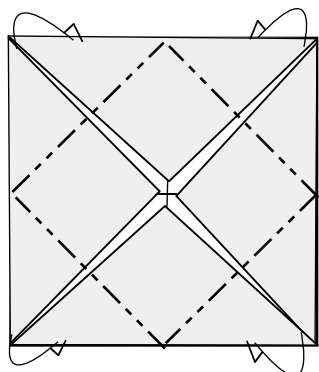
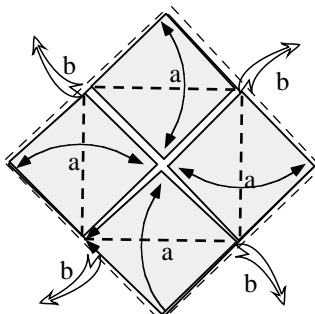


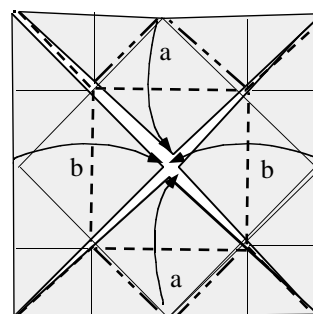
Treasure Boat (*Takarabune*, also called *Tenmasen*) Drawing © 1997 James M. Sakoda
 Traditional, Source: Kosho Uchiyama, *Origami Zukan*, 1959. Also found in Nippon
 Origami Association magazine *Origami*, #168, August, 1989.



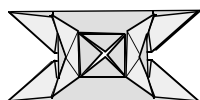
1. Start with a square paper, make two diagonal folds to find the center and blintz fold to the uncolored side, as shown here. Then blintz fold a second time to the back.



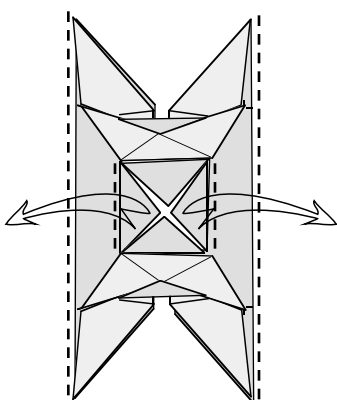
2. a. Blintz fold a third time and unfold. b. Then open out the second blintz fold from the back.



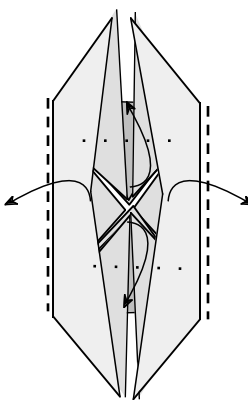
3. a. Fold the pointed ends of the double boat at the top and bottom. b. Then bend in the sides.



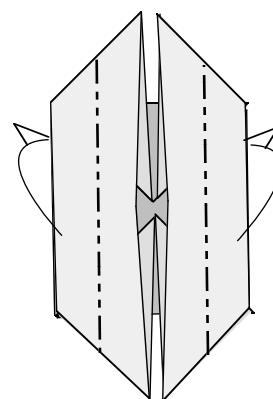
Omiya, a shrine or a palace. As a palace I prefer to view it on its side



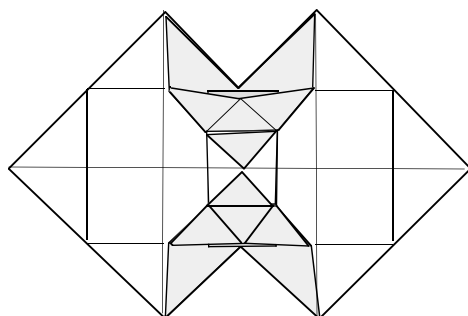
6. *Omiya*. Pull out the two side flaps from the center to its fullest extent.



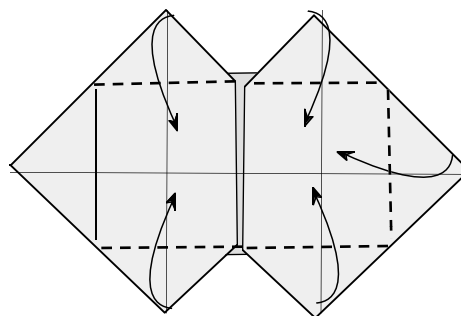
5. Fold sides open while bending the center points outward.



4. The Double Boat. Fold under both sides in half.

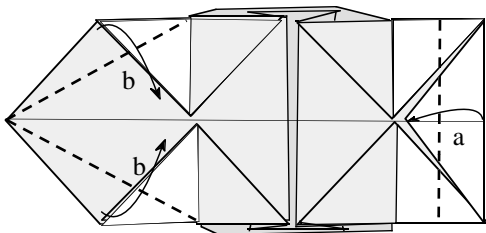


7. Turn over.

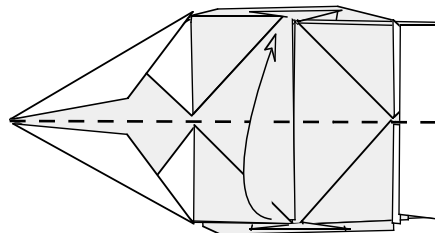


8. Fold in the top, bottom and right side corners.

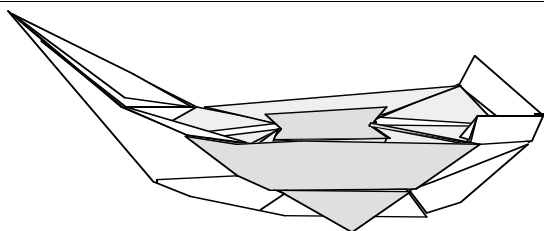
Treasure Boat--2 Drawing © James M. Sakoda, 1997



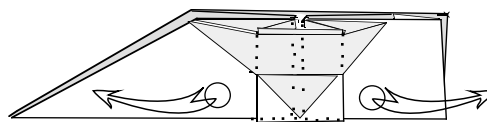
9. a. Fold over the right end of the boat. b. Then fold in the sides of the pointed end.



10. Fold the boat in half but keep the folds relatively loose to make the next pull-out operation easier.



12. The Treasure Boat. Also known as the *tenmasen*, a boat for hauling goods.



11. Hold the dots from both sides and gently pull the bottom portion from under the center fold. A square deck will be created at both ends and in the center is an empty hole. Slightly lower the pointed end by adjusting the angle of the deck downward.

Significance of the Treasure Boat

The treasure boat is significant from a number of points of view. First, it belongs to a family of early traditional folds which is based on the triple blintz fold--i.e. folding corners in to the center three times. This includes the familiar *yakkosan*, *komuso*, the flute playing monk, the *hakama* or trousers, the windmill base which leads to the table, the trick boat, the double boat, the box and others. Its versatility, in spite of its boxy construction, is due at least in part to creases running both diagonally and parallel to the sides. The first and third blintz folds run diagonally, while the second one runs parallel to the sides of the original square. And yet because only a single move of folding a corner to the center is involved initially it is among the easiest folds that can be taught to beginners. It has also been used to create modular origami using three *hakama* to form a dog or a samurai by inserting a *yakkosan* into a *hakama*.

The treasure boat is also the most complex of the triple blintz folds including the final pullout operation which miraculously produces two decks and a space between them, as well as potentials for sails. The formation of the pointed front end of the boat makes for an attractive boat.

From a historical point of view the treasure boat or *Tenmasen* is of great interest, because its appearance is so similar to that of the Chinese junk, whose front end is the same as the back end. The treasure boat, as Koshō Uchiyama has recorded its folding, is based on the double

boat (catamaran) leading to the *Omiya* (shrine or palace), while the Chinese junk starts with the traditional folded box. Actually the treasure boat or *Tenmasen* can be folded by modifying the Chinese junk and the Chinese junk can be folded from the *Omiya*. Both start with the triple blintz fold and end up by using the pullout operation to create the square decks at each end. The *Tenmasen* is a small cargo boat run with oars, while the Chinese junk is a much larger sailboat. The *Tenmasen* was a commonly used cargo boat in Japan and can be seen in Japanese samurai movies. This leads me to conclude that it is Japanese in character like the *Yakkosan*, *Komuso*, *Hakama* and others. However, one cannot help wondering how the same complex pullout device came to be used in two different boats.

Another interesting historical fact is that the Treasure Boat appears early in Satoshi Takagi's recent publication *Koten ni Miru Origami* (Origami in Old Documents), Nippon Origami Association, 1993) as a paper boat on Page 6, along with other origami figures, such as the *Komoso* or *Komuso*, other paper boats, and the popular folded crane. This was in books of designs for children clothing, and its appearance was in 1704. The reproduced picture shows clearly the folded Treasure Boat, down to the blintz fold ends on the bottom of the boat. The Chinese junk can be found in Murray and Rigney's **Paper Folding for Beginners** (reprint by Dover, 1960) and Robert Harbin, **Secrets of Origami** (Oldbourne, 1963).