



The Amulet

This book form is an amulet with secret contents tucked inside. Its name comes from a line in Lisa Bickmore's poem, *Inquiry Method*, offered at SLCC's commencement: "Another / holds hope like a small amulet he dares / not show anyone." My writing students write letters to themselves expressing the hopes they hold. Then they create amulets out of their letters and find a way to keep them safe. --Char Howe

Materials & Tools:

A square sheet of paper (any size) and a bone folder

1. Fold paper in half diagonally, creasing well. Unfold. Fold in half along the other diagonal, creasing well. Unfold to reveal an "X" shaped crease pattern.
2. Fold into thirds horizontally. Unfold. Fold into thirds vertically. Unfold. You should now have a crease pattern that looks like a tic-tac-toe board with an "X" going through it. Write your message on this side of the paper.
3. Flip your paper over. Fold the bottom right corner up to meet the top left corner of the center square. **Crease only in the bottom middle square, then unfold.**
4. Rotate the paper 90 degrees. Repeat the previous step on 4 sides.



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5. Place the white side face up. The first set of folds you made are valley folds. The final folds you made in the middle side squares are short mountain folds. Pinch the outer edge of one of the short mountain folds and move it towards the center. Rotate the paper a quarter turn and do the same to the next short mountain fold. Continue in this way until the paper has collapsed into a pinwheel shape.



6. Gently press the creases flat to create a four-pointed star.



7. Start to close the square by folding the bottom point up. Rotate a quarter turn and fold the next point up.

Continue until all 4 points have been folding into the middle to create a square.



8. Weave the points over and under each other and tuck the final point in to close up the square form. Et voila! You've made an amulet!

The Meander Accordion



The Meander Accordion is a wandering form well-suited to narrative and stories, convolutions, and surprise. As a one-sheet book form, it is quick and easy to make, but it also invites innovations and complications like sewn-in signatures and pop-up pockets.

If you use a piece of 12x12 paper, you'll get 16 pages on each side of the meander, with each page measuring 3x3. To make the basic form, you make 6 folds and three cuts. It does not matter which way you hold the paper, the result is the same.

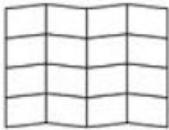
The form makes a turn at pages 4/5, 8/9 and 12/13. You can glue pages these pages together, create pockets out of them, or sew in signatures of multiple pages for additional embedded stories.

The only tricky parts of making a Meander Accordion are laying out the text and making the cuts. Here's a diagram of the layout with the cuts indicated by the heavier black lines. Once you've folded and cut the paper, don't panic if you have to reverse a few of the folds. And then... let the form call forth the stories of your meandering life. Where are the embedded explanations? Where are the surprises? The twists and turns? Be prepared to be swept away by this form in an extended meander!

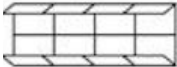
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8	7	9	5
9	10	11	12
16	15	14	13

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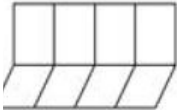
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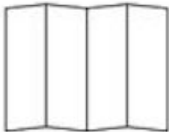
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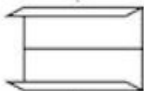
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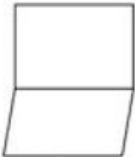
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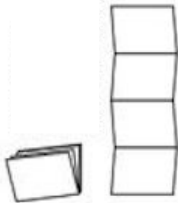
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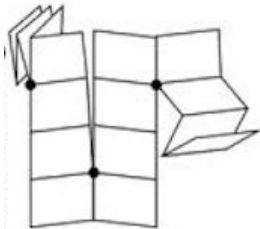
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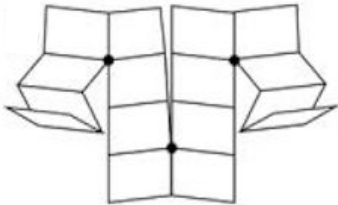
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