

## Do You Shifu? NYGH 2024 Holiday Party Craft

### Paper

handmade

mulberry (koko) strong fibers, easiest to felt  
unbleached or white-

Are colored papers colorfast? Unknown, use inks to add color to edges  
large sheets

inclusions may cause obstructions in cutting and spinning

weight- we are using 15gsm- grams per square meter. For traditional shifu, 10-35 grams is used (tissue paper) newsprint is 45-80gsm

recycled dress patterns- Simplicity, McCalls, have been used successfully.

### Preparation

Folding and cutting large sheets into smaller quarter sheets

Cutting paper strips, 2mm, 3mm, 5mm, 7mm, 10mm. I will demonstrate using 1/4" (6-7mm) strips. You may wish to cut strips of different widths to experiment

Dampening paper after cutting- Wet a dish towel in water, wring out as much as you can, lay paper in the dish towel. Roll up paper in dishtowel, put in plastic bag to rest.

### Shaking and rolling

NOTE: wet paper is weak, as it dries it gets stronger

open paper, place on rolling surface

Pleat paper, shake to straighten strips,

Listen to the sound of the paper, heavy sound means paper is too wet, shake to dry.

Rustling sound means it is drying. Roll paper back and forth, avoid tangling, 5 minutes to 15 minutes. Shake periodically to separate the strands. Use the palms of your hands. You will most likely not be able to get the strands to felt, (I think that may only be possible with handmade paper)

### Making seeds

To make the seeds, tear 2 threads away from the paper border, tear off the cut edge of the border. Pinch the join between your thumb and forefinger.

Twist the seed away from you if you have been spinning with an S twist. (spindle turning counter clockwise)

Twist the seed away toward you if you have been spinning with an Z twist. (spindle turning clockwise)

Make seeds on one side of the rolled paper, draping the joins over your left wrist to prevent tangling

Make seeds on the remaining side of the rolled paper..

Lay the paper into your basket

Spinning- Spin the paper using your drop spindle or Japanese wheel, (similar or a great wheel) or charka.

Finishing- Wind the thread onto a bobbin, holding the bobbin parallel to the spindle to maintain twist. Steam the bobbin of thread in a vegetable steamer for 15 minutes or boil in water for 30 seconds.

# Do You Shifu? A 2024 Holiday Workshop with the NYGH

## Reference Books

*A Song of Praise for Shifu* by Susan K Byrd, who studied Shifu weaving and paper thread making for 25 years, She studied under a master paper maker/spinner in Japan for 4 years  
[byrdsnest.net](http://byrdsnest.net)

*Kigami and Kami-ito: Japanese Handmade Paper and Paper Thread* by Hiroko  
[://hiromipaper.com/products/kigami-and-kami-ito](http://hiromipaper.com/products/kigami-and-kami-ito)

*Japanese Paper Yarn* by Andra F. Staton.  
<https://schifferbooks.com/products/japanese-paper-yarn?variant=44464114958585>

## Online Blogs

<https://peggyosterkamp.com/> A former NYGH member, search “shifu” and “paper weaving” on her blog

[https://www.afieldguidetoneedlework.com/apps/search?q=coffee+filters&filter=blog\\_post](https://www.afieldguidetoneedlework.com/apps/search?q=coffee+filters&filter=blog_post)

Sarah Swett spins coffee filters into yarn

<http://www.paperphine.com/?cat=318> Contemporary weaving with commercial paper yarn- very colorful

## You Tube Videos

Susan Byrd, excellent videos and website <https://www.byrdsnest.net/videos>

John Marshall, excellent <https://youtu.be/7xSzpkDshXY?si=vAWofAwRRCLbSyqn>

Shuttle and Needles Studio <https://youtu.be/MKHcPk4KCX0?si=x3o3alXqEKpC8Xv3>

## Paper Resources

<https://www.mulberrypaperandmore.com/p-2360-unbleached-mulberry-paper-off-white-15gsm.aspx> 15 gsm 25" x 37" Sheet \$3.95

<https://hollanders.com/products/mulberry-tissue-weight-unbleached?variant=3028619922642>  
2 Available in colors 15gsm 25" x 37" \$3.50

<https://kozo.studio/collections/parent-sheet/products/solid-colored-kozo-paper-white> 25g  
17" x 22" \$5.05

<https://www.dickblick.com/products/thai-kozo-paper/> 35 gsm 25" x37" \$3.19

<https://www.washiarts.com/natural-papers/sekishu-mare-small-japanese-kozo-washi-paper>  
HANDMADE 25 gsm 21" x 29" \$22.95

<https://www.talasonline.com/Sekishu-Kozogami-Mare-Paper> HANDMADE Talas, NYC  
21.5gsm 21" x 29" \$15.58

<https://hiromipaper.com/products/mulberry-thin-roll?variant=51644264331> 26 gsm one roll  
27" x 10 yds \$36.

<https://kozo.studio/collections/parent-sheet/products/solid-colored-kozo-paper-white> 37gsm  
25" x 37" \$5.99