

Origami Nesting Boxes

Okay, okay, so we're cheating a little. Technically, since you make two scissor cuts, these boxes aren't origami. But they are charming boxes even a beginner can make. Use papers with complementary designs and contrasting textures, and each successive box will reveal a small surprise nestled within.



Designer: Micah Pulleyn

materials

Assorted decorative papers (two pieces for each box: one for the bottom, one for the lid)

Scissors

Bone folder or straight edge (optional)

Pencil

step by step

(Once you've made this box the first time, you'll "get it," and making more will be a cinch. We suggest you practice first with a piece of scrap paper.)

1 Take one sheet of paper. Fold and cut if necessary to make sure you have a perfect square. (You can use a bone folder or straight edge to help you make sharp, straight creases.) Fold this square of paper in half diagonally (corner to corner) to form a triangle, then unfold (figure 1).

2 Fold the paper in half diagonally to form a triangle again, using the opposite corners this time. Once opened, the paper's creases will form an X (figure 2).

3 Fold each corner of the paper into the center so the points meet but do not overlap in the center of the X crease (figures 3 and 4).

4 Unfold the paper to reveal the pattern of creases shown in figure 5. Take one corner of the paper and fold it back into the center again (figure 6). Do not unfold this time. Instead, fold this section of the paper again, so the folded, outside edge meets the crease in the center of the

paper (figure 7). Unfold and repeat this procedure with the other three corners.

5 Open the paper and use the pencil to draw four cutting lines on the paper, as shown in figure 8. These lines will make the four corners of the paper now resemble two different

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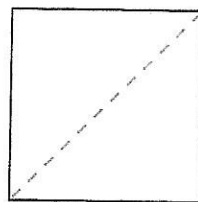


Figure 1

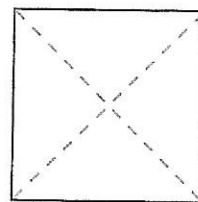


Figure 2

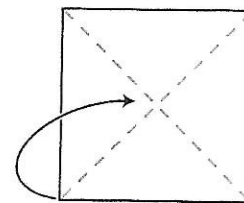


Figure 3

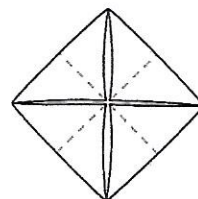


Figure 4

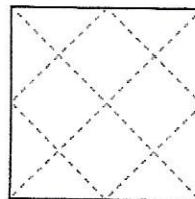


Figure 5

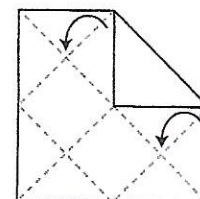


Figure 6

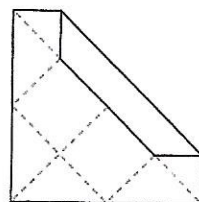


Figure 7

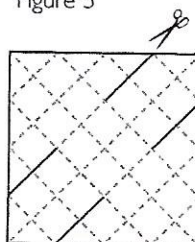


Figure 8



Figure 9

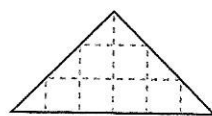


Figure 10

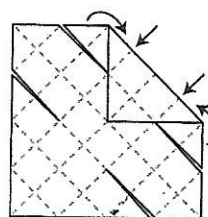


Figure 11

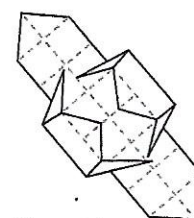


Figure 12

shapes. Two of corners (on opposite sides) will look like houses (figure 9) and the other two will look like mountains (figure 10). It's important to draw the pencil marks accurately and follow them exactly when you cut—don't cut into the square in the center of the paper!

6 Fold both of the mountain-shaped corners so their points touch the center (figure 11). Lift both of these folded edges up to begin forming the box; as you do so, make the two flaps of each mountain shape stand up inside the box (figure 12) so that flaps from opposite sides overlap and touch each other.

7 Use the creases in the house-shaped corners to guide you in folding each of these corners up and over the overlapping flaps to form the box shape. (The "roofs" of the house shapes will complete the bottom of the box.)

8 Repeat Steps 1 through 8 using another piece of paper of the exact same size to make the box lid. To create the boxes that go inside this box, follow the same steps, but use square sheets that are 1 inch smaller each time. (A box made from 12-inch (30.5 cm) square paper can hold a box made from 11-inch (28 cm) square paper, which can hold a box made from 10-inch (25 cm) square paper, etc.)