

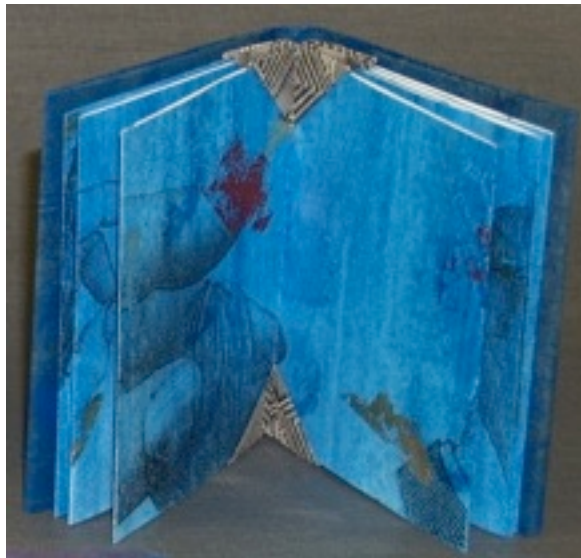
# Workshops by Eric Alstrom | BookWorks

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This is a partial list of workshops I teach. The focus of this list is “specialty” classes, where there is a specific theme or outcome. I can also teach workshops in most styles and periods of binding as well as other basic skills such as paste paper design. Please contact me for further details.

## Interlocking Concertinas



Books can be sewn, glued or folded together, but they can also be woven like a piece of fabric. The books in this workshop fall into the latter category; they will all be held together by weaving or interlocking the paper to a concertina spine. Utilizing techniques devised by Claire Van Vliet, Hedi Kyle and the instructor, several structures will be taught which will expand the ways in which you bind a book. We'll leave it up to you to weave the story to fill the pages.

This is a 1 very full day workshop. It could be split into two  $\frac{3}{4}$  days and be a bit more relaxed. Four or five models (depending on the timing), and accompanying templates, are made. Image available at

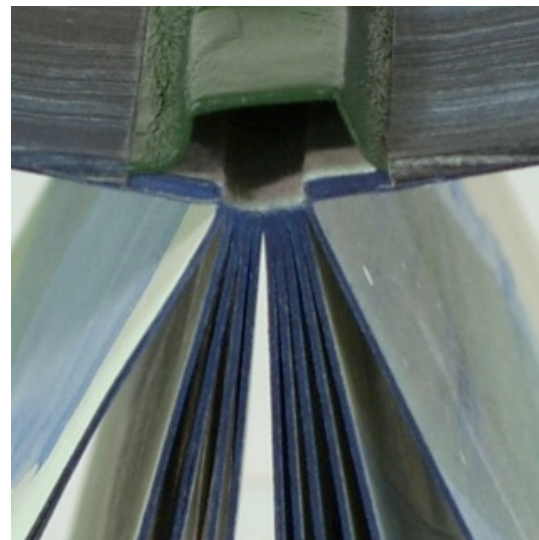
<[http://webalstrom.ftml.net/bookworks/workshops/interlocking\\_concertina.jpg](http://webalstrom.ftml.net/bookworks/workshops/interlocking_concertina.jpg)>.

## Drum Leaf Binding

Turn your books into a canvas. Turn your canvas into a book! The drum leaf binding is unique in that you do not have signatures and thread to interfere with across-the-fold images, calligraphy and type. Each folio is adhered, or drummed, on to the next to create a book of any size or length. Created by Tim Ely, noted book artist for his painted and drawn manuscripts, this book structure can open new possibilities for turning your art work into the book format. We will talk about other across-the-fold book structures and how to best use these books to their full potential.

This is a 1 day workshop. Students will make one model and I will discuss variations they can do at home. Images available at

<<http://webalstrom.ftml.net/bookworks/workshops/drumleaf.html>>.



## Artistic Adhesive Bindings

Forget everything you know about adhesive "perfect" bindings and learn how to make the perfect adhesive binding! In this class we will make two bindings using the double fan adhesive method, which creates a strong and durable binding if done correctly. The first binding will be with a cloth "quarter joint" binding; the second will be a "tightback" with a leather spine. The advantage to adhesive bindings is the flexibility in creating the pages: loose sheets of paper can be easily printed, placed in order and bound. Perfect for an edition or a one off. The finished books will be attractive, artistic and, most importantly, strong and durable.

This is a 1 day workshop where students will make a model of the two styles. Images of this structure is available at <http://webalstrom.ftml.net/bookworks/gallery/artistsbooks/calendars/files/page17-1003-full.html>

## False Accordion

The false accordion presents a unique structure which is easy to make, gives the artist a lot of lee-way in creation and display, and is elegant, too. A series of folded pages are made into an accordion which is then hinged into its cover. The cover is made with separately attached panels on the front and back, allowing a variety of media to be used. The finished book can be read in the traditional, turn-the-page mode or spread out to see the entire structure all at once.

This is a ½ day workshop. It could be combined with other structures (the Drum Leaf is a good compliment) or used as a spring board for creating a collaborative project among the students. If the later, access to a Vandercook, Gocco printer, or other artistic mediums would be required. Image available at [http://webalstrom.ftml.net/bookworks/workshops/false\\_accordion.jpg](http://webalstrom.ftml.net/bookworks/workshops/false_accordion.jpg). This also shows some of the Vandercook alternative printing processes.

## Bucknaked Sewnboards Binding

*Also known as the "Ethiopian-style Sewn Boards Binding with a Leather Spine"*



Do the bucknaked binding without removing a stitch. This simple, but elegant, binding offers many possibilities for one-of-a-kind books and small editions. Based on ancient bindings found in Egypt and Ethiopia, this modern adaptation is durable, easy to bind, and practical. In this hands-on technique class, you will learn how to choose the right materials, sew the textblock, and finish it with a leather spine. We will complete one binding in this class. Then you'll be able to do the bucknaked binding in the privacy of your own home!

This is a 1 full day workshop. The name and description can be changed if it's too risqué. This is the name of the binding as I learned it and when I taught it for college students, it caught their attention! Samples of this binding can be seen at <http://webalstrom.ftml.net/bookworks/gallery/artistsbooks/garamond/garamond.html> and

<http://webalstrom.ftml.net/bookworks/gallery/artistsbooks/futility/futility.html>.

## Basic Bookbinding for the Kitchen Table Studio

The individuality and beauty of handmade books provide a rare treat for the maker and those who view and handle it. During this hands-on class, you will discover the personal satisfaction of binding your own hardcover book. The class will cover all aspects of basic bookbinding, from sewing the pages to making the cover to creating your own unique volume. You'll be shown a variety of examples to stimulate your imagination and creative processes. By the end of the course, each participant will have completed a blank book with a Braedel-style case binding to take home for themselves or for a gift. Future projects that you can perform at home and the properties of paper and other bookbinding materials will also be discussed.

This could be a 2 day workshop or a 4 evening class workshop (9 to 10 hours total). The project is fairly generic (a blank book), but the focus is on a technique that can be done at home without too much extra equipment or tools. I add a few extra embellishments (such as a recessed picture in the cover) as well. Images available at <http://webalstrom.ftml.net/bookworks/gallery/workshop/basicbinding/basicbinding.html>.

## Japanese Books and Boxes

In this class we will explore the Japanese-style of bookbinding. Projects will include several styles of sewing, making a traditional manuscript binding, and a box to hold the books. We will start out with a simple stab-sewn binding, the basis for more complex sewing patterns. Using a variety of Japanese papers, we will make the manuscript binding, which includes weaving the thread and making a limp-paper cover. Finally we will make a wraparound box with bone-clasp closures and Japanese brocade cloth. Time permitting, we will also make some sewing cards as practice samples of more complex sewings.

This is a 1 full day workshop. The topic is fairly standard, but the hitch is the 3 books and some sewing cards all which will fit into the box they learn how to make. Materials and technique are all pretty much authentic. Images available at [http://webalstrom.ftml.net/bookworks/workshops/japanese\\_binding.jpg](http://webalstrom.ftml.net/bookworks/workshops/japanese_binding.jpg).



## 4 Needle Book

Both of these books make use of a variation of the traditional Coptic sewing technique. The four needle book uses four separate needles to sew the pages and includes a unique cover attachment using a surprisingly simple technique of a folded flap. A variation using six needles will also be taught, where the thread colors are different adding to the artistic design. One of your multiple signature books will be covered with a decorative Tyvek.

This is a 1 day workshop, although it often finishes early. It is possible to add more decorative elements, such as other paste paper/Tyvek painting techniques. Images available at <[http://webalstrom.ftml.net/bookworks/workshops/four\\_needle.jpg](http://webalstrom.ftml.net/bookworks/workshops/four_needle.jpg)>

## 7 Single Sheet Structures

Fold, crease, spindle (but do not mutilate) single sheets of paper into intricate books. This class will show you seven different folded book structures all made from single sheets of paper. From the models made in class, you can dream up infinite variations at home. The books you will make include: single sheet pamphlets, pocket books, blizzard books, and a book in a box. Besides using paper, tyvek is an excellent material for making folded books. Decorating tyvek with acrylics will be covered. There will be time to explore each structure and make your own fantastically decorated books. Students should bring drawing and collage materials. Instructor will provide all paper and tyvek.

This is a 1 full day workshop. It is focused not only on the models, but making books to take home. I have planned creative time between each project and provide lots of materials (or they could go upstairs to buy that perfect sheet of paper from you!). Sample instruction sheet available at <<http://webalstrom.ftml.net/bookworks/workshops/workshops.html>>.

## 8 Books in a Box

Before this workshop is over, the origami box you make will be filled with eight beautiful handmade books. Using only paper and thread, you will make a variety of non-adhesive soft-covered books. Three major categories will be covered: origami books, accordion books, and sewn pamphlets. These books are easy to make as well as versatile, so they can be applied to many different types of projects at home or in the studio.

This is a 1 full day workshop. It is models-only with no time left over for individual projects. The materials fee on this is fairly steep because of all the pre-cut pieces we use. Sample instruction sheet and images available at <<http://webalstrom.ftml.net/bookworks/workshops/workshops.html>>.

## To 3D or not to 3D: That is the Flexagon

Imagine a book which folds in on itself creating a myriad of random pathways to and from the beginning, the end and everything in between. That is the flexagon: a folded book which turns and contorts and reveals its different faces to the reader. In this class we will learn how to make several different hexaflexagons, tetraflexagons and 3D book structures, including a cosmic donut. There will be time to explore each structure and make your own fantastically decorated flexagons. Students should bring drawing and collage materials. Instructor will provide tools, paper and other materials to make the flexagons. Come prepared to get flexible and leave turned inside out.

This is a 1 full day workshop.

## Binding in Multiples: Editions of your artists books

This week long intensive will introduce you to the world of book editions. Unlike a single one-of-a-kind book, editions force you to think of ways to do the same thing over and over with a minimum of time and effort. The result is a run of a couple to a couple hundred books, all the same, which you can give to friends and family, sell to collectors or exhibit in museums.

In this class, we will first make models of two binding styles which lend themselves to small editions: the bucknaked sewnboards binding and the four needle book. The bucknaked sewnboards binding is an easy but elegant binding with a leather spine. The four needle book is a variation on the coptic stitch, but suited for easy editioning. Both are based on historical models almost 2000 years old, but suited for modern-day books.

You will then choose one of these to use for your edition of three. Your edition could be a memoir, a photo journal, an alphabet book or any thing you like. For the edition, we will discuss ideas, methods, and tricks on how to make more than one without going crazy... and then go crazy making editions.

Tools and basic materials will be supplied by the instructor, but depending on your ideas, you may need to bring some of your own.

This is a full week class. Instruction takes place mostly during the first two days. Then the rest of the time is spent working on an edition of three. Of course knowledge is imparted and traded throughout the week. This class takes a lot of energy to teach but also generates a lot of energy. And having a supply source right upstairs would make your shop a perfect venue for this class. Since I would have to take time off work (as would the students), we need to plan this way in advance. That is if you want to take on a class of this length.

## Gocco Printing workshop

Nothing definite for this one, but I do have a Gocco printer and have taught workshops using it. The most fun one culminated in a group project of an ABC book, where everyone one took on a letter or two and we produced an edition of about 40, so all the class members could have 4 or 5 copies to take.

## Alternative Vandercook Printing Processes

Another amorphous workshop idea, but I can teach some printing processes which use the Vandercook for creating images and designs, rather than for letterpress printing. This could be easily combined with the False Accordion for a full day workshop or other structures for multi-day workshops.



## Conservation Courses

I teach conservation-oriented workshops as well, including basic and advanced book repair, simple paper repair techniques, tightback and hollowback board reattachment using Japanese papers, and others.