

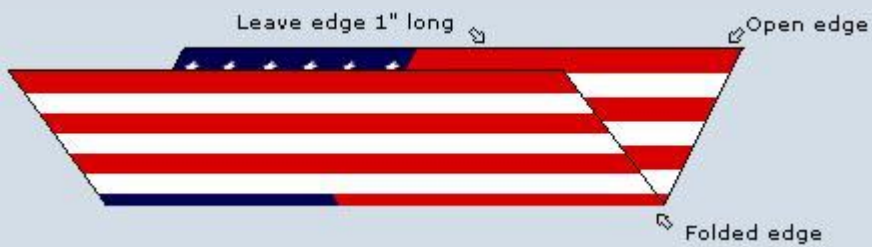
Folding the Flag

Step 1



To properly fold the Flag, begin by holding it waist-high with a second member of the ritual team. Make sure that its surface is parallel to the ground.

Step 2



Fold the lower half of the stripe section lengthwise over the field of stars, holding the bottom and top edges securely. Leave an approximate one inch overhang on the blue/star edge.

Step 3



Fold the flag again lengthwise with the blue field on the outside.

Step 4



Make a triangular fold by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to meet the open (top) edge of the flag.

Step 5



Turn the outer (end) point inward, parallel to the open edge, to form a second triangle.

Step 6



The triangular folding is continued until the entire length of the flag is folded in this manner. Only one person does this triangular folding; your ritual team partner ceremoniously and patiently holds the other end (ensuring that it doesn't touch the floor). About halfway through the fold take 3 blank shells from the rifle volley and place them in the folds of the flag. While doing so, state to the audience "I'm placing three shells into the fold of the flag; one from each volley of the rifle salute we've given our comrade this evening/afternoon".

Step 7



All you've got left is the final fold. Instead of you folding the thick triangle of folded flag fabric over the last remaining blue square, your partner--who has waited for you so patiently--finally gets to do some creasing. The person on the union end of the flag will take the corner on the open leg and fold it down along the edge of the other leg to form a triangle. He or she then tucks the remaining blue tab under the folds of the thick triangle until the flag is a neat triangle and can't easily unravel. When the flag is completely folded, only a triangular blue field of stars should be visible. Do not leave any red showing!