Eastern Dragon © 1998 by Joseph Wu (Designed ca. 1992. Diagrammed 98-8-26 to 98-10-09.)
The Nippon Origami Association's (NOA) magazine, Origami, No. 149 (January, 1988), included diagrams for a dragon by KITAMURA Keiji. The head was subtle and beautiful, but the body was awkward and clumsy. The model also required two 2 xI rectangles. I took the head design and grafted it onto a longer rectangle to create this eastern dragon.
Start with a 5 xI rectangle, coloured side up. (You can use any integer ratio of 4 xI or longer. My longest dragon started with a $|2 x|$ rectangle.
I. Precrease into squares (all valley folds).

2. Precrease into half squares (all valley folds).

3. Precrease into quarter squares (all valley folds).
4. Precrease into eighth squares (all valley folds).

5. Precrease in half.

6. Precrease into quarters (all valley folds).

7. Precrease outer quarters into eighths (all valley folds).


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8. Precrease outer eighths into sixteenths (this time, mountain folds).

9. Precrease first eighth into sixteenths (again, a mountain fold).

10. Precrease diagonals of the first square (again, mountain folds).

II. Collapse the outer edges using existing creases, forming the dragon's "horns"

12. Turn the model over.

13. Precrease.

14. Precrease.

15. Collapse into rabbit ears. Do not crease the horns!

16. Precrease. Pay close attention to which segments are the landmarks.
17. (Enlarged view.) Precrease. Pay close attention to which segments are the landmarks.
18. Fold up the tip of the nose.

19. Form a waterbomb base using existing creases.
20. Inside reverse fold on existing crease.
21. Outside reverse fold.

22. Fold up the sides of the head to form the eyes. Tuck under the horn.

22. Head complete.


The colour change can be performed at this point by flipping this raw edge under itself.


31. Pull out some paper from the tail.
32. (Tail only view.) Fold the raw edge into the middle. Repeat behind.

33. Inside reverse fold the front layer only.

34. Fold the back layer up and tuck it into the pocket formed in the previous step.

35. Fold the front two layers into the middle.

36. Fold the back layer into the middle.

37. The finished dragon.


