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 2x1 rectangles. I took the head design and grafted it onto a longer rectangle to create this eastern dragon.

Start with a 5x1 rectangle, coloured side up. (You can use any integer ratio of 4x1 or longer. My longest dragon started with a 12x1 rectangle.)

1. 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).
8. Precrease outer eighths into sixteenths (this time, *mountain* folds).

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


11. Collapse the outer edges using existing creases, forming the dragon’s “horns” at the corners.

12. Turn the model over.

13. Precrease.

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

16. Precrase. Pay close attention to which segments are the landmarks.

17. (Enlarged view.) Precrase. 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.
23. Open the body at the front legs.

23a. View from the top (head not shown). Collapse on creases shown and fold the two points toward the tail.

24. Open the body at the front legs.

24a. View from the top (head not shown). Collapse on creases shown and fold the two points toward the tail.

25. Valley fold the two front legs upward and the two back legs forward (note the landmarks).

26. Crimp the front legs. The head section will also move.
27. Inside reverse fold the back corners of the four legs. A corner will stick out.

28. Fold the bottom edges of the tail into the middle using the existing crease (both sides of the tail).

29. Crimp the body and the tail as shown. The marked crimps are outside crimps, and the rest are inside crimps. (Outside crimps must be opened up to be formed, much like outside reverse folds.)

30. Fold the feet forward.
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.