



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

Make Your Own Compost/Recycle Liner

Thanks to Larry Rosenstein for sharing this useful item from an SF Gate reader: "I am a lazy and inconsistent recycler and worry about my carbon footprint only when I'm in the market for new shoes. Like most San Franciscans, I have the requisite green recycling bucket under my sink though am never quite sure how to line it. I know I can buy mass-produced biodegradable liner bags, but buying something simply to recycle it seems backwards." In honor of Earth Day, we offer an alternative in this simple origami project using The Chronicle, which is 100 percent compostable and printed with nontoxic ink.

1. Open up the paper, remove and recycle the inside pages. Make a right triangle by folding the bottom left corner to the top edge, flattening the fold. Cut off and recycle the extra piece. Position the triangle, so the fold is at the bottom.
2. Separate the layers at the top of the triangle and bring one side down to the bottom edge. Make a crease; unfold. This crease will be your guideline.
3. Bring the bottom left-hand corner to the right edge, aligning it with the crease. Flatten the fold.
4. Fold the right-hand corner to the left side. Flatten the fold.
5. Separate the layers of newspaper at the top. Fold one side down, pressing to flatten.
6. Turn the container over and repeat.
7. Open the completed container and adjust to fit your countertop bin. For a stronger liner, double up on the newspaper.

(Earth Day Origami, SF Gate, April 22, 2012)

Calif. Spurns French Bullet Train Idea

French railway SNCF recommended that California build its proposed high-speed rail line along the Interstate 5 corridor and partner with SNCF or another for-

eign firm to hold down costs. But the state turned them down, despite SNCF's long experience with successful TGV bullet trains. California instead contracted with New York's Parsons Brinckerhoff engineering firm to build the \$68 billion line along the Central Valley's Highway 99 corridor, a route that critics deride as "the train to nowhere." Japan, another experienced builder and operator of high-speed railroads, joined France in walking away from the California project. Both countries initially were interested in participating in the project, but both abandoned it as the wrong plan in the wrong place at the wrong time. For more background on this latest Jerry Brown boondoggle see the excellent story by Dan Weikel and Ralph Vartabedian in the Los Angeles Times, July 9, 2012 (latimes.com).

Who's Your Local Good Guy?

Last week I asked you to nominate your favorite local merchant on the basis of good service and products.

Here are a couple of nominations:

- Dave "Frogman" Cohn likes Sonny's Pizza at 1780 Francisco in Sharp Park across from City Hall. Dave says the garlic bread and ravioli are especially good, and they deliver.
- Jeff Bagshaw likes Aaron Schlieve's Florey's Book Co. on Palmetto in Sharp Park just up the street from the public library. Jeff says that Aaron "goes out of his way to find obscure cookbooks for me, and is friendly and generous to kids I see in there."

The Compost Chronicles

Last week, after running Recology manager Chris Porter's clarification on so-called compostable/biodegradable paper bags, I got an interesting email from reader Lori Fisher, a Pacifica resident: "Checking with Recology, I got a different answer from someone else regarding biodegradable bags: BioBags (biobagusa.com) would get caught on their sorting/moving tables. I had called asking if I could get a compost pail I had seen a neighbor using to work with my new BioBags I purchased at Costco. BTW: No compost pail is available. Now some of what is on the box of BioBags -- Food Waste Collection Bags Certified Compostable: BioBags are approved by the San Francisco Department of the Environment for their food waste collection programs...

BioBags are approved by King County Solid Waste Department for their food waste collection programs...This certification assures that BioBag products meet the specifications found in ASTM D6400 and will compost rapidly & safely when placed in a municipal or commercial composting facility...BioBag products are made from starches derived from plants, vegetable oils, and the world's first patented compostable polymer. No polyethylene is used in the production process. We are fully certified by the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) and meet the requirements of California law regarding environmental claims of plastic bag manufacturers. (This is a USA product.) A brown bag cannot hold your green waste from the kitchen to your outside container without falling apart, especially when you have "wet" greens. Think of the Glad garbage bag commercial. I don't want that kind of mess to clean up. Tell me why we cannot use these BioBags. San Francisco outlawed plastic bags but allows these special bags in its compostable waste collection." (Juan Mayburrito just doubles his compost bags, which are ordinary brown-paper sandwich sacks from Costco. For more suggestions and research, see the composting stories and comments on PacificaRiptide.com.)

True Norse

Viking vocabulary contributions to the English language include the following words: balderdash, oaf, angry, inkling, flaunt, dregs, vole, glitter, anger, berserk, Hell, irk, rotten, ugly, troll. (Ben Schott, miscellanies.info)

Swami Sez

"I offer my opponents a bargain: If they will stop telling lies about us, I will stop telling the truth about them." (Adlai Stevenson, presidential campaign speech, 1952)

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