

Folding an aviation chart

General

This is a method of folding an aviation chart such that the end result is:

- small enough to fit easily on your knees (34cm x 27cm for UK South ½ mil),
- big enough to show a sensible area,
- quick and easy to re-fold along the one set of (i.e. the same) creases,
- remain compact and flat

It looks complicated, but with care and preparation it is actually fairly easy. Oh – and by the way, it is a chart, not a map – look it up yourself, I had to!

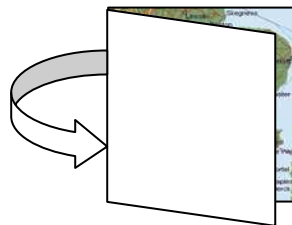
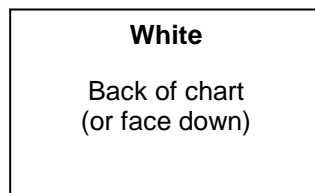
Preparations

A few preparation ideas that will help:

- Find a large, flat, clean and hard surface to work on (dining room table ideal),
- Make each fold 'sharp' by running a ruler along the fold once certain of its position,
- Through all of the steps described below, keep North on the chart 'upwards' (i.e. furthest away from you).
- If this folding method leaves your home airfield on a crease, adjust the 'Step 1' centreline until the airfield is better positioned
- The end result could be made even smaller by trimming off the margin that runs around the outside of the chart
- If this is your first time, it is worth trying the folds out on a piece of A1 (flipchart) paper first (or tape several A4 pieces together). This would show the importance of leaving the gaps indicated and the precision of the folds required.

Conventions

Conventions followed in the instructions:




This diagram illustrates folding the chart from face up by bringing the left edge over

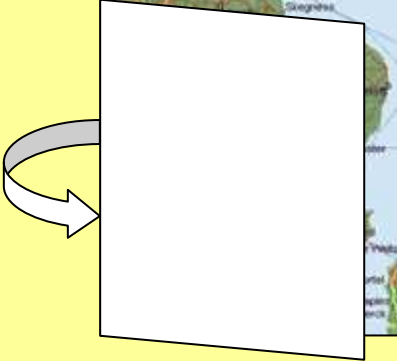
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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- Trim the chart borders (if required).
- Place the chart face up and north up and fold the chart **PRECISELY** in half on the North / South axis by bringing the left (west) edge across to the right.

From this:




To this:




1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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- Open the chart out again, face up.
- The fold the left (west) edge into the new centre crease, **BUT DO NOT** fold it precisely into the centre, fold it about 0.5cm short of the centre fold.

From this:




To this:




1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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- Now fold the left edge of the chart (now positioned near the centre crease) back to the left, **BUT DO NOT** take it all the way to the edge, again, leave a 0.5cm gap on the edge.

From this:



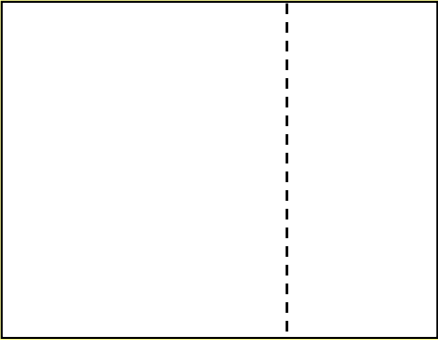
To this:



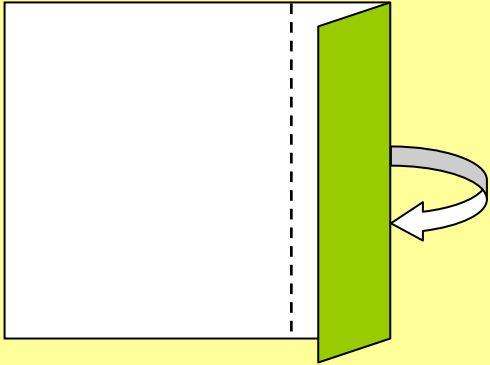
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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- Now leaving the chart folded as at the end of step 3, turn the chart over, still with North pointed upwards (so the folded bits are now on your right).
- Then, leaving the chart folded, fold the right hand edge across to the middle, but leave a small 0.25 cm gap between the edge and the middle crease.

From this:




To this:



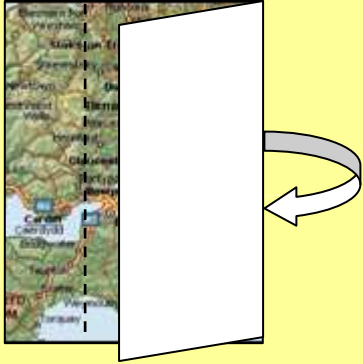
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- Leave the left (west) side of the chart folded as it is for now and turn the chart over so that it is face up again.
- Basically, repeat steps 2, 3 and 4, but this time for the right hand side (east) of the chart.
- Fold the right (east) edge into the centre crease, **BUT DO NOT** fold it precisely into the centre, fold it about 0.5 cm short of the centre fold.

From this:




To this:



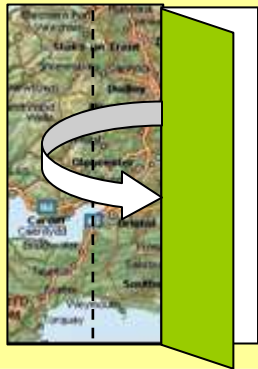
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- Take the right hand (eastern) edge of the chart (now near the centre fold) and fold it back to the right, **BUT DO NOT** take it all the way to the edge, leave a 0.5 cm gap at the edge.

From this:



To this:

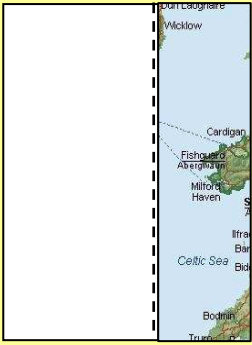


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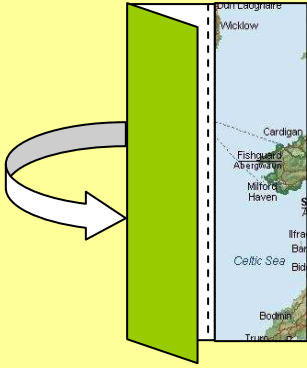
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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- Leave the chart folded as in step 6, turn the chart over, still leaving north pointed upwards.
- Fold the now left hand edge into, but just short of (again 0.25 cm gap) the centre crease.

From this:




To this:



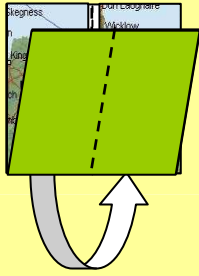
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- By now you will either:
 - have followed this so far and figured the rest out
 - be at screaming pitch, or
 - be asleep.
- Now fold the chart precisely in half, but by bringing the southern edge over to the northern edge.

From this:



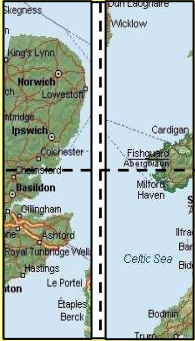
To this:



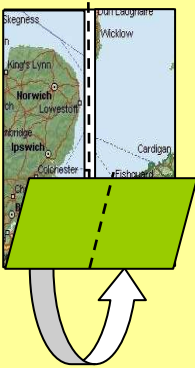
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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- Open the chart out again to the way it was at the start of step 8.
- Fold the southern edge of the chart into (but 0.5 cm short of) the new horizontal centreline crease made in step 8.

From this:




To this:



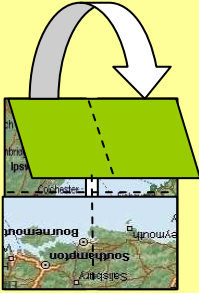
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- Fold the northern edge of the chart into (but 0.5 cm short of) the horizontal centreline crease made in step 8.

From this:




To this:



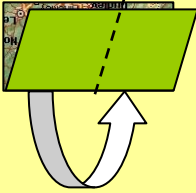
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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- Finally! Fold the bottom edge of the chart to the top so that they meet precisely.
- Voila! You now have a folded chart that can be opened out and re-folded using just the creases that you have made.
- Now you will see the importance of the 0.5 cm and 0.25 cm gaps – these mean that the chart can be folded back on itself without needing to re-crease and reduces to overall bulk of the chart.

From this:



To this:



I hope this works for you. If you have any comments or suggestions, please let me know.



Steve Hirlehey
9th January 2006