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Making origami boxes is endless fun. It is enjoyable to think about what color and kind of paper are best for a project, what the box will be used for, and for whom it is made. The feel of the paper and step-by-step procedure makes for peace and contentment. It is exciting to see the individual units form a box with colorful patterns and decorations. Once you try your hand at origami boxes, you will be captivated by their real appeal, beauty and cuteness.

Included in this book are triangle, square, hexagon and octagon boxes. There are simple party plates and bowls. Some boxes are made of square paper and others of rectangular paper. Some boxes form flowers, hearts and butterflies. We hope that the variety in this book will start you on your way towards enjoying a life full of origami boxes.

January 30, 1998
Tomoko Fuse
# List of Color Illustrations

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Symbols

- Crease then open again.
- Turn over.
- Enlargement
- Pull out.
- Rotate.
  The next drawing shows a different position.
- Fold so that the points indicated by the dots meet.
- Pleat.
- Repeat the fold behind, the same as the one shown in front.
- Repeat 2 times.
- Valley fold
  Fold forward.
- Mountain fold
  Fold backward.
- Insert into pocket.
- Equal Lengths
- Inside reverse fold
- Outside reverse fold
Party Plate (1) from a square

◆ PLATE 1 ◆

Place a piece of paper (inside liner) inside the plate to keep the shape.

1. Fold top and bottom edges to the center, folding the four corners.
2. Unfold and turn over.
3. Make creases.
4. Lift up the rims.
INSIDE LINER

1. 

2.

3.

4. 

Place the liner inside the plate.
Party Plate (2) from a square

◆ PLATE 2 ◆

A plate with pleats. Place an inside liner inside to keep the shape.

1. Fold according to the creases.
2. Lift up the rims.
3. Make pleats.
4. Inside liner on page 17.
5. Place the liner inside the plate.
Party Plate (3) from a square

1. Begin with step 3 on the left page.
2. Fold according to the creases.
3. Unfold.
4. Fold other three parts in the same way as step 3, and lift up the rims.

Inside liner on page 17.

Place the liner inside the plate.
Party Plate (4) from a rectangle

PLATE 4

Rectangle paper is used here. For the inside liner use the paper of the same size. You may also use a paper napkin or other paper you like.

INSIDE LINER 1

1. [Assembly]
2. Lift up the rims.
3. Place the inside liner inside the plate.
**INSIDE LINER 2**

1. [Diagram of step 1]
2. [Diagram of step 2]
3. [Diagram of step 3]
4. [Diagram of step 4]
5. [Diagram of step 5]

**Assembly**

Insert the flaps of the liner into the four corners of the plate.

With Inside Liner 1

With Inside Liner 2
Triangle Box (A)

This triangle box is easier to fold than conventional ones and yields many variations. Nesting boxes are also easily made.

1. Using Δ as a pivot, fold ● to ●.
2. Fold in numerical order.
3. Unfold the inside triangle.
4. Fold at ○ so that ● meets.
5. Lift up the side and fold the upper layer to make the bottom.
6. Using Δ as a pivot, fold ● to ●.
7. (× 3)
(Outside)

(Inside)

The inside seen from above.

[Assembly]

Insert between the flaps and tuck point into the pocket.

Insert the flaps marked * from under and tuck points into the pockets.
Triangle Box (B)

◆ B ◆

Begin with step 8 of A.

1. Using Δ as a pivot, bring point • to •.
2. Join in the same way as A on page 23.
3. Lift up the side and fold the upper layer to make the bottom.
4. (x 3)
Triangle Box \( (C, D) \)

Begin with step 8 of A.

Make this crease after the units are joined.

Fold and join in the same way as A, beginning with 8.

Make this crease after the units are joined.

(C)

(D)
Fold by letting the edge stick out about 3 mm. The length of sticking out decides the size of the box. If it is larger, you can obtain a deep box. The (a) of ⑤ makes a side of the box, so you may decide the size of your box by folding ⑤ first.

Place on top of the template.

Fold according to the measurement of the template.

The (a) is the length of the side.
Nesting Triangle Boxes

Triangle Box - Body

Join in the same way as A on page 23.

Make B, C, D in the same way.

Fold in numerical order.

Using Δ as a pivot, fold ● to ●.

Lift up the side and fold the upper layer to make the bottom.
Hexagon Box (A)

1. 
2. 
3. Make three creases to divide into four equal parts and unfold.
4. 
5. Using Δ as a pivot, fold • to • and unfold.
6. 
7. Fold to the reverse side.
You may use it as it is, or lift up tops.

Lock each point by folding it inward.

[Assembly]

Fold in pleats.

(× 2)

(Inside)
Hexagon Box (B)

Begin with step ① on page 29.

Try different folding other than those introduced here.
You can have various patterns.

Fold in pleats.
Hexagon Box (C)

Begin with step ① on page 28.

1. Fold in numerical order.

2. Using Δ as a pivot, fold ● to ● and unfold.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8. Fold in pleats.

See next page for assembly.
[Assembly 1]

Lock each point part by folding it inward.

(Outside)

Mixed Assembly

Insert into the left and right of a unit.

[Assembly 2]

Different Colors

[Assembly 1]

[Assembly 2]
Hexagon Boxes

Body & Nesting Boxes

Take the measurements in the same way as for an octagonal box. If you change the width of (1), you can make nesting boxes.

Begin with step ① on page 28.

When using 15 cm square paper, fold the left edge 3 to 4 mm away from the right corner.

After making a crease, unfold.

[Template]

Place under.

Place another ① on top of the template and take the measurements.

◆ Shallow ◆

◆ Deep ◆
Hexagon Box - Body

Nesting Hexagon Boxes

See [Assembly 2] on page 32 for the assembly.

Lock by folding each flap to the reverse side.

Continue with the same steps from ⑧ on page 31.
Square Boxes from a Rectangle

The standard size of paper is a quarter of 210 × 300 mm (8 1/4 × 11 3/4").

Use rectangle paper. Since the ratio between the lengths of sides is variable as long as not extreme, you may use any paper at hand. If you change the assembly, you can get different results with the same units.

1. 105 mm
   150 mm
   The ratio of lengths of sides is 1 to 1.4.

2. Unfold the whole.

3. Using Δ as a pivot, fold ● to ●.

4. (× 4)
**Bowknot**

**Assembly**

1. [Diagram of step 1]
2. [Diagram of step 2]
   - Assemble 4 units in this way.
3. [Diagram of step 3]
4. [Diagram of step 4]

**Different Patterns - Windmill**

1. [Diagram of step 1]
2. [Diagram of step 2]
   - (Outside)
3. [Diagram of step 3]

Continue with the same steps from 6 on the previous page. Assemble in the same way as above.
Tomoe

[Assembly]

Assemble 4 units in this way.

Lightning

[Assembly]

(Outside)

Tight Assembly

Lock by folding the flap inward.

This method tightens the units.
If you mix the assembly of “bowknot” and “tomoe,” you can obtain more different patterns.

◆ Examples of Mixed Assembly ◆

A  

B  

C  

◆ Lightning ◆ 

◆ Bowknot ◆ 

◆ Mixed A ◆ 

◆ Mixed C ◆
Square Box from a Rectangle  **Body**

This box is used as the body. If you change the length of (a) of ①, you can make nesting boxes.

1. Use the same size paper of the lid (p.36).

2. Fold ● to ●.

3. Unfold the whole.

4. Unfold the whole.

5. Place ① on top of the template.

6. Remove the top paper after folding according to the template.
See page 37 for assembly.

Fold in numerical order.
Lamp-shaped Bowl  Standard

This bowl looks like a Japanese lamp. It is stronger than you expect. If you change the width of step 2, you can get nesting bowls of various sizes, larger and smaller.

1. Fold in numerical order.
2. Fold only the top layer.
3. Pull out the bottom flap without folding.
4. Using Δ as a pivot, fold ● to ●.
5. Fold only the top layer.
6. Fold along edge (a).
7. Unfold.
12. Fold along the edge and unfold.

13. Fold in numerical order.

14. Make a crease and return to 12.

15. Unfold.

16. Bring ● to ●, folding in a pleat and open the top corner 90°.

17. Fold by matching ●.

18. (× 4)

See next page for assembly.
[Assembly]

1. (Outside)
2. (Inside)
3. 4

Lamp-shaped Bowl

Nesting Bowls
Measurements of Nesting Bowls

The size of bowls depends on how to fold, near the center or further from the center. When you finished folding one, make it a template and fold the other three units according to the template's measurements. For your reference, a list of measurements is given.

Size 2 • Deeper and smaller than the standard

Size 3 • Standard

Size 4 • Shallower and larger than the standard

[Template]

Place new paper on top of the template and fold according to the measurements.

Place under.

Continue with the same steps from (1) on page 42.

List of Measurements

Folding lines of step (2) on page 42.

Line 3 is the folding line of the standard size. The higher the number is, the shallower and larger the bowls become.
Lamp-shaped Bowl  Lid with a knob

Size 4 · Shallower and larger than the standard

This is the lid with a knob for the body of the standard size bowl (size 3). Of course, other lids of different sizes are obtainable by the same methods.

Place new paper on top of the template and fold according to the measurements.

[Template]

1. Place under.

2. Fold until 11 on page 43.

3. Open the top corner 90°. Pivoting on $\Delta$, unfold widely.

4. (Inside)
Square Box  Plain

Make creases on the edge as illustrated.

Make a crease a little longer than half.

Fold in numerical order.

Unfold.

Fold ● to ●.

Unfold after making creases.
Fold to the left and lift up the above side.

Fold as far as ○.

Fold down two flaps together.

Fold as far as ○.

(× 4)

See next page for assembly.
[Assembly]

1. Unfold.
2. Fold and cover. Place on top of another.
3. Insert another two units in the same way.
4. (Inside)
5. (Outside)
Square Box  Crane 1

This box has cranes on top. It is possible to fold various other figures instead of cranes.

Begin with step 1 on page 49.

Fold in numerical order.

Open and flatten.

Inside reverse fold.

Fold the other side in the same way as steps 5 and 6.

Continue on the next page.

Pull out the back flaps of the top layer and reverse.

Open and flatten.
Inside reverse fold.

Fold the wing and make the head by inside reverse fold.

(Inside)

(Outside)

(× 4)

[Assembly]

1. Place on top.

2. Fold over.

Insert the other two units in the same way.
Assembly with plain units on page 48

(Crane × 2) + (Plain × 2)

Experiment with different ways of joining with other units as above.
Square Boxes  Iris & Bouvardia

◆ IRIS ◆

By changing the folding of petals, the flower becomes either an iris or a bouvardia.

Begin with step 10 on page 51.

1. Open the petals.

◆ BOUVDARIA ◆

Begin with step 12 on page 51.

1. Fold the top flaps inside and turn over.

2. Fold in between.

3. Fold in between.
See page 52 for assembly. Joining methods are the same for the iris and bouvardia.

Open the petals.

(×4)
Square Box Heart

A box with a heart on top.
It is interesting to join with plain boxes.

Begin with step 1 on page 49.

1. Fold in numerical order.

2. Fold in pleat.

3. Align (a) and (b) edges together and fold.

4. Turn over and reverse.

5. Align (a) and (c) edges together and fold.

6. Fold and align the edge with the behind flap.

7. Fold and align the edge with the behind flap.
See page 52 for assembly.

Fold each corner of the heart and pull out the under layers.

The inside behind the heart.
Square Boxes  Rabbit & Butterfly

◆ RABBIT ◆

Steps to fold rabbit and place butterfly on top.

◆ BUTTERFLY ◆
See page 52 for assembly.

Fold in pleats.

Fold to the reverse along the creases made in step 6.

Rabbit

Butterfly

6

7

8

9

10
Square Box with a Tab

Begin with step 10 on page 49.

A box with a tab. You may assemble other units, using B and C.

Fold in numerical order.

Lift the tab after making a crease. Pull out the under layers.

[Assembly]

Only unit A was assembled.

Joining method is the same on page 52.
[Another assembly]

As shown here, you may join one kind of unit placed outside. Joining method is the same on page 52.

- **C**
  - The sides of outside unit should be folded inside.
  - Fold the tab and lock.

- **B**
  - The sides of inside unit should be extended.

Crane 1 on page 51.
Square Box  Vortex

Fold each end of units step-by-step in circle. You may stop the process halfway and assemble.

1. Fold to the right.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.

[Assembly]

- A -

Open the back and lift up the sides. (× 4)

- Seen from above -

Joining method is the same on page 52.

- Lock each point by folding it inward. -

62
Make an additional vortex on A.

[Assembly formed halfway]
From assembly 3

From assembly 4
Square Box  **Hydrangea**

If you change the color of paper, the hydrangea will turn into a pink.

Begin with step 10 on page 49.

1. Make a crease.
2. Fold and insert the part marked * under the upper flap.
(18) Make a crease on the left corner. Open the back and lift up the sides.

(17) Open and flatten.

(16) Fold other three parts in the same way as steps 13 and 14.

(15) Fold up the top flap, opening petals.

(14) See the next page for the assembly.
Fold the triangle * and lock firmly.
Square Boxes

Plain 2 & Crane 2

◆ PLAIN 2 ◆

You may assemble plain boxes alone or join boxes with a crane. The direction of crane 2 and crane 1 is opposite.

◆ CRANE 2 ◆

Begin with step ⑩ on page 65.

Fold a crane from step ③ on page 51.
Square Box  Lily

◆ LILY (traditional) ◆
The box has a lily on top. First learn how to fold a lily. Since the lily has many folds and becomes small, use larger paper.

Fold up according to the creases.

Repeat the fold behind as the one shown in front.

Open and flatten.

Turn the fold.

Repeat the fold behind as the one shown in front. Open and flatten.

Fold the right and left in the same way.

Turn the fold.

Turn the fold.
Begin with step ② on page 65.

Fold the encircled part into a lily from step ④ on page 68.

Curl the tips of petals.
Square Box  Body 1 & Inside Liner

The body fits well with a lid with a decoration on top. An inside liner will ensure firm assembly.

1. Fold down the bottom part and lift up the sides. (× 4)
2. Fold ● to ●.

[Assembly]

1. Insert two tabs into the pockets.
2. Insert four tabs in the same way.
Body 1 & Inside Liner

Body 2

INSIDE LINER

1

2

3

Insert under into the bottom.

If the paper is too thick, cut off along the creases.
Square Box  Body 2

This box is deeper than Body 1. The depth depends on the width of the fold 1. Choose the depth as you like.

(a) is the depth of the box. Fold up leaving space (b) (1-2 cm).

[Template]

Make the measurements from the template, and fold three more sheets.

1. Place under.

2. Fold in pleat.

3. Fold behind.

4. Unfold. (×4)
**INSIDE LINER**

Twist according to the creases and flatten the bottom.

You may use the inside liner on page 71.

(Outside of the bottom)

(Inside of the bottom)

Insert to join two ends.

Fold upward.

[Assembly]

Insert as far as the middle.
This box is solid because both inside and outside are locked. If you change the folding width of \( \textcircled{2} \), you can make nesting boxes. The size of the box is the same as size 1 on page 77.

Unfold leaving the last flap as it is.

\[ \text{SIZE 1} \]

1. Make a crease at \( \circ \).
2. Change the direction.
3. [Assembly]
4. Fold down the bottom and lift up the sides.
1. Turn over and lock the outside.

2. Insert the flap and lock.

3. Turn over and insert the flap and lock.

4. Lock the other three parts in the same way.

5. 

6. (Inside)

7. (Outside)
Square Boxes  Body & Nesting Boxes

Adjust the width in steps 2 and 3 to make nesting boxes.
Introduced in this page are boxes, size 9 and size 5 listed in the measurement list on the next page.

Unfold leaving the last flap as it is.

Change the direction.

[Assembly]

Fold down the bottom and lift up the sides. (× 4)

Insert as shown and fold to lock both inside and outside.

See page 75 for assembly.
◆ SIZE 5 ◆

◆ List of Measurements ◆

The lines show places the edges are fold to in steps ② and ③. The higher the number is, the shallower and larger the boxes become. Nine nesting boxes will be made in all.

Fold and assemble as shown on page 75.

(×4)
Rectangle Box  Individual Plate

This rectangle box is made up of a single sheet of paper. The size of the basic rectangle box will be about 2/3 of a square box and will fit in the square box. If you change the folding width in the first step, you can make other rectangle boxes of different sizes.

1. Fold over inward.
2. Unfold after making creases.
3. Make creases as shown.
4. Fold over inward.
5. The square box folded with size 2 on page 77.
Smaller than basic — BODY —

1. The sizes of boxes depends on the folding widths of 2.

2. Fold so that the edge sticks out a little from the center.

3. If (a) is longer than 1⁄4, the box will be smaller and deeper.
If (a) is shorter than 1⁄4, the box will be larger and shallower.

The rectangle box on page 78 will fit as a lid.

Cover.

Continue with steps 5 to 8 on page 78.

79
Octagon Box  Small Flower (A)

A neat and firm octagon box made up of 4 sheets of paper.

1. Fold the paper in half diagonally.
2. Unfold and fold the paper in the opposite direction.
3. Fold the corners to the center.
4. Repeat steps 1-3 on the other side.
5. Fold the top layer down.
6. Fold the bottom layer up.
7. Repeat steps 5-6 on the other side.
8. Fold the top layer down again.
10. Fold the top layer down once more.
11. Fold to the center and pull out the under layer.

Fold ● to ● and pull out the under layer.
Small Flower (A)

Lock each point by folding it inward.

[Assembly]

Join the four units as shown.
Variations of Small Flower (A) - a, b

If you alter the folding a little, you can get different patterns. Box (b) has “Small Flowers” inside.

Inside the box, lock each point by folding it inward.
Octagon Box  Small Flower (B)

The direction of the decorations on top is different from that of "Small Flower (A)." You will be pleased with various patterns (see page 84).

Begin with step ① on page 80.

1. Fold to and open the flap to the reverse side.

2. Fold ① to ② and open the flap to the reverse side.

3. Fold inward.

4. Join the four units in the same way. (× 4)

Lock the outside as "Small Flower (A)" on page 81.

Small Flower (B)
Variations of Small Flower (B) - a, b, c, d

It is possible to assemble with different units.

Small Flower (B)

b + Small flower (B)  d + Small flower (B)
Octagon Box  Twin Stars

Begin with step 6 on page 80.

Turn over the "Small Flower" and fold so that the inside turns into the outside.

Make a crease.

Pull out the under layer.

Lift up the sides.

[Assembly]
Join the four units as shown.

Lock each point by folding it inward.
Variations of Twin Stars - a, b, c

a

b

c

\(a + b\)

\(b + c\)

\(\text{b} \star \text{c}\)
Octagon Box Plain

A plain box with the patterns appearing on the inside.

Begin with step 7 on page 80.

1. Unfold.

2. Fold in pleats in order and lift up the sides.

3. (Outside)

4. (× 4)

Join the four units as shown.

Continued on the next page.
Lock each point by folding it inward.

Octagon Box - Plain
Variations of Plain Boxes - a, b, c

a

b

c

\[\text{Diagram of variations for plain boxes: a, b, c.}\]
Octagon Box  

Body

The side of the box is decided by length (a) in step 2. Put new paper on the template 3' and take the measurements. When you get used to the folding methods, think out a body which has a twin pattern with the lid.

1'  
Fold to the point about 5 mm below the center. Length (a) is the side of the box.

2'  
Place under.

3'  
Put on top of the template.

[Template]

2  
Take the measurements from the template.

3  
Make a diagonal crease.
11. Unfold after making a crease.

12. Fold in pleats and lift up the sides.

13. See the next page for assembly.

9. Make a crease to make a small triangle at the end.
Join the four units in the same way as "Plain Box" on page 89.

With the variations of lids in mind, work out a body of different patterns.

Nesting Octagon Boxes

If you change the folding width of ①, you can make nesting boxes. Length (a) is the side of the box.

(Deep small box)

(Shallow large box)
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