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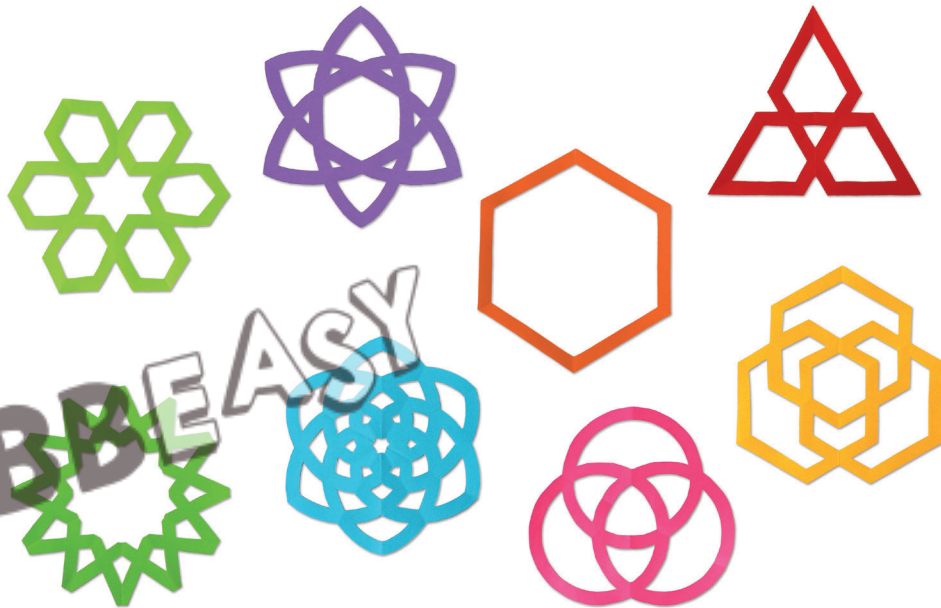
JAPANESE PAPER FOLDING

Monkiri

16 templates for folding and cutting
geometric Monkiri motifs

PDF 4112-EN

LABBEASY

JAPANESE PAPER FOLDING

Monkiri

PRINT SETTINGS

Please use Acrobat Reader to print and make sure that the settings 'Actual size' and 'Auto portrait/ landscape' are selected.

SAVE PAPER & TONER

Only print out the pages you need.

About Monkiri

Monkiri is the traditional Japanese art of paper folding and cutting. "Mon" refers to Japanese heraldic figures or family characters and "kiri" means "cut". Most Japanese coats of arms are monochrome and depict stylized images of plants or animals, often within a circle. For example, the sixteen-petaled chrysanthemum is the emblem of the Japanese emperor and also the national coat of arms. There are over 10,000 different such symbols in Japan - they've been passed down from generation to generation.
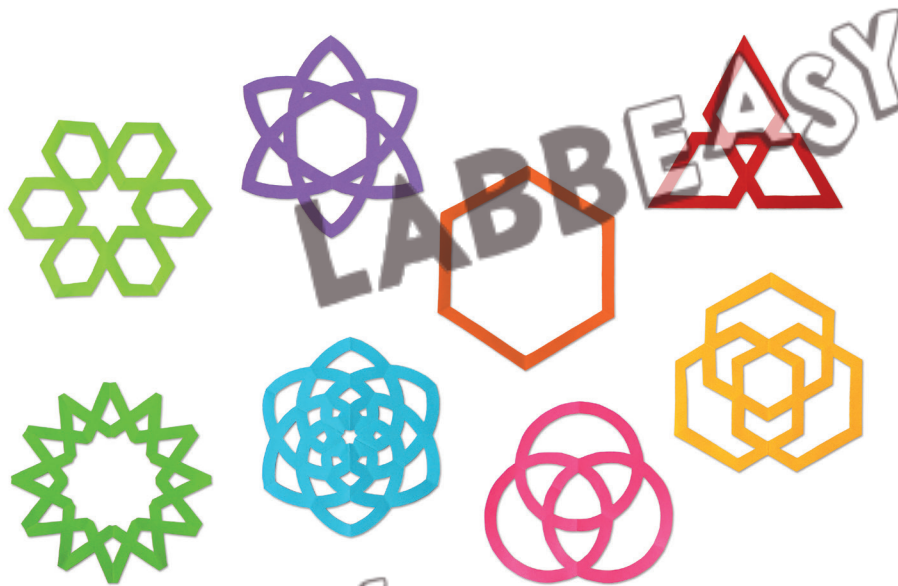
Originally, the Mon were used by Japanese samurai as emblems during war. They would decorate their flags, pennants, clothing and tents with these emblems. The Mon were designed according to strict craftsmanship guidelines dating back to the 12th century - they had to have very specific elements, which were determined and controlled by an imperial committee. One important requirement was that it must be possible for the emblems to be made from cloth quickly and easily in large quantities for many soldiers. To achieve this, they folded the fabric several times and then cut out the emblem. Over time, more complex Monkiri designs were developed and were able to be produced easily and quickly through more sophisticated folding.

The timeless clarity of these ancient Japanese motifs with their unique aesthetic still fascinates today. Even small children can cut out complicated Monkiri shapes - if you fold the paper beforehand. Unfolding the paper has a real WOW effect!
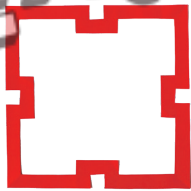
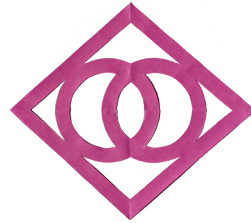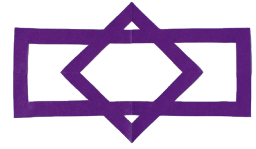*Micha Labbé*

Monkiri

2 FOLDS

MONKIRI 1
Page 5

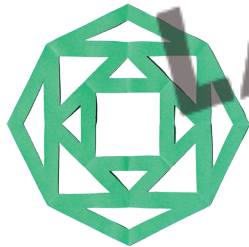MONKIRI 2
Page 6

MONKIRI 3
Page 7
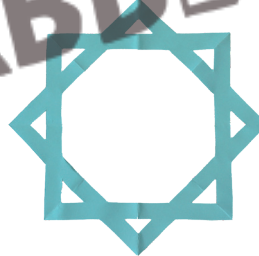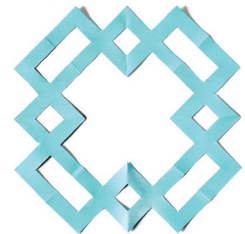
MONKIRI 4
Page 8

4 FOLDS

MONKIRI 5
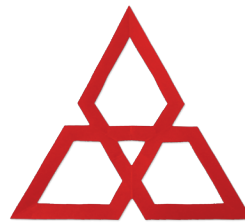Page 9

MONKIRI 6
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MONKIRI 7
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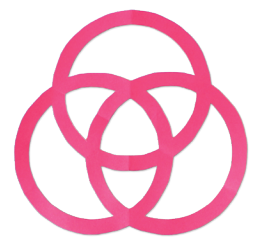MONKIRI 8
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3 FOLDS

MONKIRI 9
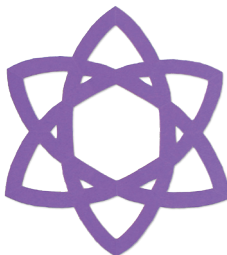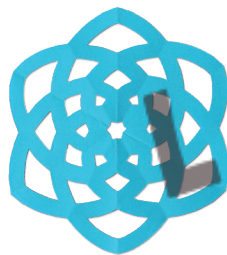Page 13

MONKIRI 10
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MONKIRI 11
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MONKIRI 12
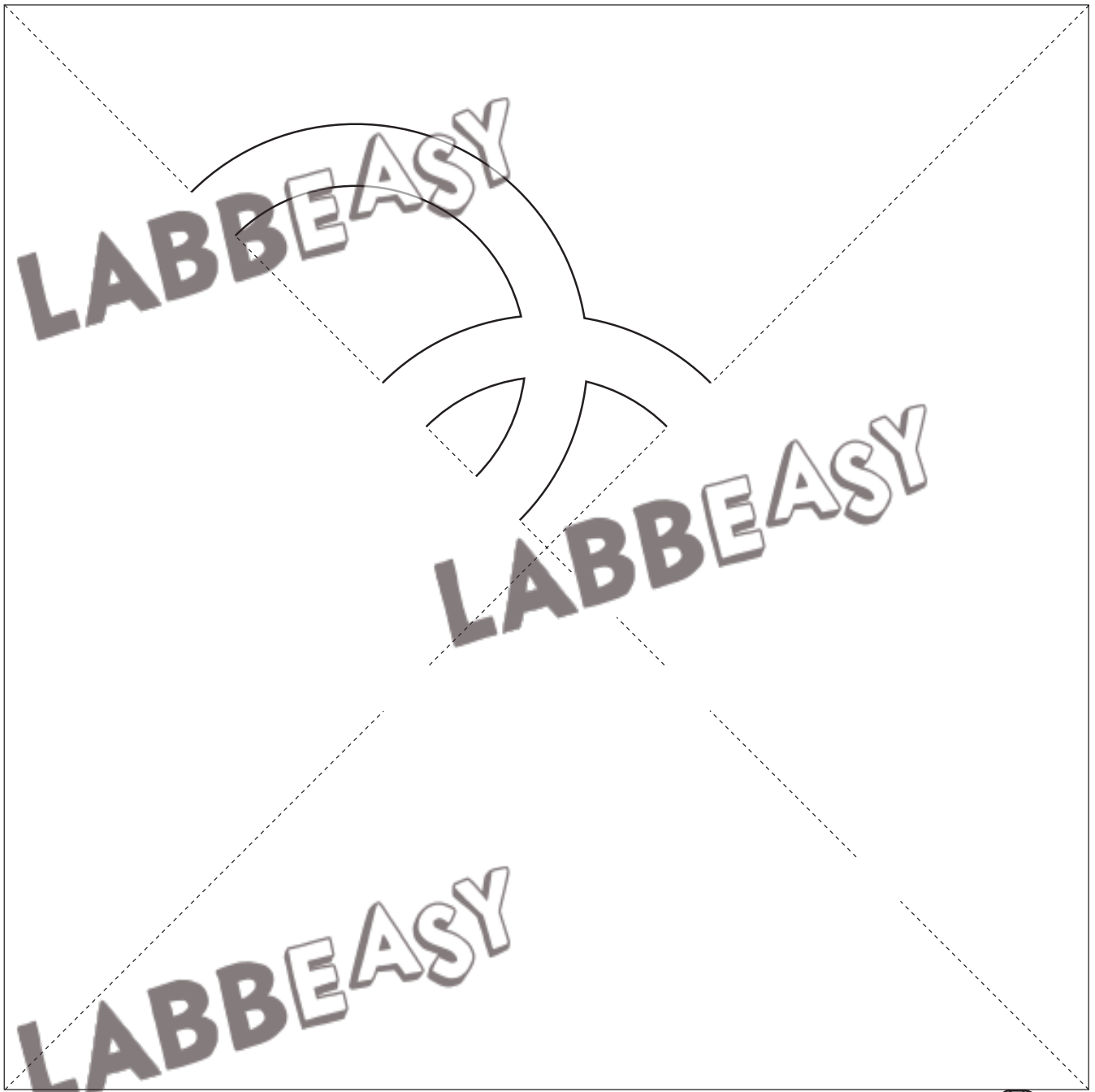Page 16

6 FOLDS

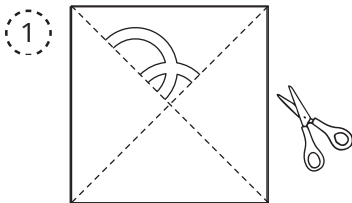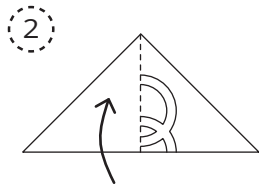MONKIRI 13
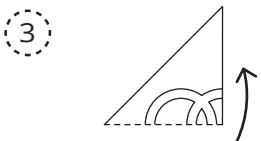Page 17

MONKIRI 14
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MONKIRI 15
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MONKIRI 16
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HOW TO MAKE IT

1
Cut out the folding template along the solid line.

2
Fold the paper once diagonally so that the motif is visible on top.

3
Fold the paper again. The motif should remain on top.

4
Cut out the motif and carefully unfold it.