

Ornament Books

© Doris Arndt 1997 revised 2009

Also known as origami or star books, these fun little books are highly adaptable to many shapes and occasions. Variations are easily created by adding more pages, using different papers or by cutting the basic diamond shape in different ways. The cut shape variation is a very exciting book. See the last page for shape ideas

All over background decorations of the pages should be down before folding and assembling the book. If you are doing the basic diamond shape, your text can be added before folding and assembling as long as you are careful in your assembly of the pages. With the cut variation it is easiest and best to add wording and artwork after the book is assembled and cut. The book will open fairly flat so this can be easily done. The tricky part is remember how the book folds up.

Please note that this book can be made with up to 6 pages and still open well but you may want to use heavier stock for the covers. Also the larger the squares of text paper the heavier the book becomes, thus distorting the shape of the book when it is opened.

Supplies:

- ◆ Three pieces of text weight paper cut into squares (4¼" is a good size)
- ◆ Two pieces of cardstock cut into squares half the size of the text paper(2¹/₈" square)
- ◆ 1/8" wide ribbon cut to 4 to 5 times the length of the diagonal measurement of the cardstock (for example 18")
- ◆ One bead with a hole large enough for the ribbon
- ◆ Pencil and eraser
- ◆ Glue stick
- ◆ Sharp scissors or x-acto knife and cutting mat
- ◆ Stamps, markers, etc.

Construction:

1. Fold a text page in half and open , fig 1.
2. Fold in half again in the other direction and open, fig, 2.
3. Fold the paper in half along the diagonal, fig 3.

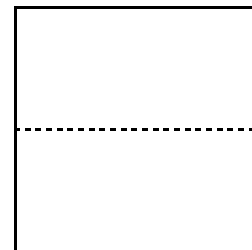


Fig. 1

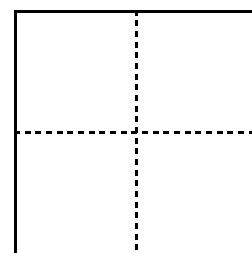


Fig. 2

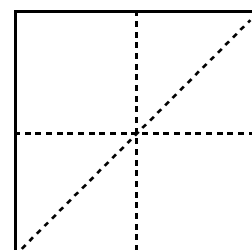


Fig. 3

4. With the paper still folded in half along the diagonal, push in the points A & B into the inside to point C, making a smaller square, figs. 4 and 5.

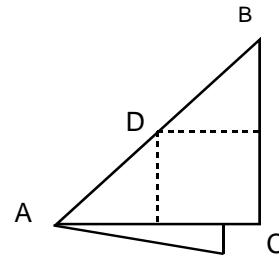


Fig. 4

5. Repeat steps 1-4 for the other two pages.

6. Glue the squares on top of each other making sure to line up point D on all the [ages].

7. If you want an uncut book proceed to step 10. For a cut book draw the desired shape onto one of the cover pieces in pencil.

8. Hold both the cover pieces together. Place on top of the glued text stack. Make sure that the stack is lined up along the C-D line.

9. Hold the stack tightly together and cut out the desired shape. You might find it easier to use an x-acto and cutting mat than with scissors.

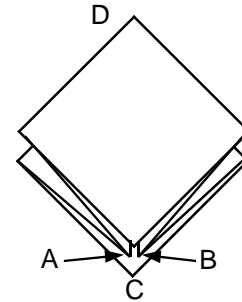


Fig. 5

10. Glue the ribbon around the stack of pages along the C-D line on both sides, leaving tails of equal length on both ends, fig. 6.

11. Check the cover pieces for fit and glue one piece to each side of the page stack.

12. Slide the bead onto both ends of the ribbon. Cutting the ribbon ends to a sharp angle can make this easier, fig. 7. Tie off at the end with an overhand knot, making sure that the book can open all the way before securing the knot.

13. To open the book, slide the bead up to the knot and open the book so that the covers touch and slide the bead back down to keep the book open.

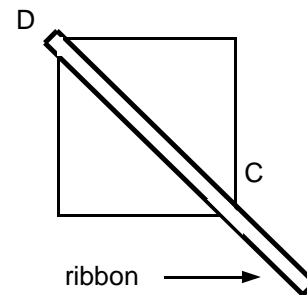


Fig. 6

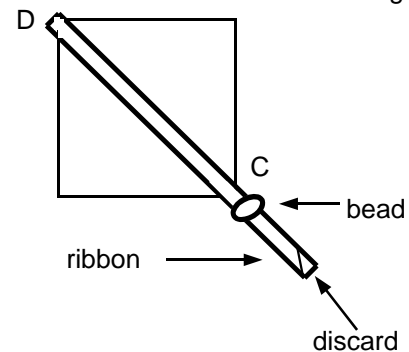


Fig. 7

Cut Shape Ideas

