



Rubber Band Accordion

The Rubber Band Accordion is a variation on a simple four-panel accordion. By combining multiple panels, it can be adapted to any size or length. This book can be oriented vertically or horizontally, and is ideal for recording data, making lists, timelines, or even storyboards and comic strips. The addition of a rubber band makes an excellent closure, and can also be used to hang the book on a wall.

Grades/Age Group: 4th-12th

Approximate Time Required:

Prep: 30 minutes

Teaching: 30 minutes

Materials needed (sizes can be scaled as desired for your class project needs):

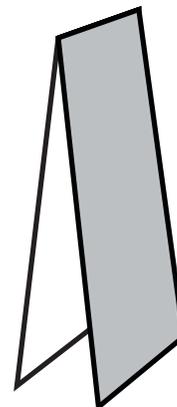
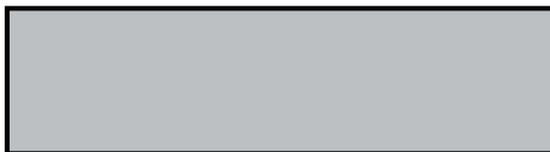
1. 3" x 16" text weight paper, pre-designed or blank (1 per person)
2. 3" x 16 ½" text weight paper, pre-designed or blank (2 per person)
3. 3" x 4" mat board or cover weight paper (2 per person)
4. 1 medium-sized rubber band
5. Glue stick
6. Hole punch

Key Points:

1. This version is designed to use a single sheet of 11" x 17" text weight paper cut into three strips, but can be adapted to any size.
2. Although the number of panels can be adjusted, using an even number is highly recommended. The method demonstrated below uses multiples of 4.
3. For best results, folding should always be done on a flat surface.

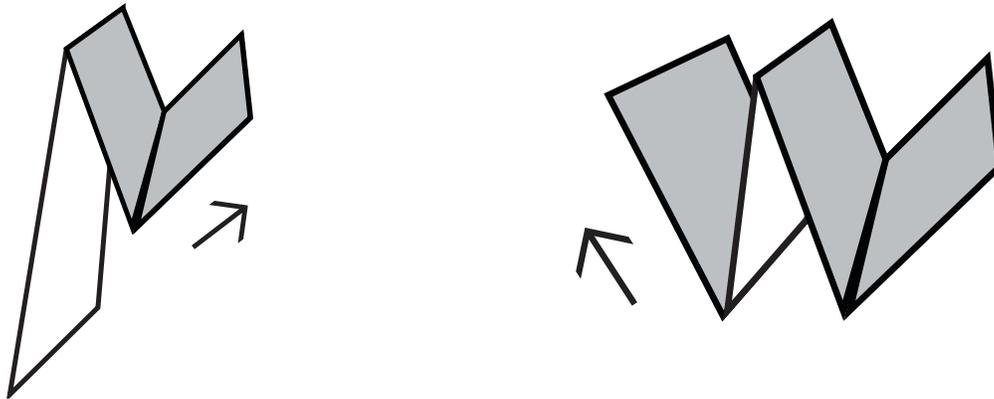
Procedure:

1. Find the last section of the accordion. This will be the shortest strip with no tab at the end. Fold it in half with the printed side facing out. It will look like an upside down V.

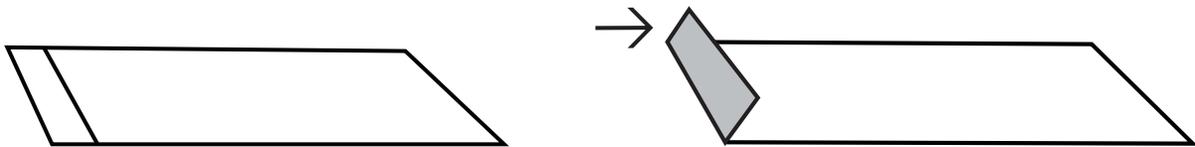




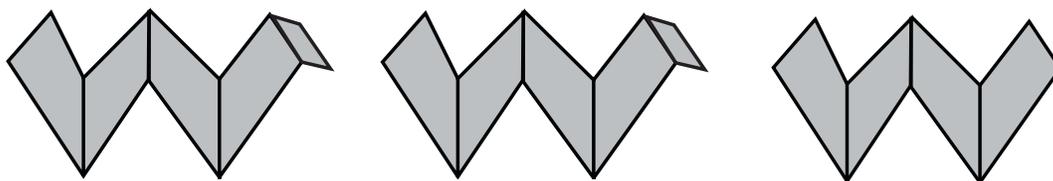
2. Take the right side of your upside down V and fold it upward so that it lines up with the center, and crease. Repeat on the left side. It will look like the letter W.



3. Move on to the other two sections of the accordion. Both should have a 1/2" tab at the end. Fold the tab back and behind the printed side along the dotted line. If tab is not pre-marked, simply measure 1/2" from the edge of the paper before folding.

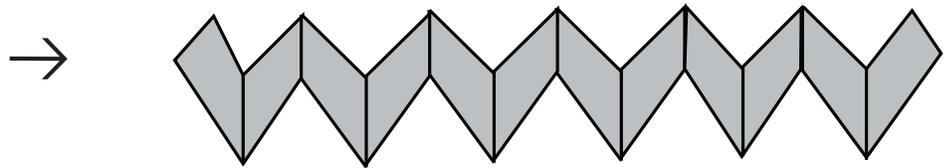
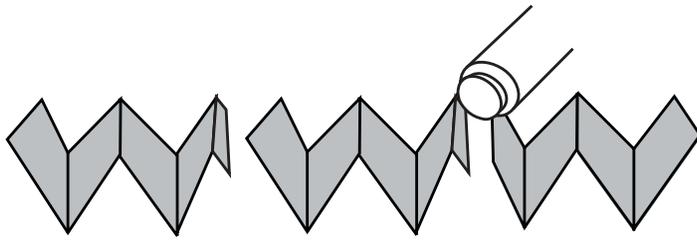


4. Pretend the folded tab isn't there, and repeat step 2 on the second and third strip of paper. The three sections should look like this:

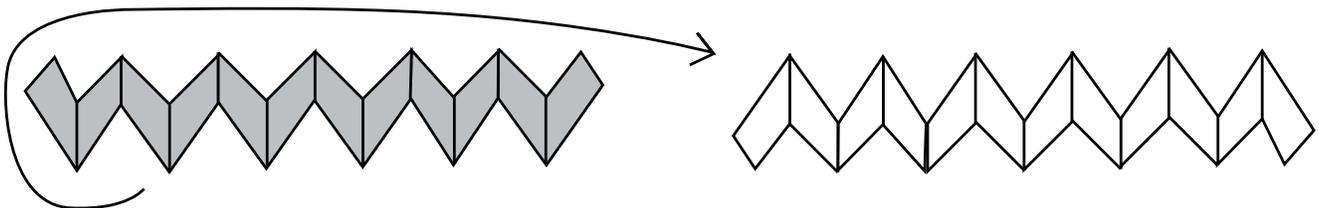




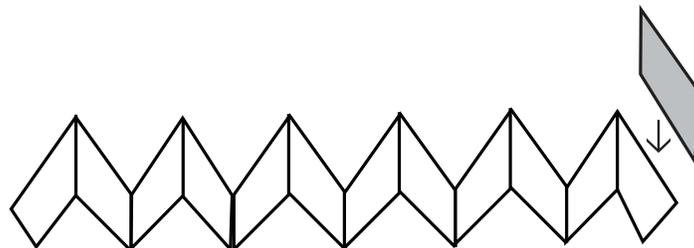
5. Line up the three sections in order. Place the glue on the folded tab only. It will line up with and adhere to the tail end of the following section like this:



6. Turn your book over so that the non-printed side is facing up.

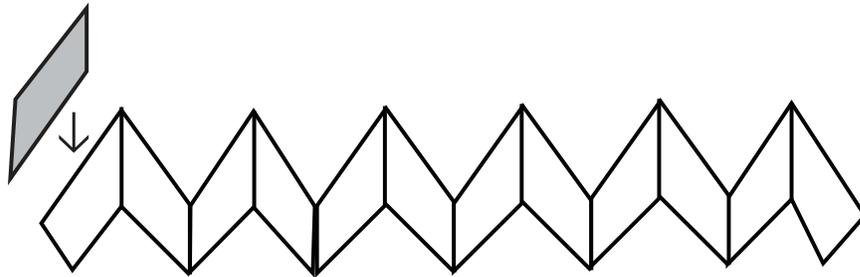


7. Take your cover pieces. Completely cover the blank side of the far-right panel of the accordion with glue. Adhere cover, making sure to align corners and edges.

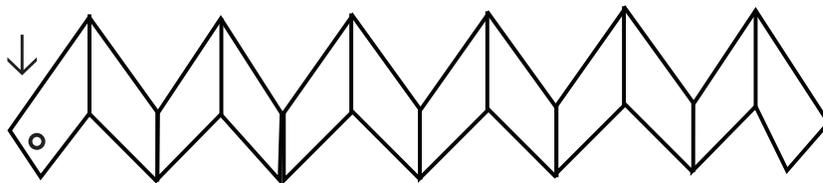




8. Repeat on the left side.



9. Punch a hole in the center near the edge of the far-left panel.



10. Poke rubber band through the hole. Thread one end of the rubber band through the other side, and pull so that it makes a loop around the outside edge of the accordion.
11. Use rubber band as a closure, or to hang the accordion on the wall.

Rubber Band Accordion – Lesson Overview:

Ideas for Innovation:

1. A pre-printed template or blank sheet of paper can be used.
2. The book can be oriented vertically or horizontally.
3. Using an even number of panels will ensure that the covers open properly.
4. Use the paper cut-offs from the accordion sections to put a title on the cover.



Learning Objectives:

1. Students will increase their dexterity skills by folding and gluing accurately.
2. Students will explore new ways to interact with their subject matter.
3. Students will have foundational skills for making simple books on their own.
4. Students will learn about different subjects by creating content for the Rubber Band Accordion.

Core Standard Applications:

Language Arts, Reading:

6th-8th grade Reading: Literature Standard 3. Objective: Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.

Application: Before reading a book with the class, have each student make a Rubber Band Accordion. While the class is reading the novel, ask the students to record any changes or shifts they notice as the plot progresses. Have them observe and record how the characters either respond to or change with the plot. Emphasize the unfolding of the accordion as a reflection of the journey presented in the book. At the end, have the students analyze and summarize their findings.

9-12th grade Reading: Literature Standard 4. Objective: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language evokes a sense of time and place; how it sets a formal or informal tone).

Application: Before reading a book with the class, either assign vocabulary words from the text, or have students select their own as they read. Have students write one word at the top of each panel of the Rubber Band Accordion. As they encounter each vocabulary word throughout their reading, have students determine and record the meaning based on its use in the text, including both figurative and connotative implications. Have them analyze and record why the author chose these words specifically, and how each one impacts meaning and tone.

Language Arts, Writing:

K-12th grade Writing. Objective: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details and well-structured event sequences.

Application: Have students map out the details of their narrative, real or imagined, using the Rubber Band Accordion. Have them record as many details as they can regarding the characters, plot, and setting of their narrative. This may include text as well as visual information such as illustrations or collage. Based on the details they collected, have



students begin writing their narrative. Emphasize the importance of editing and selecting which details are most essential to the narrative.

K-12th grade Writing. Objective: Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.

Application: Have students record the basic details along with a brief description for each of their print and digital sources in the Rubber Band Accordion. Below each synopsis, have students assess the credibility and accuracy of each source. This will allow students to quickly reference sources, as well as determine whether each source is relevant or credible enough to use in their project.

Science:

4th grade Science: Objective: Students will understand that the elements of weather can be observed, measured, and recorded to make predictions and determine simple weather patterns.

Application: Have students use the Rubber Band Accordion as a field guide where they can record facts, data, and observations about the weather, including diagrams. Once they have collected a sufficient amount of data, have them analyze their information for patterns or conclusions.

9-12th grade Chemistry. Objective: Students will understand chemical bonding and the relationship of the type of bonding to the chemical and physical properties of substances.

Application: In the Rubber Band Accordion, have students diagram various elements from the periodic table, showing the number of electron shells and valence electrons. On the reverse side of the accordion, have students predict bond types based on the behavior of the valence electrons. Have them diagram different examples of covalent, ionic, and metallic bonds with respect to electron behavior and relative bond strengths.

Social Studies:

4-12th grade Social Studies. Have students create a timeline to help organize important dates and events throughout history. Encourage them to use this timeline as a basis for further study and writing. Students can then use this information to understand how historical events affect everything from government, to civil rights, to culture and ideas.