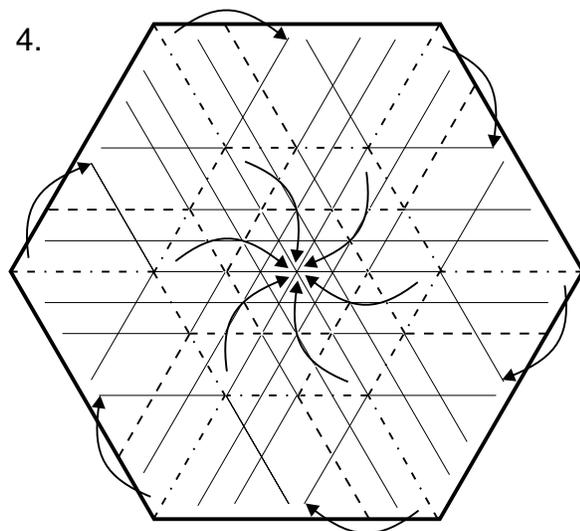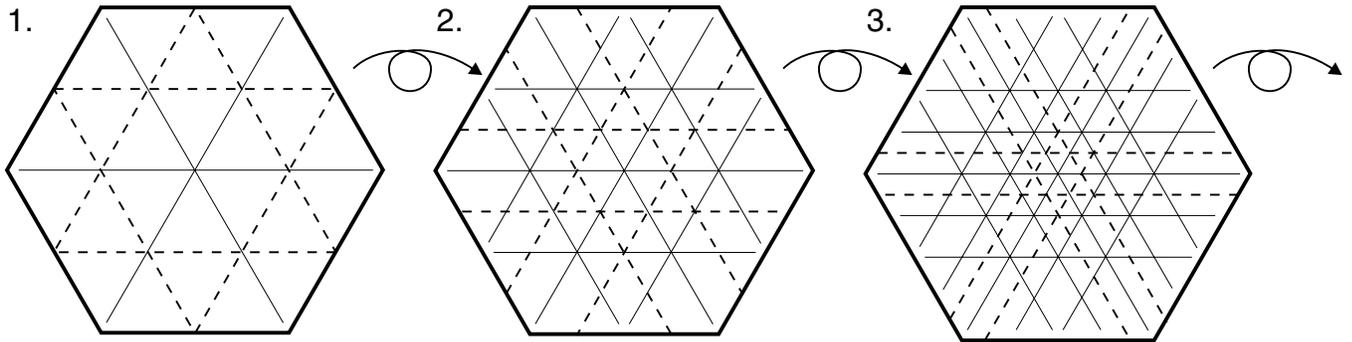# Snowflake ©1997 by Joseph Wu

Start with a white hexagon. For best effect, use a sheet of translucent paper, such as tracing paper.

1.

2.

3.

4.

This collapse is similar to the collapse that forms the centre of the sand dollar in *Origami Sea Life*, but cannot be done in the manner shown there because it generates extra creases (which detract from the transparent effect of the snowflake.
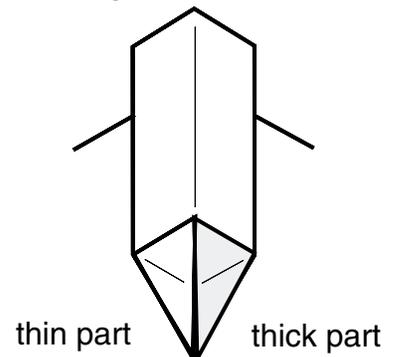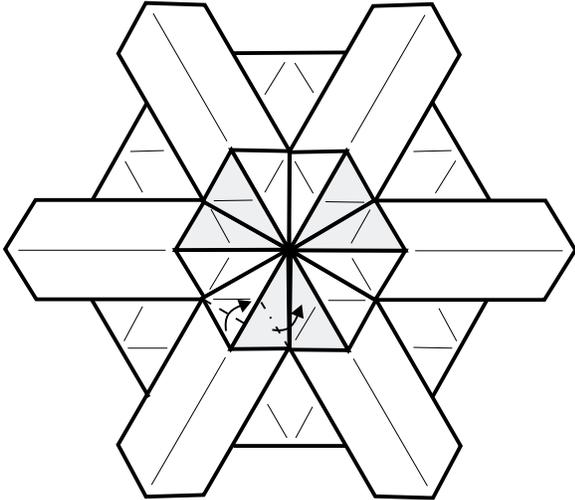
5.
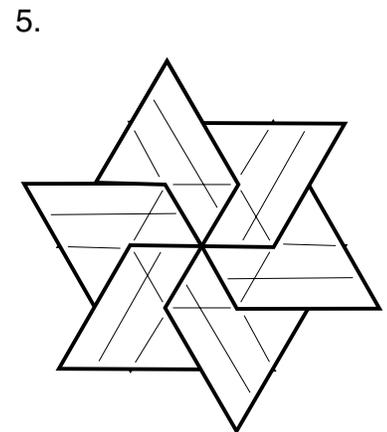
6. Focus on one of the flaps, standing it up.
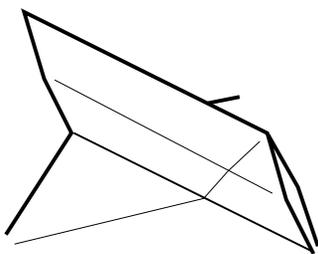
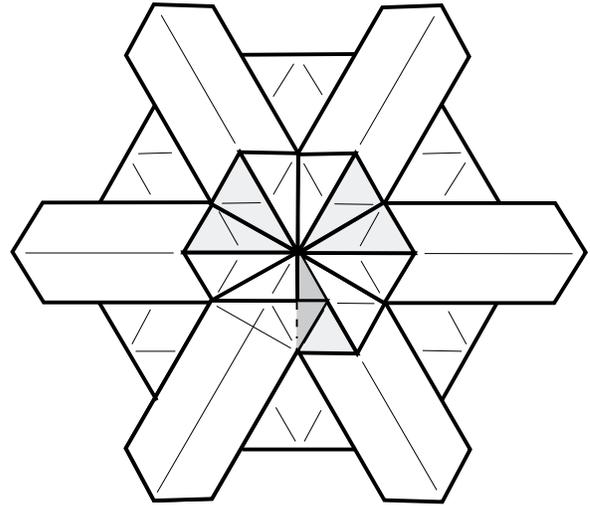7. Flatten the flap, squashing the shaded area. Note that the squash is ***not*** symmetrical!
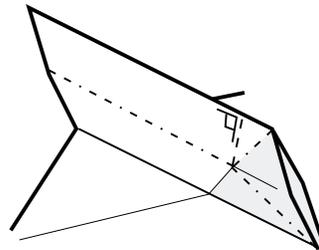
8. Result of previous step. Repeat on other five flaps, ***alternating the thick part of the squash folds***.
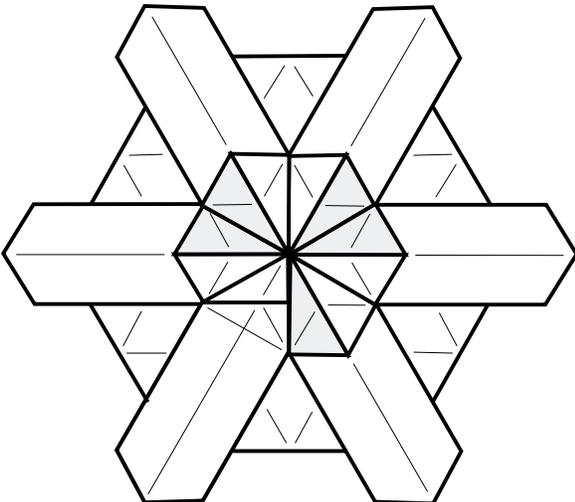
thin part   thick part
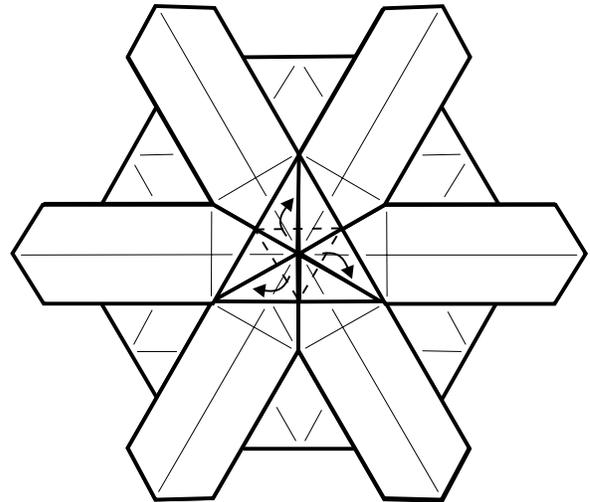
9. Swivel. (Shaded areas are thicker.)
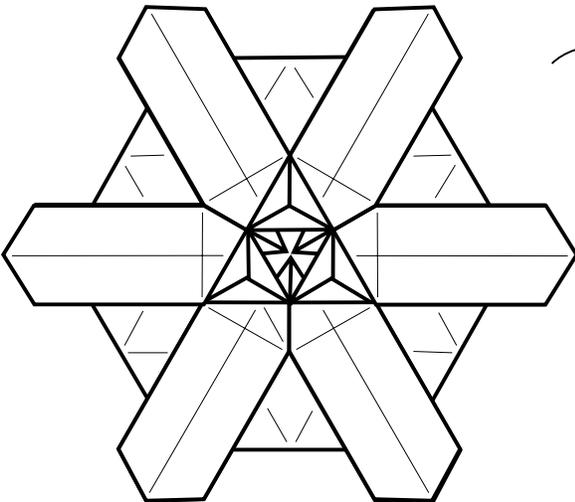
10. Mountain fold excess under flap.

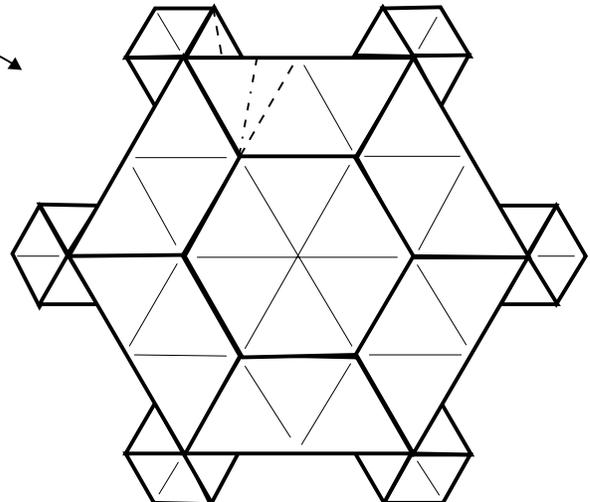11. Repeat steps 9 & 10 five times.
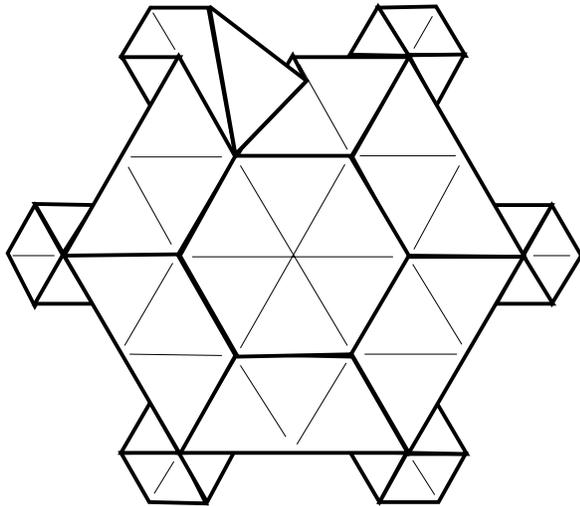
12. Valley fold three central points outward.

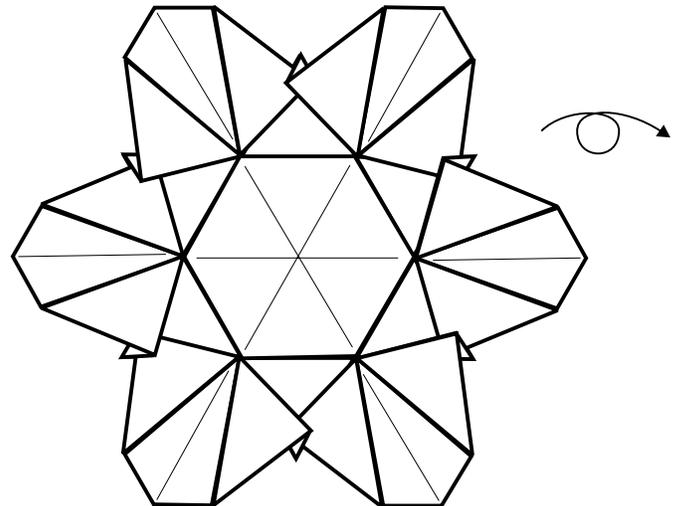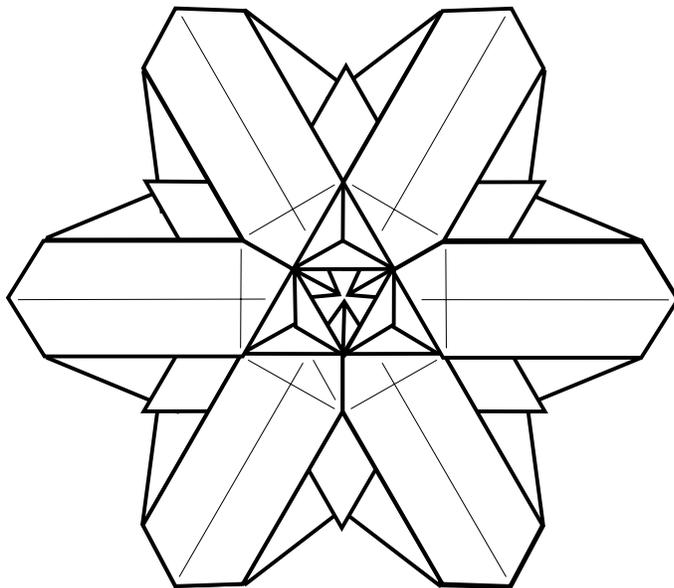13. The centre completed. Turn over.

14. Swivel.

15. Repeat 11 times.

16. The back completed. Turn over.

17. The completed snowflake.
Make sure to look through it at a light source.

Notes: It is quite possible that someone has already done this snowflake. Anyone who has ever explored the symmetries of hexagonal paper is likely to have done some snowflake designs, and these are, necessarily, similar. I know that Yoshizawa has done similar work, and I've seen similar ideas by Dr. Suzuki at the *Origami Tanteidan* convention in the summer of 1996. There are probably others. Still, this was an original effort, the result of a challenge by Doug Philips to design a snowflake for the cover of *Imagiro*. It is one of over 30 different designs, the result of an effort to simplify some of the more complex ideas (because Doug would have to fold 25 of them, and also to ease my diagramming). I hope you enjoy it, and that you will use it as a stepping stone to designing your own snowflakes.