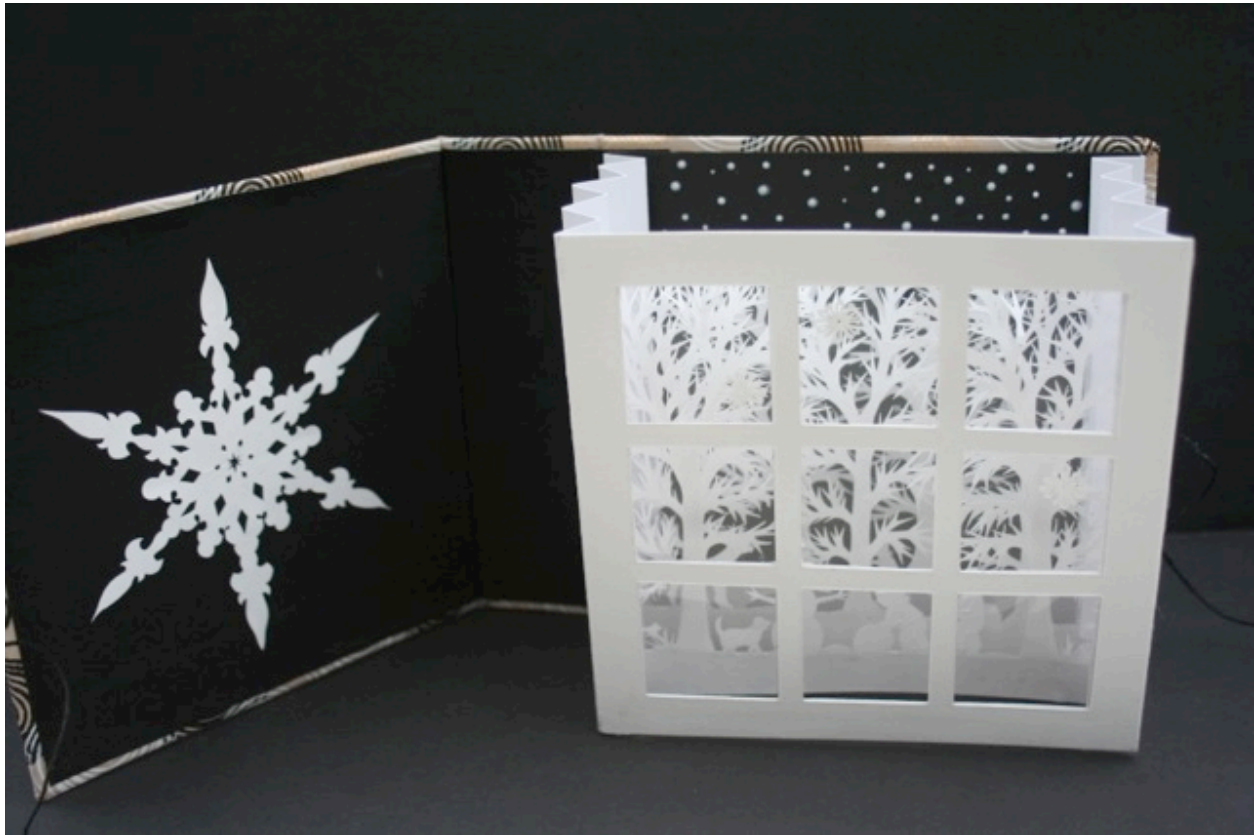


Tunnel Books

Andrea Martin and Marie-Helene Grabman



Tunnel books are unique book structures that can easily incorporate papercuts. They are sometimes called visual narratives but they may tell a story or not. When you look into a tunnel book, you are looking through an opening into a 3D world. The book is made up of layers of pages or panels that are parallel to each other. There may be a few pages or many pages. The completed pages are attached to accordion folds or concertina binding by hinges, which allows the book to be folded up or opened up for viewing.

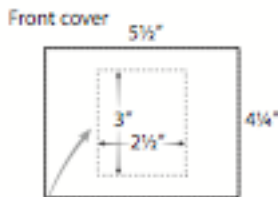
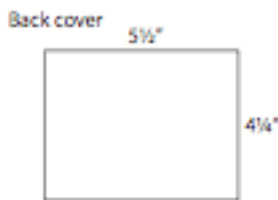
Tunnel books have been around for a while. They have also been called “peepshow” books. In the past they were made for souvenirs or as commemorative gifts for special events. In many cases they can be like small theaters. There are many examples of tunnel books on the web and in bookstores. The pictures in this article are Marie-Helene’s tunnel books that she made after taking Andrea Martin’s workshop at the St. Louis Collection.

How about trying your hand at making one of these? The following instructions are modified from a wonderful tutorial by artist, Ariel Hansen and used with her permission.

Before you begin, please note that a tunnel book may have a hard cover but doesn't need one. It is optional. The directions for making the cover are included, but it may be a little confusing unless you are familiar with bookbinding techniques.

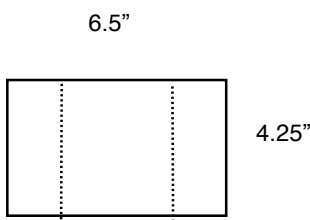
Materials:

1. For the Front and Back cover: 1 piece of 8.5" x 11" 60 or 65 lb cardstock. Cut the piece in half the long way so that you end up with two 4.25' x 11" pieces. Then cut one piece in half so that you end up with two 5.5" x 4.25" pieces. These will be your back cover and front cover.
 - a. Cut a 3" H x 2.5" W rectangle from the center of the front cover, leaving a 1.5" border on the sides and 1/2" border on the top and bottom.

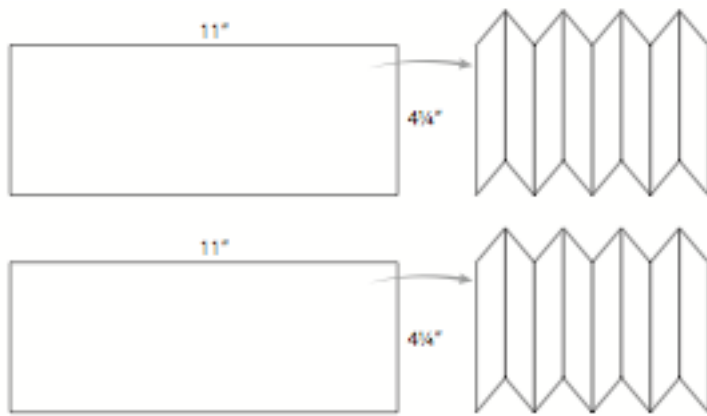


Cut a 3" x 2 1/2" rectangle from the center of the front cover, leaving a 1 1/2" border on the sides and a 1/2" border on the top and bottom.

2. For the inside panels: Now you want to cut the two inside panels. The inside panels should be 6.5" wide and 4.25" high. Each panel will have a 1/2" border on each side.



3. For the sides (concertina spine): Cut 1 piece of 8.5" x 11" cardstock in half so that you end up with two 4.25" x 11" pieces. Fold each side into an 8-panel accordion or concertina.



Fold each side into an 8-panel accordion.
For directions on folding, refer to the
Accordion Book instructions.

4. Cover Board / bookboard, Spine Insert - for the hard cover. You will need two boards for the front and back covers, each a quarter of an inch wider and taller than the inner panels. For this 5.5" x 4.25" book use two 5.75" x 4.5" mat boards or bookboards. The spine insert can be made of bookboard or thick card stock. It needs to be the same height as the cover boards, and the width depends on how wide the tunnel book is when closed/at rest. For this book it is .5", but it completely depends on the thickness of your papers. You should probably wait to cut the boards down until after the tunnel panels have been put together.
5. Cover Paper – Decorative paper to cover the outside of the book. One long sheet is needed for the outer covers and inner spine. When you do cut it, add up the length of front cover + spine + back cover and then add 2 inches. The height of the cover paper will be the height of one cover plus 2 inches. So for this 5.5" x 4.25" book, the cover paper should be approximately $(5.75+.5+5.75+2)$ 14" by $(4.5"+2)$ 6.5". If you want to make your book look and feel really nice, you can use book cloth instead of paper.
6. Inner Cover Paper – a sheet of decorative paper to coat the inner front cover and inner spine. Should be as tall as the tunnel panels, and as wide as a tunnel panel + spine + 1 inch. The inner cover paper is 4.25" x 7.25" $(5.75"+.5"+1")$

Putting the book together:

First plan your book and design your panels. For the inner panels (exclude first and last), pencil mark 1/2" in from the sides. Leave at least a 3/4" border all the way around to keep the structure strong. You can cut images into the panels or use watercolor or other materials to make your designs. The front panel should have a hole or opening so that you can view the other panels.

Now it is time to glue the panels onto the concertina spines. Starting with the last panel, brush glue on the inside of the last panel of the concertina spine. Paste it down to the back of the last panel, and use your bone folder to smooth out any wrinkles. Repeat on the other side with the second concertina. (You could also use double stick tape.) Then move to the second-to-last panel, where the glue is applied to the panel, not the spine (as is the case with all the inner panels). Apply the glue to one of the 1/2" flaps on the side of the panel, and place it into the fold of the spine, making sure corner meets corner. Repeat on opposite side, and with each of the middle panels. For the front panel, place glue on the outer side of the first inch of concertina, and place it behind the first panel. While gluing, try to make sure everything is as straight and lined up as possible. Be sure to place the entire thing under a very heavy book for a while, to keep it flat while the glue dries. You can either stop here or add a cover.

Accordion Book Instructions:

Take one piece of paper and fold in half. Take the top layer of paper, flip the edge back to meet the fold, and crease. Turn the paper over, flip the edge of the paper back to meet the fold, and crease. Your paper should now look like a fan. Repeat with the second sheet of paper.

Cover:

1. An inch from the bottom, make a straight line all the way down the length of the paper. This will help you line up the boards when you glue them down. Start with the front cover. Using your glue brush, put glue on the entire front side of the front cover. Make sure it is still very wet when you place the board down on the paper. You want to place it down about an inch from the left end of the paper, and along the drawn line at the base. When it is in place, use your bone folder to smooth any wrinkles.
2. Repeat the gluing with the spine. Place spine down about one board width away from the front cover, making sure it also runs along the penciled line at the base. Use your bone folder to even out any wrinkles, and also to define the line between the front cover and the spine. If you have a spine label, use your bone folder to define it. Then repeat with back cover, placing it about one board width from the spine. Make sure to define the line between spine and back cover with your bone folder as well. This will help with the crease/folding.
3. Cut off the paper corners about one board width away from the board's corners. Place glue on one of the inch-wide paper flaps around the boards. Make sure the entire thing is completely wet with glue. Fold it over and flatten with bone folder. Make sure to define creases and edges, and to smooth out all wrinkles. Repeat with the other three flaps.
4. Glue the inner cover paper down to the inside front cover and the spine. Use the bone folder to smooth it out and create spine creases. If you want to have something to

close the book with, you need to add it now. Place a ribbon on the cover before gluing the paper down.

5. Now glue a piece of ribbon on the back cover before gluing down the book. Now it's time to attach the tunnel! Brush glue onto the backside of the last tunnel panel, completely covering it. Then place it down in the center of the inside back cover.
6. Finished! Enjoy your new book!