



INTRODUCTION

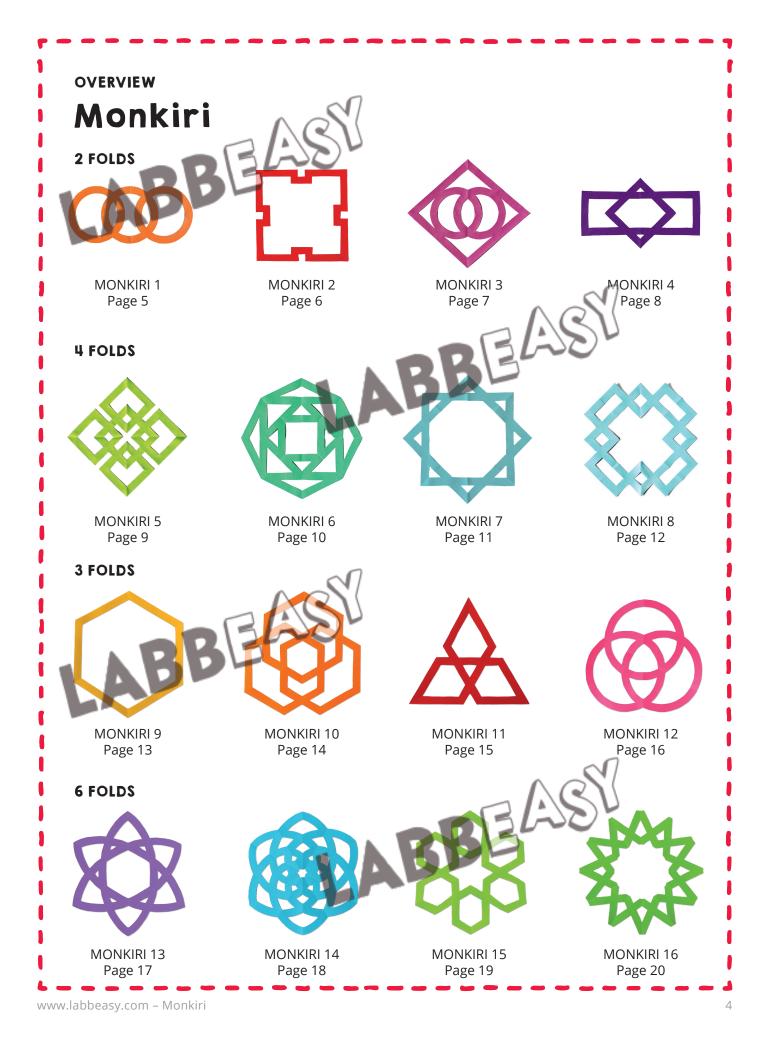
About Monkiri

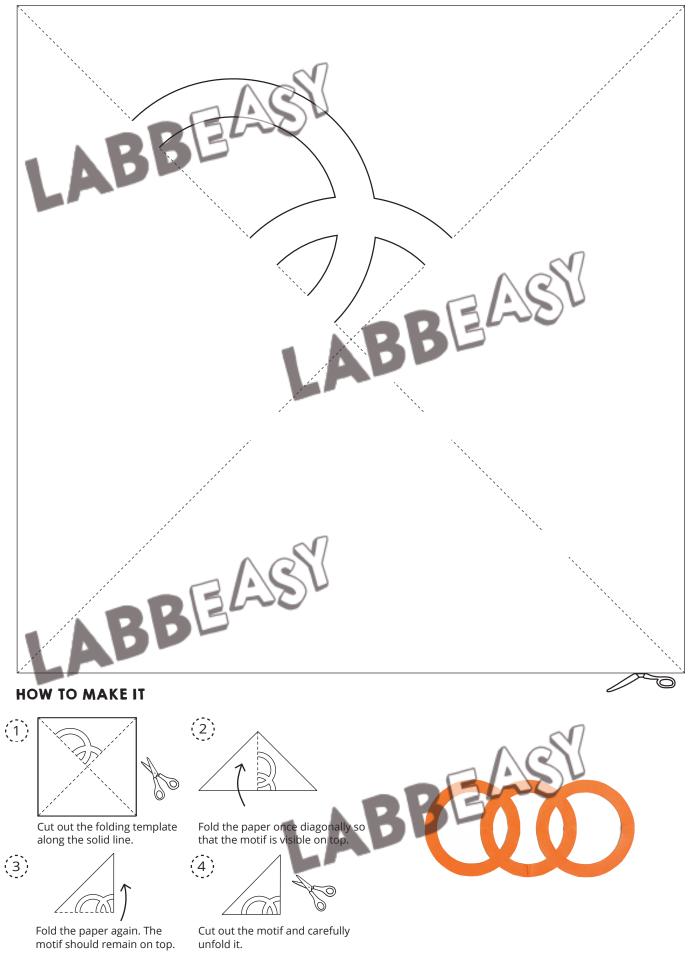
Monkiri is the traditional Japanese art of paper folding and cutting. "Mon" refers to Japanese heraldic figures or family characters and "kiri" means "cut". Most Japanese coats of arms are monochrome and depict stylized images of plants or animals, often within a circle. For example, the sixteen-petaled 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





www.labbeasy.com - Monkiri