

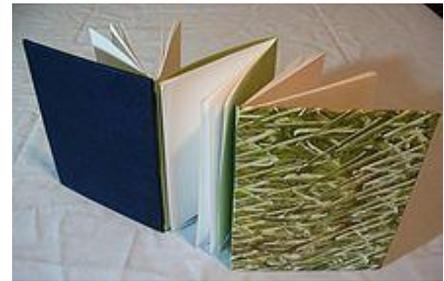
Variations On Accordion And Dos Á Dos Book Structures

Developed by Cathleen Micheals

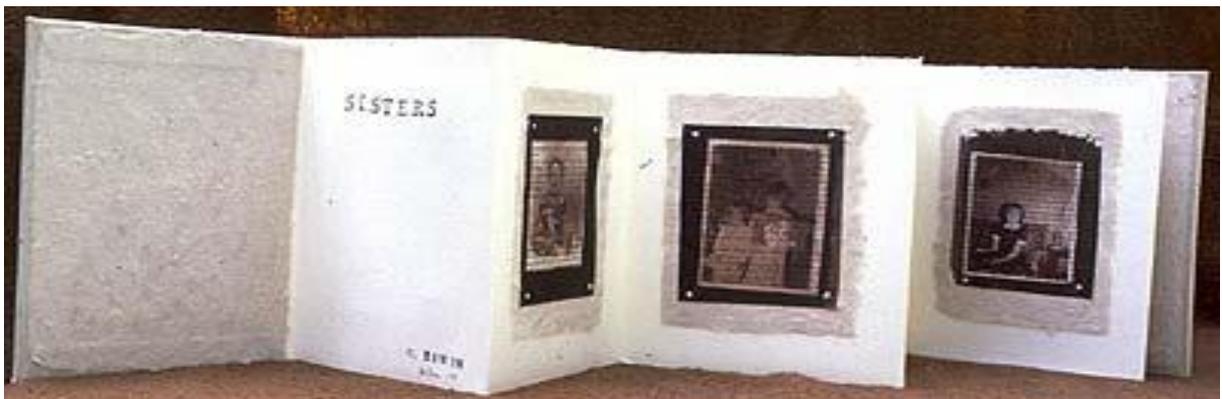


Accordion books have a long and rich history in many parts of Asia including China, Japan, Korea, Thailand, India and Burma. Accordion book structures or *codices* are also found in the Aztec and Mayan cultures of Mexico and Central America.

The *dos á dos book* (French for back-to-back), one of many variations of the basic accordion structure, also has a long history in bookbinding. Pairs of books have long been bound in this way including *The Odyssey* and the *Iliad*, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass*, *Paradise Lost* and *Paradise Regained*.



Dos á dos books can be quite intricate but the principle is simple. The structure has a single spine, folded in thirds, that includes either two or three book sections. Each section tucks into the valley folds (with two valleys on one side and one valley on the other side). The twin or triplet booklets are sewn into the folds, most often using a pamphlet stitch.



Sisters, by Gail Erwin, is an accordion book structure with Vandyke prints of old family photos printed on pages from a psychological text about fathers and daughters. These images are glued and stitched with French knots to handmade paper and then to the accordion which was folded from Somerset printmaking paper.

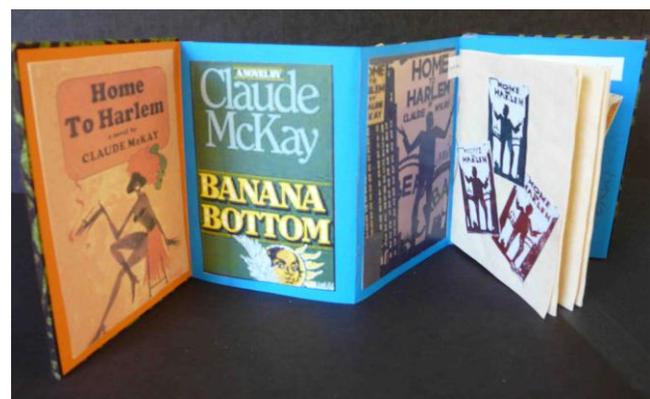


Sticks and Stones, another accordion also by Gail Erwin, is a double sided cyanotype photogram of sticks and stones with a wishbone hidden among the sticks. The double accordion structure is stitched where the valleys of the accordion fold meet. The paper is Stonehenge printmaking paper. Covers on both books have been covered with book cloth, a paper backed cloth used in bookbinding.

The *flag book* is yet another variation on the accordion structure, using the folded accordion as the spine to which flag pages are then glued in many rows and in different directions to create a criss-cross affect when the book is opened up.



My Hindi Primer, by Marilyn Stablein, features alphabet flags (for 21 letters of the Hindi alphabet) made from out-of-print children's lesson books, with Japanese paper covers, accordion folded Canson Mi-Tientes paper and ink jet prints.



Dos á dos books with mini-linoleum prints and biographical text inclusions about Jean Michel Basquiat and Claude McKay made by two undergraduate students as part of a final project and art performance and installation for their *Black Artist in America* course in partnership with Cathleen Micheals and Humboldt State University course professor Patty Yancey.

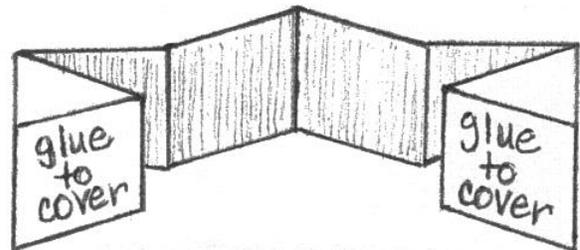
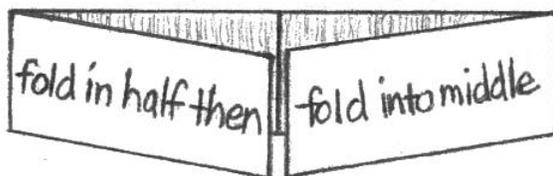
Making A Simple Covered Accordion Book Structure

Covering the covers . . .

1. Apply a generous coat of glue to one foam board cover. Make sure that the glue is spread evenly, that there are no raised bumps of glue or dry spots.
2. Place the foam board glue side down on the cover paper (good side face down so that you are gluing cover to the back side of the paper). Smooth the paper over the board, pressing and counting to ten. Repeat for the second cover.
3. Glue the long sides of each cover paper, making sure to spread glue evenly and on the inside edge of the foam board then walk the book toward you “one step, two step, three step” and using your index finger to smooth down the edge.
4. Pre-fold the four corners of each cover by making right angle triangles at each corner then lift each corner triangle and put a dab of glue there to hold the fold in place.
5. Glue the short sides of each cover, making sure to spread glue evenly and on the inside edge of the foam board then walk the book toward you “one step, two step, three step” and using your index finger to smooth down the edge.
6. Turn the covers over and look at your work to make sure the cover paper is tucked neatly down and the corner looks even and sharp.
7. Let your book covers dry for a few minutes while you fold the inside accordion pages.

Folding and gluing the accordion . . .

1. Fold the inside pages accordion or zigzag style. Fold in half first, then fold into the middle. Adjust if folds look a bit uneven then give the entire folded accordion one final zip, zip, zap to crease all the edges.



2. Apply an even coat of glue on one outer page or foot then visually center on the cover and press down and county to ten. Repeat for the second cover, making sure the two covers match up.