

Painted Accordion Books

with Ribbon Closure

(art + literature)

The accordion book is one of the simplest binding processes and can be accomplished in many different ways. This lesson plan approaches the book as a combination between a painting and a literary piece. Students will paint or create a collage on two miniature canvas panels to use as covers and incorporate a tie closure to hold it together. By creating a work of art on the outside of the book, the contents will be viewed as personal treasures.

Grade Levels 5-12

Note: instructions and materials based on a class of 25 students. Adjust as needed.

Objectives

- Students will learn a very basic bookbinding technique incorporating a dimensional object and simple fastening method
- Students will recognize that a handmade book is a work of art in itself
- Students will achieve step one in the creation of a finished piece of personal value. The art of creating the book will continue as a sketchbook, writing surface or scrapbook is developed

Preparation

1. Cut Drawing Paper into 4" wide x 24" long pieces. For younger ages, you may want to pre-fold the paper.

Process

1. Paint canvas panels with any image, pattern or color, making sure edges are covered. Allow to dry.
2. Fold paper for the inside pages Start by measuring 4" from one end and making the first fold. Use that fold as a guideline to fold the rest of the sheet, accordion style.



Materials

[Blick Canvas Panels](#), 4" x 4" (07008-0044) need two per student

[Blick Matte Acrylic](#), assorted colors (00727-), share at least six bottles across classroom

[Blick White Sulphite Drawing Paper](#), 18" x 24" sheets (10209-1049), need 1/4 sheet per student

[Aleene's® Tacky Glue](#), (23826-1005), share five 8-oz bottles across classroom

[Blick Scholastic Wonder White](#) round size 4 (05381-1004) and bright size 10 (05381-1010), need one each size per student

[Color Masking Tape](#) (23008-), assorted color rolls, share four rolls across classroom

[Armada™ Lollypop Scissors](#) (57057-1007), need one per student

[Blick Aluminum Ruler](#), 18" (55430-1018), need one per student

[Ribbon Rainbow](#) (61498-1009) or [Hemp Twine](#) (61511-), assorted colors

[Assorted Metallized Beads](#) (60776-1008) [Blick's Wooden Bead Assortment](#) (60708-1000) or [Glass Globes](#) (34924-1106) for closure

[Blick Economy Graphite Pencil](#) (20302-2009), box of 12, need one per student

Process, continued

Repeat until page is completely folded.

3. Glue bead or Glass Glob in the center of the front canvas panel (painted side). To place a word or small picture under the Glass Glob, place it on top the word and trace the shape lightly with a sharp pencil. Cut the word out by cutting well on the inside of the line you traced. Glue the word in the center of the panel, then glue the Glass Glob on top of it. See example at right.
4. There are 2 ways to attach the tie to the back canvas panel:
 - Use colored masking tape. Lay one strip of masking tape down in the center of the back panel (painted side), tuck edges around. Center the tie over the masking tape, use another piece to secure. Make sure the tape edges are cut cleanly.
 - Center the tie over the back panel (unpainted side) and complete step 4, using the page to secure the tie. The texture of the tie will interfere with the back page, but the back cover of the book will be clear.
5. Flatten the folded paper and apply glue to the front page. Try to get as close to the edges as possible. Center on the back canvas panel and press down. Next, apply glue to the top page again. Place front canvas panel over the top, taking care to align it with the back canvas panel. Allow glue to dry completely, then use tie to close.

Options

- For younger ages, skip step 3 and just use the tie as closure
- Use paper collage, as in the example on page 1 or glue photos on the front panel



National standards:

Content Standard #1 — Understanding and applying media, techniques and processes

- **5-8** Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques and processes to enhance communication of their experience and ideas.

- **9-12** Students apply media, techniques and processes with sufficient skill, confidence and sensitivity that their intentions are carried out in their artworks.

Content Standard #6 — Making connections between visual arts and other disciplines

- **5-8** Students compare the characteristics of works in two or more art forms that share similar subject matter, historical periods or cultural context.

- **9-12** Students compare the materials, technologies, media and processes of the visual arts with those of other arts disciplines as they are used in creation and types of analysis.