

Sheer Origami

by Lisa Walton

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Susan Brubaker Knapp and Lisa Walton

Materials

Finished size: approximately 42" square

- 1 yard white or off white silk organza
- 1 yard white cotton prepared for dyeing (PFD) fabric
- Opaque fabric paint in a selection of colors
- Foam roller and paint tray
- Textured surface such as a place mat, rubbing plates, etc.
- Paper (I use ¼" graph paper for easy measurement.)
- Glass headed pins
- 1 yard backing
- Crib-size quilt batting

Optional

- 1 yard lightweight fusible (I used Mistyfuse®.)

I love working with sheer fabrics. The levels of texture and translucency add interest to any work. You just want to get closer and look deeper. Introduced to the exciting possibilities of silk organza in a workshop with Jeanette DeNicolis Meyer, I just had to take it further. Using fabric paint and an innovative texturing technique—combined with my love of Japanese aesthetics—this simple origami folded quilt was born.

INSTRUCTIONS

Work on a painting surface or cover a table with plastic sheeting for steps 1 and 2.

1. Layer the white fabric on top of the textured surface followed by the silk organza.
2. Squeeze fabric paint into the paint tray. Load the foam roller with fabric paint and gently roll over the top of the silk organza. The design of the textured surface should come through both fabric layers. Continue until both layers are colored to your

satisfaction. Allow the fabrics to air dry and remove them from the textured surface. Heat set the fabrics with a medium iron or follow the manufacturer's directions.

3. On graph paper draw a 3½" square and then lines 1" in from each side. Repeat to get as many units on 1 piece of paper as you can. Make enough copies to get 25–30 total units. Cut the paper into 3½" units.
4. Cut the painted silk organza into 25–30 (4½") squares.
5. Pin 1 corner of the paper unit and organza together at a 1" mark. Turn counter clockwise and repeat until all 4 corners are pinned. You will have a 'bubble' of organza in the center.
6. Using your finger, fold 1 corner counter clockwise until it lays flat and then remove and replace pin so there is a pleat. Repeat on all 4 corners.

Tip: Use glass-headed pins to avoid melted heads.

7. Press gently with a medium iron and remove the pins and paper.
8. Repeat until you have 25–30 origami units.
9. Arrange the origami units on top of the painted PFD fabric to create a pleasing design.
10. Sew the origami blocks together into rows with scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam or try using a $\frac{1}{8}$ " seam to reduce bulk with this delicate fabric. Sew the rows to create the quilt top.
11. Baste the silk quilt top to the painted PFD fabric, batting, and backing.
12. Quilt and bind as desired.



Tips

- Mix colors together on your palette and roller for a more interesting effect or try a gradation of colors.
- Fold all the origami units in the same direction to line up the design properly.
- When basting the quilt, use a layer of thin fusible web between the organza and the painted surface to stabilize it if the organza is too slippery.
- I quilt my quilts with circles and ovals to enhance the pleats and allow them to remain somewhat dimensional. Too much quilting will flatten them. ■

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Top: The bubble of organza is lightly pressed (right) and the graph paper is removed from the blocks (left). Above: Detail of Lisa's quilting; she recommends quilting with circles and ovals as too much quilting will flatten the dimensional look of the blocks.