The Harlequin Star

The Harlequin Star is a delicate 8-point stubby star made by weaving six preliminary folds together.

I discovered this design for myself in 1987 but later learned that Kenneth Kawamura and Robert Neale had both beaten me to it.

Kenneth Kawamura found it in the early to mid 1970s and included diagrams in his booklet entitled 'Geometrical Compound Origami - Meditations on a Waterbomb' which was published in 1977, naming it the Harlequin Star.

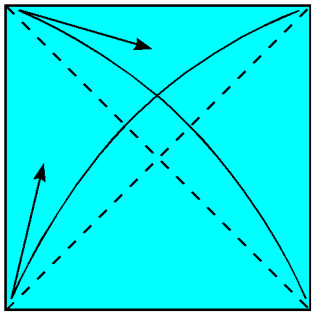
Robert Neale cannot now recall with any certainty when he found this design, although he thinks it was not too long after he created his six waterbomb base ornament, often called the Skeletal, or Nolid, Octahedron in the mid-1960's. This is logical since the Harlequin Star is simply the Skeletal Octahedron turned inside out. Kenneth Kawamura discovered the design in the same way, although in this case it was Joe Power's rediscovery of Robert Neale's design that was the inspiration.

It is not possible to know with any certainty whether Kenneth Kawamura or Robert Neale got there first. Robert Neale however did not publish, and indeed has never published, this design. Robert Neale call s it the Blue Balloon because if thrown in the air and hit with the flat of the palm it flies to pieces. The realisation that the design would do this was occasioned by seeing Kenneth Kawamura's Butterfly Ball design which has the same property.

I have previously published the Harlequin Star design under the name the Epsilon Star in my book Building with Butterflies.

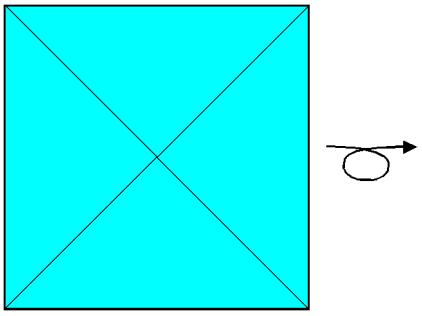
You will need six squares of paper, two in each of three contrasting but complementary colours. If you are using irogami begin with your paper arranged coloured side up.

1



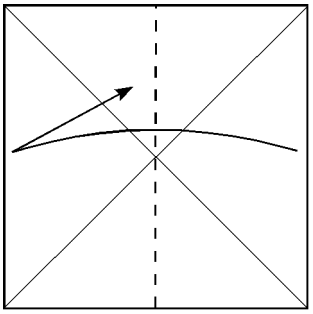
1. Fold in half diagonally, then unfold, in both directions.

2



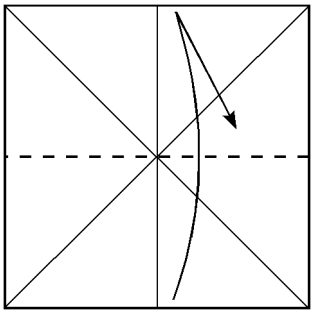
2. Turn over sideways.

3



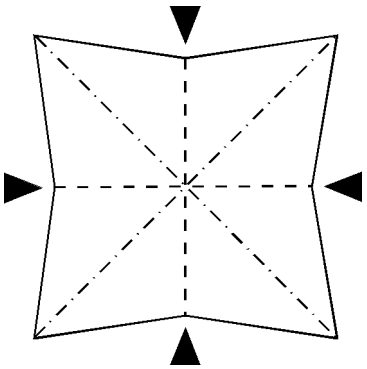
3. Fold in half from right to left, then unfold.

4



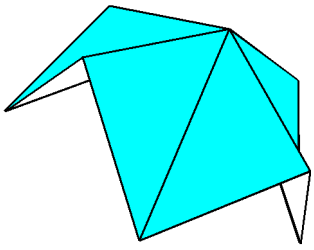
4. Fold in half downwards, then unfold.

5



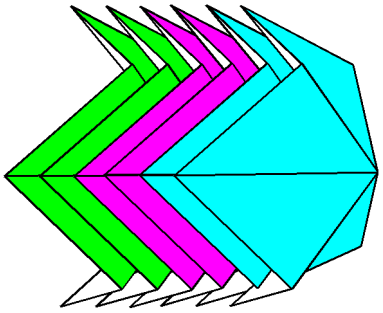
5. Collapse using the existing creases so that the centre moves away from you.

6



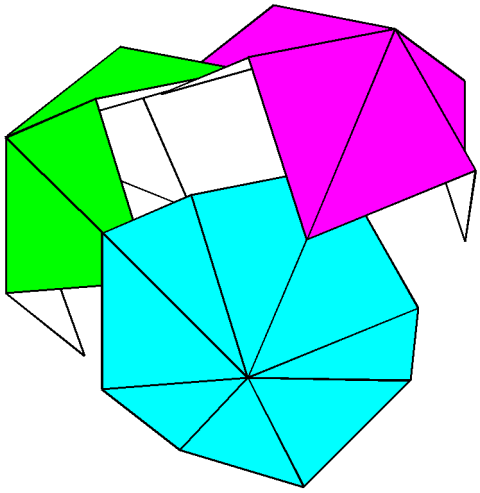
6. The finished module should look like this. Make 6.

7



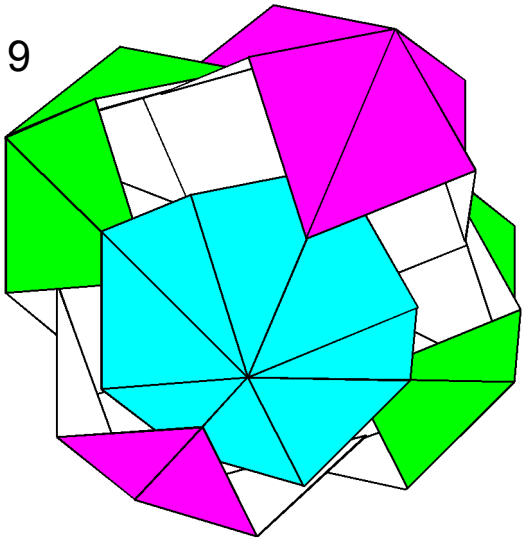
7. Configure the modules so that they are approximately the shape shown here.

8



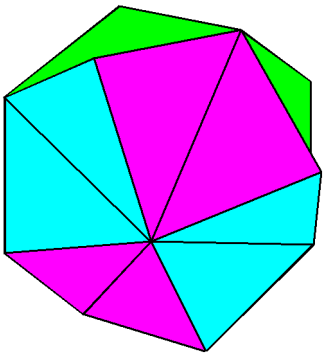
8. Three modules go together like this.

9



9. And all six like this. This design is quite difficult to assemble at first and you will probably need to cup the modules in one hand to keep them together while you add further modules with the other. The form is , however, quite stable once all the modules have been settled in place.

10



10. The finished Harlequin Star should look like this. It is a classic of elegant modular origami design.