

PLAY

## JUMPING PAPER FROG

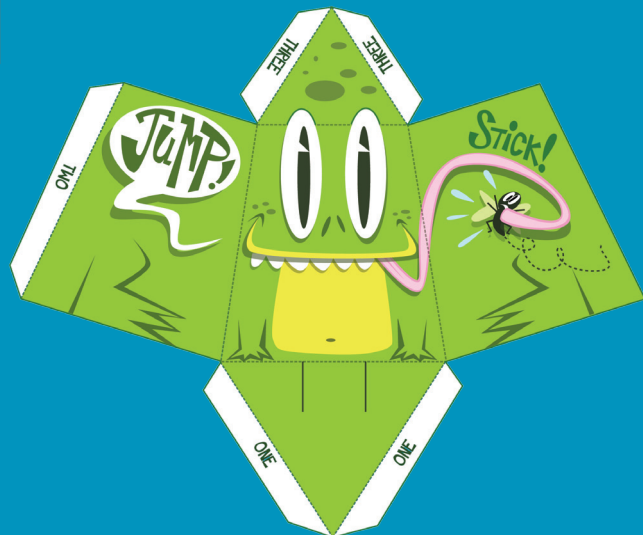
Just cut, fold, and clip to make  
a super cute, hopping toy.

*By Matt Hawkins*



## MATERIALS

- » **Frog template** Download from [craftzine.com/play/05](http://craftzine.com/play/05).
- » **Paper clips (2)** about 2" long
- » **White glue**
- » **Scissors or X-Acto knife**
- » **Printer and printer paper**



**I**t's like a matter transporter. An artist creates a 3D object, and it's flattened out and sent through cyberspace as a bunch of ones and zeros, only to be reassembled as a 3D object half a world away. That's just one of the things I love about online paper toys.

Right now, there seems to be an explosion of free, online, designer paper toys. It's the rage of the age. Lots of artists and designers have free paper toys on their sites nowadays. It's the natural evolution of the whole vinyl toy phenomenon: more grassroots and DIY.

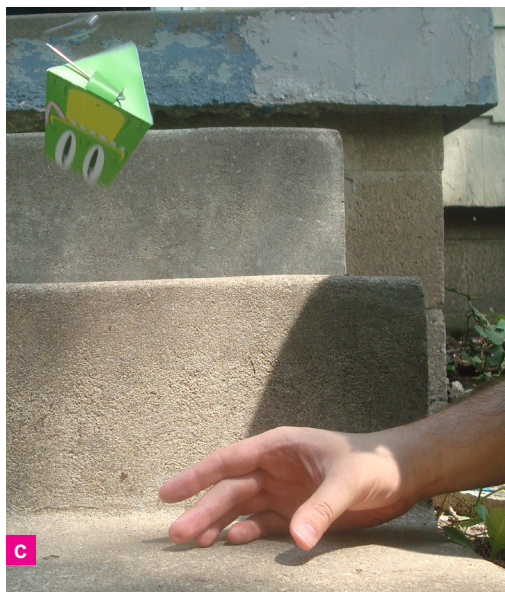
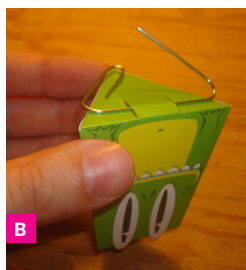
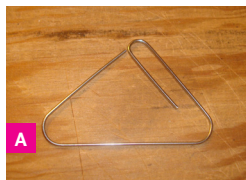
Paper breaks down a lot of the barriers that otherwise keep an artist from making a toy. It eliminates cost restrictions for both artist and fan, distribution can be anywhere in the world, and supply is unlimited. Anyone with an internet connection, a printer, and half an hour to waste can own these paper toys. But their real value is in the joy the artist gets out of designing and sharing them, and the play the builder gets out of making and displaying them. Paper to the people!

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Matt Hawkins makes paper toys. He shares them with the world at [custompapertoys.com](http://custompapertoys.com). He's always drawing comics or doodling or playing the banjo or something.



*Did you ever do that old grade school trick with the paper clip where you make it jump off the desk? If you did, this project will bring back memories.*



## 1. CUT, FOLD, AND GLUE THE TEMPLATE

Clip out the paper frog template on the solid lines right out of this magazine. You can also color-copy the template first, or download it from [craftzine.com/05/play](http://craftzine.com/05/play) if you don't want to harm your magazine or if you need a second frog for a jumping contest. A blank DIY frog template is also available online for the artistically inclined.

Most paper toys should be printed on cardstock or thick, matte photo paper, but you can print this little guy on regular paper. Be sure to cut the 2 slots in the bottom panel and around the top of the eyes. Fold on the dotted lines, then glue the tabs in numerical order to form the frog's body.

## 2. SHAPE THE PAPER CLIP

Take the outside end and the inside hook of the paper clip and pull them out into a triangle. Bend the clip so the long end is just barely touching the hook part at the bend (Figure A). Hold the triangle so the touching ends are away from you. Push the hook end down and pull the straight end toward you.

**! WARNING:** You are soon going to have a jumping paper clip on your hands. Don't put your face above it once it is loaded.

To cock the paper clip, place the straight end back behind the hook end. It will want to come back forward. You may need to bend the sides of the triangle out a bit so the 2 ends are just barely holding each other back. You'll want to get it so close that it pops a couple of times before it just barely hangs on.

Once the paper clip is "loaded," lightly hold the triangle between your thumb and index finger so that the long part is on top and will spring downward. Gently tap the paper clip flat on the table and — boing! — it should spring into the air. This might take a little practice if you've never done it before.

The farther you bend the ends apart, the higher the paper clip should jump. The paper clip will eventually lose its springiness, so you'd better raid the office supply closet for plenty.

## 3. LOAD THE FROG

After you get the hang of the jumping paper clip, take the long end of the paper clip and feed it in the first slot and out the second slot on the bottom of the frog. Feed the paper clip past the first bend in the clip so the open part of the paper clip is at the back corner of the frog. The hook part of the paper clip should rest on the frog's bottom, while the straight piece is up in the air (Figure B).

Turn the frog upside down, then cock and hold the paper clip as before, resting the frog's body on top. Gently slam your fingers on the table, and there you have the jumping paper frog (Figure C)!

### Resources for fantastic and free paper toys:

Custom Paper Toys (my site): [custompapertoys.com](http://custompapertoys.com)

NiceBunny: [nicebunny.com/new/toys.html](http://nicebunny.com/new/toys.html)

Readymech: [readymech.fwis.com](http://readymech.fwis.com)

Speakerdog: [bentheillustrator.com/speakerdog\\_index.html](http://bentheillustrator.com/speakerdog_index.html)

Toypaper: [toypaper.co.uk](http://toypaper.co.uk)

Paper Forest: [paperforest.blogspot.com](http://paperforest.blogspot.com)

