
Kaleidoscope Gift Wrap with Megumi Inouye

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Overview and materials

- For this workshop you're gonna need a box that's already been wrapped. I chose a smaller box for this particular design. You're going to need some pieces of paper, I chose scrap origami paper, remnants of things I've used before. We're gonna need four, one and a half by one and half squares of the pattern paper. And we're gonna need four one and half by one and a half squares of the plain paper. I really want to encourage you to find scrap paper, something that you might throw away, but can now turn into something beautiful. Next we'll need a pair of scissors. We're gonna need a ruler. We're gonna need a button for an accent piece. Double stick tape and some glue to adhere the button. And now we're ready for the fun part, we're gonna start making the kaleidoscope bow.

Chapter 2 - Single Kaleidoscope

Cutting Paper

- The first step is we want to cut the paper. So we're going to take this square piece of paper and cut four one and a half inch squares. I'm going to cheat a little bit to save time and I'm going to fold this paper and I'm going to cut it at once. And if you don't have a paper cutter, it's always good to also use scissors. So you have your four one and a half inch squares. Now I'll cut one and a half inch squares of the plain paper. And now you have all your four papers cut and your four patterned papers cut and we're ready to start folding.

Folding and taping

- Now that we've cut eight of our squares, we're ready to start folding. We wanna fold the square paper into a triangle like this. So we kinda create the line that we want to then fold, this paper onto the center line like that. And we're gonna create a kite-like shape. Do the same on the other side, to create a diamond-like shape like this. Then we keep folding and doing the same fold for all of the eight papers. Once you fold all of the papers, you're gonna be ready to start assembling them into the flower pattern. And I chose two different patterns so that we can kind of create the separation of design, between the petals of the flower. Here I use double stick tape to adhere the two petals together. Like that. And this in the end will also help to stick the bow you create onto the present. So it serves two purposes. And you wanna align your flower against the bow that you created before. Here you're trying to match these two pieces like this, so its, you can almost start to see how it's going to take shape. We've created our kaleidoscope bow, and now that you have already stuck the double stick tape on the backside you're ready to adhere the bow onto the package that you've wrapped already. I love the contrast of the dark brown, with all the different pattern papers that we selected for the package. And now we wanna add a little accent piece. I chose to put a button in the middle like this. You can use double stick tape to adhere buttons to your packages, but just as a safeguard I'm going to use glue. Especially for some of the thicker buttons like this is, I think glue might be a better choice. And you want a glue that is a strong adhesive. Not the school glue, but something stronger, that is meant to adhere materials. So out of eight square scraps of paper that you might've thrown away, we made a kaleidoscope.

Chapter 3 - Reverse Kaleidoscope

Folding and taping

- In the previous segment I introduced you how to make a kaleidoscope bow. You can use the same technique and create a different look by just turning the bow to its back, and I'm gonna show you how that looks when you apply that to a larger sheet of paper. This is five inch by five inch origami paper that I actually purchased in Japan, and I thought it'd be fun if we mix and match different colors of paper to create a larger bow. When you create a larger bow, it's gonna be really interesting to see how dynamic, and a whole different look that you can create. So, let's get started. We're gonna do the same thing as we did in the previous class. We're gonna start folding our paper into a triangle, and fold the paper into the center line, like this. The center line you create as sort of a guideline for you to crease your paper, and you're making a kite like shape, similar to this. We're gonna do that to all of the different papers. It's so much fun to do it when you have so many different patterns of paper. Each one has such a unique look. The look we're actually going for right now is the back look, which is the side that has the fold. Now we're ready to assemble the flower. And at this point, because we have so many intricate designs, it's nice to lie the papers out to see which ones may go with the other. I'm looking at this design and I'm thinking that we should most likely want to put in the forefront some of the beautiful paper patterns that are showing on the backside. So, one idea is to alternate the two, like this, one in the front, one in the back, one in the front, one in the back. So really, you can play around and do almost anything that you like. You may like to do all one side all colored and the others just folded, but this is really the part that you can use your imagination. So, I think I like this combination here of combining different sides, alternating the sides in this fashion, and we're gonna start taping them now. You're gonna need a longer stick of tape on this one because you have a five by five inch paper, so much more area to secure. Now, we're alternating, so you can tell on the back that one has all the pattern on one side, and one has the fold. Now we're ready for the reveal. I wonder how it's gonna look. Ready? Wow, it's beautiful, isn't it? Different color and textures of papers all coming into a kaleidoscope. Now, this really looks like a kaleidoscope if I turn it. I'm gonna take this and adhere it to the box. And to give it a little dimension, I'm gonna stick my fingers in here and create a little lift into some of these areas of the kite. And I've selected a button. I needed a large button, because the scale of this gift is large. I'm gonna take a glue, an adhesive that's fairly strong, and attach this to the gift. Double stick tape will also work for this, but because of how large it is, I'd feel more secure by using the glue. And because, once again, the dimensions of the box are big, I wanted to create another layer using another button to put on top. And we have a festive look that's ready to be presented.

Chapter 4 - Conclusion

Examples of variations

- With this technique you've just learned you can create a variety of different looks. And I wanted to share with you different looks I've created by using a map, here I've used old Japanese newspaper, here a dictionary, of course we used origami paper, using plain paper also works, here I used craft paper, here I used old typewriter paper that I found at a flea market, and by layering it you can create different dimensions and different looks. I hope this inspires you to collect different kinds of paper and not throw anything away and create your own kaleidoscope bow.