



Irene Hewlett

Folding frenzy

Irene Hewlett has created these inspiring iris folding designs in shades of pink and purple

Iris folding is a simple paper-folding technique, which involves arranging folded strips of paper into a pattern placed beneath an aperture. Getting started is easy, as only a few basic supplies are needed: tape, scissors, co-ordinating papers, a pattern and a base paper with an aperture.

Paper produced specifically for iris folding is available, but it is just as easy to make your own. Almost any paper can be used, ranging from gift wrap and envelopes to vellum and tissue paper. Generally, the lighter the weight of the paper, the better it will be for iris folding. Avoid using cardstock and thick papers, as the end result will be extremely bulky. You may want to keep a stash of suitable paper, ready-cut into strips – an old video cassette case is ideal for storing these.

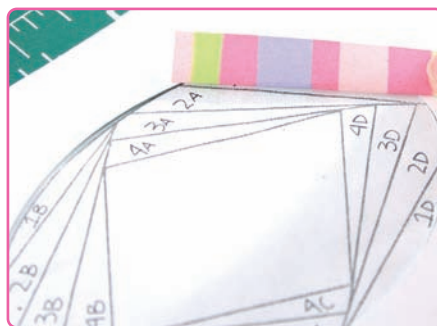
Pre-cut aperture cards are ideal for iris folding, but you can also produce your own apertures using die-cuts or other cutting systems.



3 EASY STEPS TO... iris folding



1 Cut strips of four different papers to measure $1\frac{1}{2}$ " wide and fold them in half. Designate your different papers A, B, C and D. Secure an iris design to the front of an aperture card using low-tack tape. Tape strip 1A over the pattern at the 1A position. Cut the paper to fit, and secure both ends.



2 In the same way, attach strips B, C and D to positions 1B, 1C and 1D respectively. Then follow the number sequence (2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D etc), attaching each strip to the corresponding position of the pattern.



3 When you've completed the number sequence, remove the pattern from the front and, using a strong adhesive, place a piece of cardstock or decorative paper over the pieced and taped papers.