Whippersnapper

Whippersnapper is one of my earliest designs, dating from 1986, but one of which I am still quite fond. It is a development of Snapping Wolf by Samuel Randlett.

Like all good action designs the snapping action of the jaws is much more dramatic than the movement of the hands needed to obtain it.

Whippersnapper is folded from a single square of paper. It works best from strong paper. If you are using irogami begin with your paper arranged white side up.

1. Fold in half corner to corner sideways, then unfold.

2. Fold in half corner to corner upwards.

Designed by David Mitchell
3. Fold the right hand sloping edge of the front layer onto the bottom edge.

4. Fold the new front layer in half upwards as shown.

5. Undo the last two folds.

6. Fold the left hand sloping edge of the front layer onto the bottom edge.

7. Fold the new front layer in half upwards as shown.

8. Undo the last two folds then turn over sideways.
9. Repeat steps 3 through 8 on the other half of the paper.

10. Both the front and the back of the design should now look like this.

11. Fold the right hand sloping edge of the front layer onto the bottom edge using the existing crease.

12. Fold the right hand sloping edge of the back layer backwards onto the bottom edge using the existing crease.

13. Fold the right point inwards and downwards as shown. The necessary crease already exists in the front and back layers of the paper.

15. Undo the folds made in steps 11 and 12.

16. Turn over and repeat steps 11 through 15 on the other half of the paper.

17. The result should look like this. Open out from behind and rotate 90 degrees clockwise to look like picture 18, which is on a larger scale.

18. Use your left and right forefingers and thumbs to pinch the left and right hand corners slightly together. As you do this the points identified by circles should start to rise up in front.
19. Pick the paper up without releasing the pressure. Continue pinching the corners together and push your hands together so that the points marked with circles move towards each other slightly below the crease that runs across the centre of the paper between them. Point x will suddenly swing down behind the model and end up at point y. The result will look like picture 20. Lay the paper down again.

20. Make the model three-dimensional by gently pushing the middle bottom layers inwards and allowing them to separate.

21. Whippersnapper is finished. By working the handles gently inwards and outwards you can make the jaws open and shut.

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