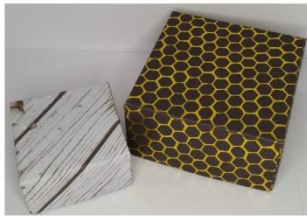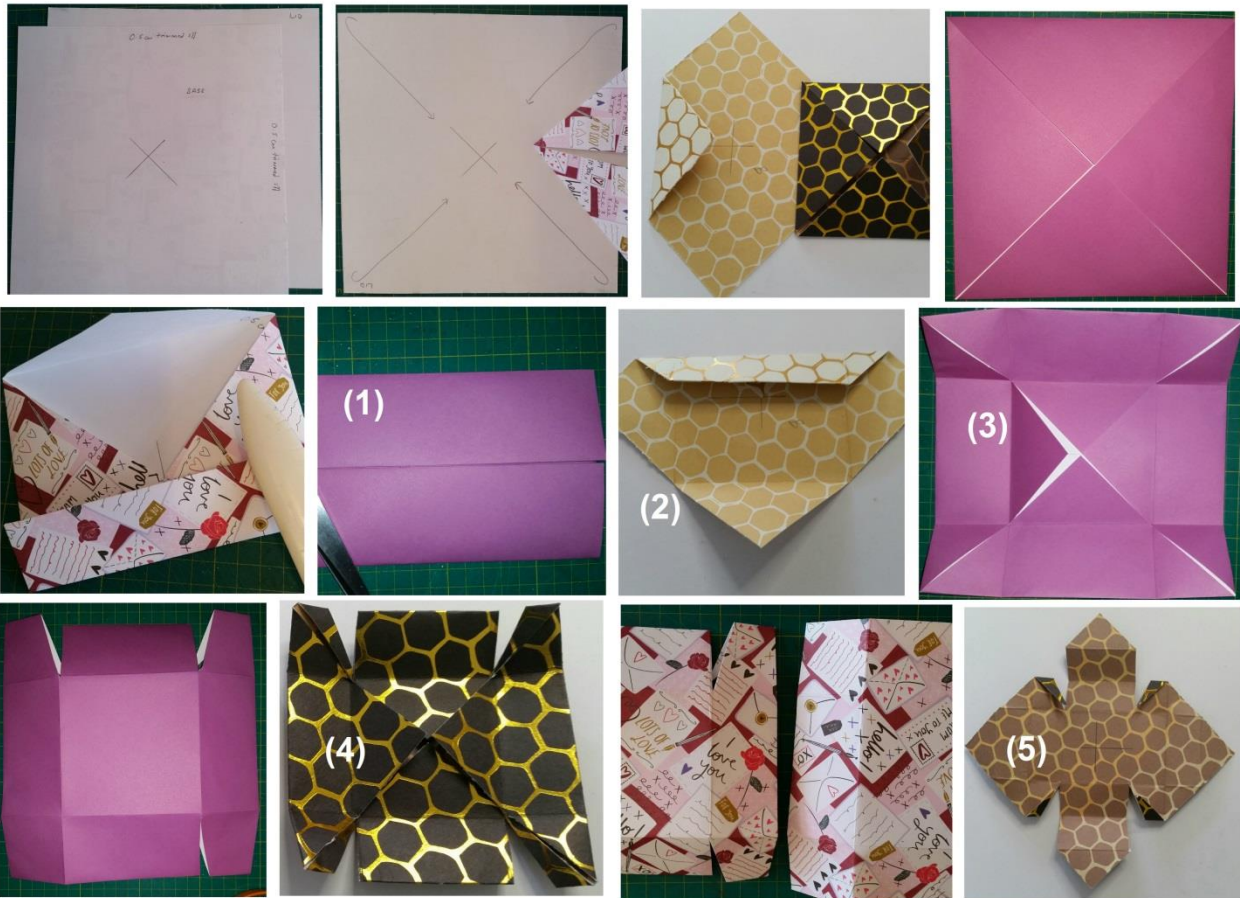# Kirigami Boxes

To run alongside 'Jewellery Craft Part 2' I thought showing how to make your own boxes from paper would be a good pairing. Handmade craft paper boxes have been one of the most useful things to know how to do in my craft 'arsenal' and not only for jewellery. I've made boxes for handmade fudge and other confectionary, spirit miniatures, small cakes and many other things as the need arises. Once assembled they are fairly robust and a much cheaper option than ready-made bought in versions. It is kirigami not origami, as it has been folded and cut (kiri) from paper (gami) then glued to create a 3D design; origami is purely folding a flat piece of paper to 2D/3D.

Materials:

- Craft paper pads of choice - 12x12 (just over 30cm^2), 8x8 (just over 20cm^2), 6x6 (just over 15cm^2) - two sheets per box
  The greater the gsm the more robust the finished box will be, I used mostly double sided (pattern on both sides) 150-200gsm
- Pencil, ruler, scissors, paper trimmer (optional), bone folder
- Strong glue stick or dries clear PVA

Instructions:

- The box base should be 5mm-1cm smaller than the lid, 5mm for a snug fit, 1cm for looser fit. Size difference is less noticeable with 5mm; mark the underside of the base with B and lid with L so you know which needs to be manipulated inside the other when assembling.
- Trim two adjoining sides (not opposites) with a paper trimmer, or mark lines to trim with a pencil and ruler cutting away excess as straight as possible with scissors.
- With a ruler and pencil draw two diagonal lines from opposite corners, the point where they cross is the centre to fold into.
- Fold each corner to the centre 'X'. Crease and firmly press the folds with a bone folder (or bowl of a spoon as a suitable substitution).
- Create the box sides by folding all four edges into the centre where the points meet, crease and press the folds well. You can align opposite sides as shown in (1).
- An alternative is to unfold completely, fold the corner back into 'X' then fold over the sides as shown in (2) to the 'X'.
- You will have well-defined crease marks showing box sides and points matching up in the centre (3).
- Cut notches in on opposite sides as shown in (4) to take away bulk. It is better to cut from the top as you can see the fold lines easier especially with patterned paper.
- Unfold as shown (5).

- Add glue to the bottom square. Fold down the uncut sides where the corners are still intact and stick down with points together.
- Bring up the sides of your box folding in the corner flaps at right angles creating a box shape.
- Fold one cut side over the corner flaps onto the bottom and stick down, then the other side. The points should all meet in the middle, if not glue a square of card/paper over the bottom to disguise.

Additional tips:

- When trialling a new paper fold to save wasting craft paper, practice with copier paper first.
- If using lesser gsm paper, the bottom/lid can be reinforced using a square of card/paper glued inside.
- Any size box is possible by cutting down your craft papers even creating a set of stacking boxes as shown in main image. The black boxes in the main image (top to bottom) were made from squares of 5.5cm/8cm/10.5cm/15cm/20cm/25cm/30cm, remembering to trim the base.
- Use leftover scraps for tiny boxes to display in a dish or vase with twinkly lights.
- Using the same instructions make a flat box from 12x12 papers, instead of folding sides into the 'X', mark sides at 4cm and fold sides there. For a cube style box mark side folds at 7cm (which goes over 'X') and fold there.
- Folding sides to the 'X' creates a box a third in size of the actual paper measurement, 30^2cm paper creates a box 10.5cm square, 20^2cm paper 7cm square and 15^2cm paper 5.5cm square.
- This is a cost effective idea to run as a crafty session with your WI.

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