The Layered Accordion
Stephanie Wolff

This structure combines accordions sewn together in multiple layers. It can be displayed as a long accordion, or the front and back covers can be positioned back-to-back to create a carousel shape. Windows can be cut to reveal a story or scene (similar to a tunnel book). Alternatively, the entire book can be treated as a single sculptural object with layers of a less organized design. We will create a basic model in the workshop with page spreads for five panels and cut-out windows. Come with a very simple idea for five scenes or focus on the structure and play with content later. We will fold accordions, sew them together, and use a simple cover method for our models. Ideas to vary the structure and upgrade the details will be addressed for use on future projects.

Paper

Pages:
• (3) sheets text weight paper 3” high x 9.5” wide (front)
• (3) sheets text weight paper 3” high x 10.5” wide (middle)
• (3) sheets text weight paper 3” high x 12.5” wide (back)
Grain direction should be parallel to the height. All these papers should be the same weight, an 80 lb text is ideal. Thinner papers will be more difficult to use. And cover weight will be harder to work with, though 65 card or cover stock should be fine.

Cover/wrapper:
Our pages will become our covers in this model and we’ll discuss various other cover options. If there’s time, we will make a wrapper.
• (1) sheet cardstock (65 or 80 lb) 3” high x 8.5” wide

Closure:
• 24” of thin string, cord, or ribbon are possibilities for a closure for the model, such as linen bookbinding thread, or ribbon that is less than or about 1/8” wide.

Sewing thread:
• 4-6’ of linen bookbinding thread (#18, 25, or 30, unwaxed best), button and carpet thread, or perle cotton

Tools:
• Pencil
• Scissors
• Bone folder
• Binder’s clips, 2
• Metal ruler, 12”
• X-acto knife, or similar craft knife and extra blades
• Self-healing cutting mat
• Glue stick
• Piercing tool or awl
• Right triangle
• Sewing needle with eye to fit thread
• Gridded C-Thru or clear ruler, 2” x 12” (optional but helpful)
• Drawing materials (pens, colored pencils, markers) and collage papers (to add content if desired)
• Scrap paper for gluing
• Any other tools you like to use