

Family Art from Home

Pattern Play Paper Box

by Ophelia Cornet

Create your own custom origami paper for this lovely and simple paper box project. Fill a box with small treats and leave it at a friend or neighbor's door to let them know you're thinking of them!



Supplies Needed

- Printer paper
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Markers, colored pencils, and/or pens

How to Do it

1. Place a piece of printer paper on the table in the portrait position. Fold the bottom right corner up and across so that the sheet is lined up with the left edge. Cut off the excess top part of the paper where the two layers of paper meet. When you unfold the paper you should have a square.

2. Decorate this side of the paper with patterns using the coloring and drawing materials of your choice. This will be the outside of your box. You can also decorate the other side of the paper if you wish, which will be the inside.

Tips for patterns:

- A pattern is a design made up of smaller elements that repeat, rather than a single image on your sheet of paper.
- You can come up with 1-3 different motifs, such as shapes or flowers, and repeat them across the paper.
- Patterns look great going off the edges of your sheet of paper (just be sure you are working on top of a surface that can get marked up).

3. Once you are happy with your pattern, refold the paper along the diagonal line you created in Step 1. The pattern for the outside of your box will be inside the triangle. Fold the right corner across to the left corner, creating a smaller triangle.



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4. With the triangle pointing downward, use a ruler to find the spot three inches straight up from the bottom point of the triangle. Use your pencil to make a dot there. Then sketch the lines seen in blue marker, making sure they connect to the dot.

5. Cut through all the layers of paper along the lines you have drawn. Open the paper up completely to reveal the petal shaped form in the picture.

6. Flip it over so the pattern that you want on the outside of the box is face down. Fold each of the four "petals" inward as far as they will go. This will create a smaller square shape. Open the petals up.

7. Take the two petals opposite each other with the loophole cutouts and match them up to each other so they are pointing straight up at you. Then take one of the petals with the slot cut into it and loop it over the two loopholes. Repeat with the other side.

Tip: throughout this step, you can use your fingers to help the paper petals bend into a curved shape.

Your box is done! Just open the box up to fill with a gift or treat and repeat Step 7 as needed to close the box.

