
VICTORIAN PUZZLE PURSE

BY REBECCA FAIR

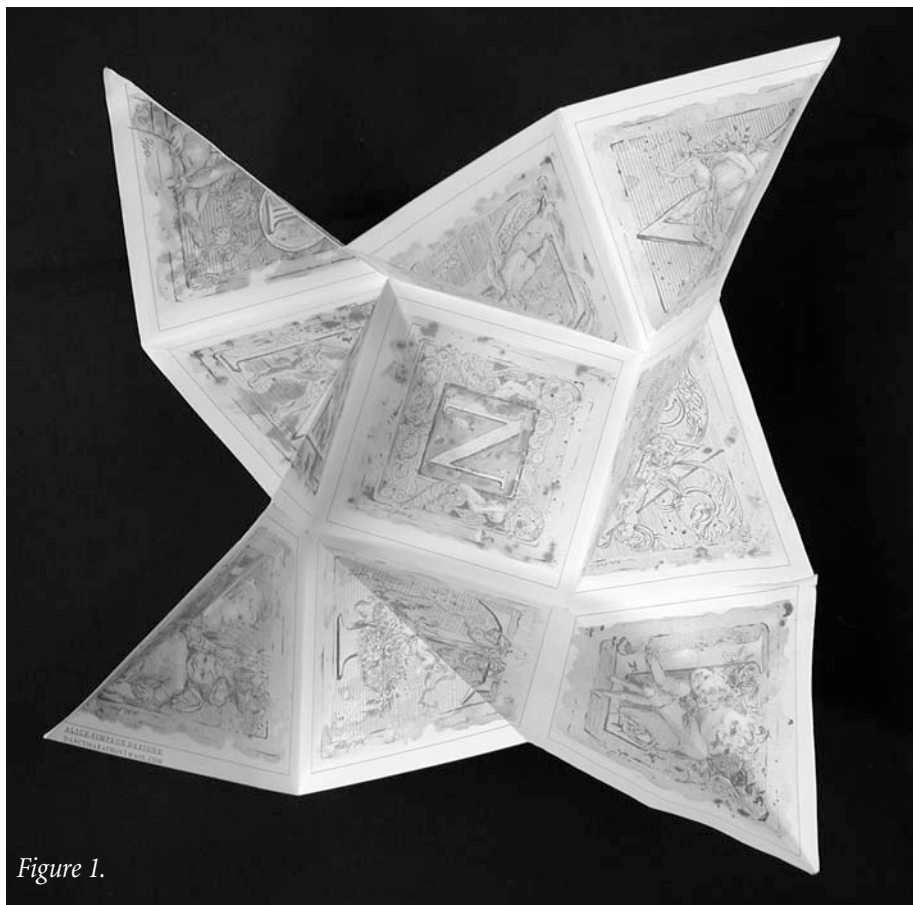


Figure 1.

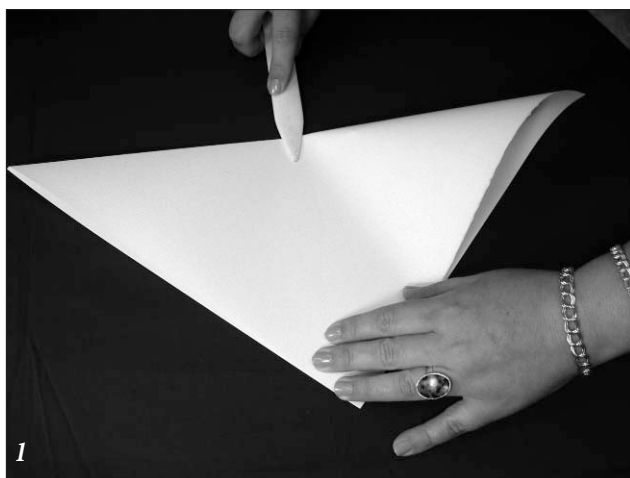
Original Valentine, an alphabet created in 17th century style by Alice Simpson. Offset printed on Monadnock Dulcet 100 lb. text. 17th Century Print and Zapfino fonts.

Continuing a forty year tradition of original valentines, Alice Simpson shared hers with us at *Bound & Lettered*. She took an alphabet she created in a 17th century style, printed it on 100lb text paper, and made a “Victorian Puzzle Purse.” Alice was introduced to this structure – which dates back to 1790 – by Beth Baird.

We at *Bound & Lettered* were delighted to receive such a fun piece of mail and were intrigued by the self closing structure, folded from a single sheet of paper. Directions for making your own “Victorian Puzzle Purse” are listed below. If you would like a copy of Alice’s Valentine – from the signed and numbered edition of 300, she has some remaining for sale. Contact her at alice@alicesimpson.com

Start with a square sheet of paper. A one foot by one foot sheet makes this project easier but it can be made at virtually any size. Scoring each fold precisely and carefully will make the final folds easier, and your completed project will lay more flat.

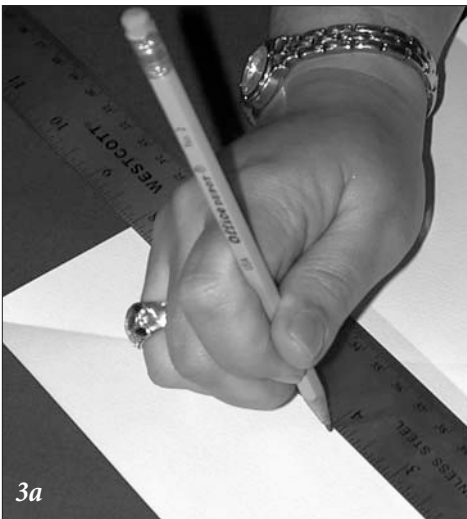
Instructions



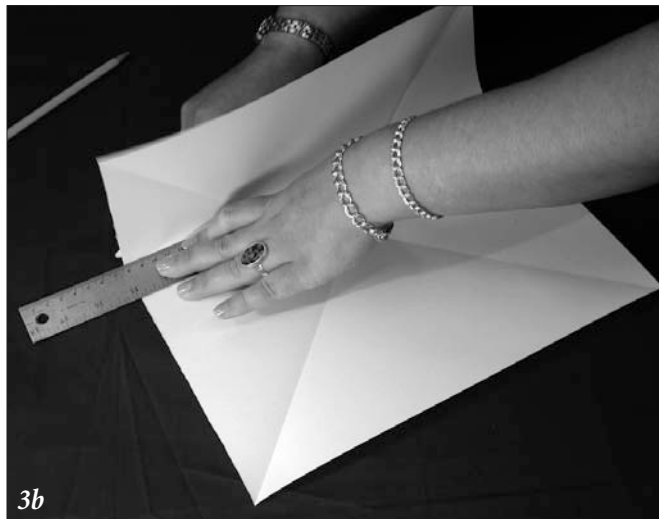
1. Begin by folding bottom right corner to top left. (Score from the center out.) Unfold.



2. Then fold bottom left corner to top right corner. Unfold.



3a



3b

(both left) 3. Score and fold the sheet in thirds horizontally. Unfold.



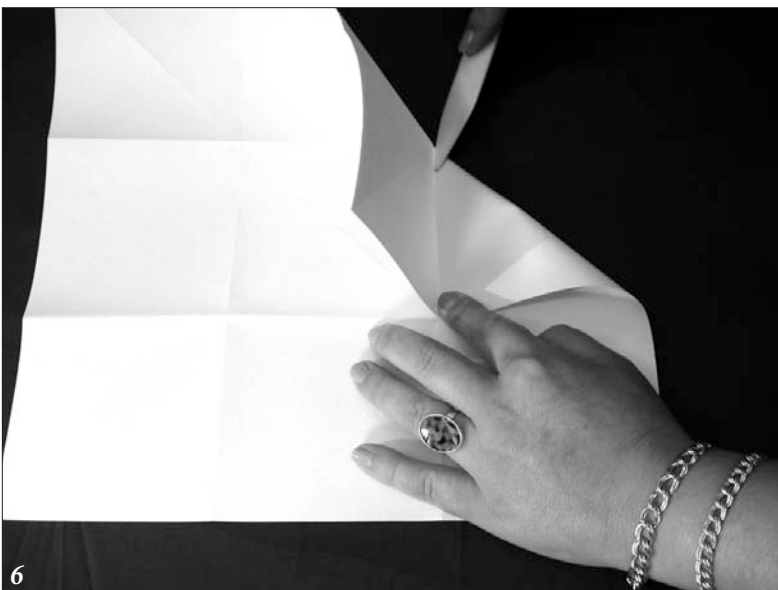
4

4. Score and fold the sheet in thirds vertically. Unfold.



5

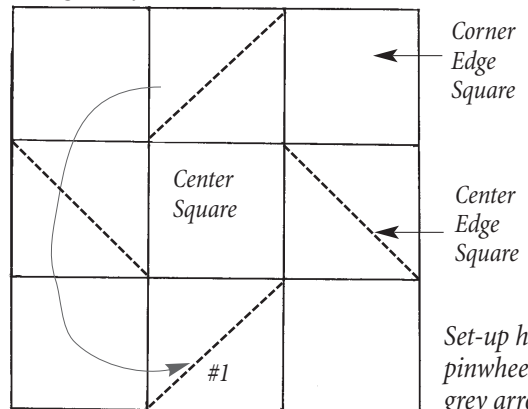
5. Flip sheet over.



6

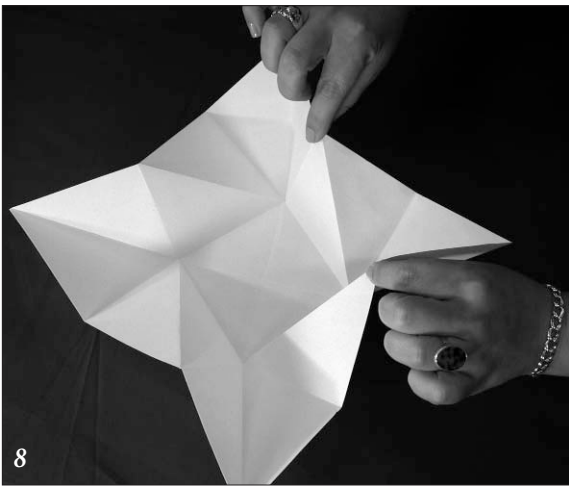
6. Fold each center edge square across diagonally (bottom right to top left) and score, making sure to get crisp folds even in the corners. You will need to rotate your paper to get each center edge square to the #1 position before folding.

Diagram of the Back.



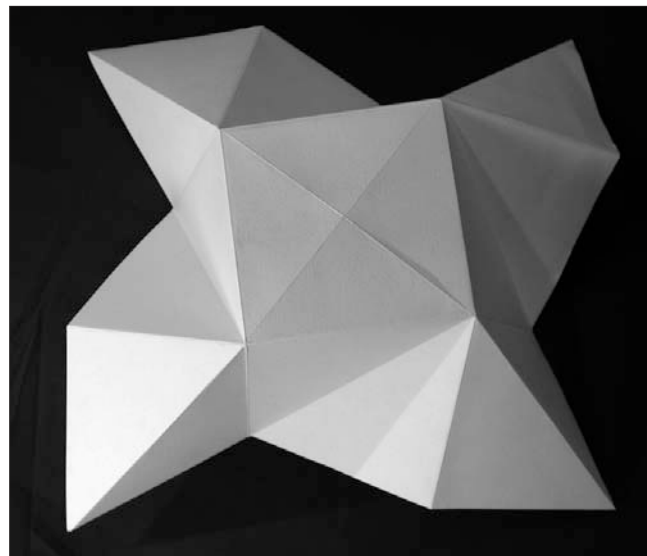
Set-up here for the pinwheel action – grey arrow shows direction.

7. Flip sheet back to front.



8

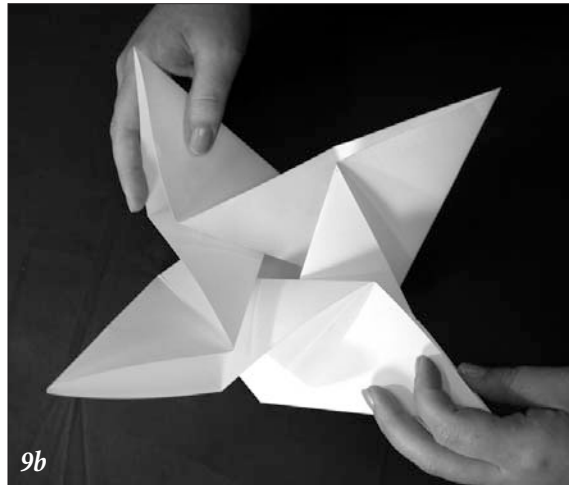
8. Bring each bottom right corner of each center edge square straight up, letting the corner edge squares take their natural position still keeping the center square flat. You may need to “pinch” the folds into position.



This is what the bottom should look like after step 8.

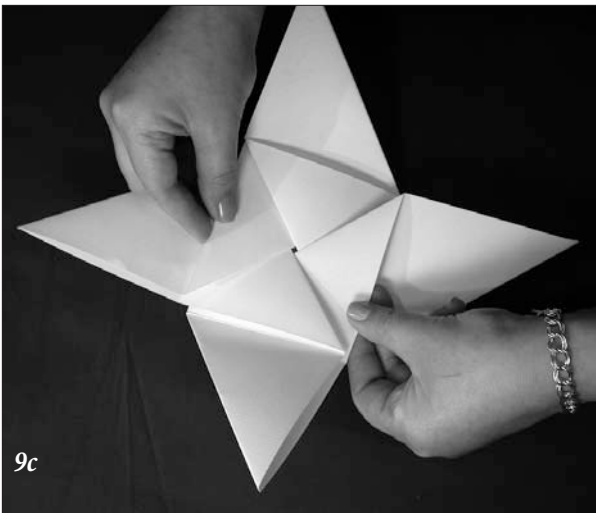


9a

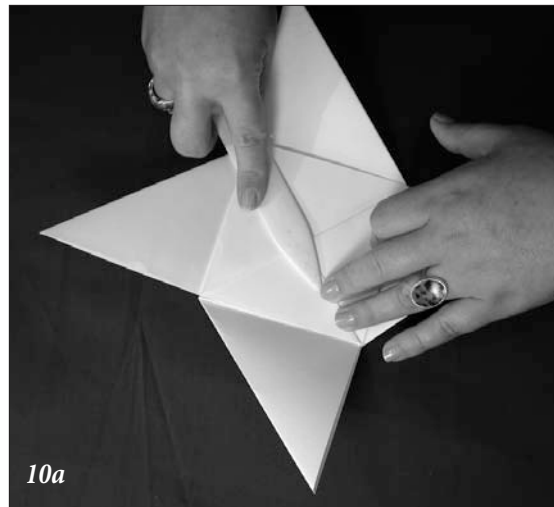


9b

9. Fold each point on top of the next using a pinwheel-like motion to lock all four together in the center. They will not stay “locked” until scored flat.



9c



10a



This Puzzle Purse is very versatile and would look great with decorated paper or paper that is simply a different color on each side. You could also include a “puzzle message” within the folds that opens up to your answer, or a picture or text that is completed in Step 10a. Use your imagination to decorate your Victorian Puzzle Purse! ♪

10. Fold the first triangle inward and continue covering the point of each previous triangle with the next. Tuck the last one in and score flat.

