

MAGIC FAN

This captivating traditional folk toy could at one time be bought in village fairs. You cannot buy it today but you can make it at home in no time at all.

Roll and stick an old postcard to make a cylindrical reel (Fig.1), with a diameter of about 2 cm (Fig.2). Fold a sheet of glazed newspaper (10 cm x 50 cm) into a fan with 32 creases (Fig.3, 4). Make sure that all the zig-zag creases are of the same width. Fix a thread each on the two extreme ends of the corrugated fan (Fig.5). About 5 cm of the thread should be left trailing out. Trim off the triangular edges of the folded fan as shown (Fig.6, 7). Cut a square (20 cm x 20 cm) from a newspaper. Roll it into a hollow stick and glue its edge (Fig.8). Tuck one end of the fan in this hollow stick and staple it (Fig.9). Slip the postcard reel over the fan. The top of the reel and the fan should be at the same level, with the free ends of the threads hanging out. Fix the threads to the postcard reel with cello-tape (Fig.10). If you now hold the newspaper stick with one hand and slip down the postcard reel with the other (Fig.11), the fan opens out gloriously like the wings of a peacock (Fig.12). On sliding the reel upwards, the fan pleats fold in and settle snugly inside the reel. Before creasing the fan you can inscribe a message, such as HAPPY BIRTHDAY, on it. The message gets flashed on opening the fan, much to the surprise of your friends!

