

The concertina* spine can be combined with other techniques to create some useful and interesting forms. This workshop will start with folding concertinas for accuracy, then move to the construction of a concertina-crown binding—a non-adhesive compound binding with a lovely pleated spine and semi-rigid covers. This structure, while made with a concertina, operates like a codex and does not stretch out like an accordion. It was used on Stephanie's book about the Beaufort wind scale created during her 2015 JCBA residency. We will finish with an examination of some other ways to use the concertina and the crown, building on the information covered. Measurements to make a small set of other concertina models after class will be provided. The concertina-crown binding model will serve as reference for future work. Participants should have solid basic bookbinding skills to get the most out of the workshop. (*an accordion of narrow folds)

Tools

Bone folder

Scissors

X-Acto knife and cutting mat

Bookbinding needle

Piercing tool

2 binder's clips

Scrap paper for gluing

Sheet of copy paper for making a template/jig

Metal ruler, 12"

Right triangle, optional but helpful

Glue brush, 1/4" wide

PVA glue (or for any other white glue is fine, Sobo, Elmer's)

4 pieces of 5x7" blotter paper, or some newsprint or other paper to use as blotter

2 boards about 5x7 or bigger, can be cardboard (not corrugated) or wooden boards

2 weights of some kind to help restrain covers as they dry (books or anything heavyish)

Thread: 9 feet of linen bookbinding thread, or another sturdy thread: button and carpet thread, or perle cotton

Materials

Paper grain should run parallel to the height of all papers.

- 1 piece of 5" high x 12" wide piece of Tyvek. Tyvek has no grain, so just get the best cut from what you have. You can purchase a package of (5) 10"x13" Tyvek catalog envelopes from Staples and cut one of them apart to get this piece if you don't have another source of Tyvek.
- 1 piece of 3.5" high x 12" wide of heavy text weight paper that folds well. Mohawk Superfine or another 80 or 100 lb text paper would work. Or a 65 lb cover weight or card stock.
- 7 pieces of 3.5" high x 8" wide of cardstock, cover weight paper, drawing or printmaking paper.
- 2 pieces of 4.5" high x 10.5" wide of cardstock or cover weight, or watercolor paper (for the cover)
- 3 strips of paper: 3.5" high x 8.5-12" wide
Cut one from a text weight paper (such as a 70 or 80 lb text) or a sketch/drawing paper (such as a 50 lb/74 gsm)
Cut one from a cover weight paper or card stock (such as a 65 or 80 lb cover) or a card stock paper
Cut one from a piece of copy paper
- 1 strip of 5" high x 12" wide piece of text weight paper (such as a 70 or 80 lb text)

NOTE: Card stock (65 lb) paper could be used for all the paper parts of the book if desired, (such as Recollections brand cardstock paper, 65 lb/176 gsm in 12" x 12" sheets from Michael's art store). You also need a piece of Tyvek.