



A WATER TRADE publication

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Introduction

Paper Crystals are enchanting to look at and fascinating to make, and like naturally occurring mineral crystals they seem to have the ability to focus harmony and peace wherever they are displayed, making them perfect ornaments for your home (or perhaps to brighten up your workplace) and ideal gifts to share with your closest friends.

Each of the crystals explained in this book is made from several (or sometimes many) simple folded-paper units (called modules) which have been cleverly designed so that they will fit together without the need for sellotape or glue. This highly rewarding and slightly magical handicraft is known as modular origami.

All creative handicrafts require some degree of dexterity, and modular origami is no exception, but everything you could possibly wish to know is explained in the clearest detail and the simple skills you need are easily acquired. This book has been arranged so that the easier crystals come first but with a little practice and perseverance you will be able to master them all.

Hints and tips

When choosing the paper for your crystals try to bear in mind not only the nature of the design but also the position where the crystal will be displayed and aim to achieve a harmonious interaction between the crystal and its immediate surroundings. It is often a good idea to practice folding and assembling a few of the modules from cheap paper (white or coloured 80gsm photocopy paper is ideal) before deciding on the paper you will use for your final display version. The folding instructions offer some guidance on which type of paper is likely to produce the best result, but ultimately the choice is up to you.

Plain colour will show off the clean geometric lines of the crystal to best advantage. It is usually better to use *dyed* plain paper (the same colour all the way through) rather than *printed* plain paper (decorated on the surface but white or off-white underneath).

Pattern, particularly random or chaotic pattern, acts both to soften and balance the clean geometry of the designs. It also conceals minor errors. When choosing patterned paper bear in mind that most of the decorated surface will be folded away inside the modules, and even more will be lost to view as the modules are assembled.

Gift-wrapping is a good source of paper (but make sure it *is* paper not plastic foil). Interesting effects can also be obtained by using squares cut from old maps, advertising flyers, etc.

Using multiple colours of plain paper highlights the modular structure best, and is particularly effective for crystals such as Cloud of Stars. Using papers of contrasting patterns for different modules produces a patchwork appearance that can be equally attractive.

Folding the modules is straightforward as long as you follow the instructions given in the folding diagrams closely. The important thing to remember is to always look one step ahead so that you know exactly what the result of making the fold you are working on should be.

It will help you to fold accurately if you fold with the paper laid on a flat, hard surface.

With modular origami it is important to make all your creases really sharp. Fingernails help here, but the smooth curved handle of scissors or a knife will do equally well. It is a good idea to stop after every few steps and gently re-crease any folds that have been pulled out of alignment.

Sometimes the modules tend to fall apart in the early stages of assembly. There are three ways to overcome this problem, hire the services of a friendly octopus, build your crystal inside a

suitably sized transparent mixing bowl or clip the units temporarily together with the use of removable sticky strips cut from message notes. The use of paper-clips is not recommended since they almost invariably cause damage to the surface of the paper.

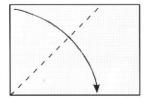
All the Paper Crystals in this book are based on mathematical forms known as polyhedra. (These are the 3-dimensional shapes with strange names pictured at the start of each section.) Like polyhedra, Paper Crystals can be viewed as 3-dimensional patterns. Provided you understand the pattern, and keep to it as you add modules to the design, the crystal will usually complete itself quite automatically.

Most paper is sold in rectangles, but the Paper Crystals explained in this book are all folded from squares. In the folding instructions large square paper means the largest size of square you can cut out of a sheet of A4 or US letter size paper. Small square paper means paper one quarter of this size. This information is given for guidance only. By all means experiment for yourself.

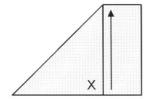
The best way to obtain lots of individual squares from a large sheet of wrapping paper is by dividing it into a grid of smaller rectangles of the appropriate size (by folding it in half, quarters or eighths, either or both ways), then separating the rectangles from one another and cutting them individually down into squares using either of the methods detailed below. This is slightly wasteful of paper but much easier than trying to fold a large rectangle into squares to begin with.

How to cut squares from rectangles

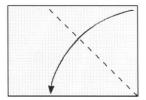
The one-crease method - using scissors.



Fold the left hand edge onto the bottom edge. Hold the edges together and crease firmly all along the fold-line.

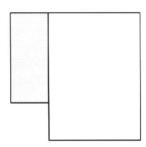


Hold the sheets firmly together and in alignment - especially at point X - and cut along the edge of the square working from bottom to top.



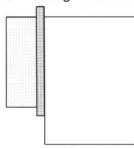
If you are left-handed you will probably find it easiest to make the fold in this direction, but the cut should still be made from bottom to top.

The no-crease method - using craft knife, metal rule and cutting mat.



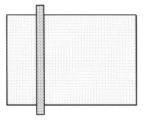
Line up the top and right hand edges of two sheets of paper exactly.

Hold both sheets firmly in place.



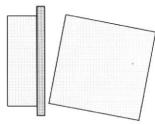
Lay the metal rule exactly along the left hand edge of the top sheet.

Hold the rule firmly in place.



Remove the top sheet.

Cut along the right hand edge of the metal rule taking great care that neither the rule nor the paper moves.



The result should be a perfect square.

If your knife is sharp enough you can cut several squares at a time in this way.

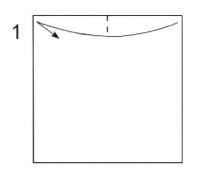
How to understand the diagrams

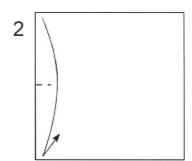
The edges of the paper are shown as solid lines.		A dashed and dotted fold-line means that the fold is made away from you.
A folding instruction consists of a movement arrow and a fold-line.	•	This symbol tells you to apply gentle pressure to the model in the direction the arrowhead is pointing.
The movement arrow shows the direction in which the fold is made.		This combination of symbols is used to show you how the existing creases can be used to collapse the paper into a 3-dimensional shape.
The fold-line shows where		Pull the paper gently in the direction of the arrow.
the new crease will form. A dashed fold-line means that the fold is made towards you.		Turn the paper over sideways before continuing.
Edges which lie exactly on top of each other as the result of a fold are shown slightly offset on		In folding diagrams shading is used to distinguish one side of the paper from the other.
 the after diagram.		In assembly diagrams shading is used to distinguish one module from another.
A movement arrow without a fold-line means unfold in the direction indicated.		This symbol is sometimes used to show how different modules fit together and sometimes to show the existence of secure pockets
Creases you have already made are shown as thin		within a module.
lines.	\Diamond	This symbol indicates that the next diagram is on a larger scale.
This version of the fold arrow means fold, crease, then unfold.		A circle is used to draw attention to some particular part of a picture.

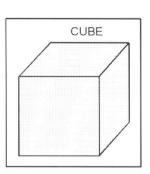
Metamorphosis

6 sheets of large square paper are required. For best effect use paper decorated with a chaotic or random design.

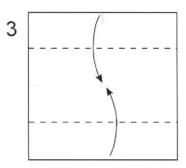
If using printed paper begin white side up.



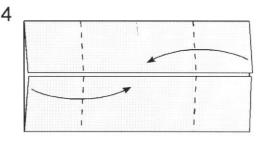


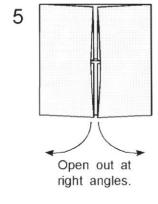


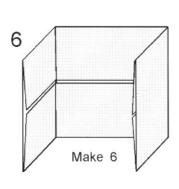
This crystal is made by altering one corner of the classic modular paperfold known as Paul Jackson's Cube. Although in its final clean form the design is my own it also owes much to the earlier work of Iris Walker, Ricky Wong and Wayne Brown.







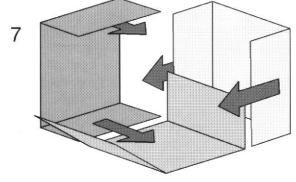


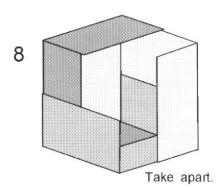


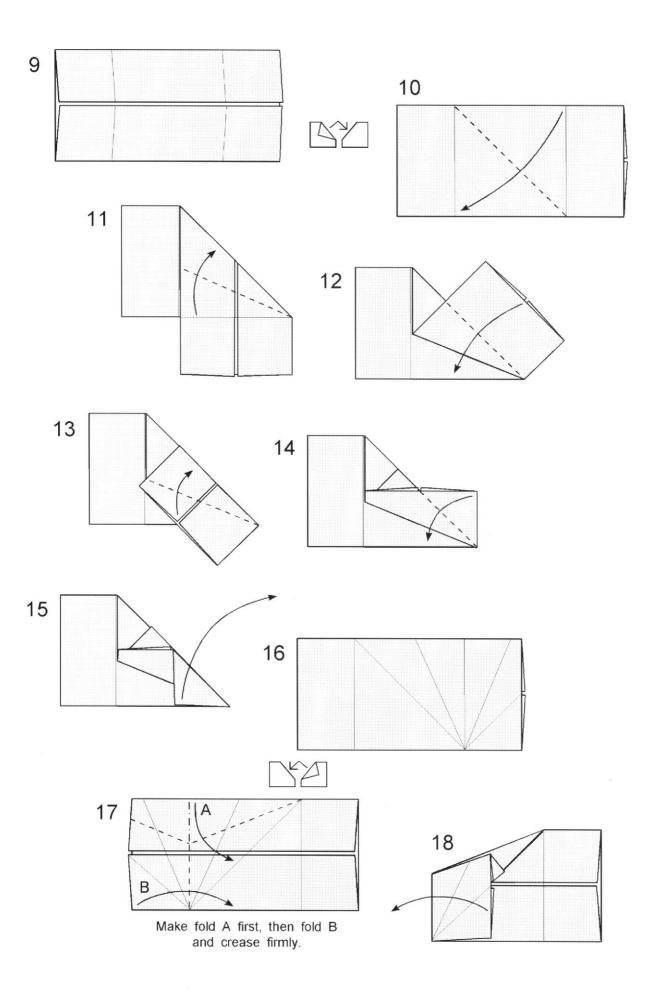
3 of these modules will fit together to form the back half of Metamorphosis in the way shown in steps 7 and 8.

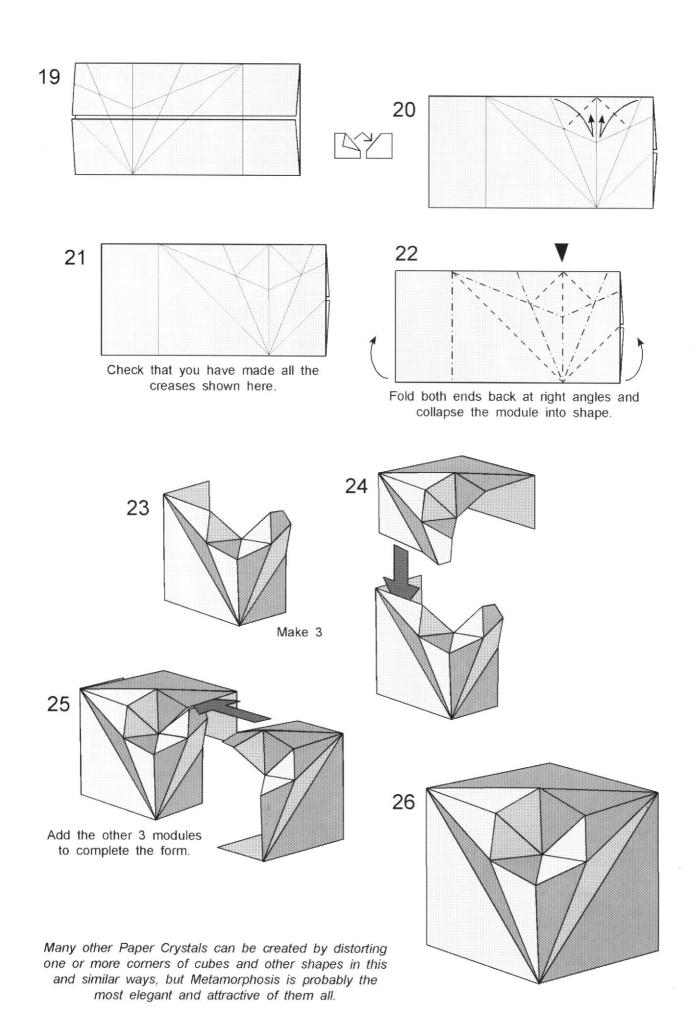
The front half of Metamorphosis is made by modifying the 3 remaining modules in the way shown in steps 9 to 22.

The extra creases make it possible to distort the front of the crystal into an entirely different shape.







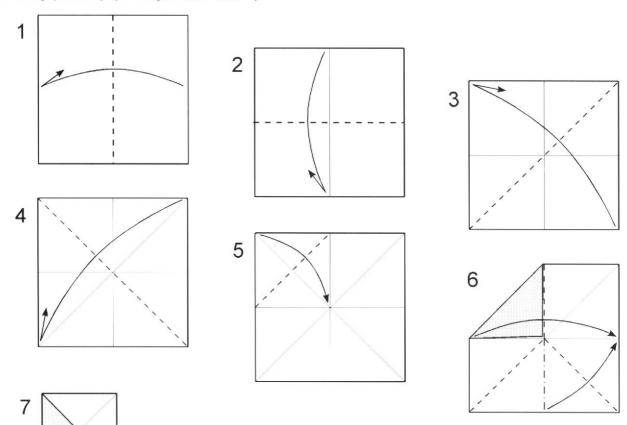


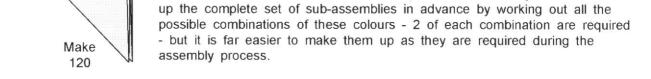
Spiral Cluster

120 sheets of small square paper are required. For best effect use 60 sheets of plain black (or possibly dark blue) paper and 10 sheets of each of 6 plain contrasting but complementary bright or pastel colours. The black paper will be used for the modules forming the background and the other colours for the modules forming the spirals.



If using printed paper begin white side up.

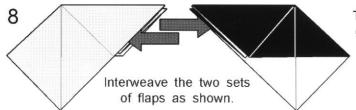




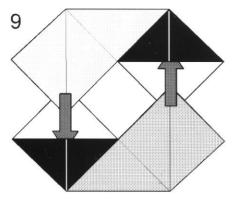
4 modules go together to form a sub-assembly. Each sub-assembly should be made of 2 modules of the background colour and 1 each of 2 different colours from those chosen to form the spirals. You can, if you wish, make

Forming the sub-assemblies

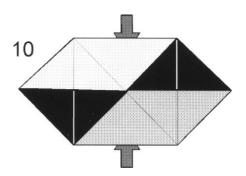
Begin by putting 2 modules together like this.



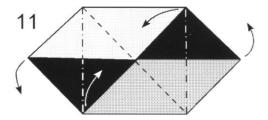
The rear flap of the left hand module goes inside the rear flap of the right hand module. The top flap of the right hand module goes inside the top flap of the left hand module.



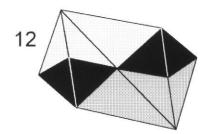
Note that the two flaps at the back also slide into pockets as the sub-assembly goes together.



Check that the sub-assembly has pockets in the positions shown and that these pockets are secure.



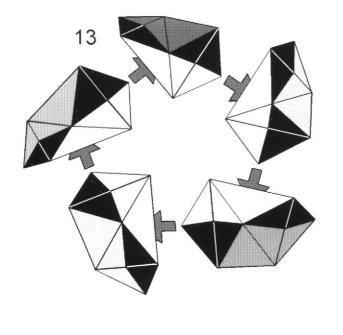
Make the sub-assembly 3-dimensional. All 3 folds should be right angles.

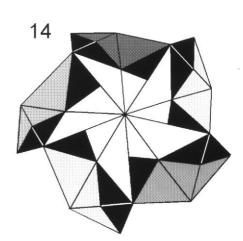


A finished sub-assembly.

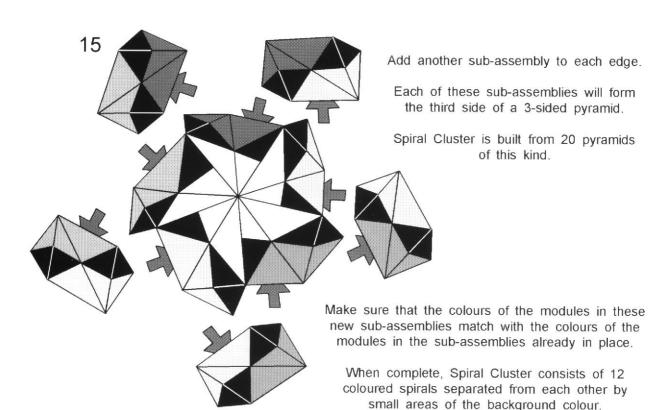
Putting the sub-assemblies together

5 sub-assemblies go together to form a ring in the way shown here. You will notice that the 5 modules of the same colour in the centre of the ring form a spiral pattern. This spiral pattern is surrounded by some of the 60 black modules that form the background. In the finished crystal each of the other 5 modules will form part of another spiral. Each one of these modules should be of one of the remaining five colours - a different colour in each case.





Note that this assembly does not lie flat.



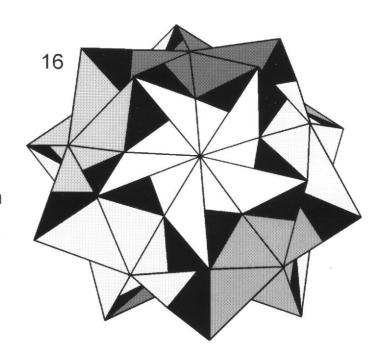
There are 2 spirals of each colour. These are found on opposite sides of the crystal.

Continue adding sub-assemblies to form new pyramids - taking care to keep to the colour scheme - until Spiral Cluster is complete.

You may wish to turn the 5-pyramid ring upside down and assemble the remainder of the crystal inside a suitably sized transparent mixing bowl. This will help to support the sides until the top is in place.

Alternatively, you can temporarily hold the modules together by the use of sticky strips cut from message notes.

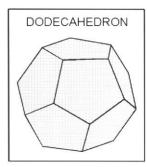
These can normally be removed without leaving marks.



A second Spiral Cluster crystal can be built from 48 modules. It requires 24 square sheets of the background colour and 8 square sheets in each of 3 other colours for the spirals. The modules go together to form 12 sub-assemblies and the sub-assemblies in turn form 8 3-sided pyramids. Each of the 6 spiral patterns has just 4 arms, not 5.

Cloud of Stars

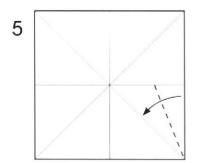
Two kinds of modules are required, 60 A-modules and 30 B-modules. The A-modules are folded from square paper and the B-modules from 2 by 1 rectangles (2 squares of the same size side by side). The best way to obtain this paper is to start with large squares, cutting them in half for the B-modules (15 large squares required) and in quarters for the A-modules

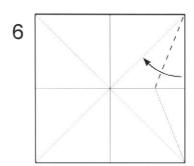


(3 large squares of each colour required). For best effect use dark blue or black paper for the B-modules (which form the background) and 6 contrasting but complementary bright or pastel colours for the A-modules (which form the stars).

The A-module

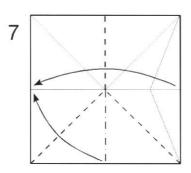
If using printed paper begin white side up. The first 4 steps are the same as for the Spiral Cluster module (see page 9).

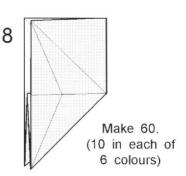




The 12-star form of Cloud of Stars was probably first developed from the wellknown 20-pyramid form of Spiral Cluster in Japan.

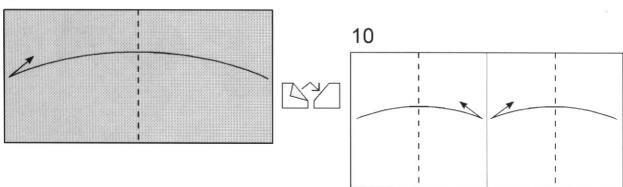
The modular method that allows each star to be made in a different paper is my own.

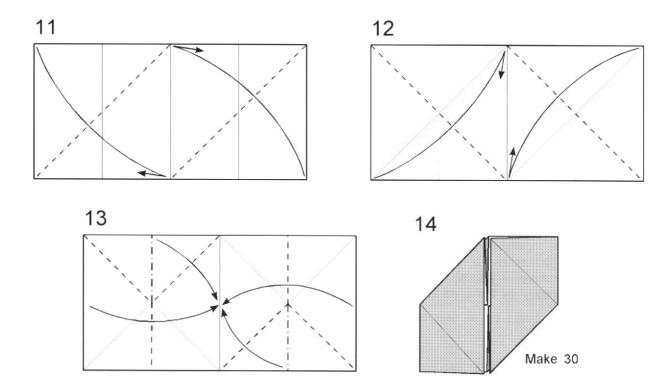




The B-module

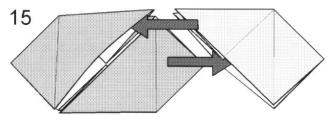
If using printed paper begin decorated side up.



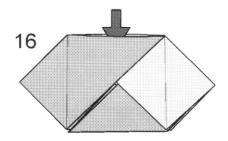


Forming the sub-assemblies

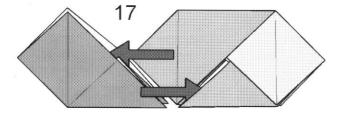
2 A-modules are attached to each B-module to form a sub-assembly. The A-modules attached to a B-module will always be of different colours. You can, if you wish, make up the complete set of sub-assemblies in advance by working out all the possible combinations of colours - 2 of each possible combination are required - but it is far easier to make them up as they are needed during the assembly process.



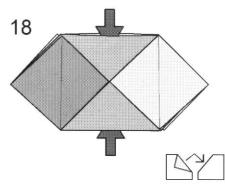
The rear flap of the left hand module goes inside the rear flap of the right hand module. The top flap of the right hand module goes inside the top flap of the left hand module.

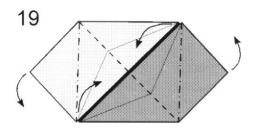


Check that joining the 2 modules has formed a secure pocket at the top of the sub-assembly.

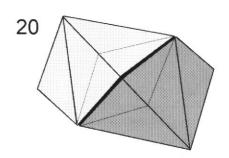


Add the second A-module in exactly the same way to form a second secure pocket at the bottom of the sub-assembly.





Make the sub-assembly 3-dimensional. All the folds should be right angles.



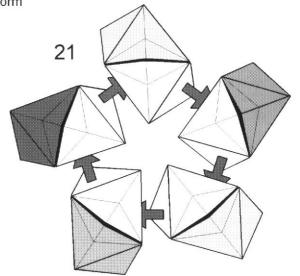
Putting the sub-assemblies together

Cloud of Stars is formed in 2 stages. To begin with the sub-assemblies go together to form a 3-dimensional shape identical to that of Spiral Cluster but this preliminary form transforms completely as the stars are developed.

> The centre of each ring of sub-assemblies must be formed from 5 A-modules of the same colour, each of which is partnered with an A-module of one of the five remaining colours.

> (Note that in the finished crystal there will be 2 stars of each colour. These will be on opposite sides of the structure.)

> > This assembly will not lie flat.



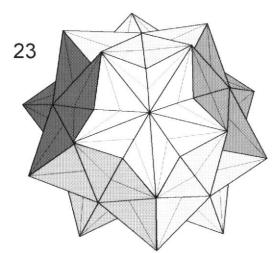
22

Further sub-assemblies are added to form 5 of the 20 3-sided pyramids from which the preliminary form of Cloud of Stars is built.

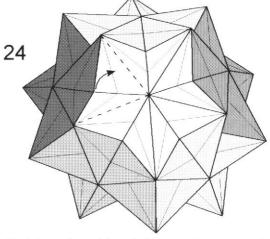
Each pyramid will be formed from 3 different colours of A-modules.

> Continue adding sub-assemblies to form new pyramids - taking care to keep to the colour scheme - until the preliminary form is complete.

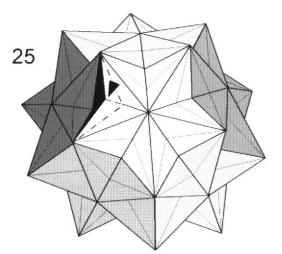
You may wish to turn the 5-pyramid ring upside down and assemble the remainder of the crystal inside a suitably sized transparent mixing bowl. Alternatively you can temporarily hold the modules together by the use of sticky strips cut from message notes.



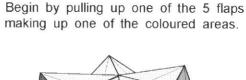
This is what the preliminary form should look like.

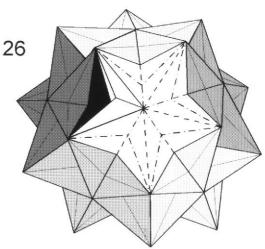


The final form is achieved by opening up each of the coloured areas in turn into a 3-dimensional star.

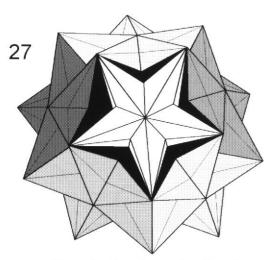


Gently fold the outer edge back down to form the first part of the star.



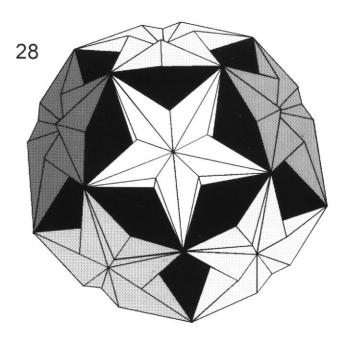


Repeat this procedure on the 4 remaining flaps of the same coloured area.



One star has been developed.

Develop the other 11 stars in a similar way.

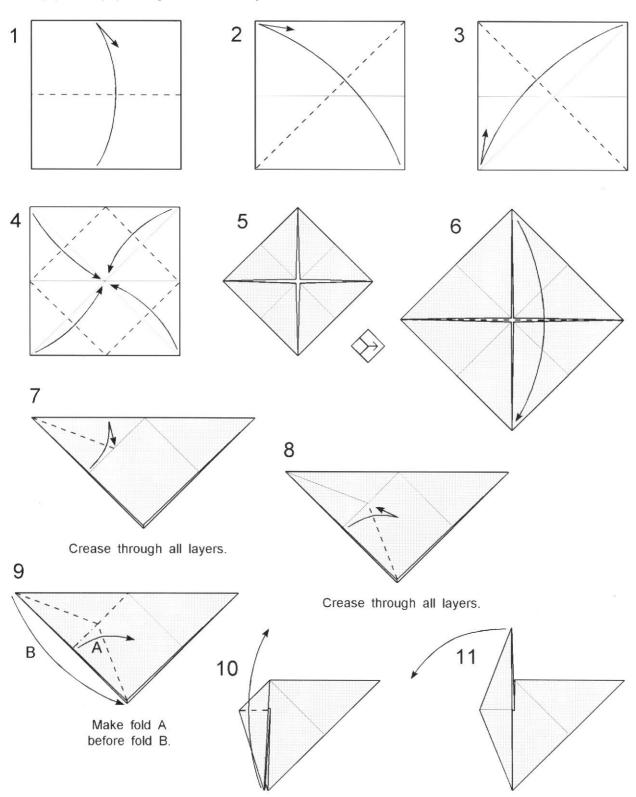


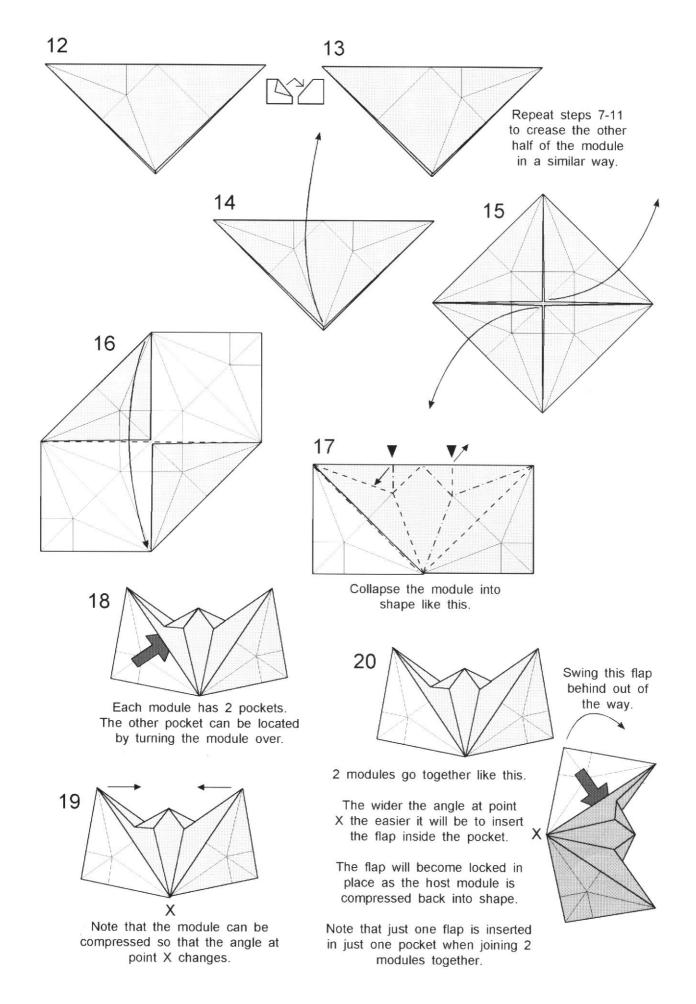
David Mitchell / Paper Crystals

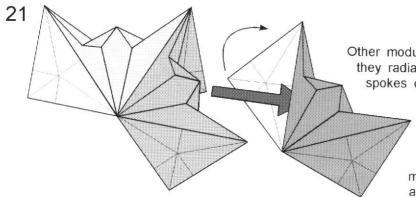
Sappho

30 sheets of small square paper are required. Good results can be obtained by using a single strong plain colour, random or chaotic patterns or by combining many different types of paper in a patchwork effect.







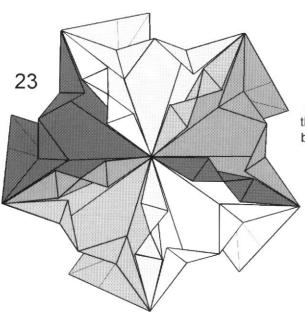


Other modules can be added so that they radiate from the joint like the spokes of a wheel from a hub.

> Sappho has five modules radiating from every joint.

When adding the fifth module make sure it is linked to the first as well as the fourth so that the ring of modules is complete.

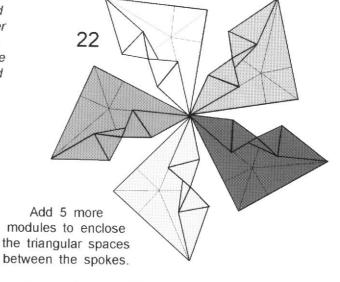
Because the angle at the centre of the Sappho module can be compressed and expanded (and also because any number of modules can be linked together at a joint) the Sappho module is very versatile and can be used to build crystals based on many other polyhedral patterns.



Add 2 further modules to each outside comer, then link these modules to each other to enclose the triangular spaces between them.

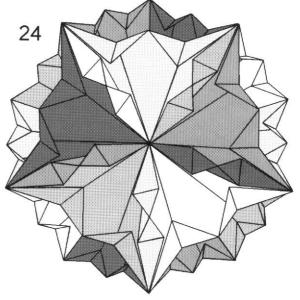
Remember that 5 modules radiate from each and every joint and that triangular - and only triangular spaces are enclosed between them.

Provided you keep to this pattern as you add the remaining modules the Sappho crystal will form automatically.



Sappho is one of the most beautiful crystals in this book and the drawings here do not begin to do it justice. This is because it has been necessary to distort the overall shape of the crystal to show the modular structure clearly.

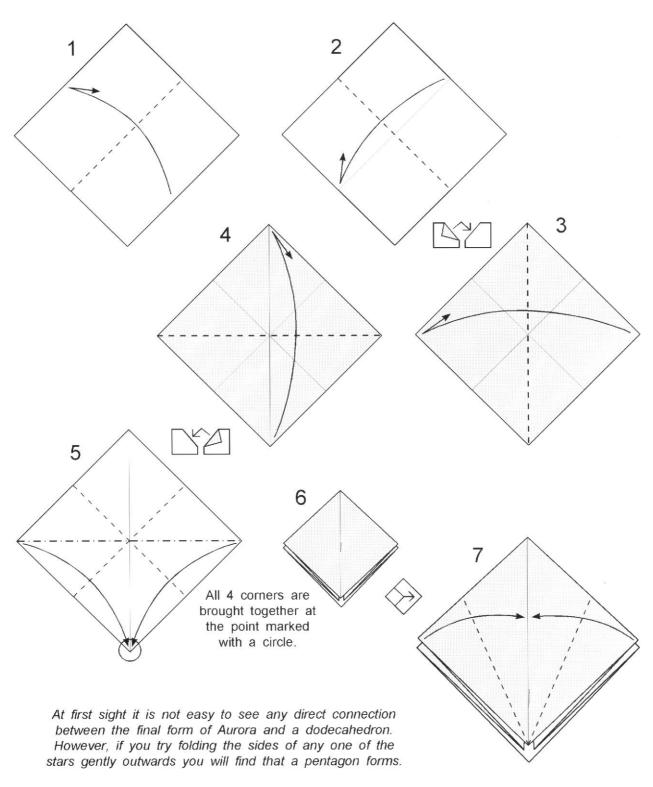
In reality Sappho is more of a star than a ball and all the points are much more prominent.

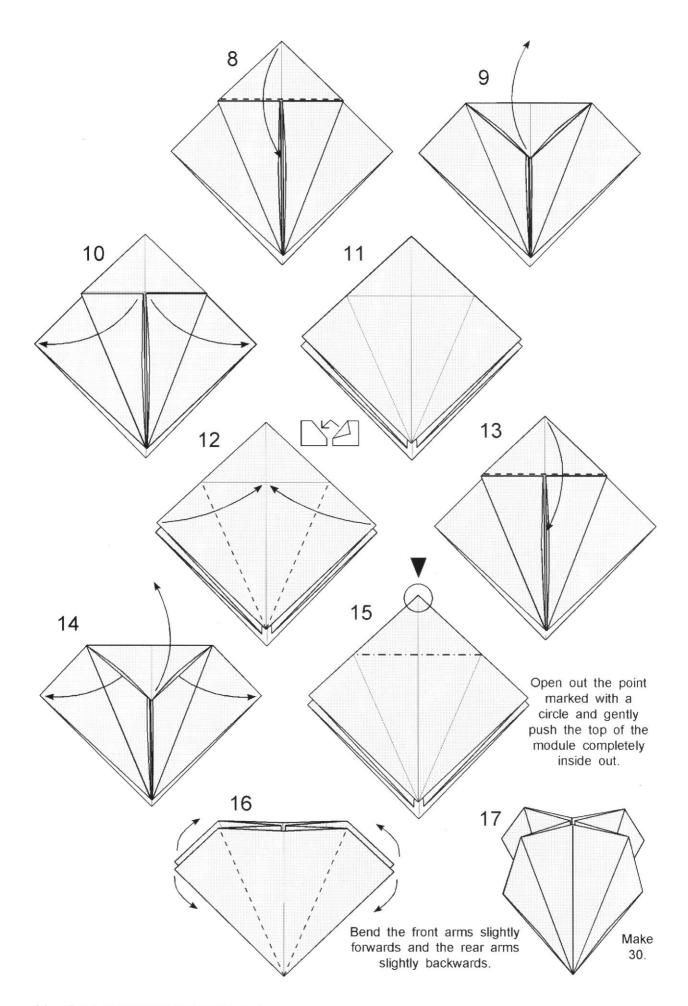


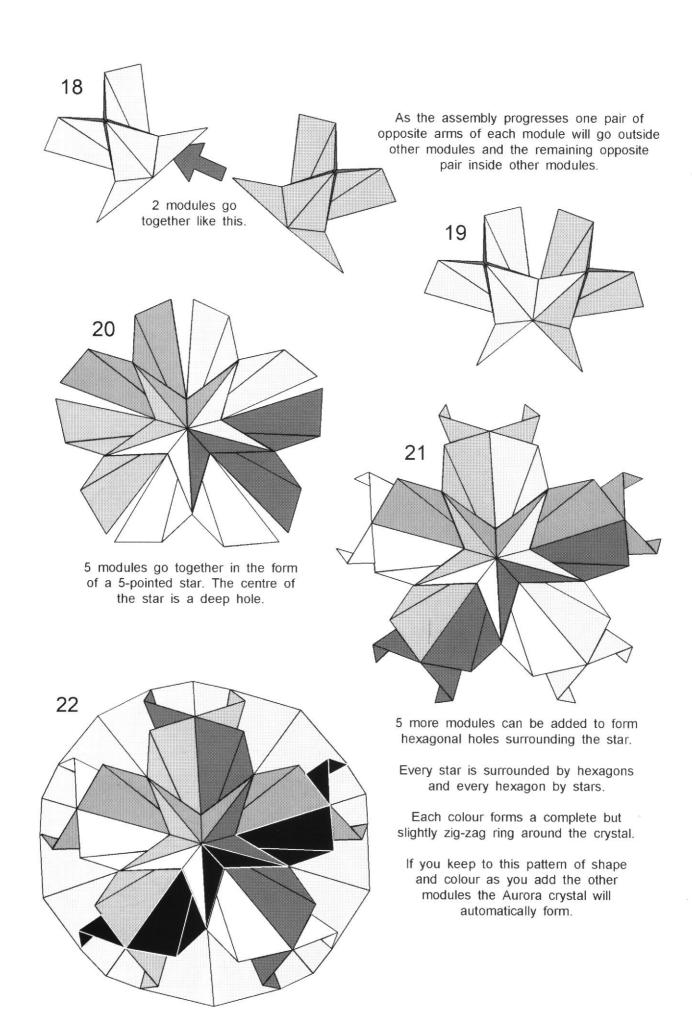
Aurora

30 sheets of small square paper are required. The diagrams show how to make Aurora from 5 sheets in each of 6 plain contrasting but complementary colours, but Aurora also works well when made from 6 sheets in each of 5 colours or 30 sheets decorated with a random or chaotic design.





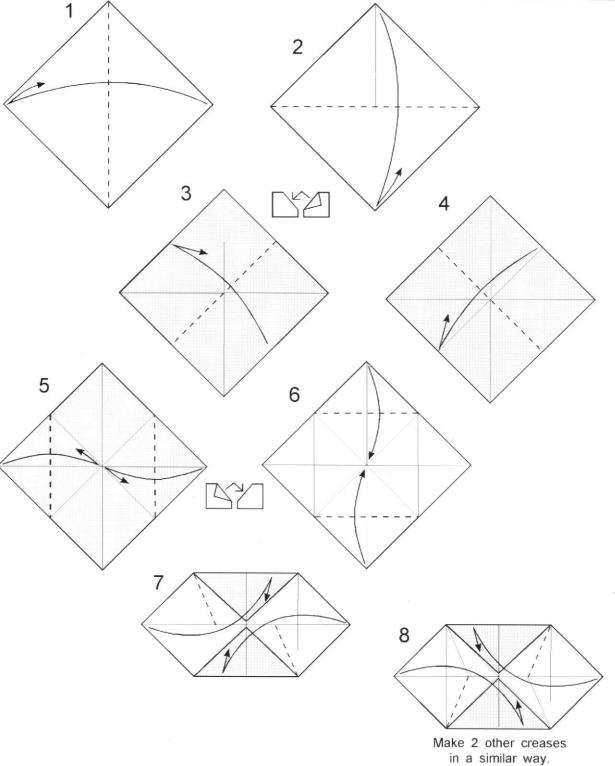


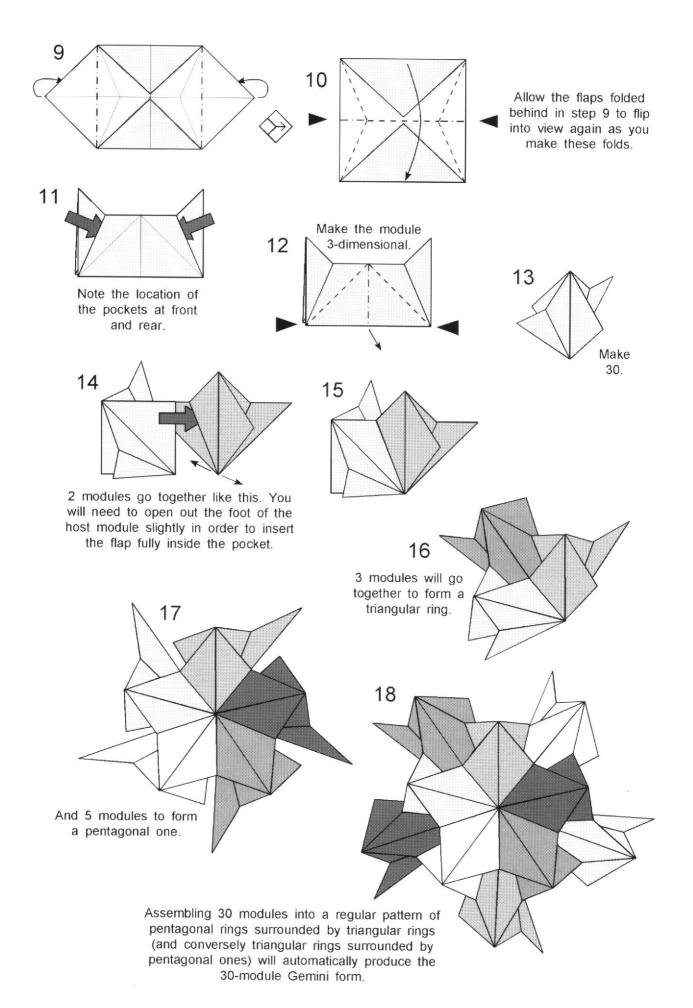


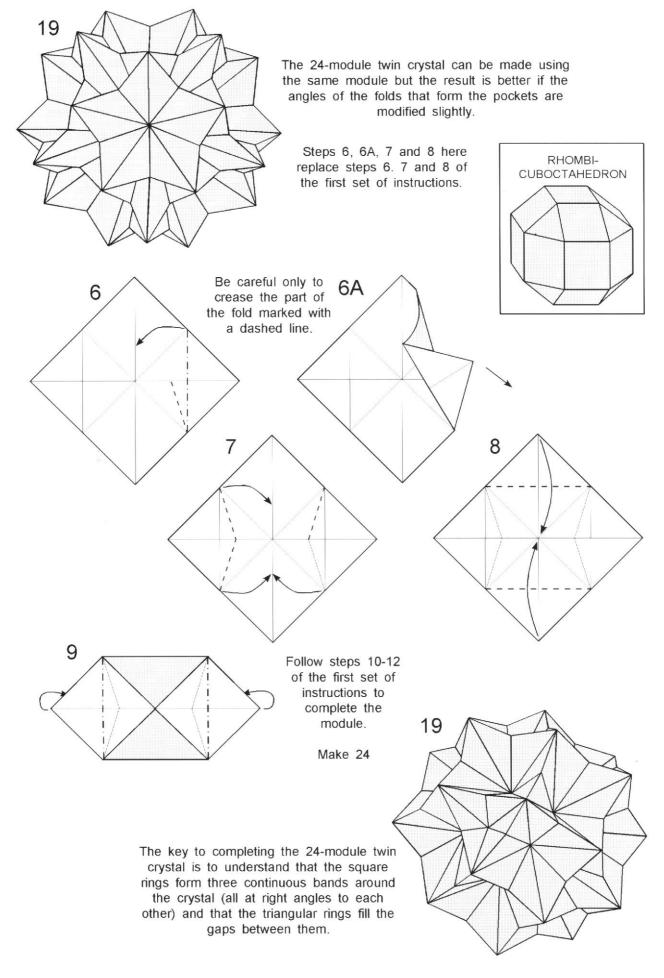
Gemini

Either 30 or 24 sheets of small square paper are required. For best effect use paper decorated with a chaotic or random design.



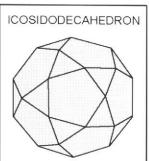


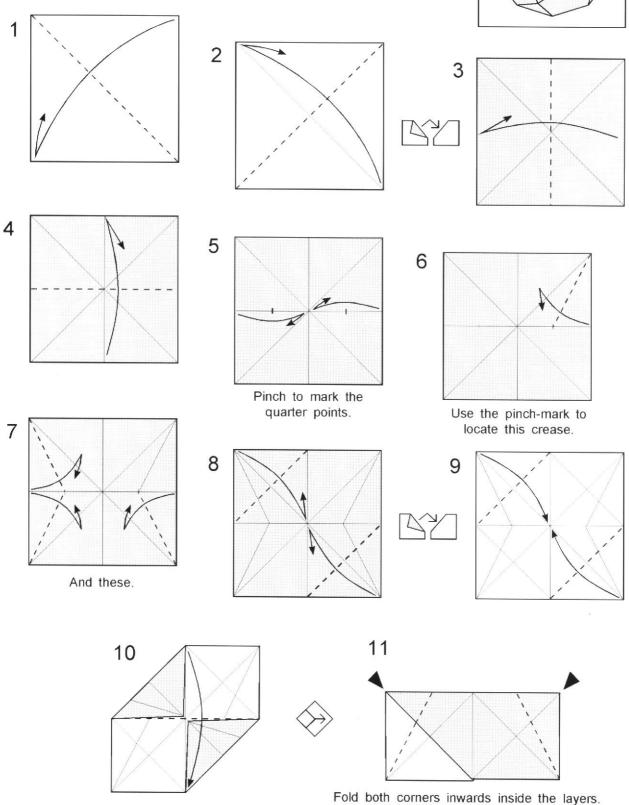


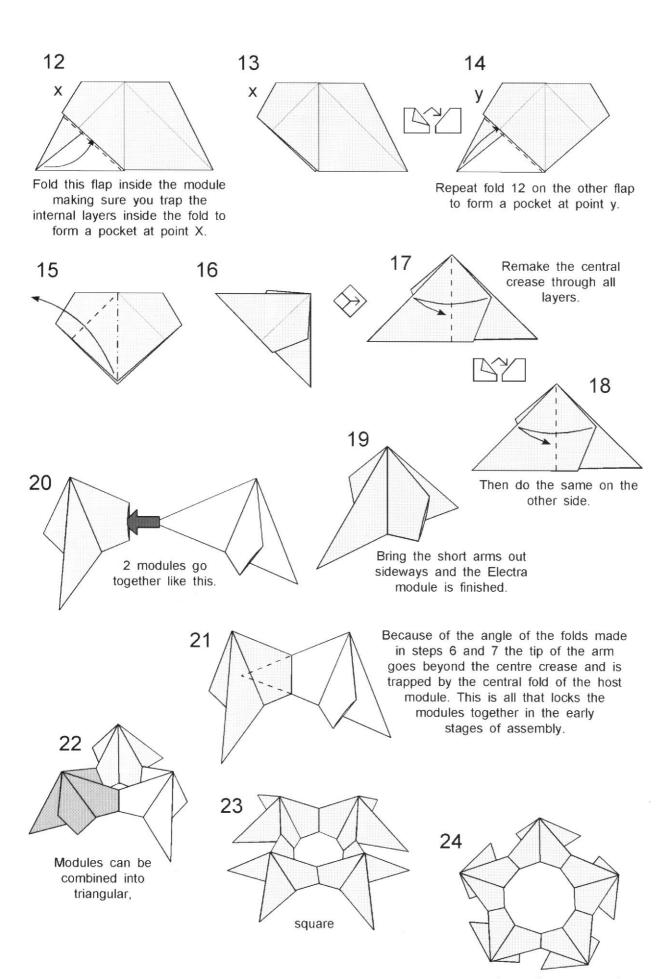


Electra

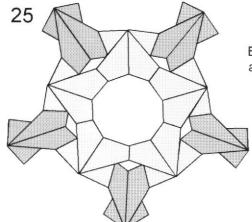
Either 30 or 60 sheets of small square paper are required. For best effect use paper decorated with a chaotic or random design.



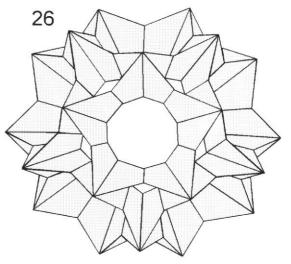




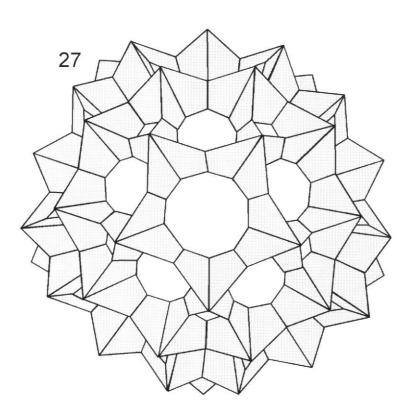
or pentagonal arrangements.

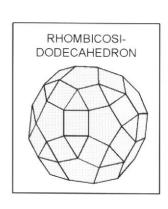


By assembling 30 modules in a pattern of pentagons and triangles, in which every pentagon is surrounded on all sides by triangles, and every triangle on all sides by pentagons, the 30-module Electra crystal will automatically form.



Alternatively, by assembling 60 modules in a pattern of pentagons, squares and triangles, in which every pentagon and every triangle are surrounded on all sides by squares, the 60-module Electra crystal will automatically form.

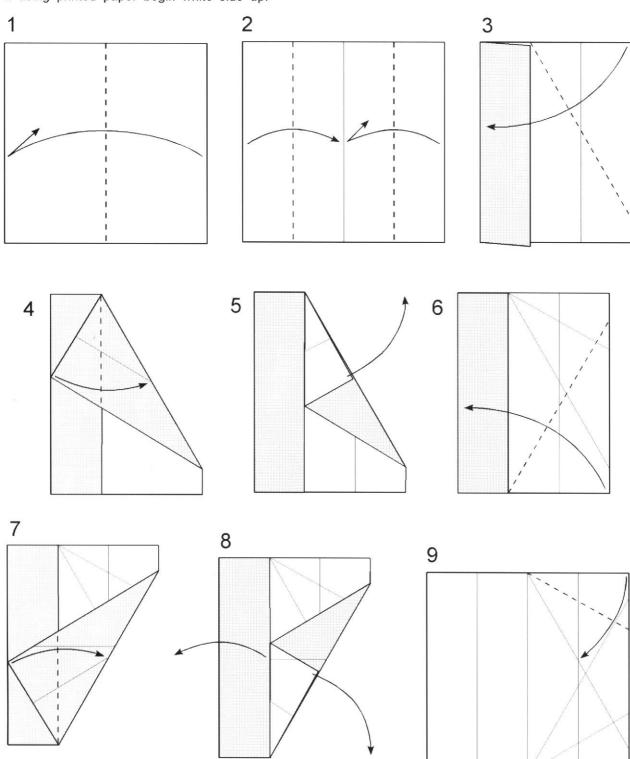


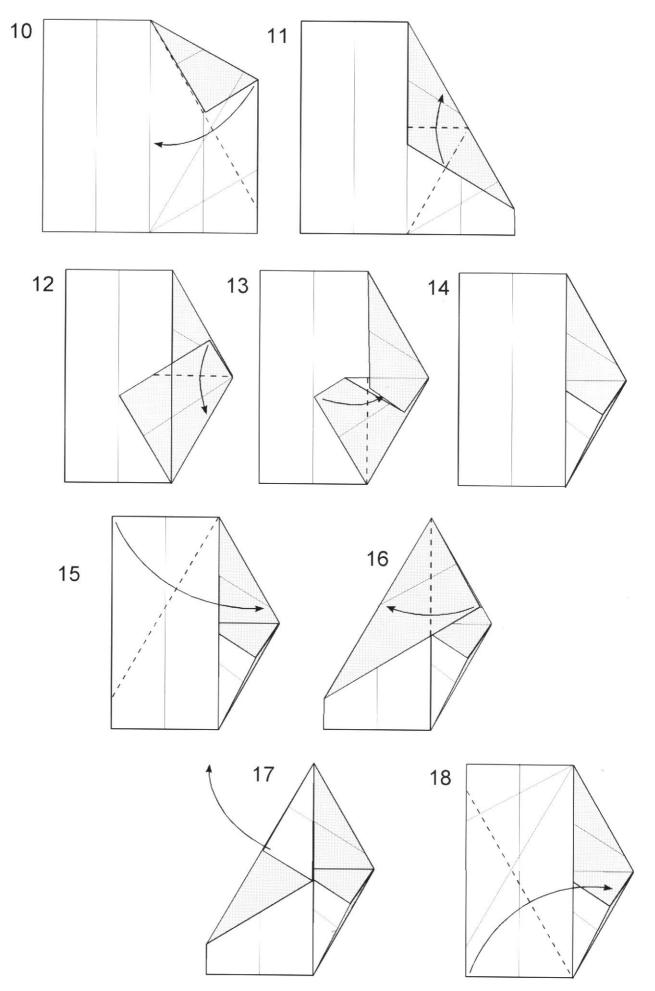


Proteus

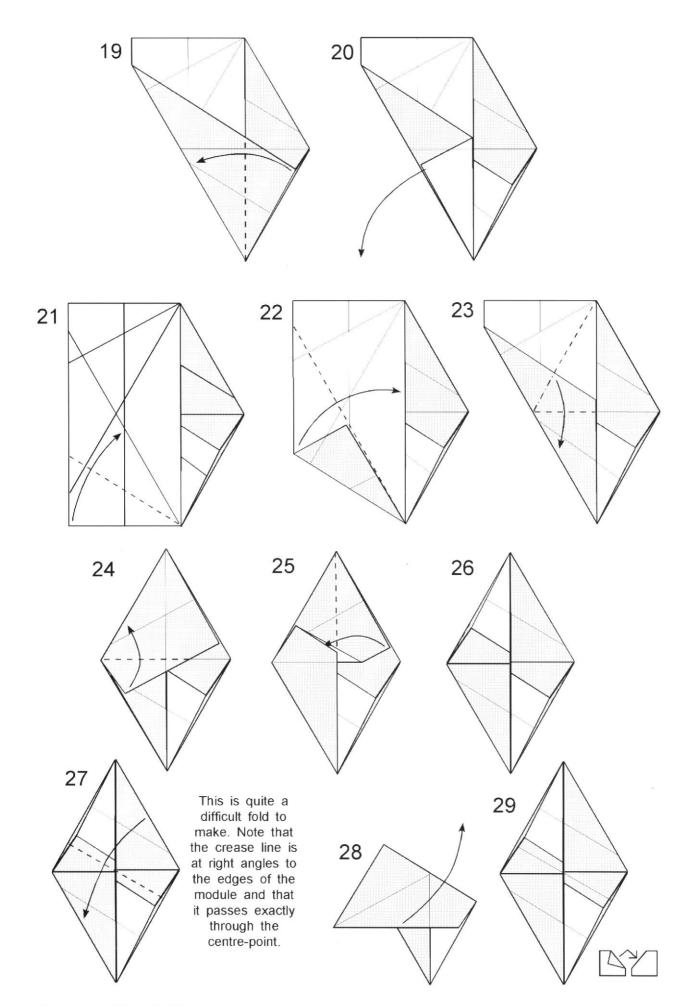
30 sheets of small square paper are required. Good results can be obtained by using paper decorated with random or chaotic designs, although Proteus also works well when made from a single plain colour or 6 modules in each of 5 contrasting colours or patterns.

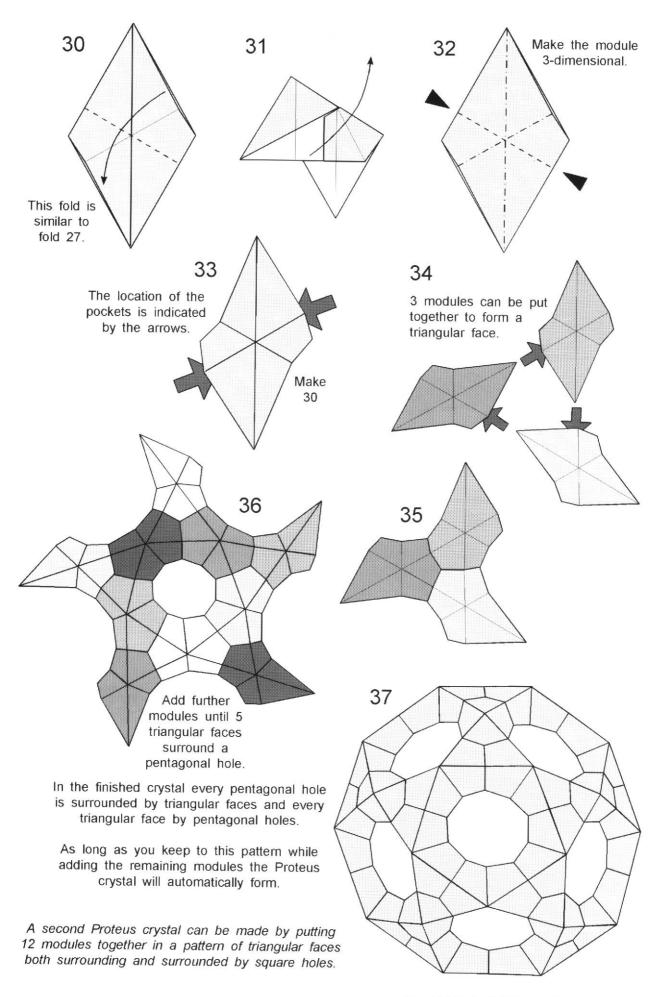






David Mitchell / Paper Crystals





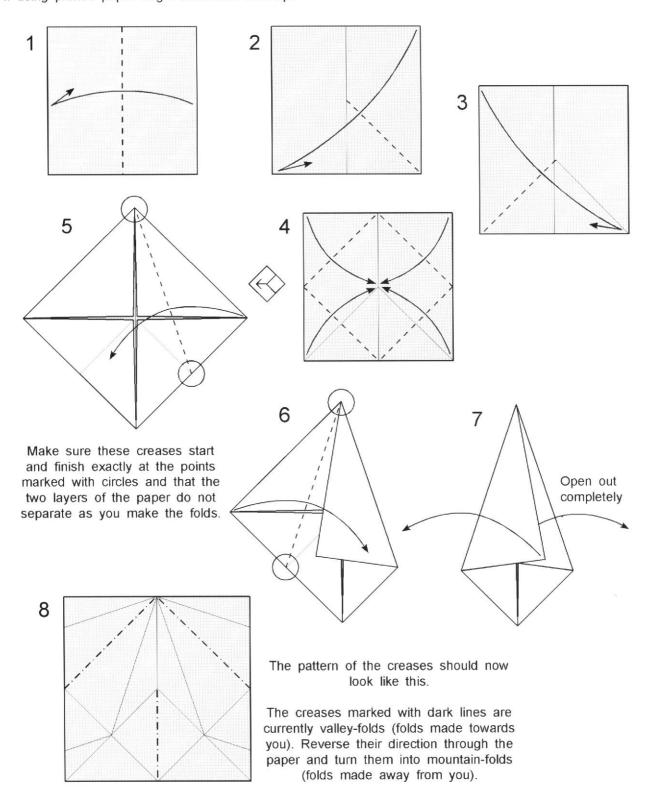
Andromeda

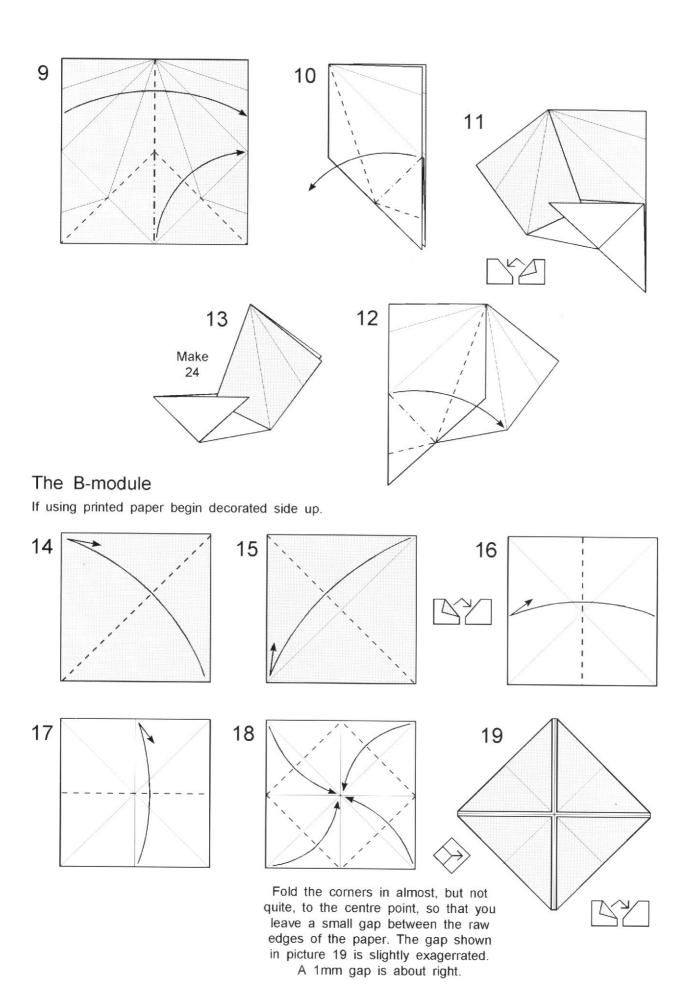
30 sheets of small square paper are required, 24 for the A-modules and 6 for the B-modules. For best effect use 2 plain contrasting but complementary colours.

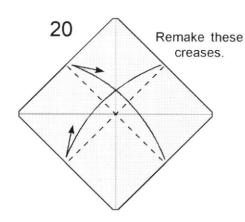


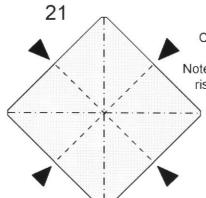
The A-module

If using printed paper begin decorated side up.





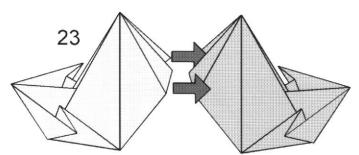




Collapse into shape.

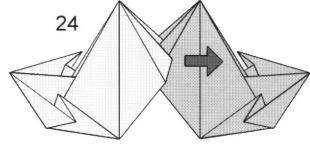
Note that the centre-point rises up towards you.

Assembling Andromeda



22 Make 6

2 A-modules go together like this.

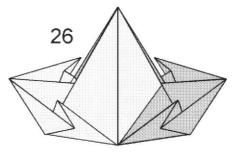


25

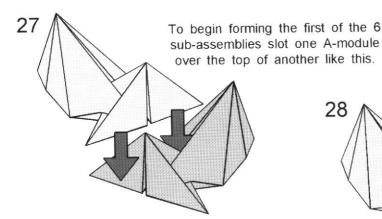
Both outside flaps tuck in to lock the modules firmly together.

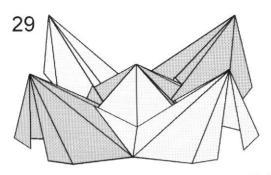
Make sure the nearest flap of the left-hand module and the farthest flap of the righthand module end up outside the assembly.

The other flaps go inside the assembly. Make sure that all the corresponding parts of each module match up inside.

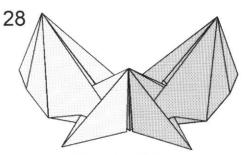


Once you understand how this works take the modules apart again.

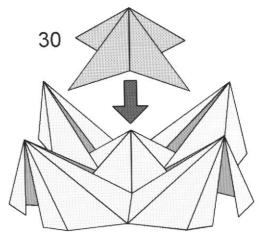




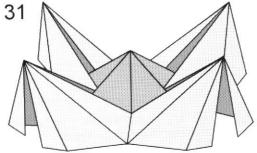
The third and fourth A-modules are added in the same way. The fourth then fits inside the first so that the sub-assembly forms a symmetrical ring.



The modules should fit snugly inside each other both on top and underneath.

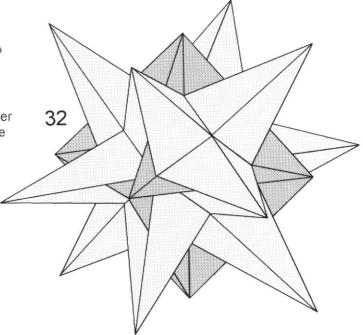


A single B-module fits into the centre of the sub-assembly and holds it together.



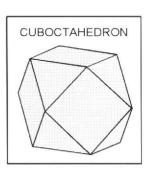
Make 6 semblies carefully tog

Join the sub-assemblies carefully together using the flaps of the A-modules in the way shown in steps 23 to 26.

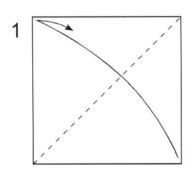


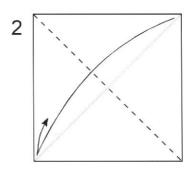
Omega

12 sheets of small square paper are required. For best effect use paper of a single plain colour or paper decorated with a chaotic or random design. Interesting effects can also be obtained by using 3 sheets in each of 4 plain colours or 4 sheets in each of 3 plain colours.



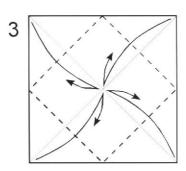
If using printed paper begin white side up.



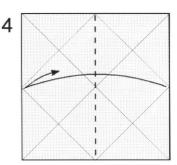


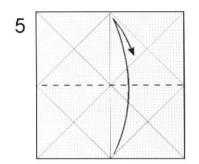
This modular method has also been independently discovered by Robert Neale and Michael Naughton.

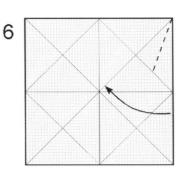
Many other ways of making Omega are known.



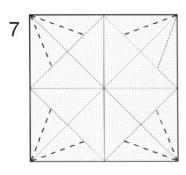






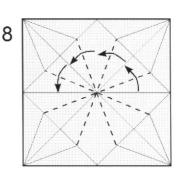


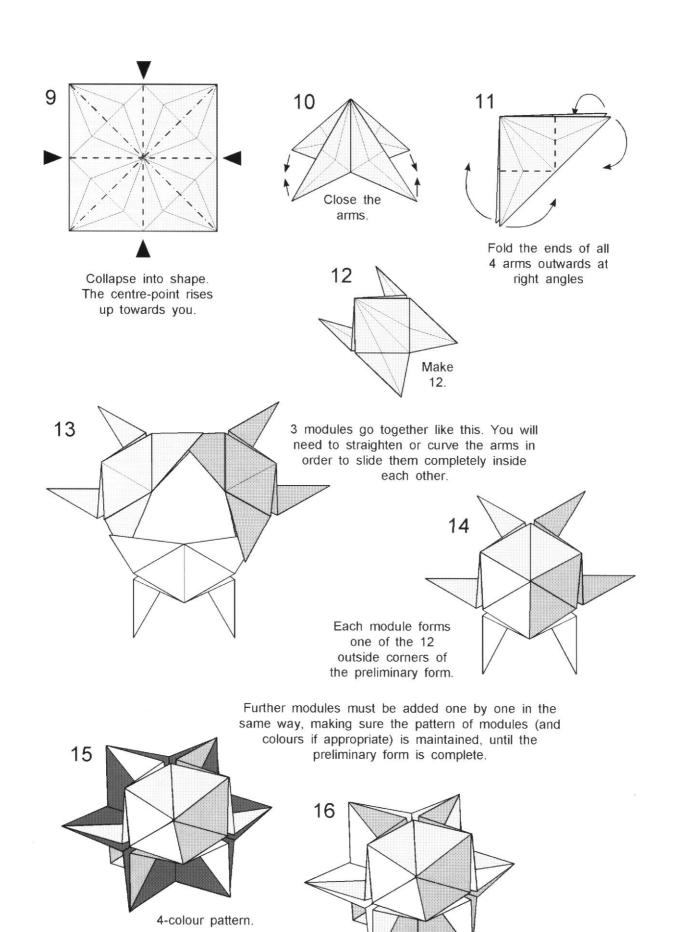
Try to make sure none of the creases made in this and the next 2 steps extend across the edges of the centre square.



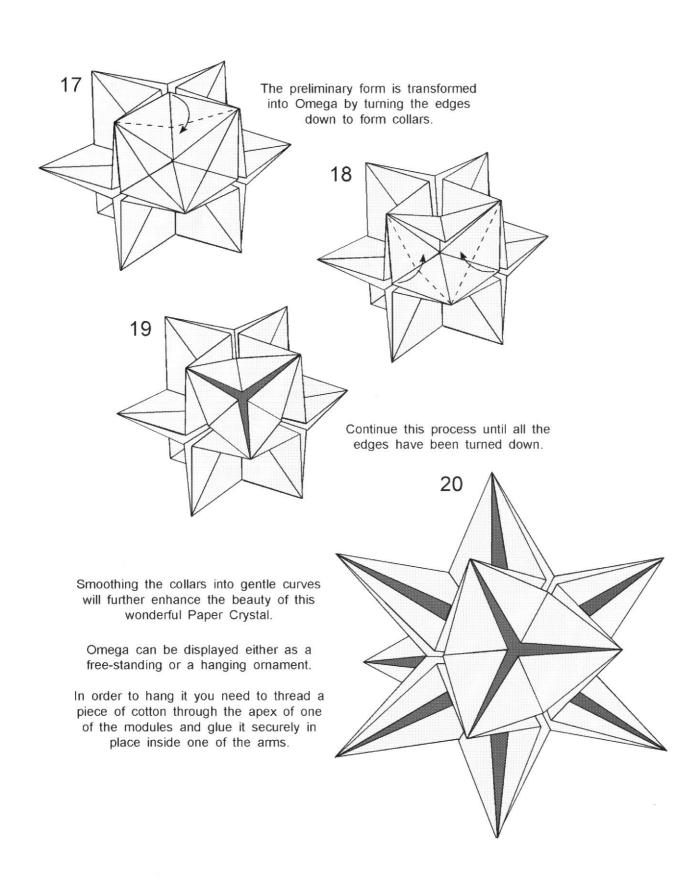
Put in these 7 creases in a similar way.

(The movement arrows would cross each other and so are omitted for clarity here.)





3-colour pattern.



The preliminary form shown in pictures 15 and 16 was first discovered by Ed Sullivan, one of the early pioneers of modular origami in the USA. He christened it XYZ.

Sullivan's original XYZ was made from just 6 modules. The Enigma Cube diagrammed on pages 39 to 42 uses a similar modular method.

The form of Omega was developed from Sullivan's original XYZ by Philip Shen.

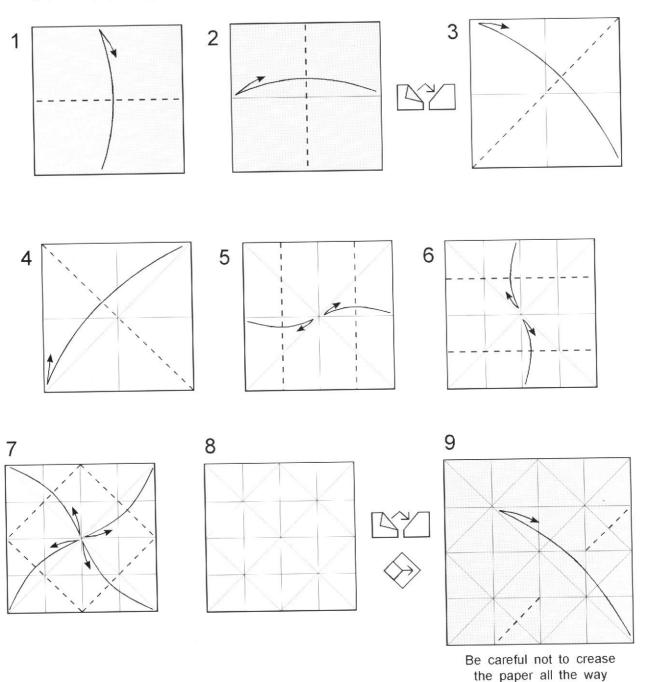
The Enigma Cube

There are three quite different ways to make the Enigma Cube, each of which present their own particular challenges. 2 of the methods are explained here.

The 6-module method.

6 sheets of large square paper are required. For best effect use paper decorated with a random or chaotic design. You will get a better result using fairly stiff paper, and a better result still using paper backed with foil.

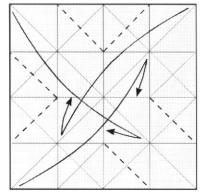
If using printed paper begin white side up.



across the fold.

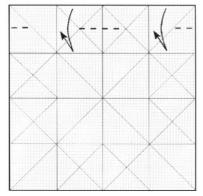
CUBOCTAHEDRON

10



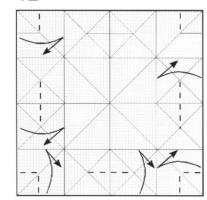
Put in these creases in a similar way.

11



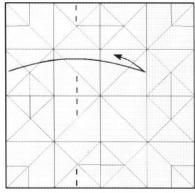
Be careful not to crease the paper all the way across the fold.

12



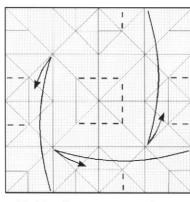
Put in these creases in a similar way.

13



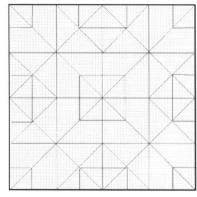
Be careful not to crease the paper all the way across the fold.

14



Put in these creases in a similar way.

15

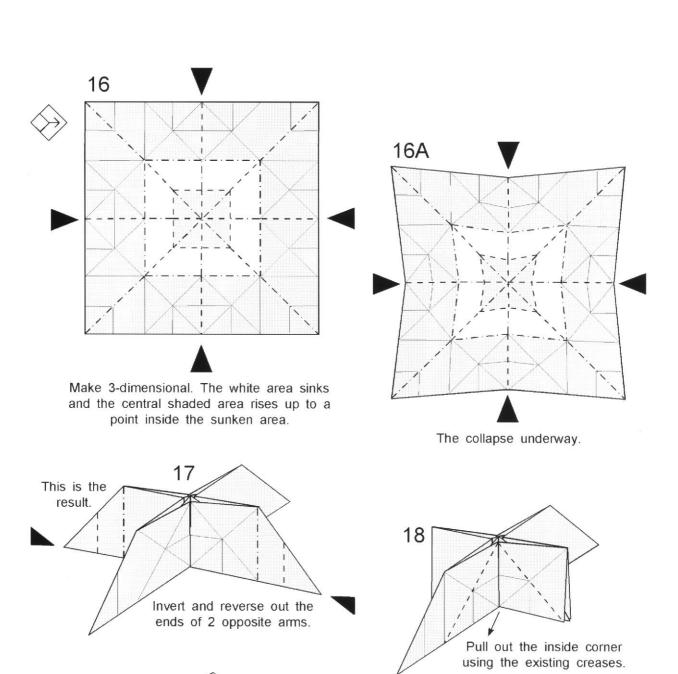


Check that all these creases are present and correct.

The 6-module method explained here is developed from a variation of XYZ, the preliminary form of Omega.

Although it suffers from the slight aesthetic defect that the curved collars are criss-crossed by rather too many creases (a defect that can be overcome by the use of foil-backed paper), this method is included because it provides the easiest bridge to an understanding of the form.

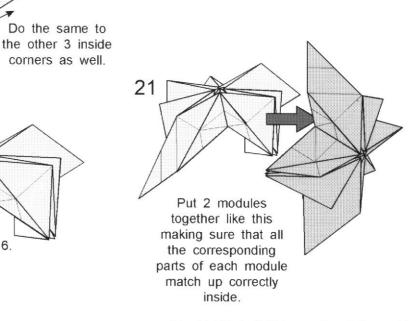
This method is also in itself a third fine example (the other two being Cloud of Stars and Omega) of the way in which it is occasionally possible to develop one 3-dimensional form from another after the modules have been assembled.

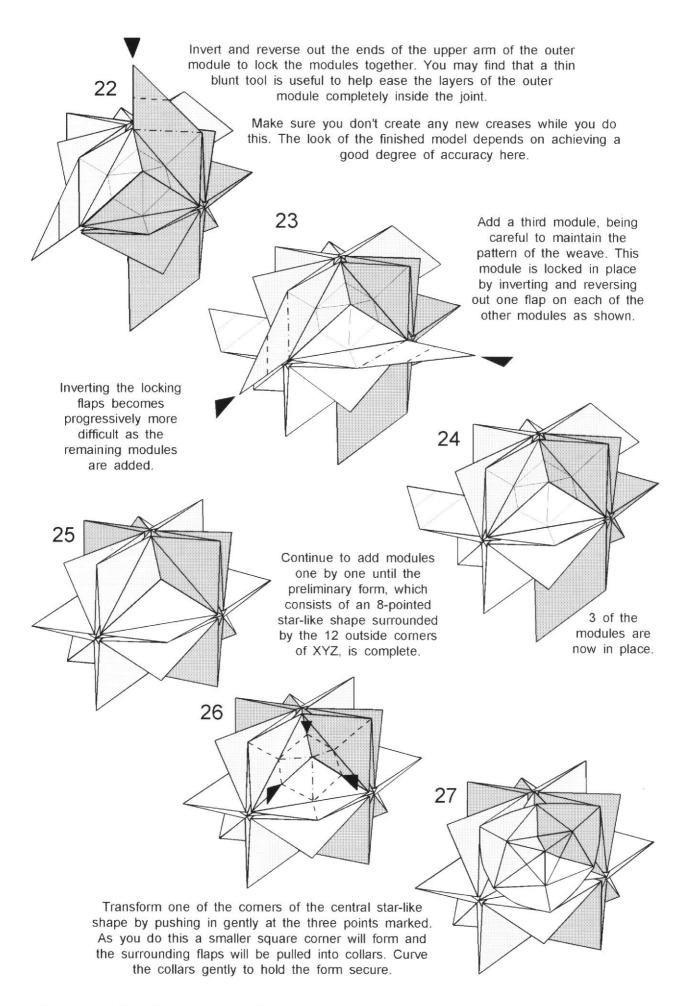


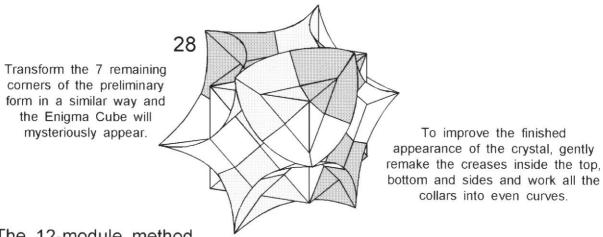
19

20

Make 6.







The 12-module method.

12 sheets of small square paper are required. For best effect use 4 sheets in each of 3 contrasting but complementary plain colours.

If using printed paper begin decorated side up.

