#6—Center-Cut Accordion

- Open up paper and refold into hamburger.
- Make one cut (through two layers of paper), from the middle of the folded edge to the intersection of the fold lines.
- Open up paper and refold into hotdog.
- Grasping the two folds on either side of the cut-out, push the folded panels towards each other until they meet.
- Now push the two panels by your left hand around the panels by your right hand, flattening the panels and forming a booklet.

**CENTER-CUT VARIATIONS**

If you don’t flatten your accordion into a booklet, you’ll discover you’ve got a structure with a 3D center. (Look at the third picture to the left.)

You can have some fun by drawing pictures inside and on the outside of this space, turning it into

- Your bedroom
- A pet store
- A theater
- An underwater scene
- A haunted house
- A castle

Here are six booklets that all start out as an ordinary sheet of paper folded into eight panels. Don’t be fooled by their small size: They may fit in the palm of your hand, but kids have filled them with poetry, autobiographies, text and drawings about animal habitats, stories about mysterious chocolate footprints and more!

Easy to learn and instructive to make, single-sheet books are an engaging introduction to bookmaking, presenting skills and structures that kids can use again and again.

**Materials & Tools**

- Plain paper, any size. Larger sizes, like legal (8½ x 14 inches) or tabloid (11 x 17 inches), yield bigger books with more space for children’s handwriting. Source: You can get inexpensive reams of paper at SCRAP, www.scrap-sf.org/, or RAFT, www.raft.net.
- Scissors
- Writing & drawing supplies

**Basic Folds for All Variations**

- Fold paper in half lengthwise (a hotdog fold) so the paper is long and skinny.
- Unfold paper and fold in half again in the opposite direction, matching up the right edge to the left edge (a hamburger fold).
- Leaving the paper folded, bring the top left edge to the fold at the right and crease. Flip the paper over and repeat. Unfolded, the paper now has eight panels, like this:

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"Something quite wonderful happens when you fold a piece of paper in half—it becomes the first step in the journey to a book."

—Paul Johnson, book artist & educator

**#1—Basic Accordion**

- Open up paper and refold to hotdog.
- Fold up the panels into an M-shape …
- … and you have a booklet with a cover and seven panels for text or drawings. No cutting necessary.

Visit www.bookmakingwithkids.com for great book-arts projects

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#2 — Lift-the-Flap Accordion
• Open up your folded paper and cut along three of the creases, from the bottom edge to the middle fold.
• Refold your paper into a hotdog.
• This time when you fold up the panels into an M-shape, your booklet will have four, lift-up flaps.

#3 — T-Cut Accordion
• Open up your folded paper and make a cut in the shape of a T, from the middle edge of one of the long sides to the center and then in both directions along the center crease.
• Refold your paper into a hotdog, with the cut panels on top.
• One of the loose pages is going to become the title page of your booklet; the other loose page will be the back cover.
• Fold the loose page on the right onto the panel to its right. Fold the loose page on the left onto the panel to its left. Now fold up the panels of your booklet into an M-shape just the way you did with the Basic Accordion.

#4 — Long-Cut Accordion
• Open up your folded paper and make one long cut, from the middle edge of one of the short sides along the center crease, stopping when you get to the last panel.
• Refold your paper into a hotdog, with the fold on the right.
• Start folding accordion-style from the left, piling three panels onto the panel with the fold on top.
• Flip the booklet over (with the panels you just folded by your left hand) and fold accordion-style from the right, piling three panels onto the panel with the fold on top.

#5 — Pocket Accordion
• Before doing the basic hotdog/hamburger folds, fold one or both of the sheet’s long edges up to form a pocket about 1½ inches deep.
• Now continue with the folds for the Basic Accordion, Model #1.
• Kids wind up with either four or eight pockets. In the eight-pocket version, cut away the pocket from the top panel to create a title page.
• Cut inserts for the pockets from colored paper or card stock. Questions or glossary terms go on the front of each pocket, artwork goes behind the inserts.

TEACHING TIPS
Color-code the single-sheet books you teach! Use a different color paper for each of these booklets; it’ll help kids tell them apart.

Save each child’s set of booklets in a zippered Bagel. (Or, create a six-page Bagel Book for these models.) That way, each student will have a set of models—physical reminders for folding and cutting each variation—to consult when planning future book projects.