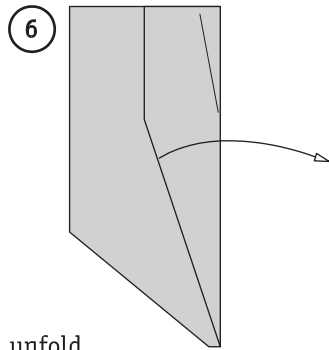
repeat step 2 with the lower flap



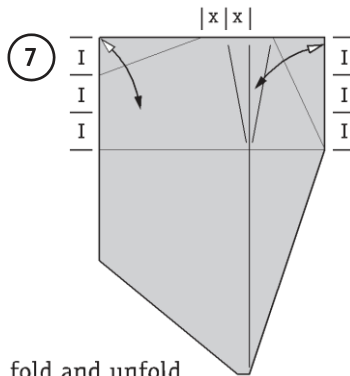
valley-fold with both flaps



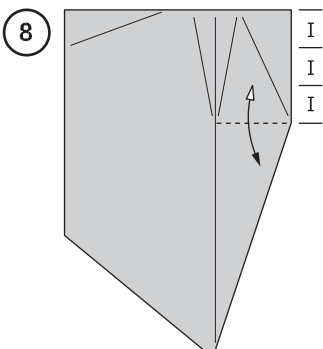
fold a small triangle and unfold



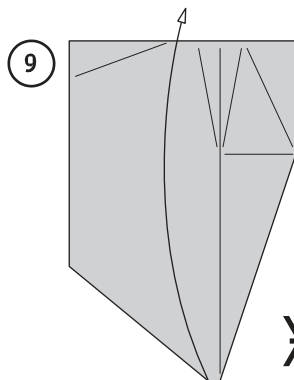
unfold



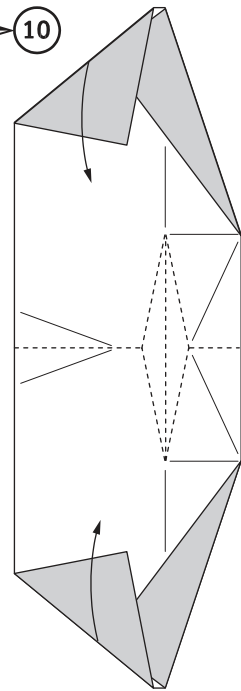
fold and unfold



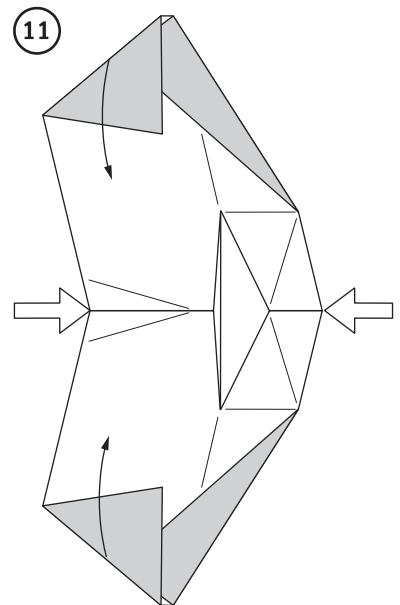
fold a short crease with both flaps and unfold



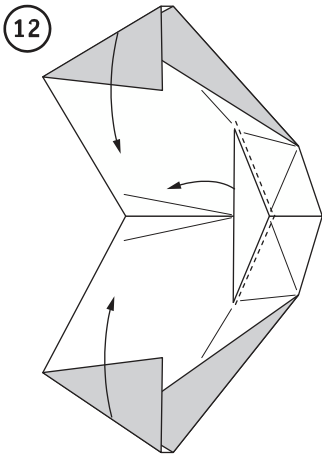
unfold



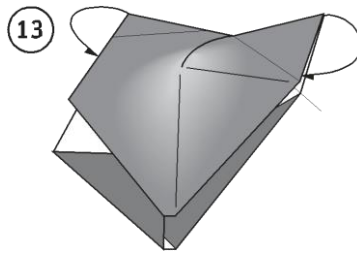
rearrange the existing creases for a diamond shape, near the upper and lower edges (the model will not lie flat)



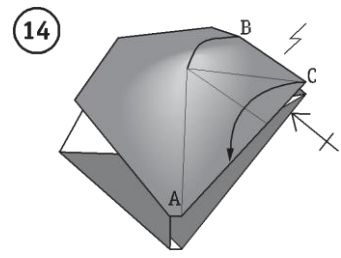
pinch together the diamond shape (the mussel will become more 3-dimensional)



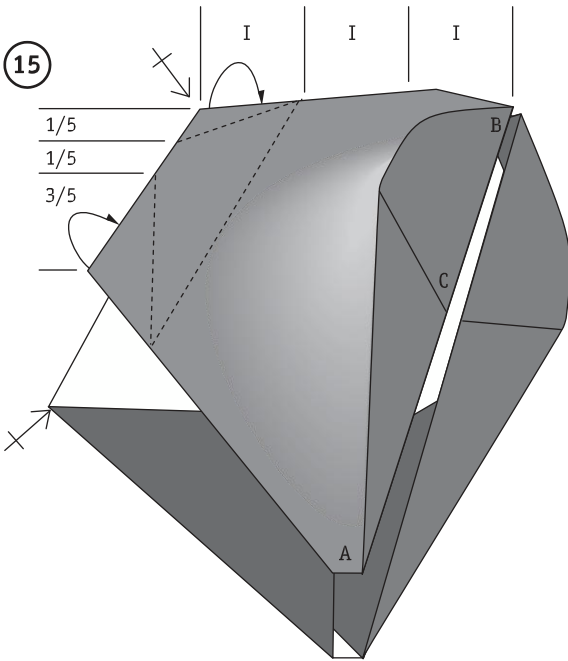
fold the triangle to the left side firmly by shaping the shell 3-dimensional (the mussel will get closer)



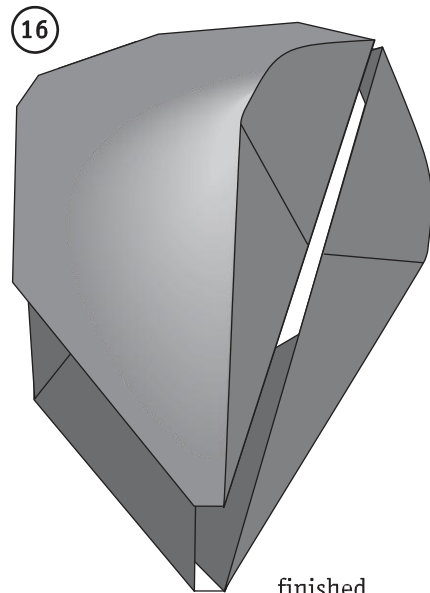
reverse-folds on both existing creases from step 7



crimp-fold in using the existing crease from step 8 as amountain-fold and repeat with the lower flap (note, that the corners A, B and C in the result will lie on a straight edge)



two little mountain-folds to the inner; repeat with the lower flap



finished