

My favorite origami!



Putting Origami to Work

Robert Lang is a physicist who became a full-time origami artist. Lang helped NASA to develop folding solar panels that a spacecraft could spread out to make electricity from

the sun. He also designed a plastic telescope lens that could unfold to the size of a football field! That design has not yet been turned into a real telescope, but it might someday.

Origami is useful for much more than outer space. Box-makers use origami to make better take-out containers and shipping crates. Furniture makers use it to find the



Restaurants want boxes that store flat and fold easily as needed, with no staples or ties. Origami to the rescue!

Origami Balloon

Making a new kind of heart stent is a challenge, but it started with a simple idea—the origami balloon! Follow these instructions to make your own. (Be sure to press down all the way along each fold to make the crease.)



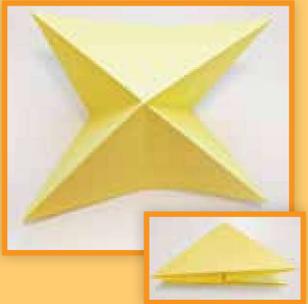
1. Start with a square piece of paper



2. Fold the paper on both diagonals (mountain folds), then unfold.



3. Fold in half across the middle (valley). Unfold.



4. Push the center fold in, and push the paper together to look like a tent shape, with the point at the top.



5. Fold each flap up from the bottom to meet at the top of the triangle. Do the two flaps on one side, then turn it over and do the other side. You will have a diamond shape.



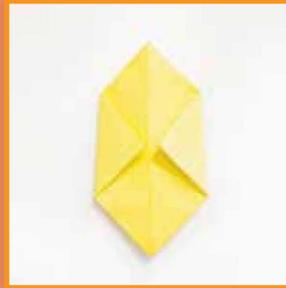
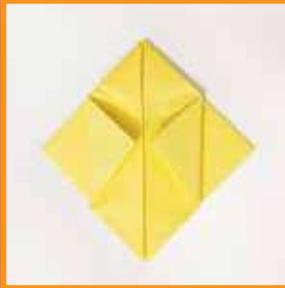
This full-sized plastic kayak folds up into a handy carrying case, then unfolds once you're at the river.



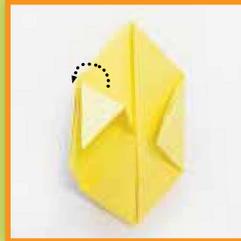
Origami-inspired stents like this one may someday help heal hearts. The compressed tube is slipped into a blocked blood vessel. Then doctors inflate it to hold the blood vessel open.

best way to pack their furniture flat. One company has made a kayak that folds down into a box small enough to carry on a hike. Origami is even useful for doctors. Scientists have invented a new stent (a device that holds open

a blocked blood vessel) that folds up based on an origami pattern. Designing complex objects like solar arrays and heart stents from origami isn't easy. It takes years of trying and lots of mistakes. But origami artist-scientists say it's also a lot of fun. What will they fold next? 🚀



6. Fold the point on the left side to the middle. Fold the point on the right side to the middle. Turn it over and do the same on the other side.



7. The top of each folded-in side has an opening, like a pocket. Take the loose flap above it (the top of the diamond) and bend it down. Stick it into the little paper pocket. Repeat for all the pockets.



8. One end will have a small hole. Blow into the hole with a quick puff of air. You have an origami balloon!

