How to Fold a Paper Box with Liana Allday

Chapter 1 - Introduction
Introduction
Hi. I'm Liana from creativebug and I'm gonna show you how to make this really cute decorative paper box. This box has its roots in origami but you really don't need to be an origami expert to make this box. I'm gonna walk you through every step. I'll show you how to pick out paper to make a custom-sized box. Then I'll show you how to fold and crease the paper with a bone folder. Then I'm gonna show you how it all comes together so you'll have a custom box with a perfectly fitted top and bottom. Once you get the hang of this, you can make them in all sizes, which are perfect for giving away your handmade gifts.

Chapter 2 - Materials
Materials
The materials for this class are basic. You can find them all at your local craft store. The first thing you're gonna want to pick out is your paper. This is the really fun part. I like to look for a high quality gift wrap or a mid-weight paper. You don't want to use construction paper. It will be too heavy. A printer computer paper would be too lightweight. You just want something that has a little bit of tooth to it but not too much. I like to use these large sheets. This one is 19 inches by 27 inches. This will make a box that's under 5 inches. If you want to make a box larger than that, you're gonna need two sheets. You might be tempted to use card stock but it's actually too heavy for this project. You're gonna wind up with some cracked corners and it's gonna be really tough to fold. From there you're gonna need a clear grid ruler, a rotary cutter and a cutting mat. You can really use any size ruler but I prefer to use ones that have a nice, long edge because you're gonna be cutting out large pieces. You're also going to need a bone folder, which is a bookbinder's tool. This is how you're gonna get those really nice folds and creases in your box. Then at the very end, if you wanna keep your corners down flat, you can either use a glue stick or a little bit of washi tape. Otherwise, that's all you need.

Chapter 3 - Fold a Paper Box
Folding the box top and bottom
For this box, you can make it in any size but the most important thing is that you need to make it a perfect square. You need to make sure when you cut out your paper that you are cutting perfectly and evenly. I'm starting out with a 13-inch square and a 13.5-inch square. That's true for any size box that you're making. Your bottom will always need to be one size and then the top will need to be 1/2 inch larger. That's so it can fit on the top. I'm gonna start on my smaller sheet of paper. This is the bottom of the box. It's better to practice on the bottom of the box than the top of the box because that's what everybody's gonna see when you give the gift. If this is your very first time doing origami, you might want to start with just a plain piece of paper before you dive in and start using your pretty gift wrap. The first thing you want to do is flip over your sheet of paper. Remember there's no measuring here. You're just gonna be folding and following the folds. Follow along with me. With the back side of your paper facing up, you want to go ahead and just fold these two edges together. Take your time. Make sure that your edges are all lined up. Then when you feel like you've got it right, just press it down softly with your finger before you make a permanent crease with your

bone folder. Just run that bone folder right along the line. It makes a very satisfying crease. Now open it back up again. Turn your paper. And fold the other long edge. We're just folding in half here. Anybody can do this. Now, we're gonna open it up again and do corner to corner. This one is a little more tricky than the long edges to each other because you have to line up all those corners Just check and make sure your points are nicely lined up. Give it a soft pat. Smooth it softly with your hands then when you're sure everything looks nice, give it a crease. Then, I bet you can guess what's next. You're gonna fold the other corner to the other corner. You don't wanna see any of that white paper there so just keep adjusting it with your fingers until it's perfectly lined up. That's it. It looks good. Open up your paper and this is what it should look like. You should have these long side to side lines and then the corner to corner. Now, we're gonna fold up our corners to meet the center Gently again. This is where you'll see if your lines were perfectly cut when you first cut out your paper. You might discover that here. Again, it's fine. It's practice. It's not the end of the world if it isn't perfect. But it is very satisfying if it is perfect. Turn your paper again. Fold up the next corner and you can use this as a little guideline. These two corners here should make a nice horizontal line. I have a little sliver of white showing here but I think I'm going to live with that. Smooth it out. Use the bone folder. Now turn it again. See how fast this starts to go. Turn it one more time. Use your finger to ease out those corners if they're giving you any trouble. Now we have an even smaller square. Let's do our next fold. We're gonna bring this long edge up to meet the center. Paper's getting thicker now. So it's even more important to use that bone folder. You have to press down a little bit harder. Turn it and do the same thing with the other side. You can see here you have the center crease. You really wanna make sure that's lined up. That your sides are nicely lined up. That's really what's so great about this project is that you don't need to mark or measure anything. All of your fold lines are already here for you telling you exactly where everything needs to line up. Open it up again. Turn it one more. Your last crease is here. You're gonna fold up this long edge up towards the center. You can see these edges are trying to fight me because the paper is getting thick. But the bone folder will smooth them out. Then turn it for your last fold. Up to center, again making sure that that center crease is lined up and so are the sides. Now, we are ready to fold it up and actually make the box. Open it up and pull out the sides. Just these two sides. Now, you may be looking at this, wondering how in the world is this going to become a box? I'll go slowly. Trust me, it will happen. Pull up these two sides. It's gonna feel a little bit funny . I like to turn it so that it's facing me like this, with the sides of the box folded up. Then if you press down right here, you'll feel that there are these folds here that you already made. That's where you're going to want to pinch. It will fold up and over and form this very sturdy, elegant wall of your box. Let's do the other side the exact same way. Turn it around. This side should be a little bit easier because this wall has already been created. The same thing. Press down. You'll feel the creases bending the way they should. Pinch. And tuck this end in. That's it. You have a box bottom. Now, you don't need anything else to finish it. It's very self-sufficient but if these little flaps are gonna bother you, if you're gonna use it as a gift and you don't want them flipping up, you can always use washi tape or glue stick. They both work great. I'm gonna go ahead and leave this one as it is. Then let's go ahead and make the top of the box. This one is made in the exact same way. With the wrong side of your paper facing up, fold it in half. Open it up. Turn it. And fold it in half again. Open it up. And fold corner to corner. Open it up again. Fold the other corners to each other. Open it up again. And fold the corners up to meet the middle. Then fold up these edges to the center. Do the same on the other side. Open it up and fold these edges up to the center. Turn and fold this last edge. Now open it up. Pull out these tabs Bring up the wall. Press down. Pinch. And tuck the tab over. Turn it around. Press down. Pinch and

bring them over. Your lid is all finished. Now let's see how it fits onto the bottom of the box. Once the lid is on your box, it is all set. Once you make one, like I said, you're gonna want to make a whole bunch more. Here's another one that I made. Another pretty paper. It's the exact same size. I also have made a really small, sweet little box here. It'd be perfect for jewelry. This one started with an 8-inch square piece of paper. It folded down to about 3 inches. I've got all the dimensions in the PDF if you would like some guidelines for paper size to start with. This is another one that would be perfect for a kid's gift. This is a sweet little box that I made for Valentine's Day. This one's actually made from Indian text weight paper, which is a softer paper than the gift wrap that we were using. I used two different sheets. They were both 28 inches and this has folded into a 7-inch box. It's a nice size for gifts. Finally, I used this gold, glittery gift wrap because who can resist this? Remember these gift boxes are made out of paper so you don't want to put a really heavy gift in it or you might break the box. But they are perfect for little pieces of jewelry, handmade gifts, knitted items, really anything that's soft and squishy would be perfect in these boxes. They make great gifts year round.