

# REYNOLDA

## Folded Books – Two Simple Methods

### Project

Learn two methods for creating a simple, folded book, then make books with words and/or drawings.

### Samples



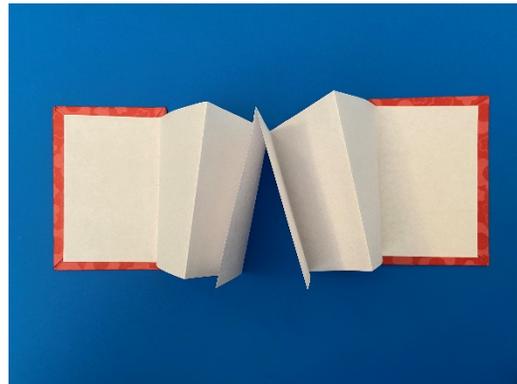
Two sample X-books



An X-book, unfolded



An accordion or "pants" book with hard cover



"Pants" book with hard cover, unfolded

### Inspiration

Katharine Reynolds came from a family of readers, and her daughter Nancy carried on the tradition. While still only a teenager, Nancy collected first editions. Listen to a portion of an interview that Nancy gave in which she remembers a story about collecting a first edition (a book from the very first time it was printed) and her uncle Will, her guardian, having a question about the price. Find the oral history here: <https://reynolda.ocell.com/en/books-167138.html>

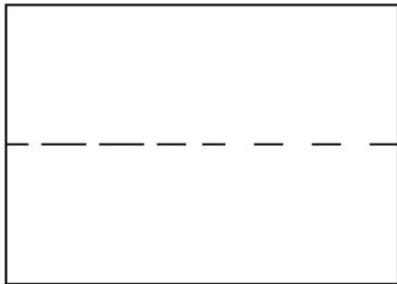
# Simple X-Fold Book

## Materials

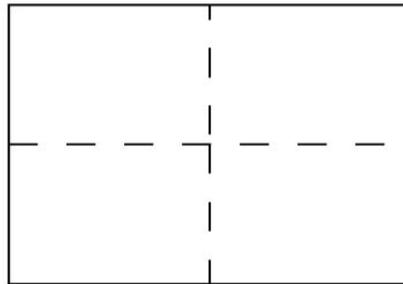
- Piece of rectangular paper (the larger your paper, the larger your book pages can be)
- Scissors
- *Optional:* bone folder or ruler to crease folds more sharply

## Process

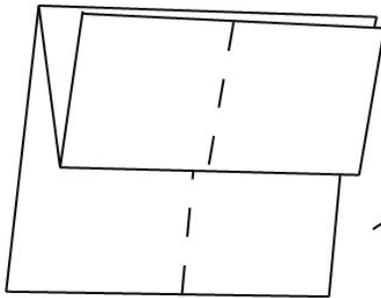
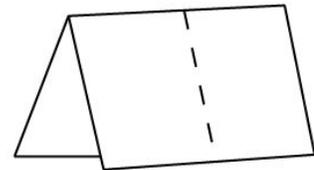
For video instructions, find this episode on [Reynolda's YouTube page](#).



Fold paper in half, lengthwise. Unfold.



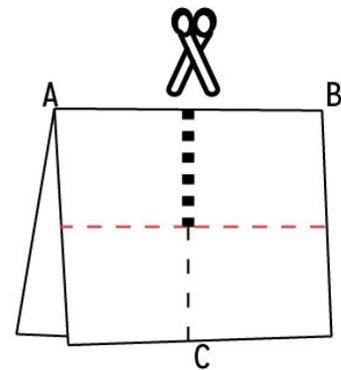
Fold paper in half, widthwise.



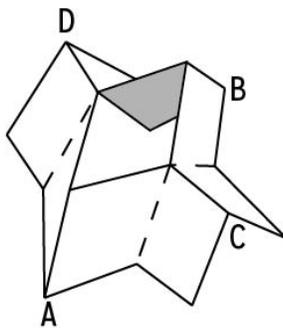
Fold bottom edge of top flap to meet folded edge in the middle of the paper. Crease.



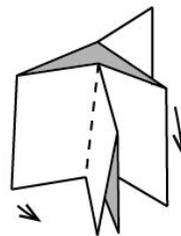
Flip and repeat with other flap. Unfold partway.



Cut along the heavy dotted lines. Follow the middle crease made by the first fold as you cut but stop cutting as soon as you reach the perpendicular fold (in red.)



Grab the corners A + B and push down until the underside of the paper meets and forms a star.



Bring all flaps together and flatten into a book. Crease with ruler or bone folder.



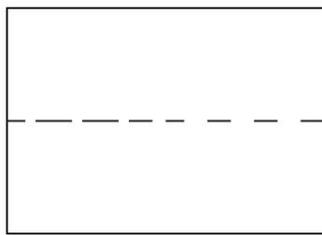
# Simple Folded Book, "Pants" Book, Accordion style book variation

## Materials

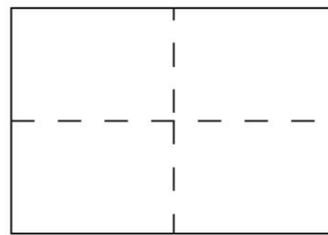
- Piece of rectangular paper (the larger your paper, the larger your book pages can be)
- Scissors
- *Optional:* bone folder or ruler to crease folds, cardboard or mat board for two covers (cut about 1/4" longer on each side, or 1/2" longer in each dimension, than your book page), ruler, pencil, decorative paper (cut about 1/2" longer on each side, or 1" longer in each dimension, than your cardboard or matboard covers), glue stick or [PVA bookbinding glue](#) and a brush

## Process

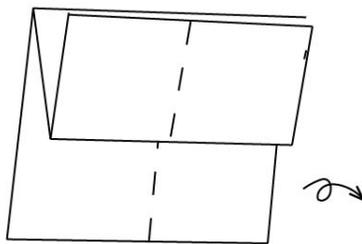
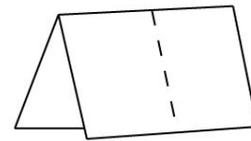
For video instructions, find this episode on [Reynolda's YouTube page](#).



Fold paper in half, lengthwise. Unfold.



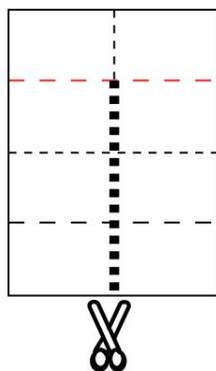
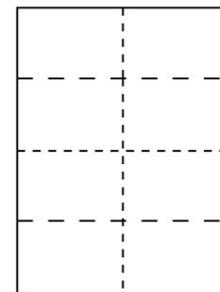
Fold paper in half, widthwise.



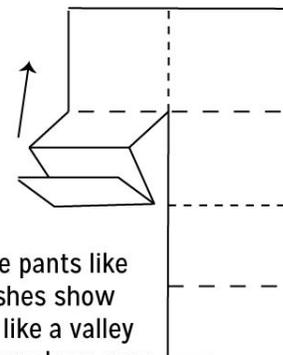
Fold bottom edge of top flap to meet folded edge in the middle of the paper. Crease.



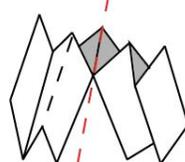
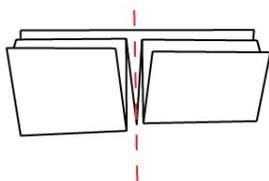
Flip and repeat with other flap. Unfold.



Cut along the heavy dotted lines. Follow the middle crease made by the first fold, and cut 3/4 of the length. Stop cutting when you reach the perpendicular fold (in red.)

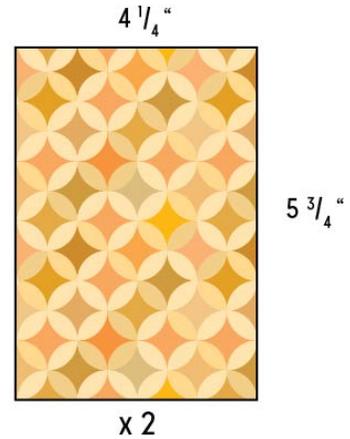
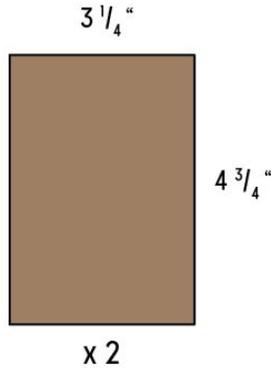
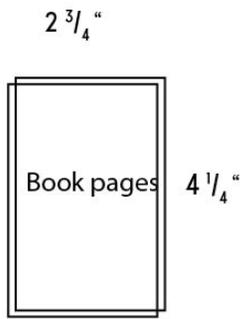


Fold up the left "leg" of the pants like an accordion (the long dashes show where you will have folds like a valley and the short dashes show where your folds will be like a mountain).



Repeat with the right "leg" then fold the book in half along the red dotted line. Collapse fully to make your book.

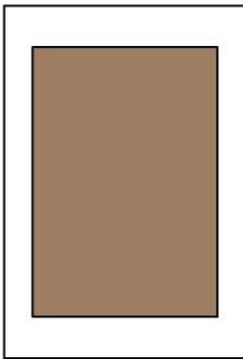
Optional: Add decorative hard cover to “pants book”



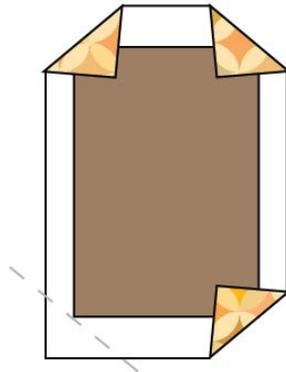
If you used an 8 1/2 x 11" piece of paper, your finished book should be 2 3/4 x 4 1/4"

Cut two pieces of **cardboard** or mat board 1/2" longer in each dimension (so 3 1/4" x 4 3/4" inches if your book was from an 8 1/2 x 11" sheet).

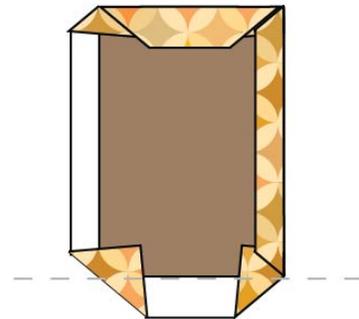
Cut two pieces of **decorative paper** about 1" longer in each dimension (so 4 1/4" x 5 3/4" inches if your book was from an 8 1/2 x 11" sheet).



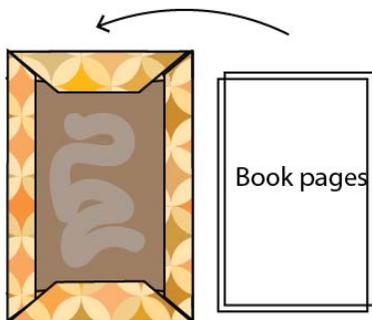
Glue cardboard to center of back side of your decorative cover paper (the side you don't want to show).



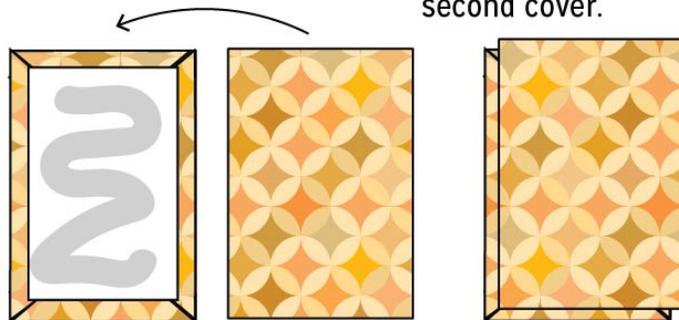
Fold in all four corners--as close to the cardboard as you can--and glue down.



Fold in each side, tight against the cardboard. Glue in place. Repeat with second cover.



Glue one outer edge of your book pages to one cover.



Glue the second cover board to the other outer edge of your book pages to complete your book.

**Continue this activity:** Now that you have a book, what will you put inside it? Here are some ideas to get you started:

- **All About Me:** Draw a self-portrait on a piece of paper, then make an X-book so that your self-portrait is hidden inside. On each page of your book, write something about you or draw a picture to represent who you are and what you like. Hint: if you are using thin paper, use colored pencils or plain pencil when you draw; marker would bleed through and make it hard to read your book pages!
- **Trip Journal:** Make a book about a trip you made. If you use the X-book form, you could draw a map on the hidden inside portion and write about your trip on the pages on the outside portion. If you use the “pants” book form and make a cover for it, you could use a paper map to cover your cardboard covers.
- **Copy Book:** Find poems or quotes you love and type them up in the template below. Print out those pages then cut your text and paste it inside a book.
- **Nature Journal:** Use a simple x-book or “pants” book as a tiny, portable sketchbook. As you explore the outside world, make sketches and take notes of the things you observe.

**TIP:** Use the template on the next few pages if you want to type text to then print and cut out to paste in your book. When you print, you can select just those pages to print out, rather than print the whole document.

Share your creations on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram with #ReynoldaatHome

Directions:

Type or paste the text for each page of your book into one of the boxes below then print and cut inside the dotted lines. Here are a few poems to get you started, but you could also just type on pages 2 and 3 and only print those pages.

**Halfway Down**

by A. A. Milne

Halfway down the stairs  
Is a stair  
Where I sit.  
There isn't any  
Other stair  
Quite like  
It.  
I'm not at the bottom,  
I'm not at the top;  
So this is the stair  
Where  
I always  
Stop.

Halfway up the stairs  
Isn't up  
And it isn't down.  
It isn't in the nursery,  
It isn't in town.  
And all sorts of funny thoughts  
Run round my head.  
It isn't really  
Anywhere!  
It's somewhere else  
Instead!

Bees are Black, with Gilt Surcingles —  
Buccaneers of Buzz.  
Ride abroad in ostentation  
And subsist on Fuzz.

Fuzz ordained — not Fuzz contingent —  
Marrows of the Hill.  
Jugs — a Universe's fracture  
Could not jar or spill.

--Emily Dickinson

**This Is Just To Say**

by William Carlos Williams

I have eaten  
the plums  
that were in  
the icebox

and which  
you were probably  
saving  
for breakfast

Forgive me  
they were delicious  
so sweet  
and so cold



