



Folding for Fun and Function

Origami—paper-folding—may not seem like a subject for mathematical investigation or one with sophisticated applications, yet anyone who has tried to fold a road map or wrap a present knows that origami is no trivial matter.

Mathematicians, computer scientists, and engineers have recently discovered that this centuries-old subject can be used to solve many modern problems. The methods of origami are now used to fold objects such as automobile air bags and huge space telescopes efficiently, and may be related to how proteins fold.



Model designed by Thomas Hull (Merrimack College) and Francis Ow,
folded by PapaJoe (Joe Gilardi)



*The **Mathematical Moments** program promotes appreciation and understanding of the role mathematics plays in science, nature, technology, and human culture.*