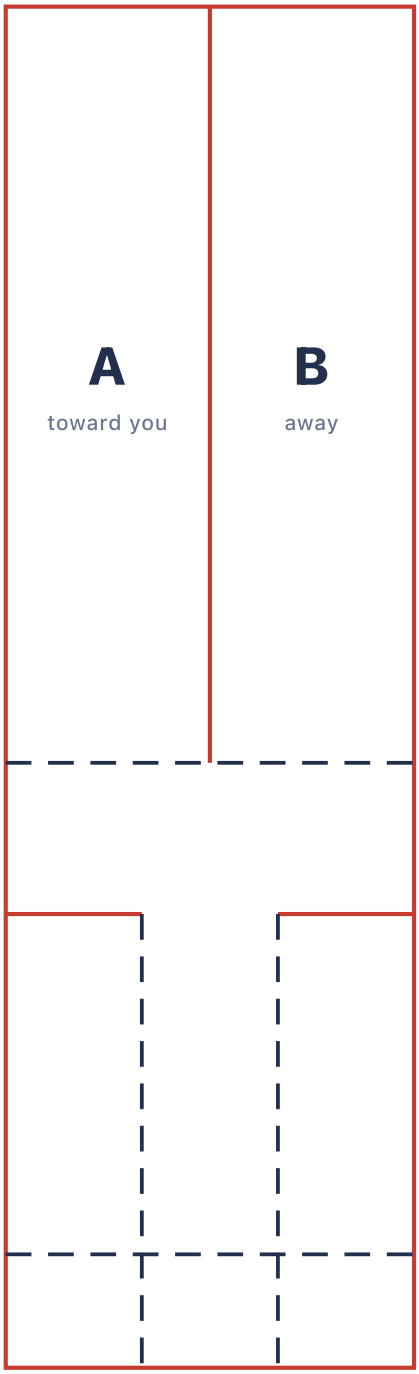
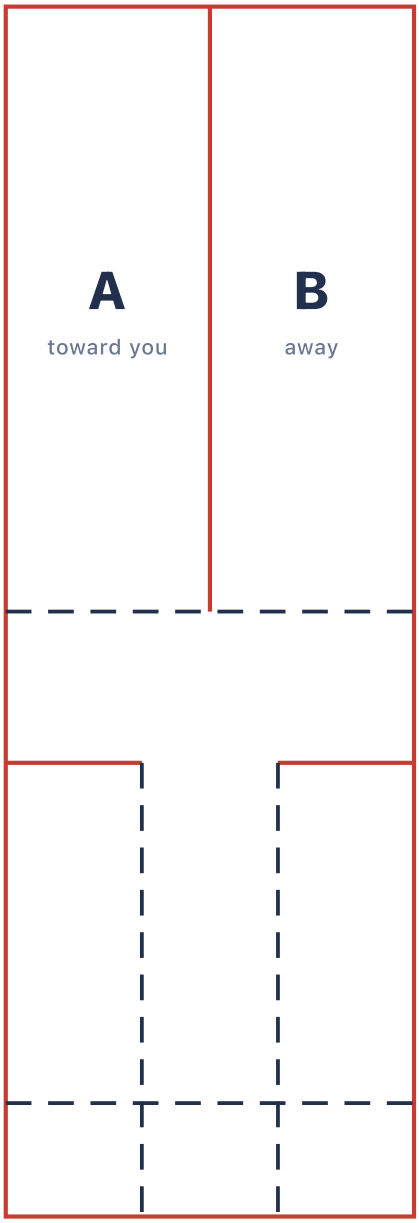
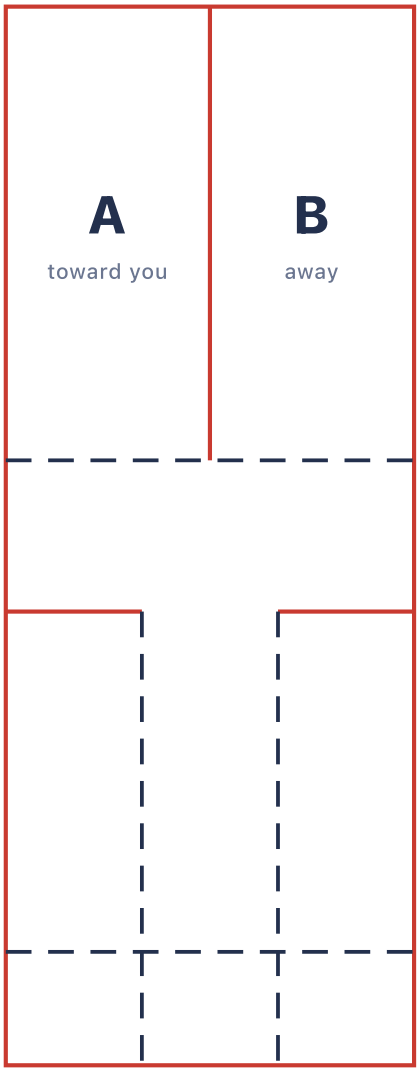


Long blades
10 cm



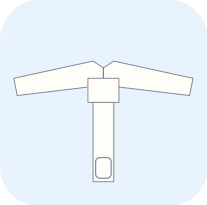
Medium blades
8 cm



Short blades
6 cm

Paper helicopter

Cut the solid lines, fold the dashed ones.
A toward you, B away. Steps on the next page · paperplanejoy.com



PAPER PLANE ACADEMY · OTHER FLYERS

How to make a paper helicopter

6 steps · very easy · one sheet of A4 · scissors, a paper clip

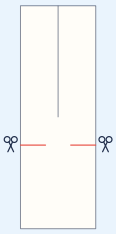
As it falls, air pushes up on the two blades. They're tipped in opposite directions, so the push turns them sideways as well as up, and the whole thing starts to spin. A spinning blade makes lift, just like a wing moving through the air, and that lift slows the fall.

1



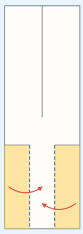
Cut down the middle of the top, as far as the line: these are its two blades.

2



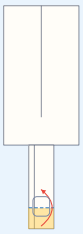
Cut in from each side on the short lines, a third of the way across.

3



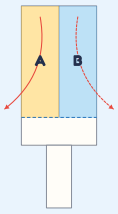
Fold one side of the stem in over the middle, then the other side over it.

4



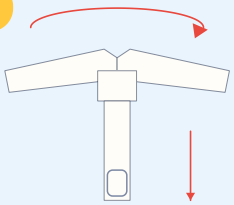
Fold the bottom up and slide a paper clip on to hold it: a little weight at the bottom.

5

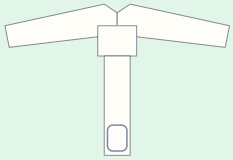


Fold one blade toward you and the other away from you, along the line at their base.

6



Hold it up high by the bottom of its blades, and let go. It spins all the way down.



Don't throw it: drop it.

Longer or shorter blades. The template has three helicopters: long, medium and short blades. Drop each one from the same height and time how long it takes to land. Which spins down slowest?

More paper clips. Add a second clip, then a third. More weight spins it faster and brings it down sooner. Find the fewest clips that still spin it.

Swap the blades. Fold blade A away and blade B toward you instead. It spins the other way. Drop two side by side, one of each, and watch them turn in opposite directions.