Napkin & Quilting Origami

Janet Cannon, presenter
11/08/10
Origami

- Originated in Japan or China
- Shapes: square (most common), circle, rectangle, other regular shapes
- Media: paper, fabric, plastic, leather, etc.
- Algorithm (mathematical formula) based on origami patterns is used in airbag technology so it will deploy quickly and evenly. Algorithm also used in focusing space telescopes.
Napkin Origami

• Paper or fabric?
  – Paper good for holding tight shapes
  – Paper often rips
  – Fabric is easily bent into curved shapes
  – Fabric has to be starched/ironed. A lot.

• Size?
  – Larger squares are easier to work with
  – Larger squares can be more intricate
  – Smaller shapes make simple decorations
Easy: Fan Part I

• Iron & spray with starch/ Best Press
• Fold bottom side up about 1”.
• Flip over.
• Continue to flip and press to end.
• Fold in half lengthwise.
Easy: Fan Pleat

- Tie with ribbon or secure with napkin ring.

- Place flat on plate or upright in wine glass. (May need pin center together.)
Easy: Fan Variation

• Instead of starting on a side, press & fold diagonally.
• Shape into a candy cane.
• This works best with a multi-colored napkin OR two paper napkins rolled together.
Easy: Layers Part I

• Press horizontal and vertical folds.

• Fold together so open tips are at the top. Press.
Easy: Layers Part 2

- Press down one layer at a time.
Easy: Layers Variations

• Press top corners back at top.

○ Press top corners back to bottom corner.
Medium: Silverware Holder Pt 1

- Press napkin in half, open side up.
- Press one edge ¼ of the way down.
- Press the top edge under to form a small pocket in the middle of the napkin.
Medium: Silverware Holder Pt 2

• Flip over.
• Press side edges toward center. If your napkin is small, you’ll want space between. If your napkin is large, you’ll want to fold them into the center.
Medium: Silverware Holder

• Slide silverware in pocket.
Medium: Wineglass Flower Pt 1

• Press napkin horizontally and vertically.

• Fold corners together to top.

• Press bottom corner less than center of square.
Medium: Wineglass Flower Pt 2

- From one corner, accordion fold and press across.

- Place in wineglass. Can be left this way or...
Medium: Wineglass Flower Pt 3

- Open the petals.
Hard: Rose Part 1

• This pattern requires at LEAST a 16” square and lots of starch.

• Press horizontally and vertically.

• Press corners into center.
Hard: Rose Part 2

- Again, press corners into center (repetition #2).
- Again, press corners into center (repetition #3).
- Flip to the back and again, press corners into center (repetition #4).
Hard: Rose Part 3

• Pull and curve corner around edge. Be careful not to pull it all the way free.
Hard: Rose Part 4

• Pull flaps between corners up. Again, be careful not to pull flaps all the way free.
Hard: Rose Part 5

- Pull flaps behind corners up. This helps to curl the rose up.

- Again, be careful not to pull flaps all the way free.
Hard: Rose Part 6

- Place cup, silk flower, or decoration in center.
Paper Napkin Rose Part 1

- Pinch corner between pointer and middle fingers.
- Roll napkin over pointer finger.
- Pinch between middle and ring fingers.
- Roll napkin over middle finger.
Paper Napkin Rose Part 2

- Roll napkin over ring finger.
- Roll remaining napkin around.

- Pull out fingers.
- About 2-3” down, pinch and begin to twist.
Paper Napkin Rose Part 3

- Twist about halfway down.
- Pull bottom flap up.
Paper Napkin Rose Part 4

- Twist leaf behind.
- Continue twisting stem leaving leaf free.
Paper Napkin Rose Part 4

- Finished rose.

- Paper napkin rose bouquet.
Quilting Origami Tips, I

• If possible, do design with paper, first. Paper holds a crease easier and you can practice with different variations/ sizes without wasting fabric.

• Bigger squares are easier to work with. 4” would probably be the smallest you’d want to work with.

• Use LOTS of starch/Best Press and stay-stitching. Each little step/corner can be a stumbling block if not tight/flat.
Quilting Origami Tips, II

• Don’t sweat it if your square isn’t exactly perfect or if your folds aren’t sharp or precise. Because of it’s flexibility, fabric warps.

• Most quilts with appliquéd origami flowers will have to be wall hangings/dry cleaned. Zigzagged edges and double thickness squares don’t fold well. SIMPLE designs work okay turned ¼” and sewn, but not if you’re making a lot of folds.
My paper model

• Modified windmill
• 3 flower patterns. (appliquéd)
• 4 flower colors, white & green background.
• Center flower sewn into square.
Flowers – Paper vs. Fabric:

- Four sided
- Five sided
- Six sided
Five sided – easy, Pt 1

- Cut w/ pentagon template.
- Press and sew ¼” seam if desired.
- Wrong side to center, press in half in each direction.
Five sided – easy, Pt 2

• Wrong side up, press each edge to center. Edges must be parallel.

○ Center pentagon is parallel to outside pentagon.
Five sided – easy, Pt 3

• Fold two sides to center and create standing point.

○ Press to one side. Point should hang over edge.
Five sided – easy, Pt 4

- Repeat on other four sides.
- Stitch in place. A button in the center covers any folding flaws.
Four sided – medium, Pt 1

• Square template
• Press horizontally and vertically.

Wrong side up, press corners to center.
Four sided – medium, Pt 2

• Flip over.
• Press one edge to center.

_REPEAT ON OTHER THREE SIDES.
○ Unfold.
Four sided – medium, Pt 3

- Fold two edges in creating peak at corner.
- Press corner flat.
- Neaten corner with iron if necessary.
Four sided – medium, Pt 4

• Repeat on other three corners.

• Pull flaps out from behind.

○ Sew into quilt square before next step.
Four sided – medium, Pt 5

- Once sewn into quilt square, pull center flap out.
- Curl petal back.
- Tack tip onto adjacent fabric.
Four sided – medium, Pt 6

• You can add stuffing behind petal and stitch entire edge.
Six sided – hard, Pt 1

- Cut w/ hexagon template.
- Press and sew ¼” seam if desired.

- Wrong side center, press in half in each direction.
Six sided – hard, Pt 2

- Wrong side up, press edge to center.

- Do so for all sides.
Six sided – hard, Pt 3

• Fold two sides creating point.

• Press corner tightly.

○ Flatten tip to center again.
Six sided – hard, Pt 4

- Pull point toward outer edge.
- Sides will flatten inward.
- Press.
Six sided – hard, Pt 5

• Fold raw edge back to center creating a diamond shape.

○ Repeat on other five sides.
○ Neaten with a button.
Finished Quilt Model:
Good Resources

• **Flower Origami** – *Origami Flowers: Popular Blossoms and Creative Bouquets* by: Hiromi Hayashi

• **General origami** – *The Practical Illustrated Encyclopedia of Origami* by: Rick Beech


• **Quilt Origami** – *Fantastic Fabric Folding: Innovative Quilting Projects* by Rebecca Wat and *Origami Quilts: 20 Folded Fabric Projects* by: Louise Mabbs and Wendy Lowes