

Preface (Read this! No, really...)

I hadn't folded for years, over a decade actually, and suddenly I found myself immersed in it again, exploring new models, experimenting with new techniques and folding things which I had never been able to fold in the past. Then, almost by accident, almost on a whim, I created my first original model. I was enraptured with the experience. I wanted to know more about creating, learn what others already knew, the pitfalls, how it was done. What I learned was that not much on the subject existed, and that the people I interviewed did not have much to say either, except that there was not much to be said.

I was disappointed, but still enthusiastic. I decided that if the creation process had never been documented, then I would be the one to do it. I'd create more original models and write about what I learned in the process.

I had no idea what I was getting myself into.

Several years and hundreds of hours of study later, I know more about origami than I ever imagined, and I am also sure that what I know is only a fraction of what has, and has yet to be discovered.

It is difficult to write about the process of creating. It is like discussing how to write poetry, music, or how to sculpt. Describing the methods and tools and techniques is straightforward, but when it comes to talking about where the inspiration for creating a model originates, or how to judge whether or not a model is aesthetically successful, we descend blindly into the realm of philosophy, where concrete answers are often the exception and not the rule.

In this book I relate from my personal point of view, the experiences, observations, insights, and feelings that I had while designing the models contained within. The writing is personal, because that is the nature of the process of creation. The information is both technical and philosophical in content and is presented as essays which are intended to be digested independently, but when considered together, will build upon each other to form a larger whole. Producing this book has been a labor of love, and I hope that it instills in the reader, the same enthusiasm for creation that I have savored, or if you are not inclined to design, gives an entertaining and intriguing insight into this fledgling art form.

Creating Origami by J.C. Nolan

An exploration into the process of designing paper sculpture