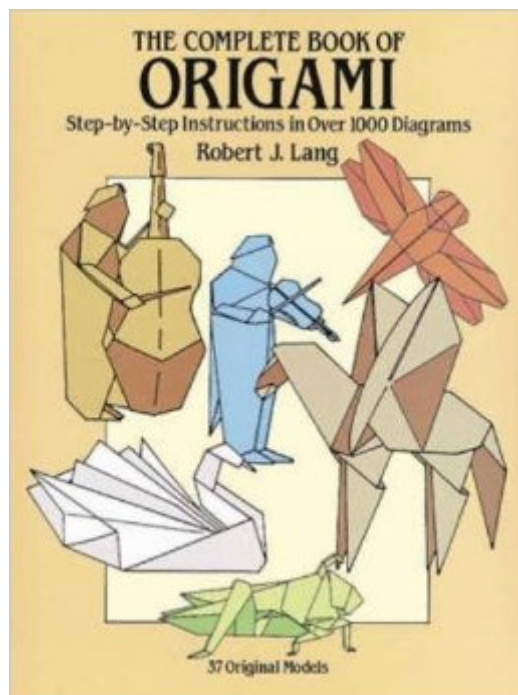


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The Complete Book Of Origami: Step-by Step Instructions In Over 1000 Diagrams (Dover Origami Papercraft)



Synopsis

Hours of enjoyment await with this big book of origami fun. Whether you're an experienced paperfolder or you're just entering the origami world, you'll find 37 captivating models galore right here, in all their well-illustrated glory. Robert J. Lang, a veteran origami artist, accompanies his step-by-step directions with more than 1,000 detailed drawings, plus a photograph of the finished model. Start with a kangaroo, a nun, a rocket, or a bust of King Tut. Advance to a dragonfly, a dinosaur, a winged Pegasus, or a cicada. By the end, you'll be making action folds — models with moving parts that re-create flapping birds, rowing ships, and fiddling violinists. The author includes an introduction to the history of origami, plus helpful hints on tools and materials and a key to the folding symbols.

Book Information

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Age Range: 8 and up

Grade Level: 3 and up

Customer Reviews

The book starts off so well with great written instructions and clear diagrams. However, the author too quickly abandons the beginner by shortening the written directions and cutting out parts of the diagrams which we've supposedly already learned. Also, he states in the beginning that the shaded sides of the diagram will indicate which side of the paper you're looking at (most paper is white on one side and colored on the other) but only in the first diagram and in a few other advanced ones

does he do this. Plus, I believe that he starts a few off wrongly by telling the wrong side of the paper to start with. On the good side, the structures quickly build off of the folds of the previous one so you can master various folds and apply them to the next. The beginner form, the mouse, is really cute. Not a bad book on origami but I believe I'll need to add another book to my collection in order to get further along.

This is a great book-but only if you are already familiar with origami. You cannot simply look at the diagrams, as Lang has made the text descriptions almost more important than the visual descriptions. The cuckoo clock is by far one of the most advanced models I've ever seen in a book-but there are some easier models as well. Most people will be able to find SOMETHING to make, but I would only suggest this book for a NON-beginner.

The models in this book are among those that most impress my friends when I make them. Nobody else has a full grand piano, with moving pianist. Certainly it requires a piece of paper of unusual dimensions, but Lang still holds true to the artifice of Western origami: no cuts. The models in this book certainly cannot be considered for beginners, but the cuckoo clock alone is worth the price of the book. Be prepared to use some tweezers, though. :-)

The author of "The Complete Book of Origami" has become notorious for producing some of the most advanced origami models in the literature and this book contains a range of models which cannot be considered anything but difficult. Most of the pieces will not be possible from ordinary paper but will require either foil or very thin bank weight paper to work well. Wet folding would also be suitable for some of the models though the diagrams for the elephant sail into a patch of fog when making its behind! Be prepared to spend some hours making each piece and you may well find yourself starting over again several times until a series of folding procedures becomes clear. That said the book contains some excellent models - I have always liked the Cuckoo Clock and the Viking Ship, and can confirm that the action pieces really do work. The diagrams are hand drawn rather than computerised which may explain the level of verbal instruction; however some of the sets of folds are very complex and the verbal instructions provide that much needed extra to understand what is going on. This is a book for the seasoned folder and most paper folders who have reached the high intermediate to advanced skill level will enjoy it.

This book is pretty good with lots of models. Only a couple of things I dislike are some of the models

do not start from squares (so you have to do some cutting) and after finishing the introductory folds section it moves quickly to advanced to nearly impossible folds...

It starts off pretty good, then abandon's the beginner to the frustration of vague instructions. I had to try some of the models several times before the directions made sense.

... I've owned this book for 17 years, and with a collection of 50+ Origami books, I still find this one to be the most intimidating. Despite lacking the polish and grace of more contemporary publications (this is more manual than book), Robert Lang brings out the kid, the engineer, and the marathon runner in you: You'll ooh and ahh over the 'cool' factor of each form (I still get audible gasps when I fold up the violinist and make him fiddle). You'll scratch your head and wonder how the human brain can even comprehend, let alone conceive, the mathematical genius that turns a square into a scorpion (complete with all digits). You'll learn to appreciate origami as more than just a 10-minute parlor trick. Some of these forms will take hours to complete, probably spread over several days. And that's just enough to get you a crinkly, misshapen form that looks hardly anything like the picture. Only through perseverance and repetition will you be able to complete some of these models, with a paper centerpiece and a smug sense of satisfaction as your reward. Other thoughts: -Recommended for Experienced & Advanced folder only. -A math-minded brain helps with this book, as well as drafting tools to work with. -Some models call for thin, foil-backed paper. I recommend shiny clearance wrapping paper, especially for its size. If this book caters to what you're passionate about, I say good luck...

This is simultaneously one of the best and one of the most frustrating origami books I've ever used. It is, as other reviewers have stated, absolutely not a beginner's book. The models in here are some of the most complicated I've ever seen diagrammed. They are also wonderfully challenging, with a viking ship complete with oars that rows when you tug on it, a violinist who bows his instrument, a pianist who plays, and as the magnum opus, a cuckoo clock which actually pops out a cuckoo. Such unconventional models require unconventional folding patterns, and most frustratingly, quite unusual paper sizes. For instance, the bassist requires a 1:1.207 rectangle. The pianist requires a 1:3.874 rectangle. The cuckoo requires a 1:7 rectangle. Now I know it's relatively easy to multiply those ratios, find a workable set of measurements, and cut to size, but it is not easy to do that neatly, and precision is a must with these models. I also know that some of those may correspond to European paper sizes, but those are not easy to find in the USA. Your mileage may vary.

Additionally, because of the complexity, and the fact that the two sides of the paper both contribute to the outside of the model, most of the diagrams do not show shading for one side of the paper and white for the other. This is not a problem for more advanced folders, but it certainly stumped me years ago when I first bought the book. I found the directions sparse, the diagrams occasionally unclear, and the whole was more challenging than anything I had previously attempted. But I loved it, and it taught me how to do a lot of complicated folds which I have used since. This is a book to work at. Don't let the above scare you away if you are motivated though. For the advanced folder these are fantastic, but just be aware that this is not part of the "one square of paper" school of folding.

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