

christmas tree snowflake

FREE TUTORIAL & PATTERN

A special holiday *papirklip* project brought to you by the Museum of Danish America, Elk Horn, Iowa. www.danishmuseum.org



The museum's annual holiday card design for 2018 is based upon a shapeshifting 2D snowflake that transforms into a 3D Christmas tree full of magical creatures and decorations.



museum of
danish america

Design © proongily 2018, Cynthia McKeen

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HOW-TO

Design © proongily 2018, Cynthia McKeen

Paper

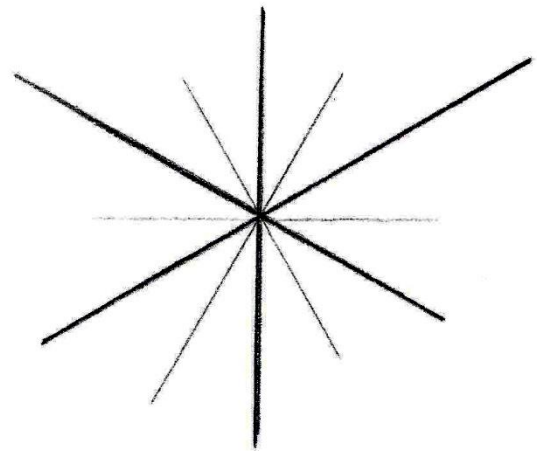
For cutting the Christmas Tree Snowflake, use a thin, strong paper that creases well. This *papirklip* was cut from Thai *unryu*, a 'rice paper' that has a fine grain and that comes in large sheets. Other papers that can work well for folding and cutting include origami paper (not easily available in large sheets), Danish *glanspapir* (not as easy to find as it once was) and sheet gift wraps. Rolled gift papers seem to retain their inclination to curl, but do often work well. Once you have a little experience, you will find that choosing papers for different designs becomes intuitive.

To cut this design with the intent of making a standing tree approximately 7" tall, start with a piece of paper 17" × 17". Measure and cut paper exactly and crease sharp edges accurately for a good outcome.

Folding

See instruction diagrams on page 3.

Folding in thirds, to produce 6 points, diverges from standard origami patterns, which is why I sketched those. The last step for this snowflake makes the design work as the tree.



Using the Pattern

Cut out the appropriate pattern (black and white triangle) from page 4. Align the pattern on the folded paper and fasten it by stapling in the black areas.

There are left-handed and right-handed versions of the pattern which can make the cutting process easier.

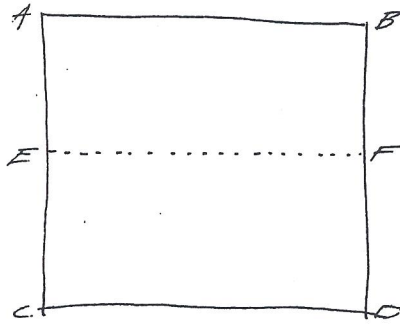
Cutting

This can be cut with scissors or blades or both. Use whichever is more comfortable.

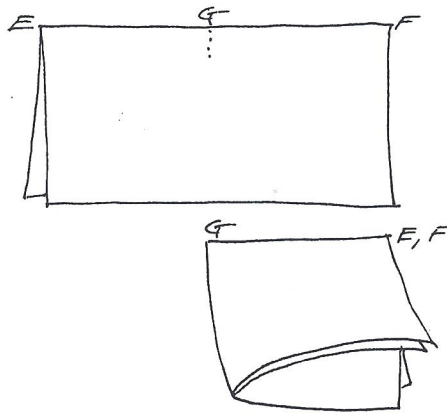
A Note from Cynthia:

"Some people may be tempted to use a bit of glue to connect the *nisser* at the base, but then the tree loses the look of layers of shadows. I did use a bit of glue inside the treetop for stability and the tree stands well, as long as the creasing is sharp. The bottom branches curl a little, which I like, but if you want to prevent that, press the folded tree under something heavy until just before you set it up."

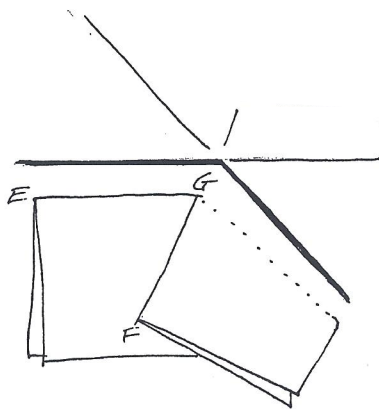
1. Begin with a square sheet of paper. Fold in half and crease well (AB to CD).



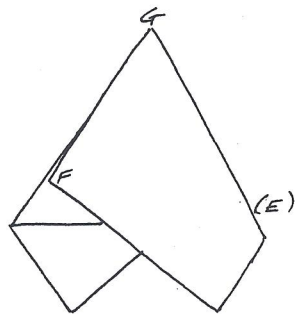
2. Along the folded edge, begin to fold in half again, but do not complete the whole fold (G). G is the center point of what will become your snowflake.



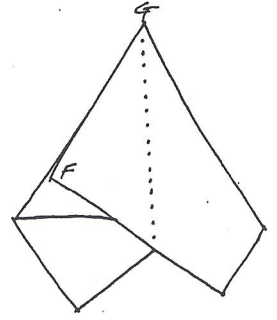
3. Fold the double sheet into thirds, using G as the pivotal point. (This can be difficult to judge at first - use the hexagon drawing as a guide.)



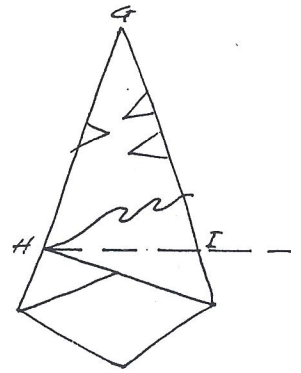
4. Fold EG back. Your sheet should look like this.



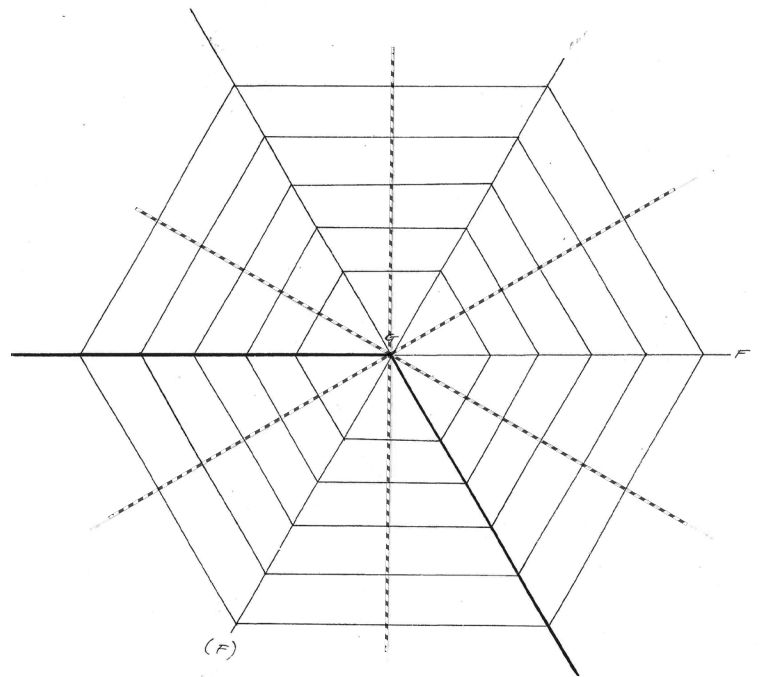
5. Fold the figure in half as shown.



6. Cut straight across from H to I. You can cut out shapes along GH and GI. To sharpen the points of your snowflake, use either H or I as those points and cut back the other, as shown with the wavy line



7. Open sheet and re-crease the 6 diameter lines so that every other diameter line folds in the opposite direction. You will be creating three long lines in one direction and three in the other. You should then be able to re-fold the snowflake, to find the 'tree' shape.



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PATTERNS

Design © proongily 2018, Cynthia McKeen

