



# Running Advent of Tessellations

a 25-day folding challenge

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**CFC 6**


























May 14-17, 2026

# What is Advent of Tess?

- A free daily folding challenge
- 25 mini-tessellation tutorials using 24-division grids
- Annual event, no patterns repeated, started in 2022
- Run by Gathering Folds
- My biggest (and most reliable) sales event of the year



## Advent of Tess: December 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 	2 	3 	4 	5 	6 
7 	8 	9 	10 	11 	12 	13 
14 	15 	16 	17 	18 	19 	20 
21 	22 	23 	24 	25 	26	27
28	29	30	31			

# Designs needed for Advent of Tess

- 25 core designs, in a sequence from easiest to hardest
- Alternative repetition styles to include in the ebook

These are finalized in March/April and typically include ~40 new designs, drawn first as crease patterns.

## Table of Contents

### Introduction

What is Advent of Tess

How to Read Crease Patterns

How to Fold from a Tiling Diagram

How to Choose Your Grid

### Crease Patterns

Day 1 - Winter Lights, Winter Rings

Day 2 - Courtship, Triangle Dance

Day 3 - Gravity Wells, Time Dilation

Day 4 - Wobbly Pyramids, Pyramid Soup

Day 5 - Hexagon Double Bar Wells, Circle Packing

Day 6 - Roundabout, Star Weave, Tuatara

Day 7 - Citrus Slices, Fruitcake, Jello Salad

Day 8 - Maelstrom, Hurricane, Blast Furnaces

Day 9 - Pebbled, Emergent Triangles

Day 10 - Fossil Hash, Worm Tracks

Day 11 - Pivot Blocks, Juggling Clubs

Day 12 - Crystallization, Hoarfrost

Day 13 - Near Miss, Slingshot, Mix Hex Flagstone

Day 14 - Helicopters, Synchronized

Day 15 - In Gear, Cogs

Day 16 - Gridlock, Starfish Swarm, Fortified, Coven

Day 17 - Dervishes, Dancing Pyramids

Day 18 - Celtic Roses, Knotted Pyramids

Day 19 - Synergy, Syncretism, Synthesis

Day 20 - Syzygy, Lunar Eclipse

Day 21 - Encrusted, Collision Zones, Barnacles, Projection

Day 22 - Hallelujah Mountains, Archipelago, Thundering Rocks

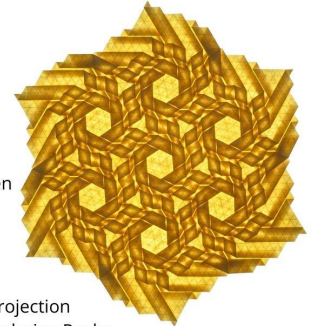
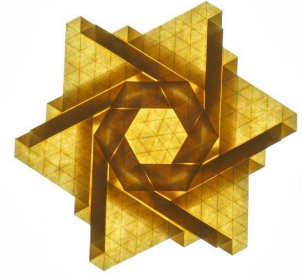
Day 23 - Mystery Weave, Tumbling Blocks Weave

Day 24 - Serrated, Zinnias, Crocuses, Daffodils

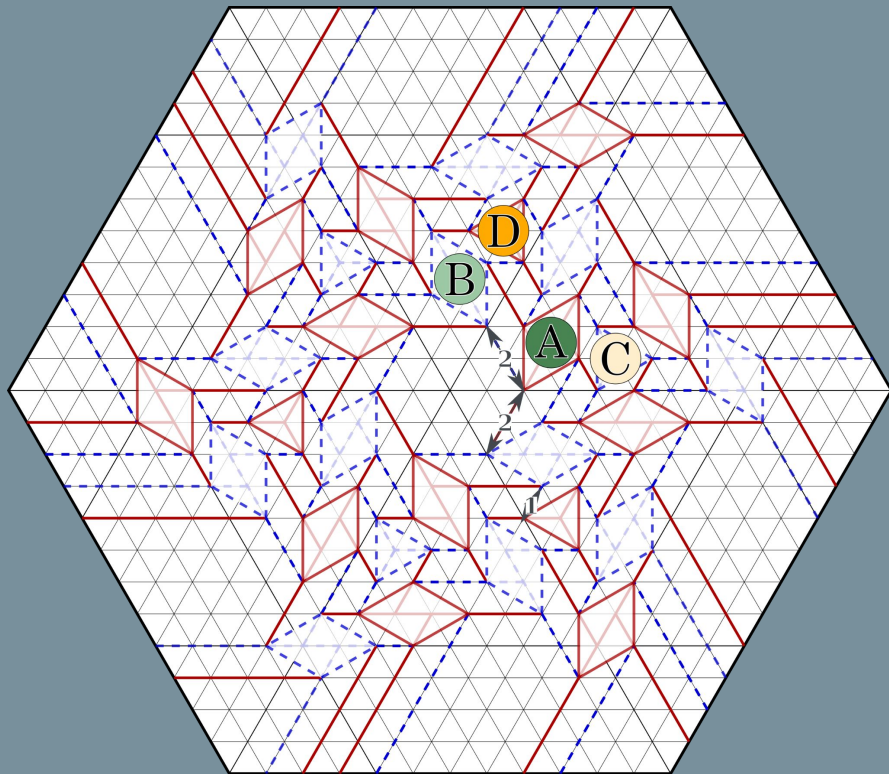
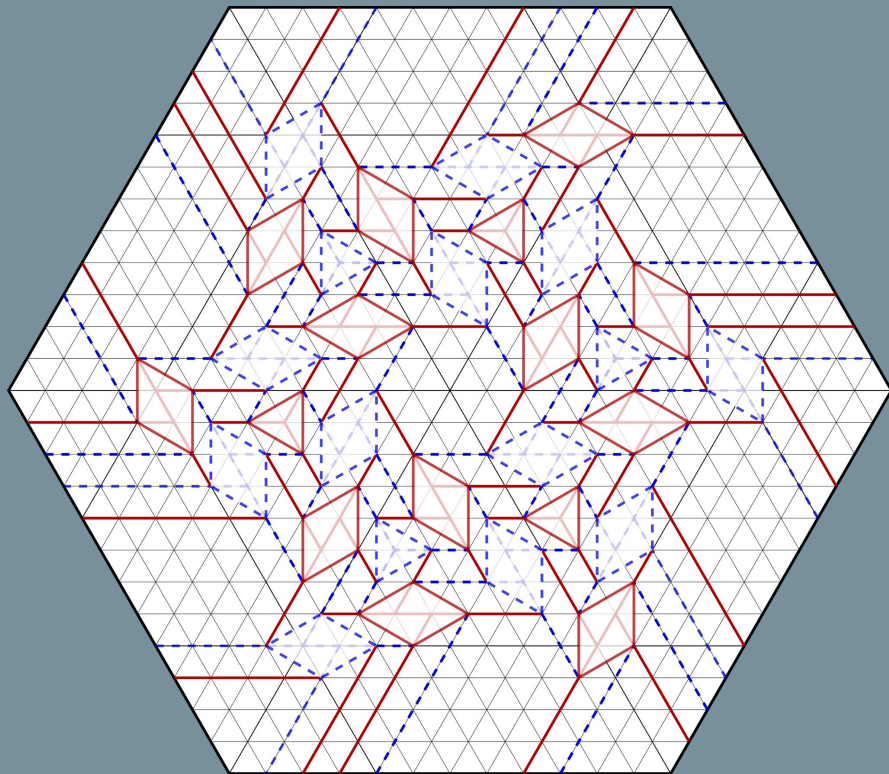
Day 25 - Coronas, Courtiers, Braided Crowns, Swirling Dancers

### Additional Resources

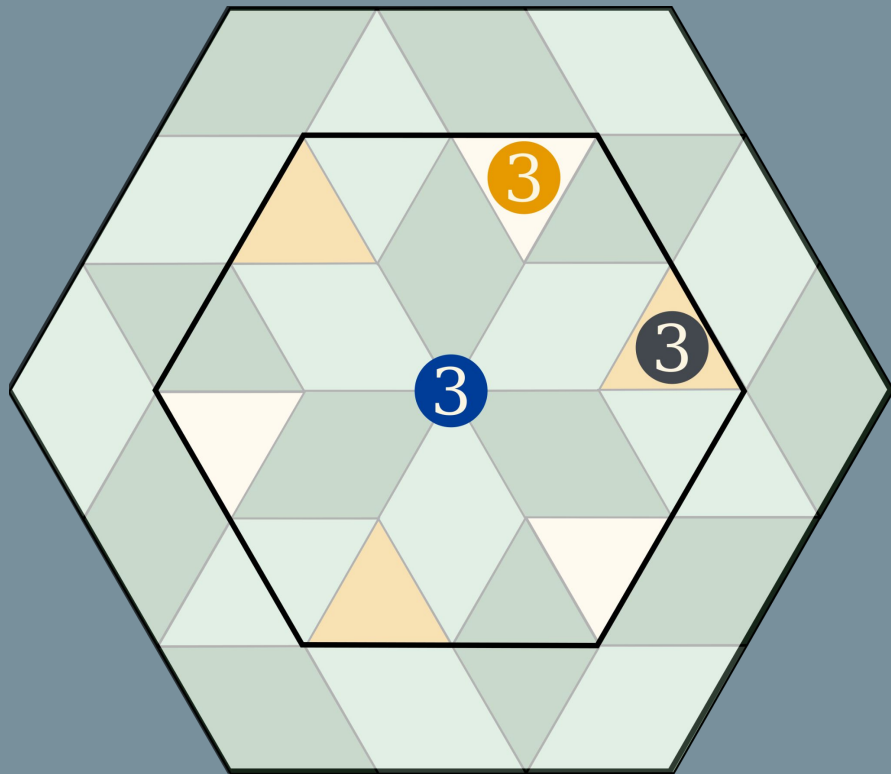
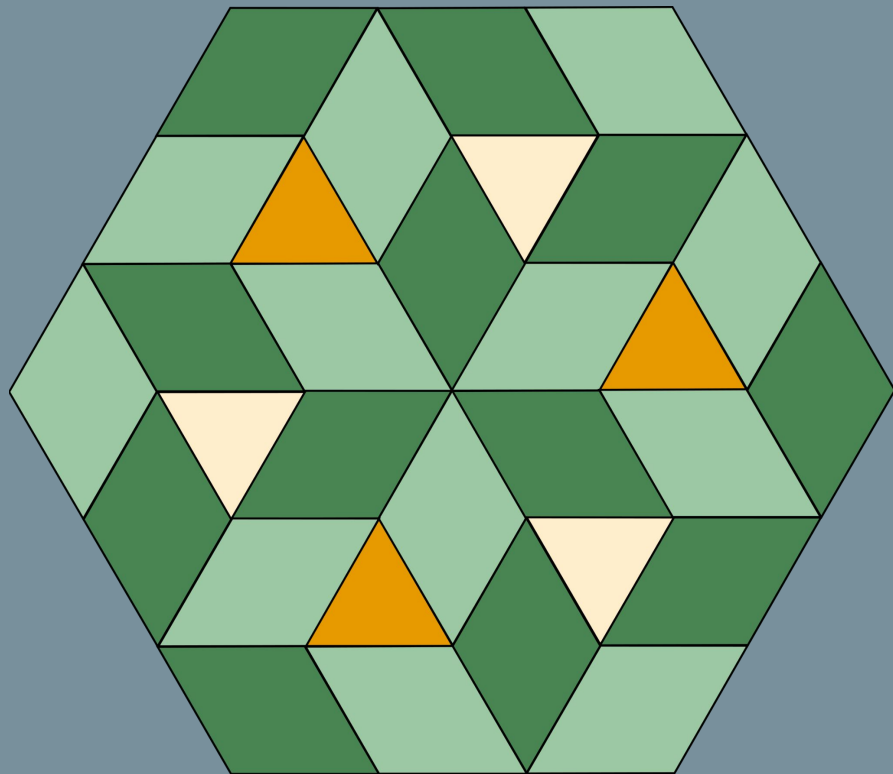
Crease Pattern Template Files, Paper and Tools, Tessellation Garden



# Core Crease Patterns and Annotation

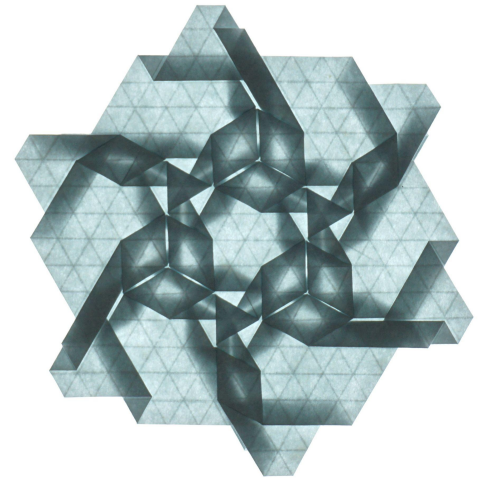
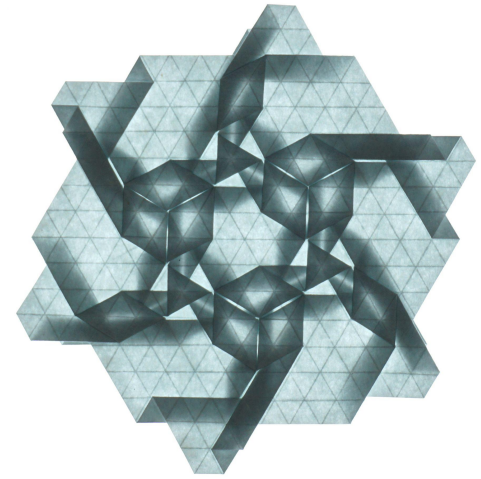


# Core Tilings and Annotation



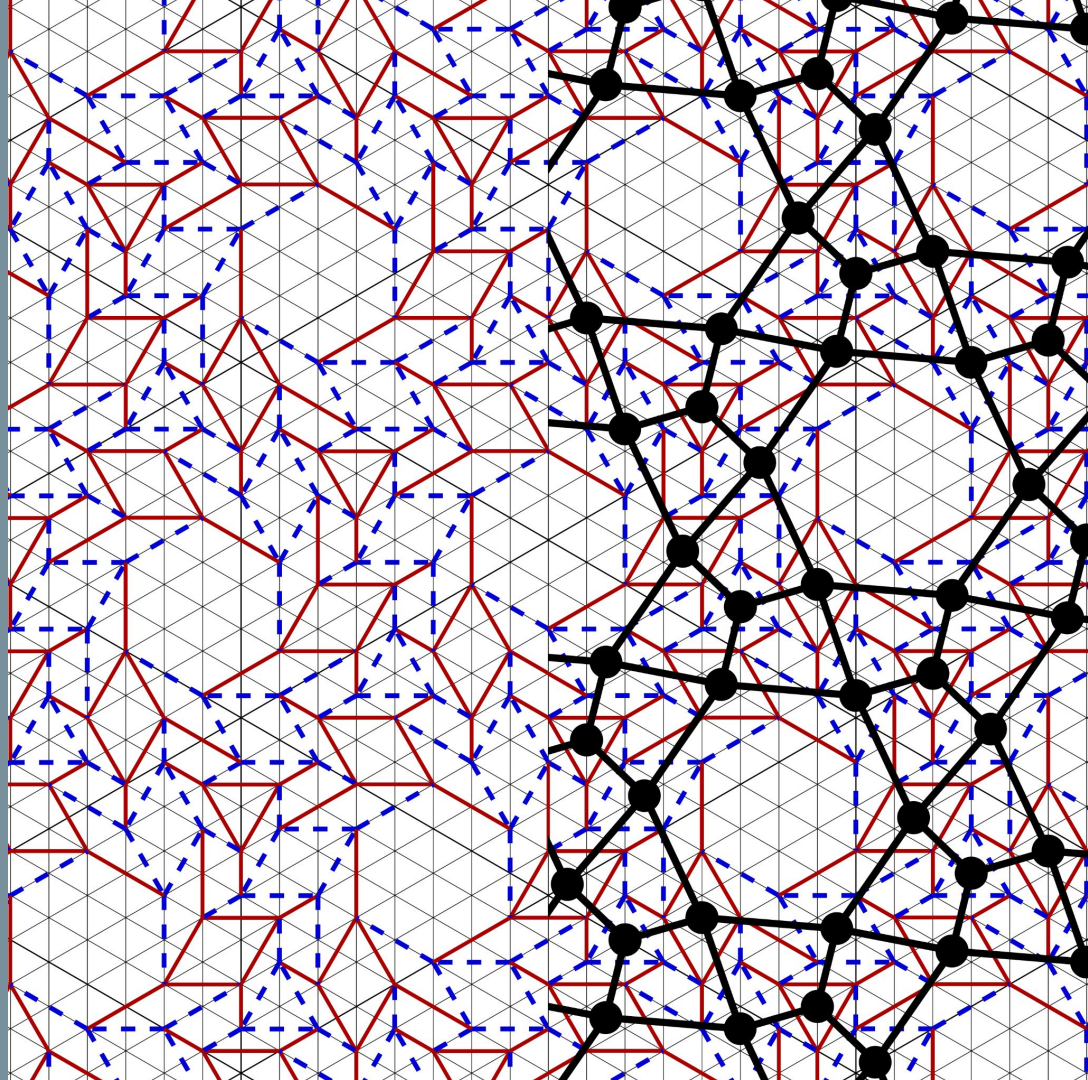
# Pattern Photos

- Front and back, with and without backlighting
- 25 daily patterns
- New alternate ending patterns - typically around 40
- Must be completed before ebook release in late September



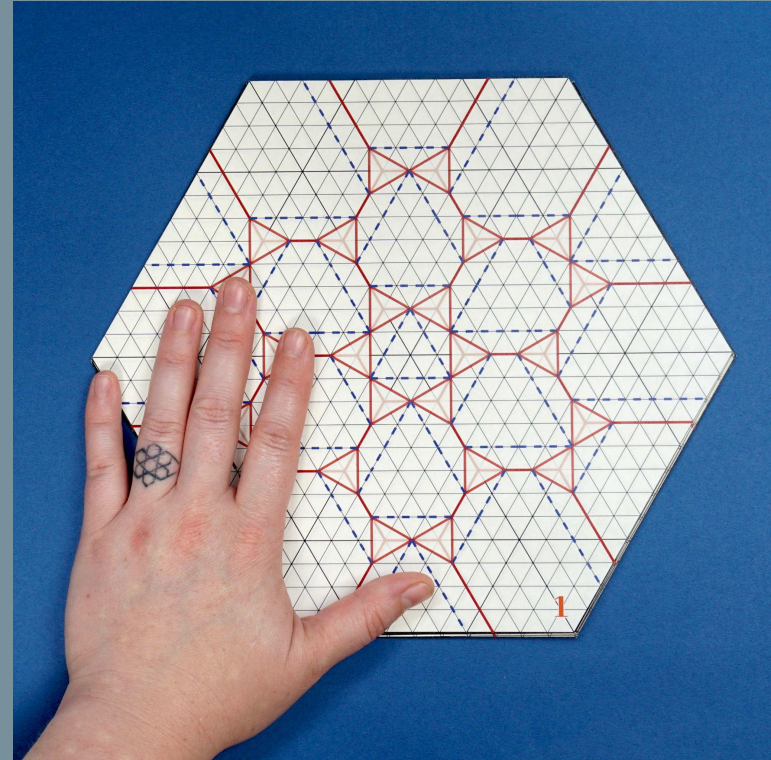
# Full Crease Patterns

- Crease pattern drawn on 64 grid divisions
- Skeleton layer shows twists
- Both views are exported as PDF pages
- Cover page includes details about designer, diagrammer, tiling, twists used, rotation fraction, difficulty rating, and photos of both sides



# Prepare for Public Announcement - Physical Infrastructure

- Submit order for die-cut products
- Pick up die-cut products
- List new products on website, update inventory of old products
- Order printed postcards and flyers
- Prepare postcard wrappers
- Stock up on existing inventory: rectangular sheets, cutting templates, bone folders, etc
- Stock up on shipping supplies: stickers, tape, shipping envelopes, thank-you cards



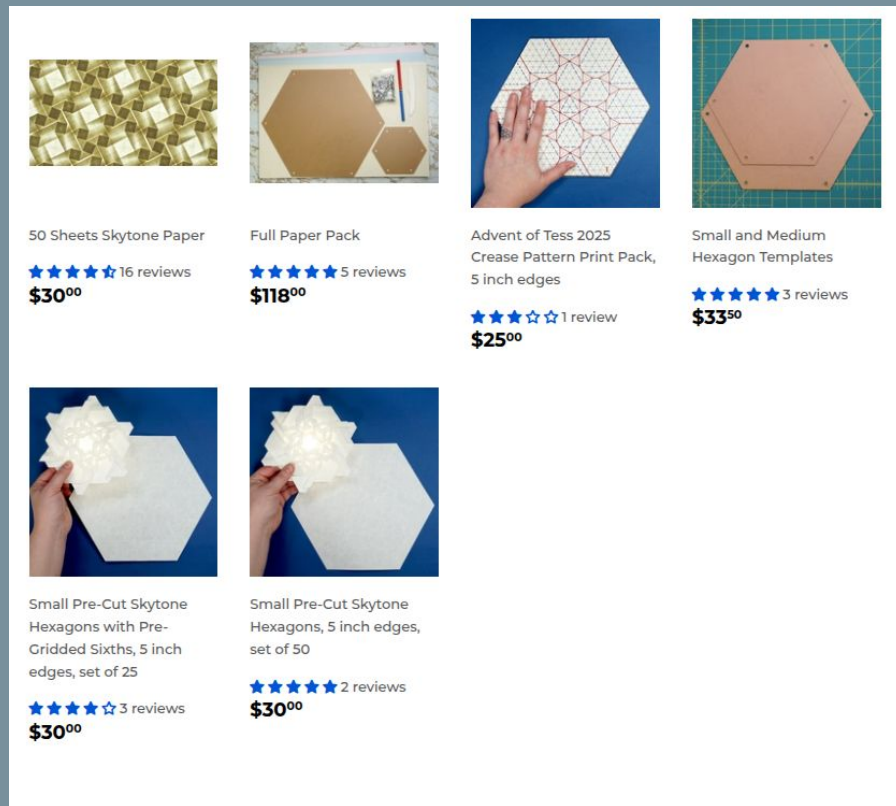
# Prepare for Public Announcement - Digital Infrastructure

- Make new form, write email response to submissions
- Make new delivery page, welcome video
- Prepare ebook, list on my site and distribute to OUSA, Origami-Shop
- Make the calendar graphic, promo postcard, and promo flyer
- Make promotional videos, posts, and articles
- Submit articles/patterns to origami magazines and convention books
- Arrange guest teaching to promote Advent of Tess



# Promotion: Join, Buy Supplies, Buy the Ebook, in my publications

- Started mentioning AOT in my weekly livestreams in July, 16 related streams
  - Practice Twists in AOT25
  - Explore the AOT25 ebook
  - Gridding Support
- 1 scheduled long video, 8 short videos on YouTube and Instagram/Facebook
  - Short videos paired with IG/FB post
- Emails every other week to already- or previously-registered people
  - What to fold now, Paper pack options, Shipping deadline, Twist demo video and alternate endings, You haven't signed up this year yet
- Weekly email to my list (~2400)



50 Sheets Skytone Paper  
★★★★☆ 16 reviews  
**\$30<sup>00</sup>**

Full Paper Pack  
★★★★★ 5 reviews  
**\$118<sup>00</sup>**

Advent of Tess 2025  
Crease Pattern Print Pack,  
5 inch edges  
★★★★☆ 1 review  
**\$25<sup>00</sup>**

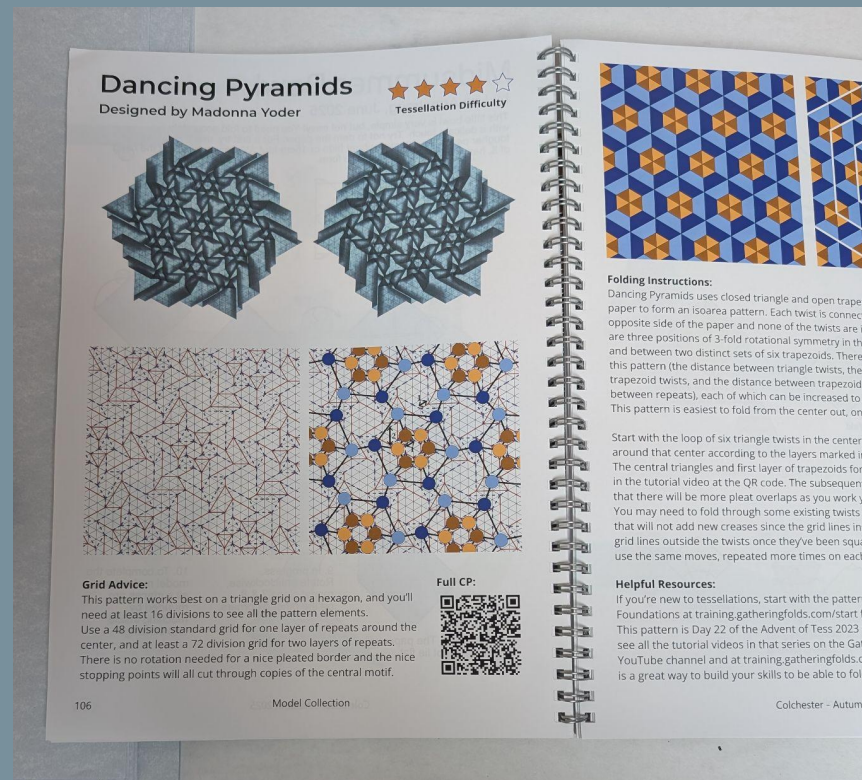
Small and Medium  
Hexagon Templates  
★★★★★ 3 reviews  
**\$33<sup>50</sup>**

Small Pre-Cut Skytone  
Hexagons with Pre-  
Gridded Sixths, 5 inch  
edges, set of 25  
★★★★☆ 3 reviews  
**\$30<sup>00</sup>**

Small Pre-Cut Skytone  
Hexagons, 5 inch edges,  
set of 50  
★★★★★ 2 reviews  
**\$30<sup>00</sup>**

# Promotion: Join, Buy Supplies, Buy the Ebook, in other publications

- Article in MIT Alumni News Magazine
  - Proposed by me a year before
- Cross-promoted in 3 newsletters, O-list, and OrigamiUSA members list
- Sent article/pattern to 7+ origami magazines or convention books
- Sent postcards to two origami shops
- Made appearances in 10 groups
  - Mostly virtual, mostly teaching either a basic model from this AOT series or a beginner-friendly quick model



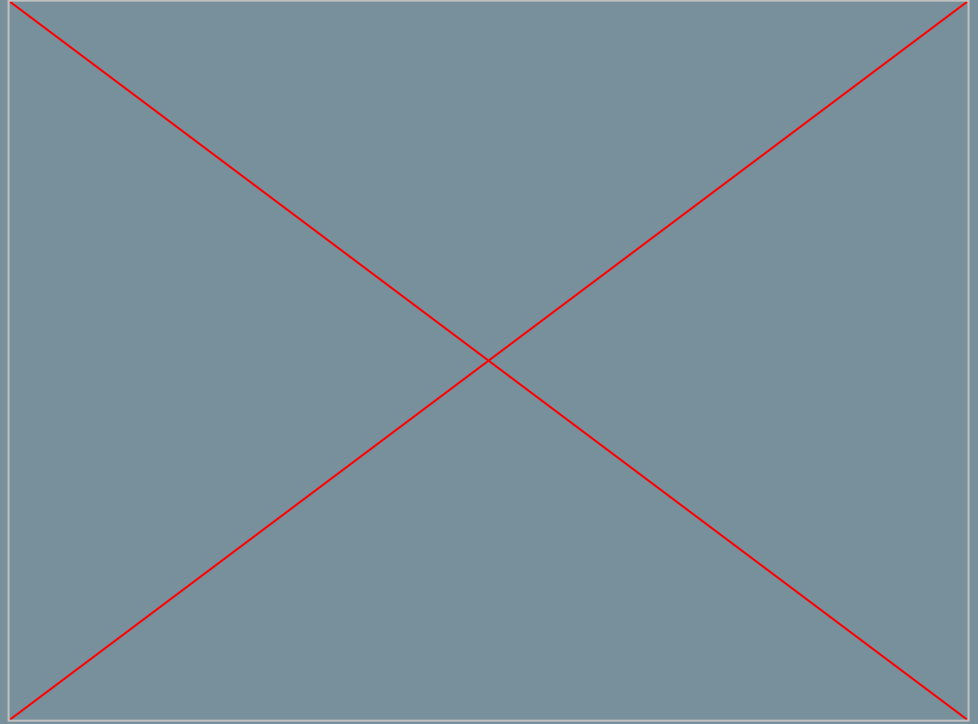
# Shipping - 155 orders sent

- Products listed on my Shopify site
- Integrates with Pirate Ship to remember package sizes/weights
- Prepare common items in bulk in advance
- Minimize the number of distinct items available for sale, reduce the number of package sizes needed
- I include two postcards and a flyer in each package with instructions to share them with a friend or post them publicly



# Video Production - October through early December

- Stockpile 24-division grids
- Make thumbnails
- Film in batches, up to 3/day
- Edit (add intro and trim) in batches, preferably twice
- Generate captions with Whisper AI tool (on local server)
- Translate captions to Spanish with AI tool (on local server)
- Upload and schedule release on delivery page, course page, and YouTube



# Publication: December 1-25

- Make sure automations are running smoothly
- Share daily pattern on IG/FB with alternate endings
- Encourage participants and share results
- Suggest solutions to folding problems in Discord
- Adjust form, email, delivery page after series is completed

## Day 1: Winter Lights

Today's pattern uses only closed triangle twists, all on the same side of the paper.

Related course: [Basic Twists Bootcamp](#)

[Download PDF](#)



## Day 2: Courtship

Today we're introducing open triangle twists in a nearly-alternating pattern.

Related course: [Basic Twists Bootcamp](#)

[Download PDF](#)



# Advent of Tess 2025 Statistics

- 1300 unique sign-ups by December 31
- Over 1000 student folds posted in December on Instagram (~40/day)
- ~207 orders (undercount) of paper and ebooks
  - 16% of sign-ups bought something
  - ~\$52 average order value
  - ~\$8.33 value of each sign-up
- Most sales were supplies - Skytone paper, printed crease patterns on cut hexagons, pre-pressed sixths on cut hexagons, cut hexagons, hexagon cutting templates, a bundle of paper and tools
- International orders skewed heavily towards ebooks
- Strong sales continued into January

# Questions?

## Advent of Tess 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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## Advent of Tess 2023

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## Advent of Tess 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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## Advent of Tess: December 2025

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