

# How To: Origami Water Lily



If you've ever visited a particularly slow-moving river or lake in the summer, you have seen one of these beautiful flowers floating serenely at the surface.

Now, you can make one with your own two hands!

Let's get started!



1. Start with your origami paper white-side up.



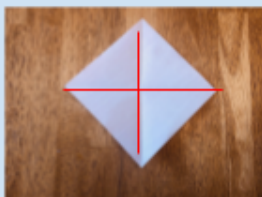
2. Fold the paper in half along the diagonal.



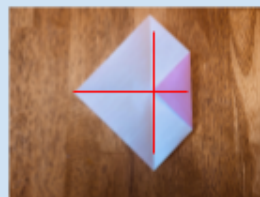
3. Unfold your last fold.



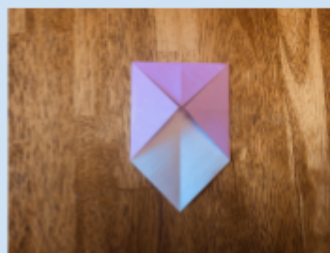
4. Fold the paper in half along the other diagonal.



5. Unfold again. See the x that was made by the folds?



6. Fold one of the corners to the center of the x you made in the last step.



7. Fold the rest of the corners to the centerpoint of the paper. I'd recommend starting with the corner opposite to the one you just did--it makes lining up the other corners easier--but the order doesn't really matter.

You've now completed the base of the floating lotus!

From here, the majority of the model is pretty formulaic.



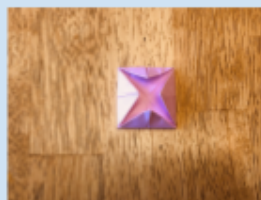
8. Fold the corners to the center of the paper (again). You'll be doing this a few more times and the paper will get a little cramped, so try to be as precise as you can. It'll make it easier to fold later.



9. Fold the corners to the center of the paper (again). Yes, again. Your model is going to start getting pretty small now.

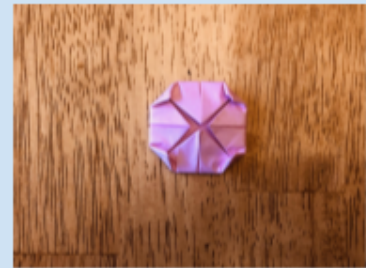


10. Flip your model over.



11. Guess what? Fold the corners to the center of the model again! I swear, this is the last time.

12. Fold the corners . . . inward. The exact amount doesn't matter, but you don't need to fold them to the center.



At this point, your model is probably so small and thick that you might have trouble folding it. That's okay! Just try to bend the paper where you want it to go.



13. Flip your model over.

This next part is the hardest part of the model, but if you've made it this far, you can do it. Ready?



14. Fold the loose flaps on this side of the model outward to make a square.



15. Flip your model back over. Notice that the folds from the backside are visible on this side?



16. Grab one of the folds from the backside with one hand, and keep your thumb on the little flap on the front side. Slowly and gently--be careful not to rip the paper--pull with the hand holding the back fold and press down with the thumb on the little flap. This is the most difficult part of the model, but if you do it right, you'll be peeling the back flap up and forward to make a petal.



17. Repeat the same peeling process on the other four backside folds. You'll end up with four petals. This folded wad of paper is just starting to look like a flower!

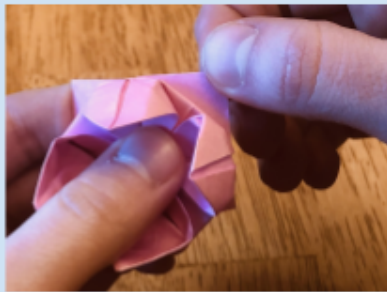
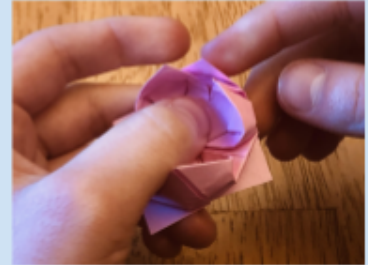


18. Flip the model over again.



19. Fold the new loose flaps on this side of the model outwards to make a square, like you did in step 14.

19. Flip the model back over. Notice that those back flaps are visible on this side again, like in step 15? This time, those flaps will be visible between the petals that you've already created.



20. It's peeling time again! Grab one of the folds from the backside with one hand, and put your thumb between the two petals you've already created. Slowly and gently pull with the hand holding the back fold and press down with your other thumb to peel up more petals between the first four petals.



21. Repeat the peeling process again with the next three flaps. You'll end up with eight total petals.

Nice job! You've completed the hardest part of the model. All that's left are the leaves of the water lily!



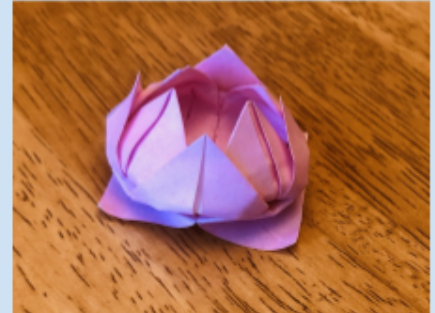


22. Flip the model back over.

23. Fold the last back flaps over to make a square. You'll have a white base now.

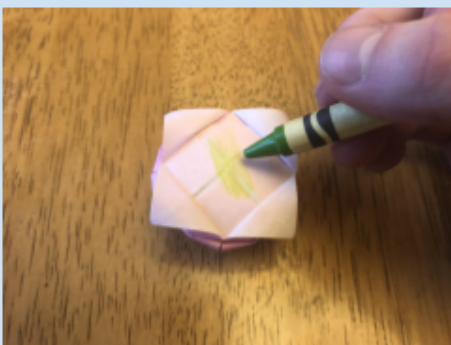


24. Flip the model back over.  
You've now got a complete origami water lily!



If you're really feeling ambitious, you can peel the leaves of the water lily up as well, using the same method as steps 16 and 20.

psst . . .



. . . if you're using thick enough paper and you coat the bottom of your water lily with wax (like from a crayon), you just might be able to get it to float on water.

