Skew Sonobe Modules and the Broken Star Cube

Skew Sonobe modules are centre-pocket parallelogram modules in which the central slit that forms the pockets is set at an angle to, rather than parallel to, the long sides. The name reflects that they are a development of the classic Sonobe module. I discovered Skew Sonobe modules in 1990.

Skew Sonobe modules can be configured to make all the forms that standard Sonobe modules will make. They are, however, nowhere near as versatile in terms of the decorative patterns that can be developed from them. These diagrams show you how to make a 6-part Skew Sonobe Cube and how to use a decorative variant to make the Broken Star Cube.

Folding the basic Skew Sonobe module
You will need a square of paper for each module. You can use any kind of paper. If you are using irogami begin with your paper arranged white side up.

1. Fold in half sideways, then unfold.
2. Fold both outside edges into the centre.

3. Turn over sideways.

4. Fold in half diagonally upwards.

5. Fold the left edge inwards to butt up against the top sloping edge of the front layers.

6. Turn over sideways.

7. Repeat step 5 on this side of the paper.
8. Open out the fold made in step 4.

9. Turn over sideways.

10. Fold the top corner onto the upper sloping left edge making sure that your crease begins from the corner marked with a circle. Make this fold as accurately as you can.

11. Tuck the flap marked with a circle into the pocket behind it.

12. Repeat steps 10 and 11 on the lower half of the paper.

13. The basic Skew Sonobe module is finished.
Making a 6-part Skew Sonobe Cube
You will need six squares of paper, two in each of three contrasting but complementary colours.


15. Fold both ends of the module inwards as shown then unfold to right angles.

16. The finished module should look like this. Turn over to look like picture 17.

17. The module has two tabs and two pockets, which are marked with insert arrows here. Make all six modules and assemble in the same way as the standard Sonobe Cube.

18. The finished Skew Sonobe Cube will look like this.
Making the basic Decorative Skew Sonobe Module
You will need a square of paper for each module. You can use any kind of paper. If you are using irogami begin with your paper arranged white side up.


20. Turn the top corner inside out in between the layers.

21. Make sure the inside out layers are brought to the front in the way shown here.

22. Repeat steps 10, 19, 20 and 21 on the lower half of the paper. The basic Decorative Skew Sonobe Module is finished.
Making a Decorative Skew Sonobe Cube

You will need six squares of paper, two in each of three contrasting but complementary colours.

23. Begin by folding all six modules to step 22. Turn over sideways and follow step 15 to configure the modules.

24. The module has two tabs and two pockets, which are marked with insert arrows here. Make all six modules and assemble in the same way as the standard Sonobe Cube.

25. The finished Decorative Skew Sonobe Cube will look like this.
Making a Broken Star Cube (aka 12-part Decorative Skew Sonobe Cube)
You will need twelve squares of paper, four in each of three contrasting but complementary colours.

26. Begin by folding all twelve modules to step 22. Fold in half backwards using the existing crease.

27. The module has two tabs and two pockets, which are marked with insert arrows here. Assemble in the same way as the standard 12-part Sonobe Cube.

28. The finished Broken Star Cube will look like this.