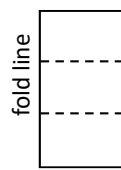
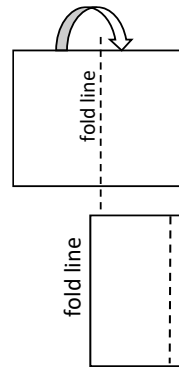


Norwegians and other Scandinavians traditionally decorate their Christmas trees with ornamental heart-shaped paper baskets. They are quite easy to make, but there is a trick to it!

I find it easiest to start with two letter-sized (8-1/2 x 11) sheets of paper of different colors.

- Align the two sheets and fold in half: the paper is now 8-1/2 x 5-1/2.
- Cut a 3/4" wide strip off from the open end, and keep the strips for later. The paper is 8-1/2 x 4-3/4.

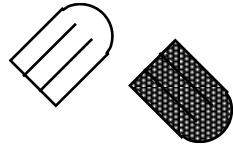
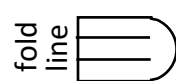


- Cut in thirds, resulting in three sets of 2-5/6 x 4-3/4. Set two aside and work on the third.

- Cut the free end of the paper into a half-circle.



- Cut two or more 3"-long slits from the folded edge.

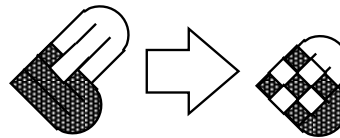


- Separate the two pieces of paper; keep them folded, but rotate them.

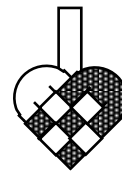
- And now for the trick: "weave" the folded fingers together. Start

with the outer finger of one paper and put it around the first finger of the other, through the 2nd finger, and around the 3rd.

The second finger goes through the 1st, around the 2nd, and through the 3rd; etc.



- When all the fingers are woven together, adjust to get things squared away and then "open" the basket. Fold one of the saved strips and tape to the insides of the basket to make a handle. Repeat for the other two sets.



The baskets are used as tree ornaments. (And, while I'm not sure if it's traditional or just a pun I remember, they can be filled with small candies for "sweethearts.")

~Larry Ames