

MAP FOLDING

1. Basic Rules

All folds must be accurate – that means straight and with the edges and corners aligned precisely. If this is not done, the map will not easily fold in concertina style.

All folds must be re-created in the reverse direction immediately after folding. The creases must be sharp so that paper folds easily and accurately in both directions.

Map folding is best done on a large hard area. Tables are usually too small – I use the floor!

First decide whether or not you wish to cut the map down to a smaller size. My own preference is not to cut the map so that, with difficulty, it is still possible to read the radio frequencies on the left or the notes at the bottom. If you cut the map then fold into thirds or omit the last series of folds in each direction.

2. Folding

First, if the map has been rolled, re-roll it the other way to make it as flat as possible with no curl. With the map shiny side up, fold the notes section under by following a convenient line. Crease this fold by running your finger and thumb along the fold. This is the only fold that is not reversed and re-created.

Next, fold the map from East to West and crease the North-South seam. Turn the map over, reverse the fold and recrease. Now fold from one edge to the middle and crease the fold. Turn the map over to repeat on the other half. Then reverse and recrease these last two folds. You now have the bottom notes section folded under and the main part of the map divided into four parts.

Now for the tricky bit where accuracy is most important. Repeat the above process to further divide the four “stripes” to create eight in total. Use the first creases as the alignment lines when folding over the edge of the map. Don't forget to reverse fold and crease in both directions.

This has probably taken at least 15 minutes the first time but you should be getting the hang of it. Now all you have to do is open out the map (except for the notes fold) and repeat the process in the other direction. Start by folding the Northern edge to the bottom notes fold.

3. **Final folds.**

Once all the folds have been made, open out the main map and decide which "box" you normally want exposed. Now you have to concertina fold the map to keep this and adjacent boxes just a fold away.

My suggestions for flying from VoWHGC are as follows:-

Put the map on the floor with the white side up and North nearest you. The permanent "notes" crease means that the notes will be visible at the top. Fold the bottom up along the first E-W crease. Now fold the top section toward the middle, covering the remaining white part.

Turn the map over. Starting on the left, fold under at the first and then at second crease. Crease these folds with your fingers as you will be unlikely to open this part again but you will want a "thin" map. Repeat this on the right side of the map.

Now bring the central N-S fold over to the left hand edge. You are left with four "boxes" centred near Oakley, just above Benson. You can now use the remaining folds to expose any one or more of the four boxes. You can choose which box is the reverse of the main box by choosing to make a horizontal fold or vertical fold first. I prefer to only fold once, along the E-W fold so that I have all four boxes available by just turning over the map.

4. **Use.**

You now have a map that slips easily behind an airbrake/flap/wheel-retract rod or lever so that it is instantly available. But the concertina folds mean that you can easily refold the map in the air for those longer tasks.

Good Luck!

Mike Leach, Aug 2001

(Based on instructions published by Bill Scull)