

John Collins The Paper Airplane Guy

John Collins, The Paper Airplane Guy: A Master of Aerodynamics and Inspiration

John Collins, the "Paper Airplane Guy," isn't just another hobbyist. He's a testament to the boundless creativity and scientific curiosity that can be sparked by the simple act of folding paper. He's a teacher, a presenter, and an engineer all wrapped into one, demonstrating how everyday objects can be transformed into tools for understanding complex scientific principles. Beyond just building impressive paper aircraft, Collins empowers individuals to explore the fascinating world of aerodynamics, design, and problem-solving. This delves deep into the world of John Collins, exploring his impact, methodologies, and the enduring appeal of paper airplanes.

The Science Behind the Fold: A Deeper Look at Aerodynamics

The seemingly simple act of folding a paper airplane hides a rich tapestry of aerodynamic principles.

Understanding lift, drag, and stability is crucial for designing effective aircraft, whether crafted from paper or sophisticated materials.

- **Lift:** A key component of flight, lift is generated by the shape of the airfoil (the wing) interacting with the airflow. A well-designed paper airplane wing creates a pressure difference above and below the wing, generating lift.

- **Drag:** This force opposes the motion of the airplane.

Minimizing drag is vital for maximizing range and speed. Streamlined shapes and reduced surface area contribute to lower drag.

- **Stability:** A stable airplane maintains its orientation during flight. The center of gravity and the center of pressure play crucial roles in determining stability.

Feature	Explanation	Impact on Paper Airplane Design
	Lift	Generated by pressure difference above and below wing
Requires a curved or angled surface (airfoil)	Drag	Resistance to motion
Smooth edges and minimized surface area reduce drag	Stability	Ability to maintain orientation
Balance between center of gravity and center of pressure is crucial		

John Collins' Unique Approach: Beyond the Fold

While many enjoy building paper airplanes, John Collins takes it to another level. His approach transcends mere recreation; it's about fostering a deeper understanding of engineering concepts. •

Educational Approach: Collins doesn't just show how to fold; he explains *why* certain designs work better. This fosters a scientific mindset in his audience, linking everyday activities to complex principles. •

Interactive Workshops: His workshops and presentations are highly engaging, encouraging active participation and problem-solving. He fosters a collaborative learning environment, empowering learners to explore and experiment. • **Inspiring Storytelling:** Collins often weaves personal anecdotes and historical context into his presentations, making learning more engaging and memorable.

Exploring Related Themes: Beyond Paper Aircraft

While John Collins is known for paper airplanes, his teachings extend to a wider range of topics, all revolving around design, engineering, and creativity.

1. The Importance of Design Principles

• **Iteration and Experimentation:** The act of folding a paper airplane is a process of trial and error. By experimenting with different folds and designs, participants learn the importance of iterative improvement and adaptation. • **Aesthetic**

Considerations: While functionality is paramount, aesthetic principles contribute to the design process. The beauty and elegance of a well-designed paper airplane are intrinsically connected to its aerodynamic performance. • **Materials Considerations:** While primarily paper, the choice of materials influences the airplane's properties, such as weight, strength, and flexibility.

2. Hands-on Learning and STEM Education

• **Making STEM Fun:** Collins' approach to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education transforms abstract concepts into tangible, hands-on experiences. • **Practical Application of Theory:** His presentations emphasize the practical application of theoretical concepts, linking abstract theories to real-world scenarios. • **Boosting Creativity:** Folding paper airplanes challenges students to think creatively about problem-solving and

design, promoting innovative solutions.

John Collins: A Legacy of Inspiration

John Collins' impact extends beyond the realm of paper airplanes. He fosters an appreciation for problem-solving, encourages hands-on learning, and inspires a generation to explore the world around them with curiosity and creativity. • **Inspiring Curiosity:** His work awakens a passion for learning and exploration in young minds. • Promoting Critical Thinking: His approach fosters critical thinking skills by encouraging experimentation and analysis of design choices. • Encouraging a Love of Science: By connecting scientific concepts to relatable activities like paper airplane design, Collins fosters a deep-rooted love for science.

FAQs

1. What are some specific design tips from John Collins? Collins emphasizes streamlined shapes, balanced weight distribution, and the importance of understanding how air interacts with the paper. Specific techniques vary depending on the type of airplane being built. **2. How can educators utilize John Collins' methods in the classroom?** Educators can

integrate hands-on activities, encourage student experimentation, and focus on connecting theoretical concepts to practical applications. 3. **Is there a specific type of paper recommended for paper airplanes?**

Generally, lightweight, flexible paper works best, but factors such as the thickness and stiffness will affect the airplane's flight characteristics. 4. **What are the common misconceptions about paper airplane design?** Common misconceptions often relate to the importance of stability and the optimal shape for various performance metrics. 5. *Where can I find more information or resources related to John Collins' work?*

Online, he often posts about upcoming workshops or demonstrations. Specific educational organizations may also host related resources. In conclusion, John Collins, the Paper Airplane Guy, is more than just a master folder. He's a catalyst for sparking creativity, fostering a deep understanding of scientific principles, and inspiring a lifelong love of learning. His approach to education is transformative, demonstrating that even the simplest of activities can unlock profound insights and a passion for understanding the world around us.

John Collins: The Paper Airplane Guy Redefining Flight

For most of us, paper airplanes are a nostalgic relic of childhood – a simple folded piece of paper, tossed with hopeful abandon, that usually glided a few feet before a clumsy descent. But for John Collins, the world of paper airplanes is an intricate science, an artistic endeavor, and a testament to the power of perseverance. Known affectionately as "The Paper Airplane Guy," Collins has elevated this humble craft to an extraordinary level, pushing the boundaries of aerodynamic design and even holding a Guinness World Record.

His journey is far more than just folding; it's a fascinating exploration of physics, engineering, and the sheer joy of invention. So, who is John Collins, and what makes his paper airplanes so special? Let's dive into the world of this remarkable innovator.

The Accidental Aviator: Discovering a Passion

John Collins wasn't always destined to be a paper airplane guru. Like many, his initial encounters with paper gliders were during his school days. However, unlike most, a spark was ignited. He found himself not just enjoying the act of throwing them, but intensely curious about **why** some flew better than others.

This curiosity evolved into a dedicated pursuit. He started experimenting, folding and refolding, observing the subtle nuances in wing shape, weight distribution, and dihedral angles. He realized that with careful design and precise folding, a simple sheet of paper could achieve remarkable feats of flight. This was the genesis of his lifelong passion for the art and science of paper aviation.

From Hobby to Obsession: The Evolution of a Master Folder

What began as a childhood pastime gradually blossomed into a full-blown obsession. Collins dedicated countless hours to understanding the principles of aerodynamics. He delved into books on flight, studied the designs of real aircraft, and

meticulously documented his own creations. He learned about lift, drag, thrust, and gravity, and how each played a critical role in the performance of his paper models.

This wasn't just about replicating existing designs; it was about innovation. Collins started to develop his own unique folding techniques and original airplane designs. He approached each fold with the precision of a surgeon and the creativity of an artist. The result? Paper airplanes that didn't just fly, but soared with grace and stability, often covering distances that defied belief.

The Guinness World Record: A Testament to Excellence

The pinnacle of John Collins's paper airplane achievements came in 2012 when he, along with his collaborator Joe Ayoob (a former college quarterback who threw the plane), set the Guinness World Record for the farthest flight by a paper airplane. The record-breaking throw sent a meticulously designed aircraft a staggering 226 feet and 10 inches (69.14 meters).

This wasn't just a lucky throw; it was the culmination of years of research, design, and testing. The plane, aptly named "Suzanne" after Collins's wife, was the

result of hundreds of prototypes and an unwavering commitment to perfection. This record brought international recognition to Collins and solidified his reputation as a leading authority in the world of paper aviation.

The Design Philosophy Behind Suzanne

The creation of "Suzanne" is a fascinating case study in iterative design. Collins didn't simply stumble upon the winning formula. He went through numerous iterations, each time tweaking the design to optimize for distance and stability. Key considerations included:

1. **Aerodynamics:** The wing shape, aspect ratio, and airfoil profile were crucial for generating lift and minimizing drag.
2. **Weight Distribution:** The precise placement of weight, particularly at the nose, was essential for maintaining a stable glide path.
3. **Structural Integrity:** The paper needed to be folded in a way that provided rigidity and prevented deformation during flight.
4. **Thrower Synergy:** Collins worked closely with Joe Ayoob to ensure the design was conducive to a powerful and accurate throw.

The record-breaking flight of "Suzanne" wasn't just about the airplane; it was a perfect marriage of aerodynamic engineering and athletic execution. This achievement highlighted the incredible potential that lies within a simple sheet of paper when guided by expertise and dedication.

Beyond the Record: The Art and Science of Paper Folding

While the Guinness World Record is a significant milestone, John Collins's contribution to the world of paper airplanes extends far beyond that singular achievement. He has become an ambassador for the art and science of paper folding, inspiring a new generation of enthusiasts and educators.

Educating and Inspiring: The Power of STEM Through Paper Airplanes

Collins is a passionate advocate for using paper airplanes as a tool for teaching Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). He believes that the simple act of folding and flying a paper airplane can be a gateway to understanding complex scientific principles in a fun and accessible way.

Through workshops, presentations, and his online presence, Collins demonstrates how concepts like lift, drag, and balance can be observed and manipulated through paper airplane design. He shows how slight changes in fold can dramatically alter flight performance, making abstract concepts tangible. This hands-on approach makes learning engaging and memorable for students of all ages.

His work highlights the accessibility of STEM education. You don't need expensive equipment or complex laboratories to explore the fundamentals of flight. All you need is a sheet of paper and a curious mind – resources readily available to most.

The Artistry of the Fold: Beyond Just Flying

For John Collins, paper airplanes are not just aerodynamic machines; they are also works of art. His designs often possess a beautiful symmetry and an elegant form. He approaches each fold with an artist's eye, considering the aesthetic as well as the functional aspects of his creations.

The intricate folds, the precise creases, and the overall shape of his airplanes can be truly captivating. He has shown that even the most utilitarian object can be

imbued with artistic merit. His dedication to the craft elevates paper folding from a simple pastime to a recognized art form.

The Philosophy of Perseverance: Lessons from The Paper Airplane Guy

John Collins's journey is a powerful illustration of the value of perseverance, curiosity, and a willingness to experiment. He didn't achieve his success overnight. It was the result of countless hours of trial and error, of learning from failures, and of relentlessly pursuing his passion.

Embracing Failure as a Learning Opportunity

Every crumpled piece of paper, every failed flight, was a learning experience for Collins. He didn't see these setbacks as defeats but as opportunities to refine his designs and deepen his understanding. This resilient mindset is a crucial lesson for anyone pursuing a creative or technical endeavor.

He embodies the idea that innovation often comes through iteration. It's about making progress, not

about achieving perfection on the first try. This is a valuable lesson that extends far beyond paper airplanes, impacting fields from software development to scientific research.

The Joy of Discovery and Continuous Improvement

At the heart of John Collins's work is a profound sense of joy in discovery and a commitment to continuous improvement. He is always exploring new designs, experimenting with different paper types, and refining his folding techniques. This relentless curiosity keeps his passion alive and continues to push the boundaries of what's possible with paper airplanes.

His story reminds us that even the simplest materials can yield extraordinary results with the right approach. It's about looking at the world with a sense of wonder and a desire to understand how things work. The "Paper Airplane Guy" has shown us that with dedication and a bit of ingenuity, anyone can learn to fly – even if it's just a piece of paper.

The Legacy of John Collins

John Collins has left an indelible mark on the world of paper airplanes. He has transformed a childhood

pastime into a legitimate field of study and a source of inspiration for millions. His legacy is one of:

1. **Innovation:** Pushing the boundaries of aerodynamic design through meticulous engineering.
2. **Education:** Demonstrating the power of STEM learning through accessible and engaging methods.
3. **Artistry:** Showcasing the beauty and precision inherent in the art of paper folding.
4. **Perseverance:** Inspiring others with his dedication, resilience, and passion for his craft.

Whether you're a seasoned origami enthusiast or simply someone who remembers the joy of launching a paper airplane into the sky, John Collins's work offers a fascinating glimpse into the potential of human creativity and ingenuity. He is, without a doubt, "The Paper Airplane Guy" who taught us all to look up and dream a little higher.

The Paper Airplane Genius: Understanding John Collins and

the Art of Flight

John Collins, widely celebrated as “The Paper Airplane Guy,” has transformed a childhood pastime into a global phenomenon rooted in science, creativity, and precision. His work transcends simple origami—he blends aerodynamics, storytelling, and education to reveal how something as simple as a folded sheet of paper can soar through the air with surprising grace. Collins’ journey began not in a lab, but in a backyard, where curiosity met curiosity: folding paper, testing flight paths, and refining designs through trial and error. What emerged was a systematic approach to paper airplane innovation, grounded in real-world physics and accessible to anyone willing to learn.

The Science Behind the Soar

At the heart of Collins’ expertise lies a deep understanding of aerodynamic principles. He applies concepts such as lift, drag, thrust, and weight not just as theoretical ideas, but as practical tools to shape flight performance. By experimenting with wing shapes, balance points, and materials, Collins demonstrates how subtle adjustments can dramatically influence an airplane’s trajectory, distance, and stability. His meticulous testing reveals

that even small changes—like folding the wings at specific angles or adjusting the nose weight—can turn a wobbly glide into a steady, graceful flight. This scientific rigor elevates paper airplanes from toys to educational instruments, offering tangible lessons in physics and engineering.

From Backyard to Classroom: Real-World Applications

Collins' influence extends far beyond personal hobbyist circles. Educators have embraced his methods to introduce STEM concepts in engaging, hands-on ways. In classrooms, students learn to design, test, and refine paper airplanes, turning abstract ideas about forces and motion into visible, measurable outcomes. This experiential learning fosters problem-solving skills, encourages creativity, and sparks interest in science and mathematics. Beyond schools, his work has inspired community workshops, STEM events, and even competitive flying tournaments, where innovation meets fun. For many, the paper airplane is no longer just a craft—it's a gateway to deeper scientific inquiry and collaborative discovery.

The Cultural Impact of a Simple Toy

John Collins has played a pivotal role in reviving and redefining the cultural significance of paper airplanes. Once dismissed as mere childhood distractions, these folded forms now symbolize ingenuity, imagination, and accessible innovation. Collins' detailed tutorials, videos, and live demonstrations have turned paper folding into a global language of creativity, connecting people across ages and backgrounds. His work illustrates how simple tools can ignite curiosity, bridge generations, and foster a shared appreciation for the beauty of flight. In doing so, he reminds us that innovation often lies not in complexity, but in the elegance of simplicity.

Looking Ahead: The Future of Paper Airplane Innovation

As interest in STEM education continues to grow, the future of paper airplane innovation looks more promising than ever. John Collins' legacy lies not only in his designs but in inspiring a new wave of inventors, educators, and enthusiasts to explore the boundaries of what paper can achieve. Emerging technologies such as smart materials, 3D printing, and digital simulation tools are expanding the possibilities,

allowing for even more precise and dynamic flight experiments. Meanwhile, online communities keep his spirit alive, sharing designs, analyzing flight data, and pushing creativity further. The paper airplane, once a humble childhood toy, is evolving into a powerful medium for innovation—one fold at a time.

John Collins: The Maestro of the Majestic Paper Airplane

In the world of flight, where aerodynamics often conjures images of sleek, metallic marvels and powerful jet engines, there exists a quiet revolution taking place, folded from humble sheets of paper. At its forefront stands John Collins, affectionately known as "The Paper Airplane Guy." More than just a hobbyist, Collins is a meticulous engineer, a passionate educator, and an artist whose creations defy conventional expectations of what a paper airplane can achieve. His work has not only captivated audiences worldwide but has also pushed the boundaries of what is scientifically possible with folded paper, earning him accolades and a dedicated following.

For those who have only ever flicked a hastily folded

dart across a classroom, John Collins's paper airplanes represent an entirely different dimension. These are not flimsy toys destined for a brief, chaotic flight. Instead, they are sophisticated designs, born from a deep understanding of lift, drag, and stability, capable of soaring for remarkable distances and performing intricate aerial maneuvers. Collins has transformed the simple act of folding paper into a discipline that blends art, science, and pure ingenuity, inspiring a new generation to look at the world of flight with fresh eyes.

The Genesis of a Paper Airplane Obsession

John Collins's journey into the intricate world of paper aviation began, as it does for many, in childhood. However, his fascination never waned. While others moved on to more complex interests, Collins continued to explore the potential of folded paper. He wasn't content with the basic designs; he was driven to understand **why** certain folds worked better than others, delving into the principles of aerodynamics with a voracious appetite. This early curiosity laid the foundation for his future achievements.

His early experiments involved countless hours of

folding, testing, and refining. He meticulously documented his designs, observing the subtle changes in trajectory and flight time that resulted from minor adjustments to wing shape, nose weight, or tail configuration. This empirical approach, combined with a growing theoretical understanding, allowed him to move beyond trial and error and into a more systematic design process. His dedication to this craft, often in solitude, cultivated a unique expertise that would eventually bring him international recognition.

Beyond the Basics: The Science Behind the Folds

What elevates John Collins's work beyond mere play is his profound understanding of aerodynamic principles. He doesn't just fold; he engineers. Each crease, each angle, each fold is a deliberate choice aimed at optimizing flight characteristics. He often draws parallels between his paper airplanes and full-scale aircraft, highlighting how fundamental concepts like Bernoulli's principle (the relationship between the speed of a fluid and its pressure) are at play, even in the simplest of designs.

Collins is particularly adept at manipulating the center

of gravity and the center of pressure, two critical factors determining an aircraft's stability. By strategically adding weight to the nose or altering the sweep of the wings, he can influence how his paper planes behave in the air. His designs often incorporate features that reduce drag, such as smooth surfaces and streamlined shapes, while maximizing lift through carefully sculpted wings. This scientific rigor is what allows his paper airplanes to achieve such impressive feats of flight.

The 'Suzanne': A World Record and a Masterpiece

The pinnacle of John Collins's paper airplane career, to date, is the creation of "Suzanne." This groundbreaking design, named after his wife, shattered the Guinness World Record for the longest flight distance of a paper airplane. In 2012, a throw by Joe Ayoob, a former college football quarterback, propelled Suzanne an astonishing 226 feet and 7 inches, a record that still stands. The achievement was not merely about brute force; it was a testament to the meticulous engineering of the airplane itself.

Suzanne is a testament to Collins's innovative approach. It features a large, swept-back wing design

that generates significant lift, coupled with a carefully balanced structure for optimal stability. The precise folding techniques and material selection were crucial. This record-breaking feat brought John Collins into the global spotlight, showcasing the extraordinary potential of paper as a medium for aerodynamic exploration. The story of Suzanne is a powerful illustration of how passion, combined with scientific understanding, can lead to remarkable achievements.

The Educational Impact: Inspiring Future Innovators

John Collins is not just a record-breaker; he is a dedicated educator. He firmly believes that paper airplanes are a powerful tool for teaching fundamental scientific concepts to children and adults alike. Through workshops, books, and online resources, he demystifies aerodynamics, making complex ideas accessible and engaging. His ability to connect with audiences, from young students to seasoned engineers, is a hallmark of his outreach.

He champions the idea that "if you can fold it, you can fly it," encouraging hands-on experimentation and critical thinking. Collins's workshops often begin with basic folding techniques and gradually progress to

more advanced designs, illustrating how slight modifications can dramatically alter flight performance. This experiential learning approach fosters a deeper understanding of physics and engineering principles, igniting curiosity and inspiring future generations of innovators. He often shares his design process, emphasizing the importance of observation, iteration, and problem-solving – skills essential in any scientific or engineering endeavor. His presence at science fairs and educational events further solidifies his role as a prominent figure in STEM education.

Collins's Signature Designs and Techniques

Beyond Suzanne, John Collins has developed a diverse portfolio of paper airplane designs, each with its own unique flight characteristics. He categorizes his creations, often based on their intended flight path: some are designed for distance, others for aerobatics, and some for extended glide times. His methodical approach to design means that each model is a carefully considered solution to a specific aerodynamic challenge.

His techniques involve a deep understanding of paper

types, fold rigidity, and the effects of small imperfections. He often uses specialized paper or modifies standard paper to achieve specific properties. The precision with which he folds is remarkable, with many of his designs requiring incredibly sharp creases and exact alignment. He also explores different methods of construction, sometimes incorporating tape or other minor adhesives to reinforce critical points or adjust weight distribution, all within the spirit of paper airplane design. This level of detail underscores the craft and dedication involved in his work.

The Art and Craft of Paper Aviation

While the scientific underpinnings are crucial, there's an undeniable artistic element to John Collins's paper airplanes. The elegant curves of a glider, the aggressive stance of a dart, the intricate folds of a more complex design – all possess a certain aesthetic appeal. Collins himself views his creations as a form of kinetic sculpture, where form and function are inextricably linked.

The process of folding is almost meditative for him, a focused pursuit that allows for creative expression. He often experiments with different paper colors and textures, adding another layer of artistry to his work.

The sheer beauty of a well-folded paper airplane, catching the light as it glides through the air, is a testament to the power of simple materials transformed by skill and imagination. His passion for the visual aspect of his creations is as evident as his passion for their aerodynamic performance.

The Future of Paper Flight with John Collins

John Collins continues to push the envelope of paper airplane design. He is constantly experimenting with new folding techniques, materials, and aerodynamic concepts. His ongoing research and development suggest that the potential of folded paper flight is far from exhausted.

He is actively involved in collaborations, sharing his knowledge and inspiring others to explore the world of paper aviation. Whether he's designing a new world-record contender or developing educational materials, John Collins remains a captivating figure, proving that with ingenuity and dedication, even the simplest materials can achieve extraordinary feats. His legacy is not just in the records he has set or the planes he has folded, but in the countless minds he has inspired to look up, to question, and to create. The journey of

John Collins, "The Paper Airplane Guy," is a compelling narrative of passion, science, and the enduring magic of flight, crafted one fold at a time.

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As technology continues to advance, digital books will remain a central component of modern education and information exchange. The ability to download **John Collins The Paper Airplane Guy** reflects an adaptive approach to learning that aligns with current technological trends. Digital literacy is increasingly important in both academic and professional environments.

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Questions & Answers About john collins the paper airplane guy

No	Question	Answer
1	Who exactly is 'John Collins, the Paper Airplane Guy' and what's his claim to fame?	John Collins is a renowned paper airplane designer and record holder, best known for designing the paper airplane 'Suzanne,' which holds the Guinness World Record for the farthest flight by a paper airplane. He's also famous for his book, 'The New World Champion Paper Airplane Book.'
2	What's the story behind John Collins' world record-breaking paper airplane?	His world record was set in 2012 with a plane called 'Suzanne,' designed by Collins and thrown by Joe Ayoob. It flew an incredible 226 feet and 7 inches, a record that still stands. The design is intricate and aerodynamic, a result of years of experimentation.
3	Beyond the world record, what else is John Collins known for in the paper airplane community?	Collins is a prolific designer of innovative paper airplane models. He shares his designs and folding techniques through his books, online tutorials, and live demonstrations, inspiring enthusiasts of all ages to explore the physics and artistry of paper flight.

4	Is John Collins' work just about fun, or is there a scientific aspect to it?	There's a significant scientific aspect. Collins applies principles of aerodynamics, physics, and engineering to his designs. He studies lift, drag, stability, and thrust, essentially treating paper airplanes as miniature aircraft to optimize their flight performance.
5	What makes John Collins' paper airplane designs unique or special?	His designs often incorporate advanced folding techniques and unconventional shapes that maximize aerodynamic efficiency. He focuses on achieving a balance of stability and glide, leading to planes that fly farther and more gracefully than typical designs.
6	Where can I find John Collins' designs or learn how to fold his planes?	You can find his designs and instructions in his book, 'The New World Champion Paper Airplane Book,' as well as through various online platforms like YouTube, where he often posts tutorials and demonstrations of his creations.

7	Is John Collins' paper airplane expertise applicable to real-world aviation?	While paper airplanes are simpler, the underlying aerodynamic principles are fundamental to aviation. Collins' work demonstrates how thoughtful design can optimize flight, offering insights that can resonate with engineers and designers in the broader aerospace field.
8	What's the philosophy behind John Collins' passion for paper airplanes?	Collins often speaks about the joy of discovery, the elegance of simple materials, and the universal appeal of flight. He aims to make complex scientific concepts accessible and fun through the art of paper airplane folding, fostering creativity and curiosity.
9	Has John Collins achieved any other notable feats with paper airplanes?	Besides the world record, Collins is celebrated for creating a wide variety of complex and beautiful paper airplane designs, many of which are featured in his book. He's also a frequent presenter at events and workshops, sharing his passion globally.

10	What advice would John Collins give to someone just starting out with paper airplanes?	He'd likely encourage patience, experimentation, and a willingness to learn. Starting with simpler designs and gradually moving to more complex ones, paying attention to the folds, and understanding how small adjustments can affect flight are key to improving.
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