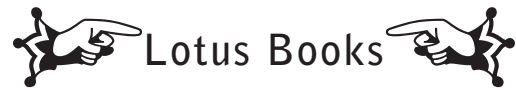


Bookmaking with Kids



This project goes by many names: lotus book, origami book, pop-out book. But whatever you call it, the result is a fascinating sculptural book that can be displayed on a shelf or hung like an ornament.

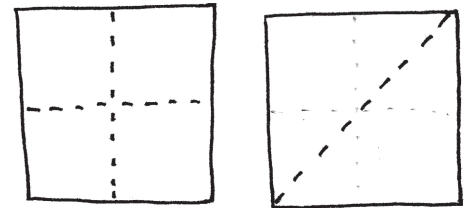
The book consists of several basic folded units, glued together and then sandwiched between covers. Besides the fun of paper engineering, kids enjoy the challenge of deciding what to put inside!

Materials & Tools

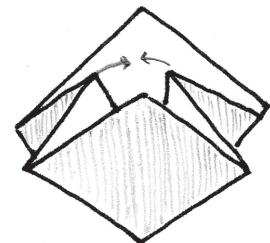
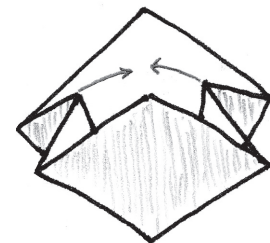
- For basic units: Origami paper or any easy-to-fold paper, cut into like-sized squares. Each child needs six pieces, plus several for practice.
- For covers: Decorative paper cut into squares the same dimensions as a completed basic unit. Each child needs two.
- Glue sticks, writing and drawing supplies
- Optional: Ribbon

Step by Step

- Practice making one or two units with origami paper, colored on one side and white on the other. Neatness counts in this project, so go slow and be patient as you do your folding.



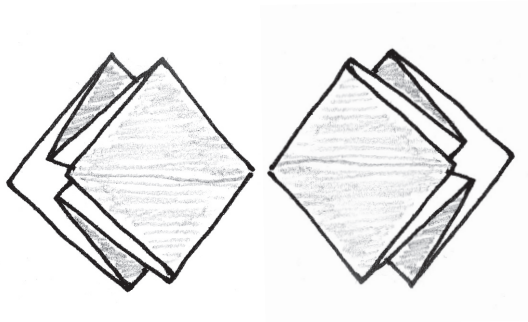
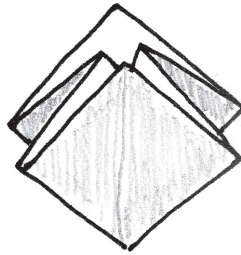
- With the colored side UP, fold your paper in half.
- Open the paper, colored side still UP, and fold it in half the other way.
- Open the paper, turn it so the colored side faces DOWN, and fold one diagonal from corner to corner.
- Open the paper, colored side UP. Put your finger in the middle, where all the folds intersect. Now PUSH, and the diagonal folds will pop up.
- Pick up the pointy ends of the two diagonal folds and bring them towards each other until they meet in the middle.



"Books take many shapes and come in a variety of structures that fold and unfold to reveal their contents in unexpected ways."

— Edward H. Hutchins,
book artist & educator

- As the points meet, the two square panels will pop up. Sandwich the inside folds between the two squares and flatten the unit.
- Congratulations! You've made one basic unit. Now keep making more.
- Once you have three to six units, it's time to join them together. Put glue on the outside of one square and attach it to the outside of another square, continuing until all units are joined.



- Glue decorative covers onto the squares at the beginning and end of the attached units, and you have a sculptural book.
- You can turn this structure into an ornament by punching holes in both covers, threading a ribbon through the holes and tying a loop. Imagine a dozen or more *Lotus Books* hanging in your classroom!

NOTES

ORIGAMI RESOURCES

The paperfolding.com web site is an excellent resource both for learning origami folding and for discovering more origami web sites to visit.

Besides a wealth of diagrams, it also has a section devoted to origami and math.