The Ambiguous Cube Illusion

When folded, this plan forms a 3D model of the Ambiguous Cube Illusion. The model is easy to build, yet the illusion is powerful and compelling. The ambiguous cube illusion has two aspects – it can be a three-sided, hollow room or a solid cube. You can actually hold the model in your hands as the solid cube aspect materializes. The effect is amazing!

Begin by printing the plan. You can use the plan as is, or mount it on light cardboard stock such as index or construction paper.

Cut the model out along the outer border. Careful when cutting around the tabs. Fold model along lines indicated by the arrows.

Arrange the wall sections into a three-sided, hollow room with the checkerboard on the inside.

Secure the wall sections in place by interlocking the small tabs with the large tab at the rear of the model.

How to view the Illusion.

Hold the cube at a comfortable ‘reading’ distance so that the hollow room faces directly at you. Don’t focus on any one point, look at the whole model. Close one eye if it helps.

Once you see the cube aspect, it will become easier to make the illusion happen at will.

Try this. While the solid cube aspect is active, rotate the model slightly as you continue looking. You will see the cube rotate as if it were real! Yikes! The illusive cube moves in the opposite direction of the hollow room.