



Iris Folded Koi

Instructions and pattern by Melissa Rotert

2007

Materials Needed:

Printed pattern (see Page 2) It may be easiest to print two copies.

Cardstock

Precut paper strips, 1.5" wide and various lengths to accommodate pattern, folded lengthwise

Glue or double-sided tape

Additional paper as needed

Example Info:

The example is made using Japanese hand-made papers on a base of heavy black cardstock overlaid with a hand-painted coffee filter. The item is intended as an art piece, but the design and technique can be used to make greeting cards and other paper items, as well as pieced fabric articles. A basic knowledge of iris-folding will be useful when following these instructions.

Instructions:

Begin by cutting the koi outline from your cardstock in the desired position. For iris-folding, the main shape is used as negative space inside of which you will lay your folded strips.

Decide how you want your design to look texturally and color-wise and cut your strips of paper to your vision. I used a wide variety of papers, only a few strips of each type, and laid them deliberately to give the effect of a mottled and colorful fish, but there's no reason to make it so complicated. Pre-folding your strips lengthwise is a good time-saving device.

Position your cardstock FACE DOWN on your working surface, with the template lines visible through the cut-out shape. It is a good idea to fix both template and cardstock to your work surface with removable tape. Begin laying down your strips in numerical order based on the template, with the long folded edges aligning with the appropriate line on the template. When each strip is in place, permanently fix each end to the surface underneath. Work carefully, ensuring your strips do not overlap another opening in the cardstock and that you do not accidentally fix anything to the template below. Work from the tail down the body and into the spiral at the head. Your final strip (strip #49) should cover the entire remaining opening, rather than aligning with any line. It is often easier to leave this last piece unfolded for full coverage and elimination of bulk. If using glue, allow your work to dry.

If you have made an item the back of which will not be visible, you're done with the exception of any embellishing you'd like to do on the front surface of your work. If you have made a greeting card or other item where the back of your work will be visible, it is a good idea to cut a piece of additional paper or cardstock slightly smaller than the front surface of your item and fix it over the back of your work, to cover the untidy aspect of this craft and to protect your work from damage.

If you choose to adjust the size of your work from that offered below, you can adjust the size of strips you use accordingly. As long as the strips are wide enough that they extend beyond the widest width of the pattern when folded in half, they are wide enough. Saving paper is a good thing, yo.





Iris Folded Koi

Instructions and pattern by Melissa Rotert

2007

