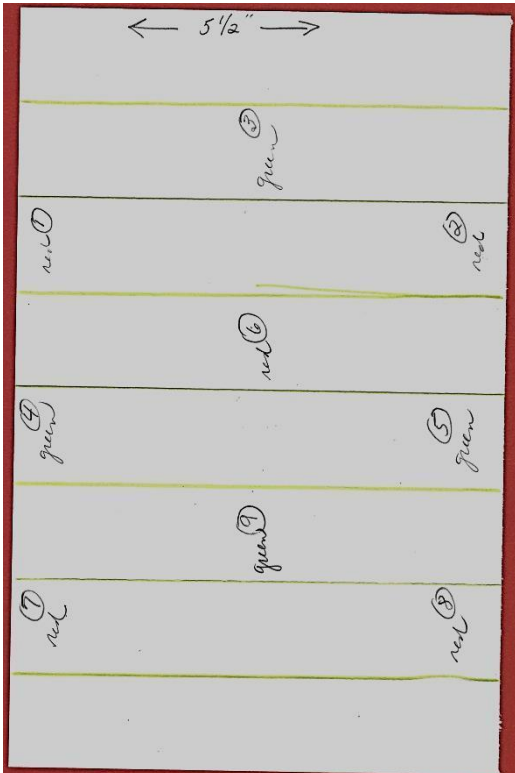


A Basic Flag book with 9 flags

Cut 8 ½" x 11" (grained long) paper in half to size 8 ½ x 5 ½". Make sure grain parallels the spine which is the 5 ½" side.

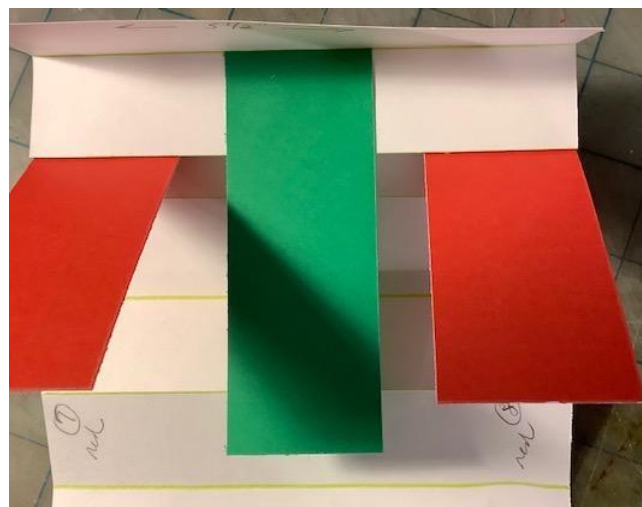
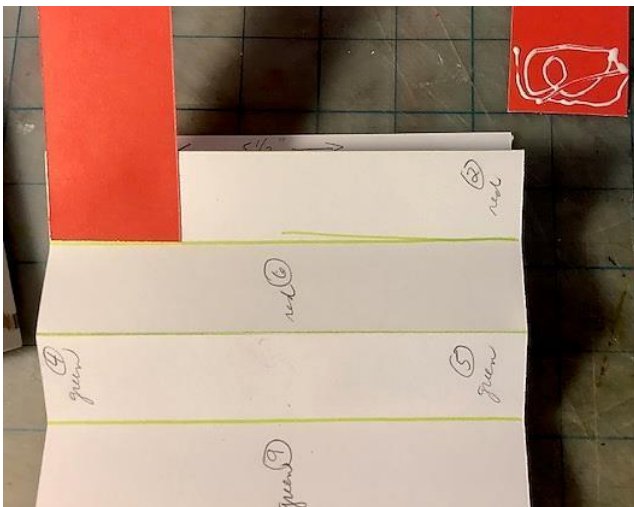


Fold paper in half widthwise. Open and one at a time fold edges into center and crease. Next fold the ends back to the new fold. Keeping things folded turn paper over. Align the folded edges to the center one at a time. Make sure folds are sharp. End result should be an accordion fold that starts with a valley on the left side. There should be 4 valleys (lt. green) and 3 peaks.

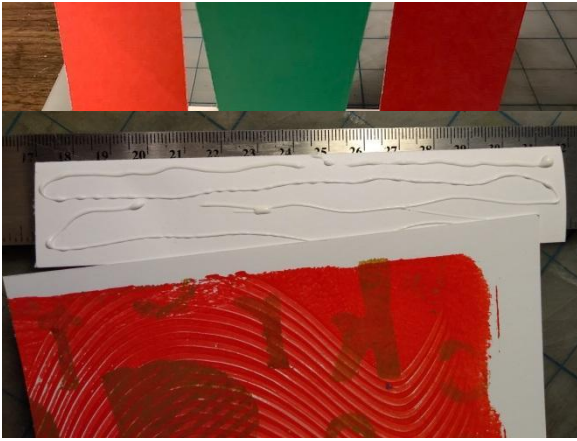
Cut 9 flags 4 1/4" x 1 1/2". Make five flags (red in example) from one color of paper and four (green) from another color. Flags may be trimmed later.

Place accordion in front of you as in this picture. This will be demonstrated but the flags are placed as indicated by the numbers. In this picture the left side is the top of the book and the right side is the bottom of the book. Place #1 on the left side and #2 on the right side and then ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PEAK place #3 between them. Putting the center flag in last helps to center it without measuring. The flag action of the book is accomplished by placing the flags on either side of the accordion folds. Don't worry about covering the glued part of the flag precisely – just get enough on to attach it securely without oozing glue out. Position each flag fairly snugly next to the creases but not in them. Continue placing flags. Bone fold glued areas but don't put under weight to dry as some glue might leak out and seal the book shut. I let mine flutter open and dry that way while preparing the covers.

The book is 5 ½" tall and with the flags is about 4 1/4" wide. The cover sheets need to be 5 ½" tall x 8 ½" wide as each cover will be folded in half to complete the covers.



In the picture on the left the first red flag is glued in place over the #1. The red flag that will be placed over the #2 is glued up and ready to go. Since the accordion spaces are about 1" across, the cutting mat provides a "guesstimate" of where to put the glue on the end of the flag. Try to keep the flags lined up with the top and bottom of the book. The picture on the right shows the green flag in place over the #3 and between the two red flags and on the **opposite side** of the fold.



The first three flags in place and the places where the next set of flags will be placed.

The cover is folded and glued around the first tab of the book. Glue up the underside of the tab and slide the cover into position. Then the cover is folded in half (this may be done before hand) and the inside is glued as shown in the picture to the left. The green tab falling to the left will be held up and the cover glued along the fold next to the two red flags.

Tips: While glue sticks are good for learning the structure, use PVA so the books hold together when used. Use paper with a pattern for the spine so the places where the flags are adhered will be less noticeable. If

something sticks out a little bit trim with a sharp knife and metal ruler. The flags may not all line up at the fore edge as evenly as you'd like so feel free to trim. The book may be made in any size but this sample was made using 8 ½" x 11" paper. As such it doesn't fit into a card sized envelope for mailing. I made card/books that would fit into an envelope using these measurements: Spine 8" x 5 ¼". Covers 8 1/8" x 5 ¼". Flags 1 ½" x 4". Grain is important as this is an accordion fold. Make sure the grain is parallel to the spine so the paper doesn't crack. Fairly thin paper works best. My best feeling book was made using pages from an old atlas. This sample was made using 90# Neenah Exact Index and that was almost too stiff. Make the flags heavier than the spine for a good feel and a snapping noise when they open. Separate the flags by about 1/4" – some directions say 1/8" but that is really tight. Affix flags flush to top and bottom for support when the book stands.

Once the structure is understood all sorts of different sized flags and different materials may be used. Attached is a gallery of structures showing variations made over several years.

Resources and examples of flag book structure

This site should open up to Vintage Page Designs gallery of flag books. Click on the pictures for more information.

<https://vintagepagedesigns.com/flag-book-gallery/>

When the gallery opens the first book shown is one created by Hedi Kyle in 1979. The description calls it the "single most influential structure in the world of contemporary bookmaking."

<https://guildofbookworkers.org/sites/guildofbookworkers.org/files/exhibits/100anniversary/retro/Kyle.shtml>

<https://vintagepagedesigns.com/collaged-flag-book/> Shows a flag book made from a recycled hardbound book.

Alisa Golden in [Making Handmade Books 100+ Bindings Structures and Forms](#) covers several variations of flag books.

Karen Hanmer's article "All Shook Up: Interplay of Image and Text in the flag book Structure" appeared in the Fall 2005 [Bonefolder: an e-journal for the bookbinder and book artist](#) (Volume 2, No 1) starting on page 12. The article is still available

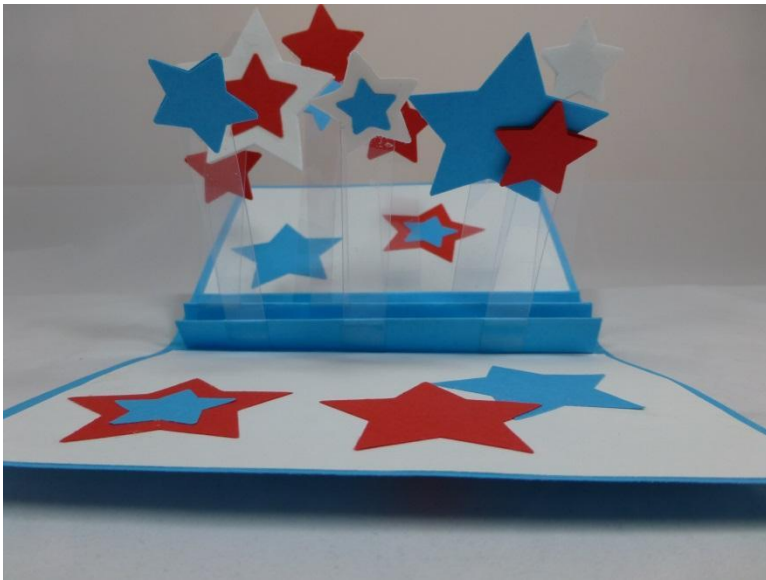
<https://archive.org/details/TheBonefolderE-journalForTheBookbinderAndBookArtist/BonefolderVol2No1/page/n11/mode/2up?view=theater>

Another site for directions and pictures on how to make the structure. <https://www.instructables.com/Flag-Book/>

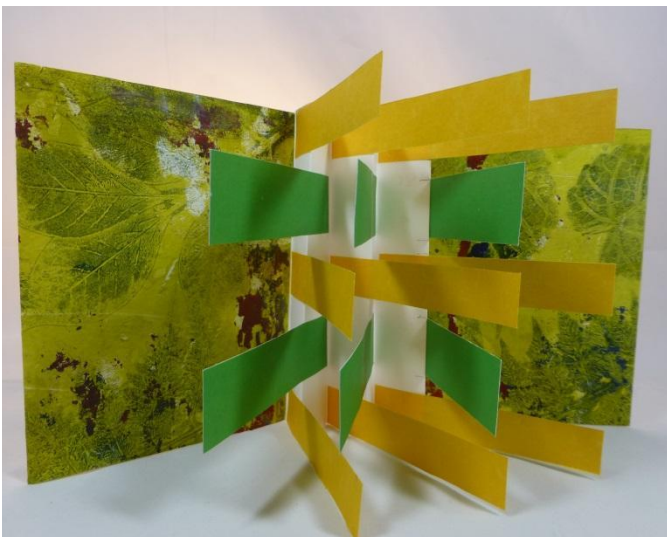
Flag Book Gallery



Twenty-one flags placed to show movement as the book opens. Hard covers are wrapped with paper. Book was made in a workshop with Karen Hanmer. The same picture is used for each of the seven flags but the portion of the picture used shifts to the right 1/2" with each flag.



Ten flags randomly placed on smaller accordion tucked under white "end covers" and adhered to cardstock sized to make a card. Flags are made of heavy acrylic sheet (heavier than transparency sheet) and decorated with cut out shapes. There are only three peaks and two valleys in this variation.



A flag book with 15 flags in it. The yellow flags are 3/4" tall and the green ones are 1" tall. The cover is gel printed leaves on cardstock. The flags don't have to be the same size.



Miniature Flag Book made at a study group led by Margaret Rhein in May 2008. Size is $2\frac{1}{4}$ " high by $1\frac{3}{4}$ " wide. Papers are from security envelopes received in the mail. There are twelve flags in this book – three each on four accordions peaks.

Notice the hard covers, end papers covering the ribbons and decorative back. To make the flags stiffer the paper was doubled and glued together so both sides are decorative.