BLICK art materials 800-447-8192 DickBlick.com

The Paper Square Challenge





Copyright © 2023 Blick Art Materials All rights reserved

How many ways can you alter a simple scrap of paper?

Start with a stack of small squares of paper and be prepared to cut more. The challenge is finding as many ways as possible to add dimension and texture to each square—without using drawing materials.

Armed with only a glue stick, scissors, and perhaps a tool or two, students can fold, cut, pierce, punch, crumple, curl, bend, shred, roll, twist, weave, tear, layer, emboss, and deboss one square after another—just to list a few techniques. Each altered square is arranged in a grid-like pattern, creating a colorful paper sculpture that grows larger and more complex.

Within each technique are countless variations. For instance, folds can be vertical, horizontal, or diagonal. Pieces can be folded once, twice, or multiple times. Folds can rise up or go down. There's accordian folds, symmetrical folds, and asymmetrical folds. Once folding techniques are thoroughly explored, the wide realm of CUT and fold techniques can be stepped into.

We've provided a gallery of ideas, but it's only a place to get started. This challenge is a great way to start a collaboration and create a profusion of paper squares for display.

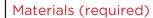
Note: Instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 24 students. Adjust as needed.

Preparation

1. Cut paper into squares. Size is dependant on desired overall size of the finished piece: generally, 2" to 4" squares.

Process

 Alter each paper square, following suggestions on following pages and also



Colorful, foldable paper. Recommend:

Hygloss Bright Sheets, 11" x 17", pkg of 46 (12906-1009); share one pkg across class

Fadeless 2-Color Duet Paper, 12" x 18", pkg of 30 sheets (12908-1006); share one pkg across class

Neenah Astrobrights Spectrum Paper, $8.5'' \times 11''$, pkg of 150 sheets (11346-1015)

Fiskars Big Kids Scissors, 6" (86022-1006); one per student Blick Glue Stick, White, 1.41 oz (23895-1048); one per student

Pacon Card Stock, Black, 8.5" x 11", pkg of 100 sheets, 65-lb (11319-2021); share one pkg across class

Westcott Flexible Ruler, 6" (55693-1006)

Optional Materials

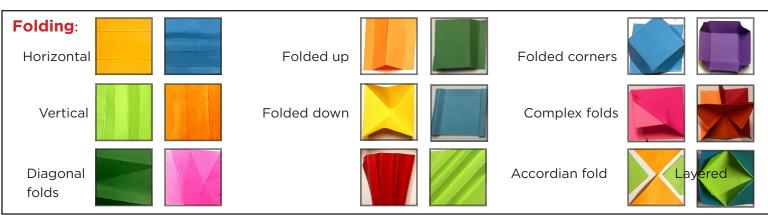
Fiskars Hand Punches, assorted styles (58923-)

Aitoh Bamboo Paper Folding Tool (12654-)

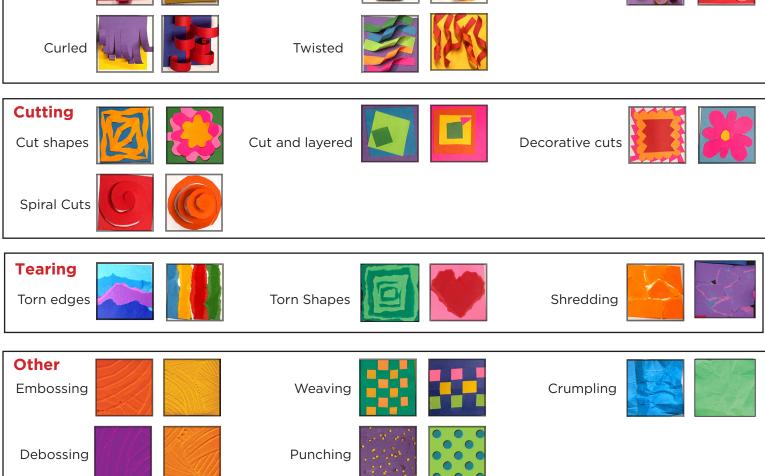
Marvy Uchida Corru-Gator Paper Crimpers, assorted patterns (62951-)

Armada Paper Shapers, assorted styles (57056-)

Ready to order materials?









2. Glue altered squares in rows and columns to make a quilt like grid.

National Core Arts Standards - Visual Arts

Creating

Anchor Standard 1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

Anchor Standard 2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

Anchor Standard 3: Refine and complete artistic work.

Responding

Anchor Standard 9: Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.



Go to

www.DickBlick.com/lesson-plans/the -paper-square-challenge to access a product bundle for your convenience.





Step 1: Cut brightly colored paper into 2" squares.



Step 2: Using just a glue stick and scissors, find as many ways to alter the square as possible.



Step 3: Glue the altered squares in a quilt-like pattern for display