



work. life. creativity
it's about being done.

Of all the heroes and crooks depicted throughout millions of pages and portraits, there is no foe more menacing, more insurmountable, than an empty page. Ancient sages have discovered how to conquer this mighty villain however, and it is not with a sword -- or a pen.

Like the cave-writer before them, these sages simply folded the paper -- although, I'll admit they did it a little bit differently.

The true origins of origami failed the test of time, but the Egyptian roots matter very little with all the relatively recent innovations in origami to explore. The Japanese have tirelessly labored to perfect and innovate the art of paper folding since the early 1900's, modifying the materials and dissecting techniques mathematically to further innovate the form.

Most of the techniques start out with a colorful and perfectly square sheet of paper, foil paper, or crease-able cloth. There's action origami which is built to move, modular origami built from an army of the same model, pureland origami built with strict rules, tessellations built out of 2 dimensional figures to make a plane with no gaps or overlaps, kirigami which also includes paper cutting, and even wet-folding techniques.

But before we get too far ahead of ourselves, let's appreciate simplicity with a few easy examples -- <http://www.origami-fun.com/easy-origami.html>

If you're looking for some serious inspiration, try the talk of the town -- <http://www.wonderhowto.com/arts-crafts/origami-video/by-most-buzz/>

And I don't mean to keep you up all night, but here's a site worth a few hundred hours -- <http://www.origami-resource-center.com/index.html>

You can get washi - the traditional paper used for origami in Japan - at just about any craft store. Of course you don't have to use washi, any material that holds a crease will do. Pick something fun - don't be afraid to express your secret love for polka dots - and just give it a shot.

...or two.

Sometimes origami can be frustrating, but you don't have to sweat it alone. Come join us at the blog and forum for tips, tricks, explanations and that random midnight question.

<http://forum.worklifecreativity.net/index.php>

See you next month.