WHAT IS MODULAR ORIGAMI?

Modular origami is a two stage paperfolding technique which uses multiple sheets of paper.

In the first stage each individual sheet of paper is folded into an identical module.

In the second stage the modules are assembled into an integrated flat shape or three-dimensional structure.

The modular origami assembly pictured here is David Mitchell’s Electra30.

Notes on the definition

Modular designs assembled from a single set of identical modules all assembled in the same way can be said to be regular modular assemblies. The majority of modular designs are of this kind.

Sometimes a modular design may be formed by combining several sets of identical modules (identical, that is, within but not between the sets). Such a design may be said to be an irregular modular assembly.

Very occasionally a modular design may be formed from identical modules but assembled in an irregular fashion.

Strictly speaking a design made out of two non-identical pieces is multi-piece rather than modular, though in practice it will usually be considered to be modular if it is a geometric design.

A geometric design formed from identical pieces which are not integrated is generally considered a multi-piece rather than a modular design.

The two stages of the modular process are not as separate as this definition suggests. In some modular designs the folding continues after the modules are assembled.