Start with a square, white side up.

1. Preliminary fold.

2. Inside reverse folds.

3. Valley folds to the centre.


5. Rabbit–ear. Repeat behind.

6. "Minor miracle".


10. Squash each flap downward. Bishop and Queen start here.

11. Squash each flap upward.

Pawn: Start after step 10 of page 1.

1. Flip each flap inward.
2. Mountain fold all eight flaps into the model.
3. Inflate the bottom to form a square base.

Bishop: Start after step 12 of page 1.

1. Fold and unfold all flaps.
2. Fold and unfold all flaps.
3. Rabbit-ear all flaps.
4. Fold all corners over the next flap.
5. Inflate the bottom to form a square base.
Knight: Start after step 4 of page 1.

1. Fold front and back flaps over to one side.
2. Valley fold down.
3. Crimp.
4. Crimp.
5. Outside reverse fold.
6. Outside reverse fold.
7. Inside reverse fold.
8. Outside reverse fold, and tuck inside.
9. Inflate the bottom to form a square base.
Rook: Start after step 4 of page 1.

1. Fold all flaps down.
2. Sink the tips of all flaps in half.
3. Fold all flaps up.
4. Inflate the bottom to form a square base.

Queen: Start after step 12 of page 1.

1. Fold all flaps down.
2. Fold and unfold the corners of all flaps along existing creases.
3. Inside reverse fold the right side of each flap.
4. Tuck the left corner of each flap into the pocket of the next flap.
5. Valley fold tips up to form the crown. The tips will not lie flat.
6. Inflate the bottom to form a square base.
King: Start after step 10 of page 1.

1. Squash fold each flap upward.
2. Narrow each flap with valley folds.
3. Inflate the bottom to form a square base.

The completed chess set. From left to right, the pieces are the pawn, the bishop, the knight, the rook, the queen, and the king. Actually, the pawn shown in the photo is an older version that did not have the long flaps tucked inside the model. The premise behind this series of chess pieces was to design a chess set that (a) could be folded from the same sized squares, (b) were 3D, and (c) were easily distinguishable. The first piece to be designed was the knight, followed by the pawn, the bishop, and the queen. The king caused me all sorts of problems, and I'm actually still not happy with its look. The rook came almost as an afterthought.