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Opening Extract from...

Paper Home

Written by Esther Thorpe

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How to Fold

Origami, like so many things in life, takes practice to perfect, so take a little time to hone your folding techniques. Always work in a well-lit room. If you're not blessed with daylight, grab a lamp and pop it beside you – folding is so much more enjoyable when you can see what you're doing. Relax and have fun!

ACCURATE FOLDS

It might sound obvious, but making your folds as accurate as possible is fairly crucial. Attention to folding detail will pay off by the end of your model.





Folding in half horizontally and vertically: It is important to ensure the edges of your paper are perfectly aligned before making a fold. Pinch down in the centre and continue the fold out to the edges.

TIP / Don't be afraid to refold – if the precreases aren't in the right place, you may not achieve the results you want, so get it right before it's too late.



Folding in half diagonally: When folding diagonal folds, the paper can occasionally misbehave and slide out of place, so it is crucial to begin by lining up the two opposing corners. Then you can go on to crease in the centre and continue the fold out to the sides.



On this completed sonobe module, the two outer folds are mountain folds and in the centre there is a valley fold.

MOUNTAIN AND VALLEY FOLDS

Throughout the book I refer to 'mountain' and 'valley' folds. The best way to understand this terminology is to think quite simply if the paper is acting as a mountain or a valley. When creating a mountain fold, the model's uppermost side is exposed when folded; when creating a valley fold, the model's uppermost side is enclosed in the fold.









INVERSE FOLDS

One of the trickier folds to master is inverse folding. This is where precreases in the paper are inverted on themselves, as you can see being worked here. This is one half of the Party Diamonds model.



TIP / The best way to check if you've inversed a fold correctly is to ask yourself, are all creases now folded in the opposite direction?



Pyramid Fairy Lights

I wanted to create a unique origami design that would fully enclose each tiny bulb on a string of fairy lights. The result is these sweet little pyramids that look fabulous, especially when made from a delicately patterned paper. The pyramids are based on the classic origami water-bomb, which you may well already be familiar with, and if not, don't worry – they're beautifully straightforward to fold.

You will need

- 15 x 15cm / 6 x 6in paper (90gsm) / 10 squares
- 5mm (¼in) double-sided tape
- Scissors
- LED fairy lights / 10 bulbs
  (or more if you fancy a challenge)
- Quick-drying glue

Finished size

Each pyramid: approx. 5cm (2in) high x 2.5cm (1in) wide

METHOD



1. Take one paper square, white side face up, and fold it in half diagonally.



2. Unfold. Rotate the paper 90 degrees and fold in half diagonally again.



3. Unfold. Turn the paper over (patterned side face up). Fold in half horizontally in both directions and unfold.







4. Using the precreases, fold the paper into a flat triangle shape, ensuring the two opposing horizontal folds are inverted. Orientate the model so that the open edges are at the bottom.



5. Fold the bottom right-hand edge to align with the centre fold, as shown. Repeat on the left-hand side.



6. Turn the model over and repeat step 5 to fold both sides to the centre fold.



7. Fold the bottom right-hand edge to the centre fold to create a long, triangular shape, as shown. Repeat on the left-hand side.







8. Turn the model over and repeat step 7 to fold both sides to the centre fold.

9. Take the top layer of the right-hand section and fold it down to create a triangle, as shown. Unfold.

10. Open the folds on the right-hand side twice to bring the small triangle fold made in step 9 to the back of the model, and fold this triangle to the front.