Butterfly - This model and its sister model "Andrea's Rose" were created as sinking exercises. Sinking is not as difficult as it seems, and after learning the proper technique, with practice it becomes quite easy. This model concentrates on the "pleat sink" type, in which a piece of paper is unfolded completely and refolded like a fan. The model can be folded from any type of paper though foil backed papers are more difficult to work with.


1. Fold and unfold diagonally.

Turn the paper over.
$\rightarrow$

4. Fold and unfold.

7. Now, fold the model back into a waterbomb base, downward as you go.

2. Fold and unfold laterally. Turn the paper over.


5. Now we will sink the top half of the model. The next two steps show how. Open the model completely.

8. Fold and unfold the entire model in half.

3. Fold a waterbomb base on the existing creases.

6. Pinch each of the four creases together forming a plateau on the paper. The model will not lie flat.

9. Now we will pleat-sink the top half of the model. The next three steps show how. Open the model completely.

10. Pinch the outermost creases (indicated by the thicker lines) into shape, just like in step 6 . Then, incorporate the rest of the creases, folding the model back into a waterbomb base.

12. Sink the last area. This will complete the pleat sink.

13. Pleat sink the next level. As before, fold the model in half very accurately, and then unfold the paper completely.

16. This is a simplified view. To complete the model, pinch the paper closed, just under the horizontal center. The top flaps will flip down and to the sides automatically.

11. Next, sink the white area upward using the same approach used in the previous steps: open the model partly, pinch the new creases into place, and fold the model back up.

14. Fold the paper back up as in the previous steps but with twice as many folds. Start with the outside square and work inward, one level at a time.
17. This is another simplified view. Allow model to open up.

18. Completed model.


Butterfly Chain/Butterfly Crystal - I created this model after designing the "Butterfly". It struck me that in my butterfly, since two of the edges of the paper were left completely intact, then one could probably string a chain of butterflies together, connected by the wings. That night I sat down and folded it. The crystal came later in 2012 when I was preparing it for a photo shoot. The model is good practice for folders who want to increase their comfort level with sinking as well as improve their precision skills such as fudging creases to make things line up correctly. The model can be folded from any type of paper, though kami works best for beginners.


1. Start with a 1 by $n$ piece of paper with each square marked with a crease. This example shows a 1 by 4 piece of paper. Fold a waterbomb base on the first square.

2. Continue folding waterbomb bases on the rest of the sections.

3. Now you have a chain of waterbomb bases.

4. This is the completed chain. It works like a little wind up toy. Try holding each end of the model with either hand and gently winding it up like a rubber band. Let go and it will spring back into shape. To make a crystal, take the two ends and (ahem) tape them together. Try different numbers for different crystals.



5. Fold a waterbomb base on the next square.

6. This is a side view. Sink the top of each waterbomb base.

7. As with the butterfly, pleat-sink each portion.

8. Pleat-sink each portion again.

