



ARTS PLUS

# Triangle Accordion Books

A fun Saturday workshop for adults

## “Part Three: Design, Alter, Embellish”

Time from start to finish = 1 hour (or longer depending on how detailed you want to get...)

You will need the following materials:

- **Your assembled triangle accordion book**
- **Clean scrap paper**, computer paper or newsprint is good
- **Exacto knife**
- **Ink, watercolor, or whatever drawing supplies you might like to use for the interior**
- **Pencil**
- **Glue** (regular white glue or glue sticks)
- **Collage paper** (any leftover painted paper will work!)
- **Small, flat found objects** (like buttons, coins, old earrings or costume jewelry)

### Brief description:

The final part of this project is a creative space to embellish and alter your triangle accordion book. This is where you can let your imagination run free and make this project your own unique expression!

There are really no limits to how you can change up your book, but for brevity's sake I am going to organize my suggestions into three categories:

**A.** Draw or write in the interior of your book

**B.** Cut through the interior accordion to create a design that is revealed only when the book is fully opened.

**C.** Embellish the front and back covers with found objects.

You may choose to explore some, or none!, of these options, as well as mix and match ideas. Whereas Part Two of this workshop was precise and exact, Part Three is wide open...

### • Option A. Draw or write in the interior of your book

The accordion book format works almost like a scroll, it is an invitation to write, paint, or draw a continuous narrative image that is only revealed once the viewer opens and explores the entire visual design. This can be interpreted as a literal narrative, with a plot that leads chronologically from one event to the next or can be more abstract and open ended. For example, one of the best known narrative visual abstractions is the color spectrum, where one color slowly blends into the next color to form a visual progression. If you're unsure of what to do on the inside of your book, use this as an opportunity to play with the of basic elements of visual design: line, shape, tonal value, texture and color. Play with materials and allow one idea to gradually flow into the next. Try working with watercolor, colored inks, or traditional drawing materials, whatever gets you excited!

- **Option B. Cut through the interior pages**

In my example, I have decided to cut a design through each pleat in my triangle fold. I am keeping it simple and going with a perfect circle. I chose this simple shape because I was inspired by a friend's button collection. I love found objects (especially when friends are giving them away for free!) and I like using things out of their original context. I will be gluing two same-size buttons onto the interior front and interior back covers of my book (over the endpapers). So, the circle I am cutting through the pages is just large enough to allow space for these buttons and will allow me to effectively "hide" the buttons inside when the book is closed. (I like playing with the "big reveal" idea of long accordion books and hiding a surprise inside.)

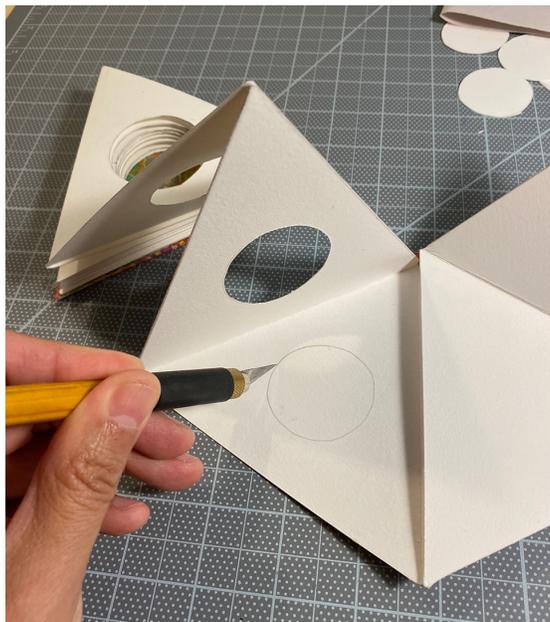


## **Steps**

- **#1:** To start, I opened my book to the middle and drew out the first circle in the center of the middle page. It is important to land this first shape exactly where you want it on the page, as it will determine where all the other circles land on subsequent pages.

- **#2:** Next I flattened the accordion fold against my cutting board, and carefully, with an exacto knife, sliced out the shape. Once you've made the first cut, that cut-through becomes the template for the next circle. Simply fold the cut page back against the next page, trace the circle shape through, flatten out the accordion again on your cutting board, and then slice out the next circle.

- **#3:** Repeat this process in both directions until you reach the end. When you are done you will have an exact spot for gluing in the buttons to the inside front and back covers. (I glue my found objects on with a hot glue gun, but you can use whatever type of glue you like. Superglue or Gorilla Glue also work well.)

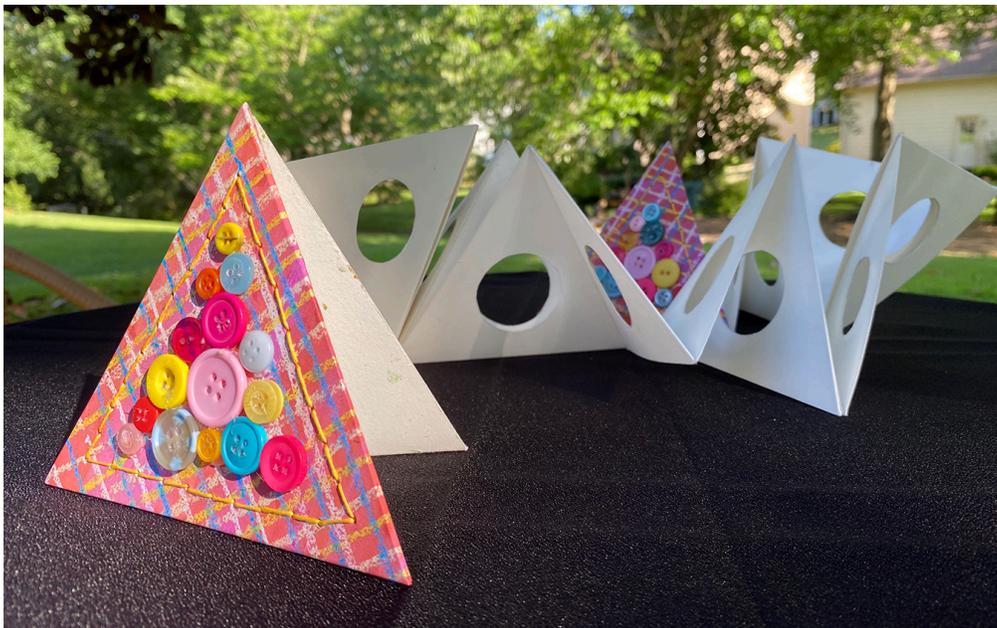
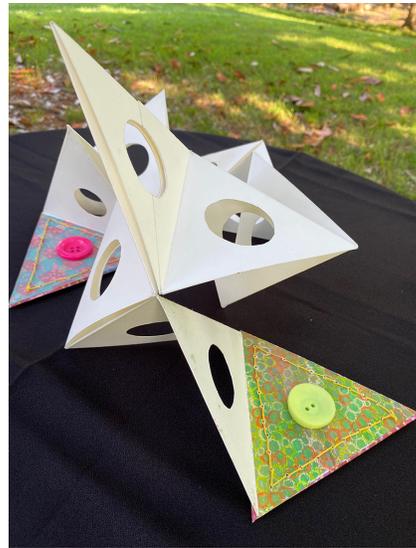


- **Option C. Embellish front and back covers**

This final option is as open ended as it sounds. If you truly want to think of your accordion book as a sculptural object, then don't limit yourself to what can go on the front or back cover. I am staying with the button theme and thus keeping my covers relatively flat. I've also done some basic stitching using yellow book binding thread and an awl, to tie back into the overall sewing theme.



Here are a few final shots of the completed, opened book:



For those new to handmade books, we hope you enjoyed this introductory project. For those who are seasoned bookmakers, I hope this opens up your process and makes space for experimentation! Now go and make even more books... why not make a whole library!

And please photograph your completed "Triangle Accordion Book" and share on Instagram or other social media platforms, with the hashtag **#artsplusathome**

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