

# Paper ball



The Japanese word for these is 'Kusudama'. They were originally made from fabric and hung from a Japanese lady's waist. As she moved the pot pourri inside covered any unpleasant smells. They later became children's toys and can still be seen at festival time, complete with silken tassel decorations.

## What you need

6 squares of identical paper or layout paper

Pencil

Ruler

Glue

Glue spreader

Copy paper

Pot pourri



## What you do

This project is completed in two parts and each has 2 stages:

Origami drinks coaster: 1. Cutting  
2. Assembling.

Paper ball: 1. Cutting and folding.  
2. Assembling.

### *Origami drinks coaster: 1 Cutting your square of paper*

1. Cut a square of paper. A 21cm (8¼") square taken from a sheet of A4 paper will make a large drinks coaster.
2. Fold one top corner down to make a square and cut off the bottom rectangle.

### *Origami drinks coaster: 2.Folding*

1. Mark the centre lines on the wrong side of the paper (if you have double sided paper).
2. Mark in the diagonals. You now have the centre lines and diagonals marked in pencil. Turn to the right side.
3. Fold each corner in to the centre and crease. Open out and turn to the wrong side.
4. Fold the left and right side in to the centre. Crease.
5. Fold the top down to the centre and the bottom up to the centre. Crease.

6. Place your finger and thumb inside the bottom right hand flap and pinch. Gently pull out the paper to the right and left, forming a boat shape.
7. Turn the paper round and repeat on the other two corners making a boat shape. Crease.
8. Place your finger and thumb inside the bottom right hand flap and pinch. Bring it towards the centre to flatten out into a square on top.
9. Repeat on the other three sides.
10. Holding down the centre of the flattened square fold back the top flap of the bottom right hand square to line up on the diagonal crease. This forms two triangular flaps on the top.
11. Repeat on the other three corners.
12. Place your finger inside each flap and squash down flat to line up on the creases below.
13. Repeat on the other three sides. Your coaster is finished.

### ***Paper ball: 1. Cutting and folding***

1. Follow the folding and cutting instructions from 'Origami drinks coaster'.
2. You need to cut and fold six identical 'units' to complete each Kusudama.
3. You will get a different effect if you start with the wrong side of paper up. Try some different papers.
4. If you can't get double sided paper, glue a square of thin layout paper to a sheet of coloured paper.

### ***2. Assembling***

1. Fold back each of the four corners on all six units and line them up in a row.
2. Glue one of the corners on the first unit and stick to one of the corners of the next.
3. Glue two more on the end in the same way to create a glued row of four units.
4. The ends of the right and left units need to be glued together to create an open cube.
5. Glue the four corners of one of the remaining units on the bottom.
6. Fill with large pot pourri or leave empty.
7. Glue the final sixth unit on top.

### ***What next***

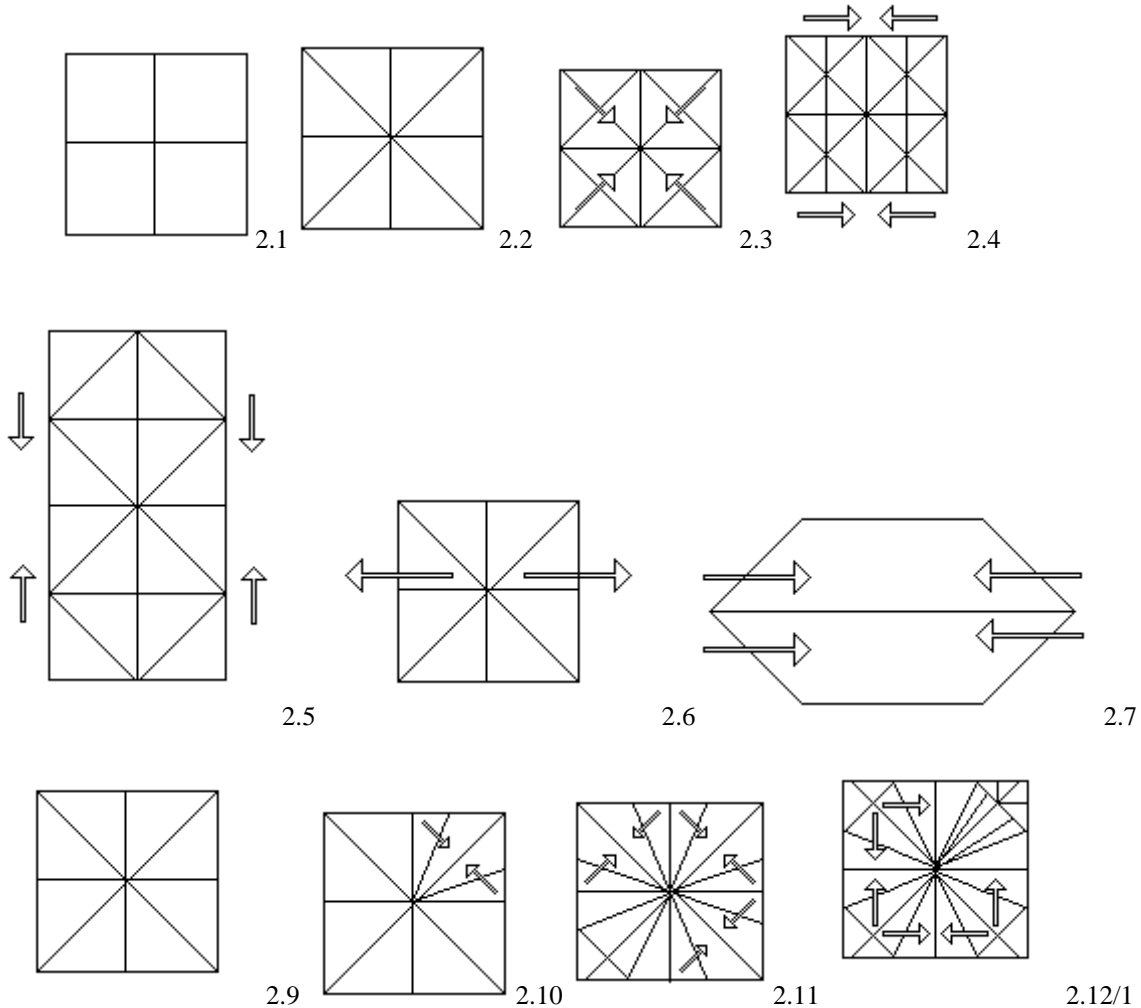
These look great massed in a bowl or used as decorations. Make them big from plain paper and colour them in before folding. You could use photocopies of faces, working with groups of six at a time, or select repeat designs to work with.

Add chocolate coins to the centre, or use the empty foil papers as medal motifs.

# Diagrams and templates

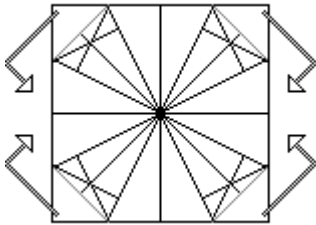
The numbers beside the diagrams and templates indicate their reference to the written 'What you do' instructions.

## 24. Origami drinks coaster

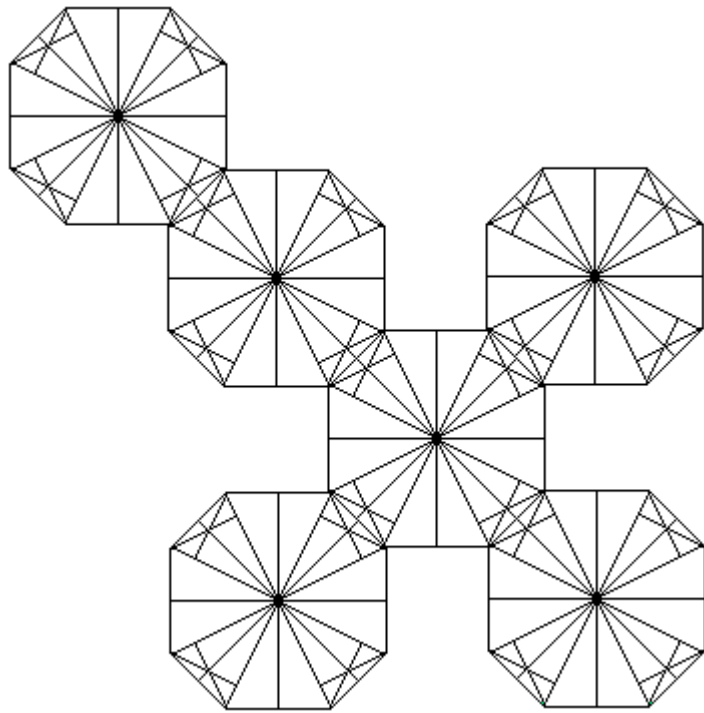


## Paper ball

Follow the instructions for Origami Drinks Coaster before completing the ball using the diagrams below.



2.1



2.3-5