

MAKE & CREATE

An Accordion Memory Book for One Small Story



A PRACTICAL COMPANION TO THE GUIDE

Fold a six-panel memory book with a clear story sequence, photo-safe choices, and a printable planning workbook for a keepsake you can finish in an afternoon.

HOW TO USE THESE PAGES

- 01 Read the guide and choose one manageable starting point.
- 02 Complete the six exercises with details from your own home.
- 03 Return to the record and keep the adjustment that helped.

Small enough to begin. Specific enough to use again.

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EXERCISE 01



Bound the story

Write the subject in one sentence and list what this book will leave for another project. Name the person who will read it. Choose one moment or object that can carry the sequence. If the subject expands while you work, return to the sentence before adding panels. A deliberate boundary gives the finished book a clearer identity and a realistic ending.

YOUR WORKING RECORD

DECISION / NEXT ACTION / CHECK DATE

EXERCISE 02

Check permission and copies

List photographs, quotations, and private details you may include. Mark whether you have permission for the intended audience. Identify originals that should be copied and stored separately. Record any restrictions on sharing or photographing the finished book. A keepsake should preserve a memory without taking away another person's choice about how their story circulates.

YOUR WORKING RECORD

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EXERCISE 03



Map the six panels

Sketch place, object, moment, voice, meaning, and open question in order. Assign one image or text element to each. Keep the first arrangement loose. Check whether a reader unfamiliar with the occasion can follow it. If two panels repeat the same information, give one a different job rather than filling it with another decorative element.

YOUR WORKING RECORD

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EXERCISE 04

Write useful captions

Draft names, dates, locations, and actions that the images cannot explain alone. Label uncertainty honestly. Distinguish direct quotations from paraphrases and your interpretation from someone else's feelings. Read the captions aloud and shorten any that crowd the page. Comfortable reading size is more valuable than squeezing every remembered detail into a tiny block of text.

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EXERCISE 05



Test the paper structure

Record panel size, fold positions, joins, and cover dimensions. Fold an undecorated test and check that the stack closes. Note where embellishments could interfere with folds. Keep a small adhesive test if the paper is unfamiliar. Solve construction problems before attaching photographs, especially when you have only one printed copy available for the final project.

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EXERCISE 06

Plan the final handoff

Write the title, maker's name, completion date, and any care or sharing note. Decide whether to make an agreed digital record. Check that the closure can be removed without damaging the panels. Choose a stopping point: six readable panels and a sound structure. Finishing a small book is a meaningful outcome even if the larger family archive remains unfinished.

YOUR WORKING RECORD

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