

Snowflake Papercuts

Papercutting is one of the most well-known and long-lasting types of Jewish folk art. Papercuts are made by cutting shapes and words out of paper or parchment. Although papercutting was not invented by Jewish artists, it has been practiced by them since the Middle Ages (1400s). Jewish artists often used papercuts to decorate ketubbot, or marriage contracts. One of the reasons for the art form's popularity is because it involves using materials that are widely available and not very expensive. Artists often create intricate and detailed papercuts, but you can cut out any design you like. Create your own snowflake by folding and cutting paper. You can follow along with the step-by-step instructions on the next page and use the pictures on the following page for guidance.



T-FISHMAN

Credit: C. FERKOWITZ

Paper cut art work. JMM
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What you will need:

- Paper (you can use any type of paper such as printer paper, tissue paper or newspaper)
- Scissors

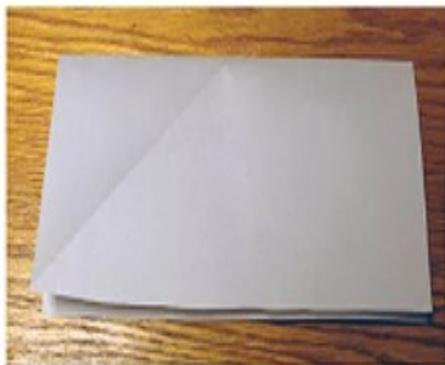
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What to do:

1. Start with a square piece of paper.
2. Fold the square in half to make a rectangle.
3. Fold the rectangle in half to make a square with 4 layers.
4. Unfold the square. Bring the paper's right and left sides inward vertically, matching the edges to the center fold you created in Step 2.
5. Open the paper to its rectangular shape again. Fold the left edge towards the right, tilting it so that the bottom tip of the paper touches the fold closest to the right side of the rectangle.
6. Leave the new fold in place and fold the right edge of the rectangle over to match the angled edge on the left creating a new unit.
7. Fold the new unit in half lengthwise, matching the sides carefully.
8. Cut away the bottom edge of this unit, making sure to make the cut far enough away from the bottom so that all layers are included. You can make your cut straight or at an angle.
9. Make cuts into the sides and bottom of the folded paper. If you want, you can trim the top tip to create an opening in the center of the snowflake. Try making a few different cuts in the center of your snowflake.
10. Unfold your paper to reveal your finished snowflake.

Bonus Challenge: Try making a more complex design like a rose. For help, check out this video [here](#).

How to Fold and Cut Six-Sided Snowflakes



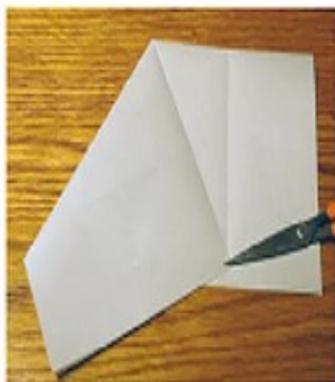
1.



2.



3.



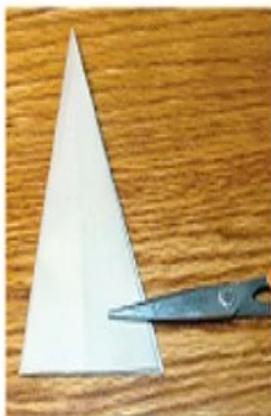
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5.



6.



7.



8.

