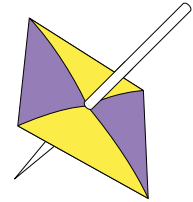


折り紙こまの作り方

Make Your Own Origami Spinning Top

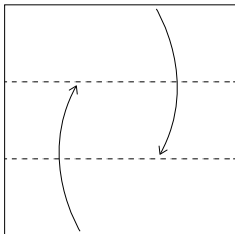
Spinning tops, known as *koma* in Japanese, are one of the oldest and most richly varied toys in the world. Japan, in particular, is known for its numerous regional varieties. Make two types of *koma* from a classic square origami design and enjoy watching them spin.



You will need:

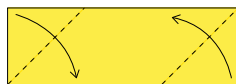
- ☐ 2 sheets of origami paper
- ☐ Craft awl or any sharp tool for making holes in paper (to be used by an adult only)
- ☐ Cocktail stick (for simple *koma*)
- ☐ 70 cm length of string (for *bun-bun goma*)

1



Take a square piece of paper. If using origami paper, begin with the white side facing up. Fold the paper into thirds along the dotted lines so that you have a long rectangle.

2



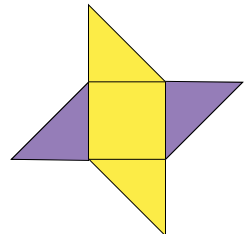
Fold along the dotted lines so that the left edge lines up with the bottom edge and the right edge lines up with the top edge.

3



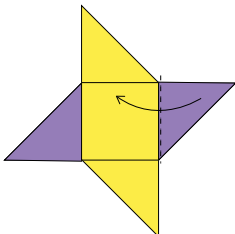
Repeat steps 1 and 2 using another piece of origami paper (different colour recommended).

4



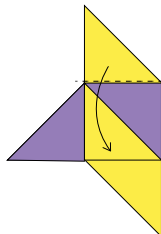
Rotate one of the pieces 90 degrees and place it on top of the other piece as shown in the picture.

5



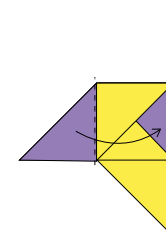
Fold the right flap inwards along the dotted line.

6



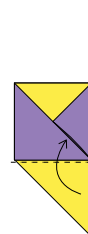
Fold the top flap downwards along the dotted line.

7



Fold the left flap inwards along the dotted line.

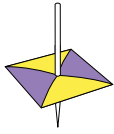
8



Fold the remaining bottom flap upwards along the dotted line and tuck the corner inside the centre pocket to create the final *koma* shape.

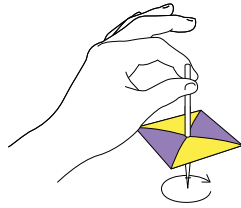
Simple *koma*

9



Carefully make a small hole in the centre of the *koma* base and stick a cocktail stick through the hole to complete your *koma*.

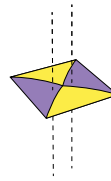
10



Use your fingers to spin the *koma*.

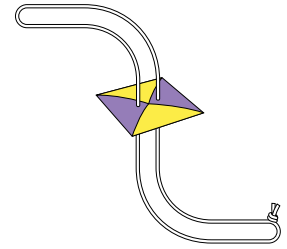
Bun-bun goma (whirring)

9



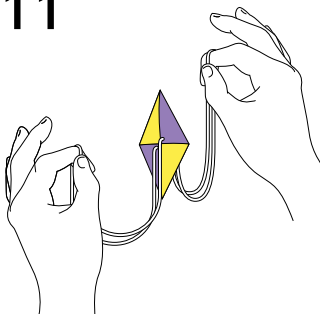
Carefully make two holes in the *koma* base each around 0.3 cm from opposite sides of the centre.

10



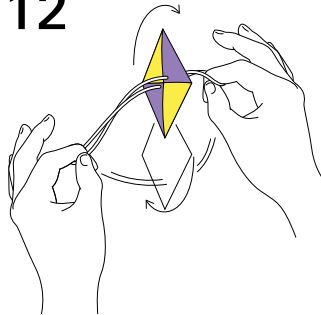
Thread a piece of string around 70–100 cm long through the holes and tie to form a loop.

11



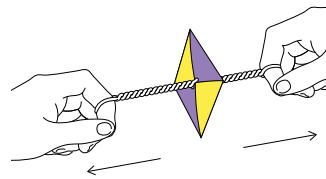
Hook the string on a finger of each hand and position the *koma* in the centre.

12



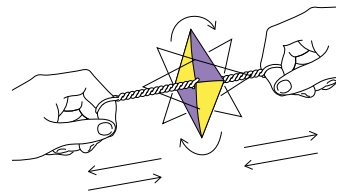
Spin the *koma* around and around in one direction so that the string begins to twist.

13



Gently pull your hands apart and the string will untwist, spinning the *koma*.

14



Continue to alternately pull and release the string to keep the *koma* spinning back and forth continuously. Practice spinning until you can hear a whirring sound.

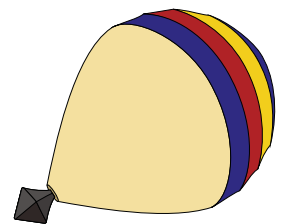
Spinning Tops in Japan

In Japan, the first *koma* were unearthed at archaeological sites dating from the late 6th and early 7th centuries. From these first tops, made simply by cutting off a tree branch and carving the tip, a huge variety of tops have emerged in Japan. The shape and mode of spinning of each top reflect the character of the local area in which they have been produced. These include *zuguri-goma* from the northern Tōhoku region which can spin on hardened snow; and metal-stemmed *kenka-goma* from the southern island of Kyūshū, which players use in competitions to see who can keep their top spinning the longest.

Activity sheet created with support from the Japan Toy Museum in Himeji, Hyōgo Prefecture.



zuguri-goma



kenka-goma