

Fiskars Unzipped Kanzashi (Japanese Fabric flowers)

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<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/fiskars-unzipped-kanzashi-j>



Admired for centuries, Kanzashi originated in Japan – worn by Maiko (Geisha in training). The Maiko would wear specific Kanzashi dependent on the season or event – for example, they certainly would have worn cherry blossoms during the Cherry Blossom Festival. Geisha themselves wore them much less often, if at all. In this tutorial I will show you how to make one of the basic shapes, and how this can be expanded to suit your whims. Apologies for some of the rubbish images. My camera is broken, but I badly need some new scissors! :)

Step 1 — Step one - gather materials



It is best to have everything to hand! First - plug in iron and glue gun if you are using hot glue. I like to make these while watching TV, so I have a towel (folded) on the floor and everything around me that I'll need: fabric, ruler, tailor's chalk pencils, iron, glue gun, scissors, thread, needle, pins, beads, starch (I use spray on)

Step 2 — Cut squares of fabric



For this flower I will have an inner layer of a contrasting colour. I've chosen black and white. Using a ruler and a tailor's chalk pencil (must be sharpened!) I drew squares of 5.5cm x 5.5cm. Make sure you make the markings on the reverse (wrong) side of the fabric. Your squares can be as small or big as you like. Just be aware that the smaller they are the harder to fold they become - thinner fabric is better for small petals (leather is just plain hard to work with for example). The bigger they are (depending on the fabric), the more likely you will need to starch the hell out of it to get it to retain shape. *Petals can be made with one piece of fabric (it doesn't have to be layered). They can all be the same size and colour, or not...but I'll come to that later.

Step 3 — Starch to your heart's content



With regards to starching, you can be a bit more green about things and use the water you boil your spuds in (that's English slang for potato FYI), or you can be a slave to industry and ease, like me, and use a spray on. This (pictured) I found in the supermarket with the cleaning products. *N.B Just because the shop boy/girl doesn't have a clue what you are on about, doesn't mean that it's not hidden in the laundry isle - next to that stuff that makes your pants white again! I only starched the squares once. You can iron and re-starch a number of times if you want your petals to be super stiff (depends on the fabric - fine silk or floppy polyester

will probably need one or five sprays!). You can either let it dry naturally, or iron it dry like I did...although you may need to keep a flat spoon handy to scrap the yucky-yuck-yuck off your iron like I did (don't burn yourself!).

Step 4 — Iron those squares



Iron squares flat before folding

Step 5 — Fold in Half



Fold your first square into a triangle. If you are double layering (like me), then repeat for your inner/outer layer. The image shows the black and the white squares together.

Step 6 — Fold again



Holding the layers together securely (the folded edge should be lined up), take one point and fold towards the unfolded point - see image

Step 7 — Repeat on the other side



Repeat this step with the other side - making a smaller square (and hiding the inner colour - if you have used one).

Step 8 — Turn over and continue folding



Turn the square over (be careful not to let go of the folded bit) and fold on one half (to the centre) - if you can see the slit, then you've folded the wrong point.

Step 9 — Repeat with the other half



Repeat with the other point - so they meet in the middle. Your shape should look like the image. This bit can be a bit fiddly - be sure not to let go of the folds.

Step 10 — then fold together



Fold your shape in half - opening the slit on the other side. If you've done this correctly the last two folds you made are now back to back and hidden.

Step 11 — View from the other side



This is the view from the slit side.

Step 12 — Then pin!



Run a pin through the petal - about 1/3 of the way in from the 'open' (not folded) end of the material. If done correctly, it should hold all the points together. A longer needle is better than a shorter needle! Repeat for all the petals. I alternated which colour was the outer part of the petal.

Step 13 — Get to sewing



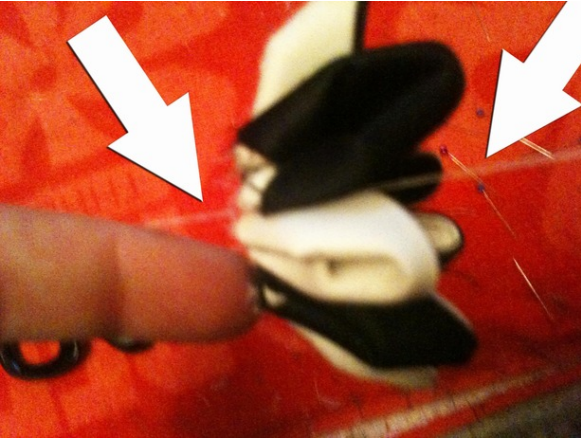
Firstly cut the end off the petal (the end that is going in the centre of the flower). If you hold it up to the side you can see where the back part folds under - cut just before then. Thread your needle (thread doesn't really show, so colour isn't massively important - unless you're a perfectionist) and take one of the petals. Put the needle in roughly where you've pinned it. It helps if you take the needle out before sewing (although I've left it on in the image). Make sure you keep a good grip on it as you sew through. Leave some of the thread loose at one end. There is no need to knot it or draw the needle through the material more than one.

Step 14 — Thread the other petals



Just as in the last step, add the other petals to the thread (going through each where the pin was, and only once). I find it easy to lay the threaded petals on the floor as I do this - means they aren't swinging about and liable to come off as I put more on.

Step 15 — Secure



Tie off the thread - so one half goes top, one half goes bottom. The image is a bit rubbish, but the arrows point out the thread.

Step 16 — Pump up the volume



I then bring the needle through the middle, so both ends of the thread are in the back. I knot the thread and cut off the excess. Don't pull the thread too tightly or it will snap, but make sure there is no slack in the petals otherwise your flower will look sloppy. All the petals should sit together tightly. Then I pump out the petals using a finger to gently shape them.

Step 17 — Add your middle



Beading - sew on any beads you may wish - I used faux pearls. Button - a decorative button can be glued in place if you wish. You could even cover a button in the same material. Cording - curl up cording in the middle of the petals and stick down as you go Other - the possibilities are only narrowed by your imagination! :)

Step 18 — Now the back



Once you've decorated the middle of the flower you need to turn your attention to the back and how you plan to wear the flower. For the back I stuck on a circle of the same fabric - sometimes I use felt. In the image you'll see something lavender coloured. As the fabric was thick - not helped by the double layer, I stuffed it with a bit of felt to help pad out the silk circle. You'll also care to note I used hella-loads of glue! :)

Step 19 — How do you wear yours...



Now the choice is yours...again limited by your imagination. I've chosen to add a crocodile clip- I got my in a small bulk amount from an Etsy or Ebay seller (I forget which) for a good price. I glued from the middle of the clip - meaning opening and closing it won;t damage the flower, as your fingers have room to get at the end of it. You can also try a brooch clip (if you don't have one, sewing on a safety pin will work - but you may want to sew it to the circle of fabric before sticking it down, as glue is tough to sew through!), or a key ring, or a different kind of hair slide, an alic band - or forget mounting it, as use it as an embellishment straight onto a garment...be aware of washing out the starch though!

Step 20 — What else?



You might like to try alternating the petals (note the fabric covered button in the middle)

Step 21 — What else?



Or how about having an extra feature - I've used a string of faux pearls with two petals stuck on the bottom to create a 'fall' effect. Just be sure to have fun! :)

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