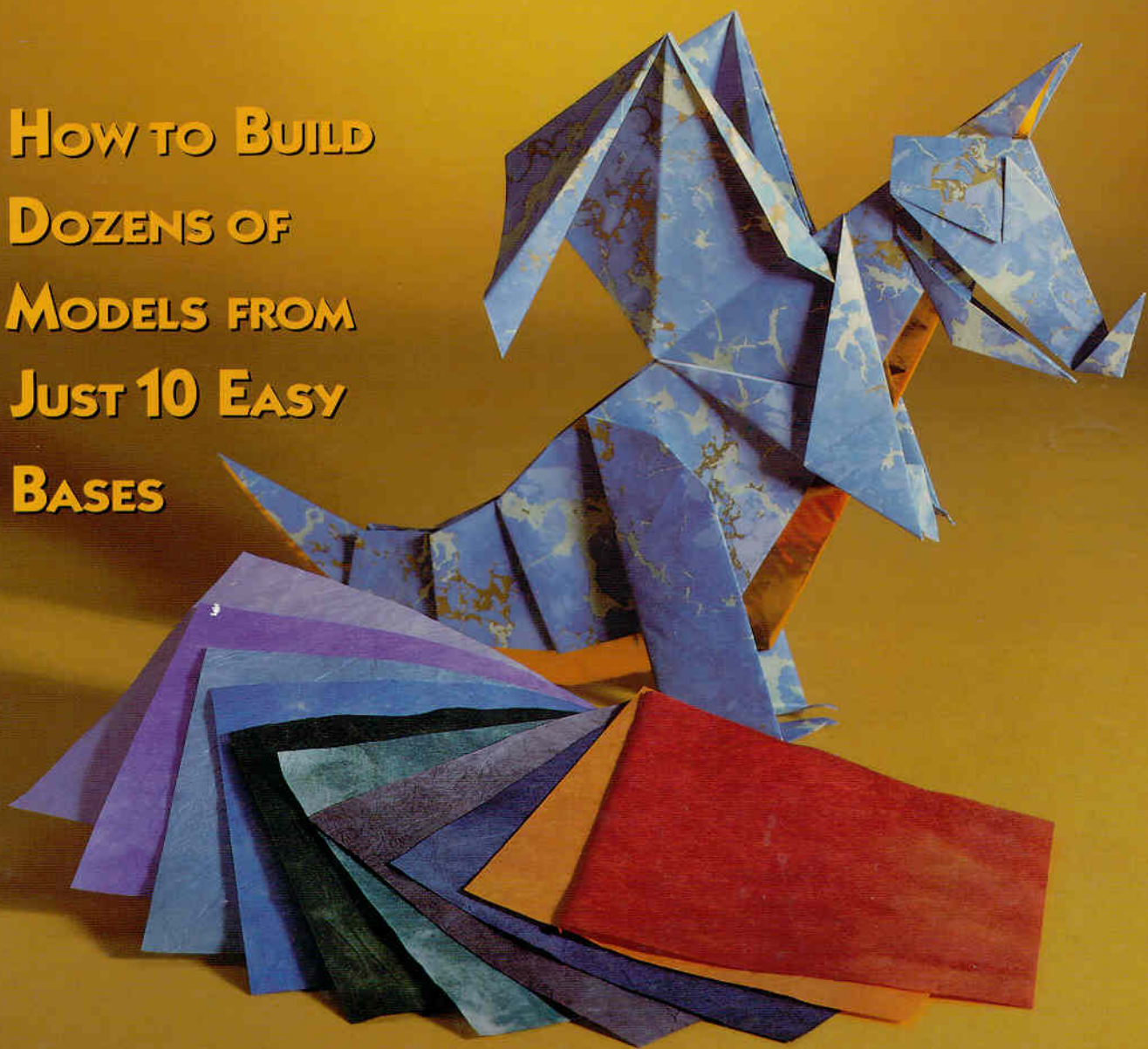


ESSENTIAL ORIGAMI

HOW TO BUILD
DOZENS OF
MODELS FROM
JUST 10 EASY
BASES



STEVE AND MEGUMI BIDDLE

ESSENTIAL
ORIGAMI

Steve and Megumi Biddle

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INTRODUCTION

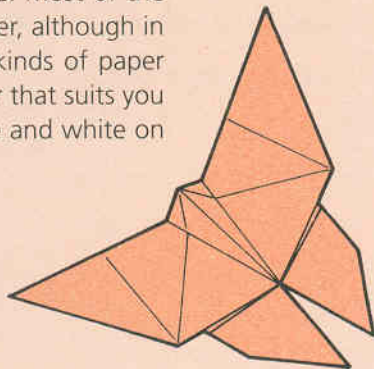
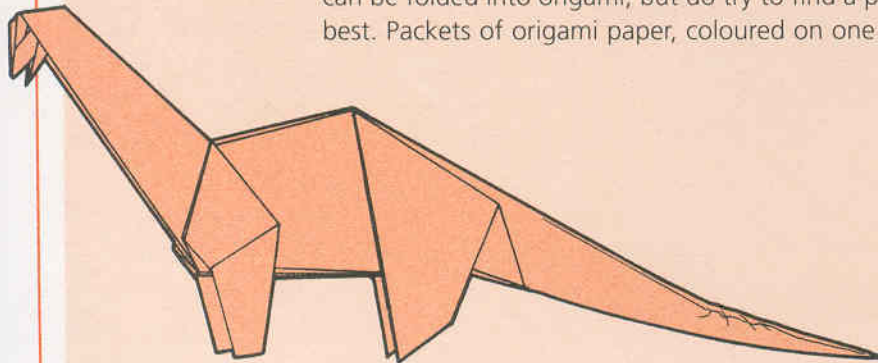
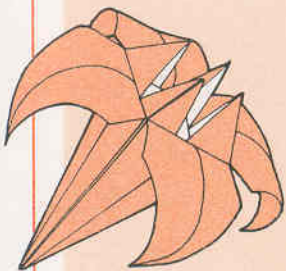
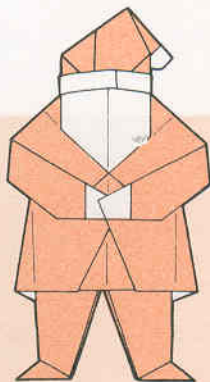
Welcome to the fabulous world of origami — the art of paper folding. Origami can be enjoyed by everybody, regardless of age, nationality and language. Nowadays in many parts of the world, people of all ages and from all sorts of backgrounds are folding paper for pleasure.

Essential Origami will introduce you to some of the traditional origami folds as well as many new ones. If you have never tried origami before, then this book is a good one to begin with. But if you are already accomplished at origami, we hope that you will be excited by the new folds in this book (many of which are featured for the first time).

To enjoy *Essential Origami*, you will find it easiest to work your way through from beginning to end, as many of the folds and folding procedures are based partially on previous ones. Therefore we suggest that you start at the beginning and don't jump backwards and forwards unless, of course, you can follow origami instructions without too much help.

This book has been designed to take you, the folder, from the very first, easy steps, to the much more intricate methods used to produce many original types of origami. In this way you will discover the greater pleasure of creating more complex folds of your own by using the techniques you have already learned.

You may be wondering what sort of paper to use. Most of the models in this book are folded from a square of paper, although in a few cases you will need more than just one. All kinds of paper can be folded into origami, but do try to find a paper that suits you best. Packets of origami paper, coloured on one side and white on



the other, can be obtained from department stores, toy shops, stationery shops and oriental gift shops. Other papers suitable for origami can be found in art and craft shops. Why not try using the fancy gift wrapping papers that are now widely available? You could even cut out a few pages from a colour magazine! Your paper does not have to be coloured on one side, but it can help to make the finished origami look very attractive.

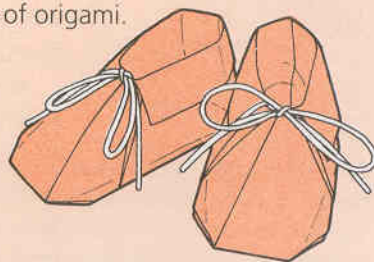
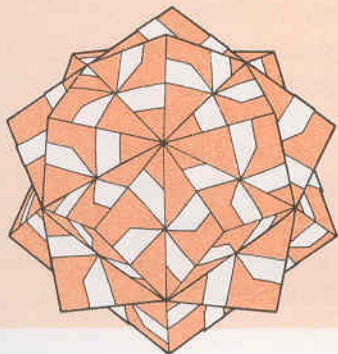
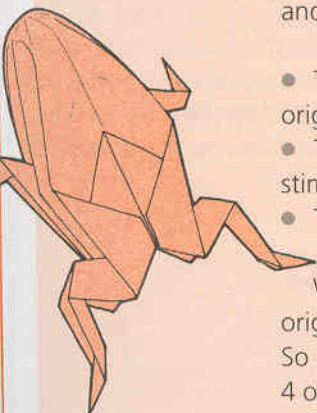
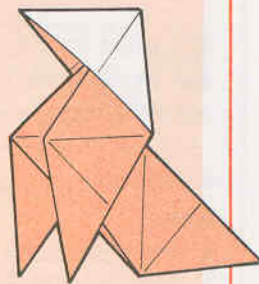
We would like to thank the members of the Nippon Origami Association (NOA) for sharing their ideas with us. NOA was founded in 1973 to bring together scholars, teachers, representatives and top artists of the origami world with the following objectives:

- To spread peace and friendship through origami and to make origami a symbol of peace.
- To spread the enjoyment of working with origami, which stimulates creativity and the pleasure of making things.
- To preserve origami throughout the world.

We would very much like to hear from you about your interest in origami, or if you have any problems in obtaining origami materials. So please write to us, care of our publishers (the address is on page 4 of this book), enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

Finally, we would like to echo the words of our very good origami friends, Lillian Oppenheimer of New York City and Toshie Takahama of Tokyo, Japan: always remember that the real secret of origami lies in the giving and sharing with others. We do hope you have a lot of fun in discovering the limitless possibilities of origami.

STEVE AND MEGUMI BIDDLE



HELPFUL TIPS

Before you try any of the procedures or projects in this book, here are some very helpful tips that will make origami easier:

- Fold on a smooth flat surface, such as a table or a book.
- Make your folds neat and accurate.
- Press your folds into place by running your thumb nail along them.
- In the diagrams, the shading represents the coloured side of the paper.
- Try to take great care in obtaining the right kind of paper to match the origami that you plan to fold. This will help to enhance the finished product.
- Before you start, make sure your paper is square.

- Do not panic if your first few attempts at folding are not very successful. With practice you will come to understand the many ways in which a piece of paper behaves when it is folded.

- Look at each diagram carefully, read the instructions and look ahead at the same time to the next diagram to see what shape will be created as the result of the step you are working on.

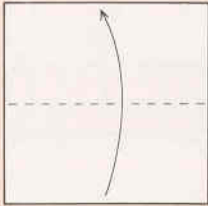
- Above all, if a fold or a whole model does not work out, do not give up hope. Go through all the diagrams one by one, checking that you have read the instructions correctly and have not missed an important word or overlooked a symbol. If that does not work, put the fold to one side and come back to it another day with a fresh mind.

SYMBOLS AND FOLDING PROCEDURES

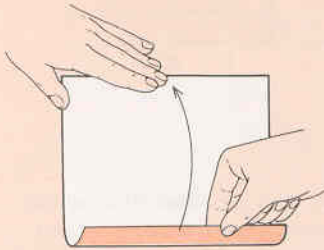
The symbols used in this book have been developed by the Nippon Origami Association, and it is important that you understand them as they show you the direction in which the paper has to be folded. So, look very carefully at the diagrams to see which way the dashes, dots and arrows go over, through, and under, and fold your paper accordingly.

If you are new to origami and are folding for the first time, you may be worried about mastering all the paperfolding jargon. We therefore suggest that, before trying the many origami projects, you take a few squares of paper and study the following symbols and procedures. In this way you will get to know the most basic points about origami and, after spending a few minutes learning them, you will be able to fold from almost any book on origami, even if you cannot understand the language in which it is written.

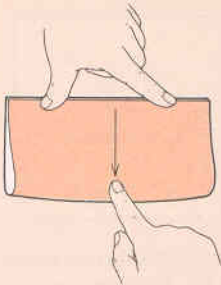
VALLEY FOLD



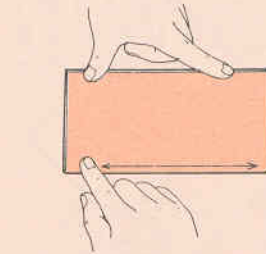
1 This is the simplest and most common technique to be found in origami. A valley fold (fold forwards or in front) is shown by a line of dashes and a solid arrow showing the direction in which the paper has to be folded.



2 Hold down the top edge of a square of paper. Lift the bottom edge up...

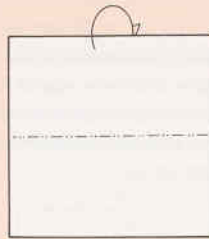


3 and bring it up to meet the top edge. Keeping the edges together, run your forefinger down the middle of the paper to the bottom edge.

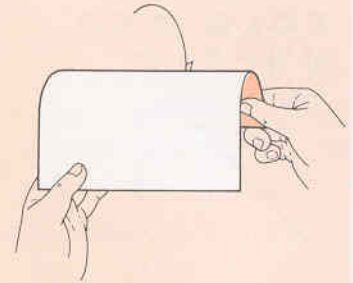


4 Run your forefinger along the bottom edge to both sides, thereby completing the fold. If you turn the paper sideways on and unfold it a little, you can see the shape resembles a valley, hence the name of this fold.

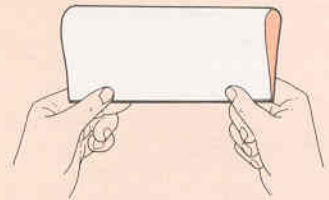
MOUNTAIN FOLD



1 A mountain fold (fold backwards or behind) is shown by a line of dots and dashes (usually a long dash followed by two dots) and a hollow-headed arrow. As in the valley fold, the arrow always shows the direction in which the paper has to be folded.



2 Hold the bottom of a square of paper. Bend the top edge backwards...



3 and take it down to meet the bottom edge.



4 Keeping the edges together, run your thumb up the middle of the paper to the top edge. Run your thumb and fingers along the top edge, thereby completing the fold. If you turn the paper sideways on and unfold it a little, you can see the shape resembles a mountain.