

**HOW-TO-PROJECT: A Tunnel Book**

by Edward H. Hutchins

Illustration 1

Books are often a pile of pages between two covers. Bound together on one side, they open and you read the pages. But imagine a book with pages bound along two opposite sides. How could you read it? How could you unlock the message within?

If it's a tunnel book, the answer is easy. You'd pull the pages apart on their side hinges and look through holes cut through the center of the pages. Tunnel books, derived from the traveling peep shows of the last century, hold interesting and challenging design opportunities.

Carol Barton, who teaches tunnel book classes, has created many herself. In *Everyday Road Signs*, the side hinges are placed top and bottom so the bottom hinges open up to become a highway. In Lois Morrison's book, *My Garden from Weeding Height*, you not only look through a tangle of vegetation, but the flowers continue to angle off the sides of the panels.

The largest tunnel book I have is *Octopus* by Elizabeth McDevitta and Julie Chen. It is 10-1/2" x 13-1/2" and opens a whopping 30". By contrast, the smallest is *A Peep-Show Alice* by Maryline Poole Adams. A set of two tunnel books based on Alice's adventures, each measures 3" x 2-1/4". In *A Maze in Mystery*, you look through a garden gate and maneuver the side hinges back and forth to look around and over hedges to solve a murder mystery.

In one of my tunnel books, *Grandma's Closet*, a look through a keyhole reveals treasures that grandma has collected over the years. Recently I did *Tunnel of Love*, where the text jumps from panel to panel as you look through a galaxy of hearts.

Here is a pattern and instructions for making a tunnel book from just one sheet of paper. There are a couple of ways to do this, but this way has some advantages. It's printed on only one side and it creates panels that are double thick (stronger) and side hinges that are single thick (flexible). Also, since the pattern is long and thin, you can fit two on a sheet. I paired a view out a window on the same sheet with a view in a window.

Ed Hutchins is a prolific book artist whose work has been exhibited at Pyramid Atlantic in Washington, D.C. Hutchins describes himself as "an artist with a college degree, who has been a clerk, clown, foot soldier, bookkeeper, soda jerk, graphic artist and poet." Write him at Editions, PO Box 895, Cairo, NY 12413.

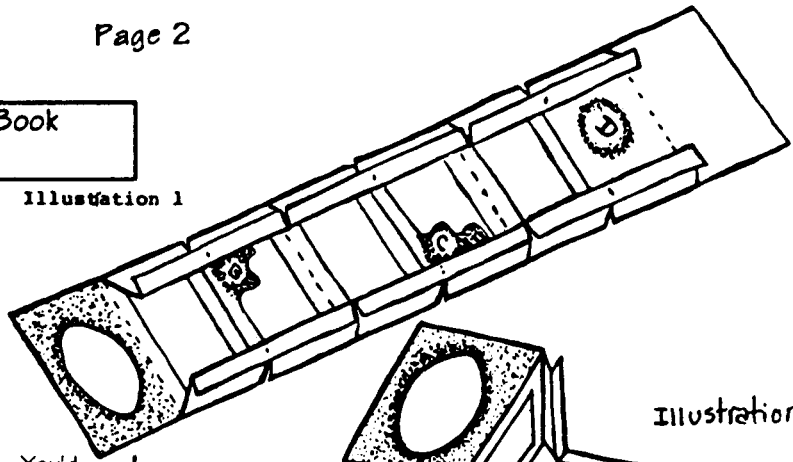


Illustration 2

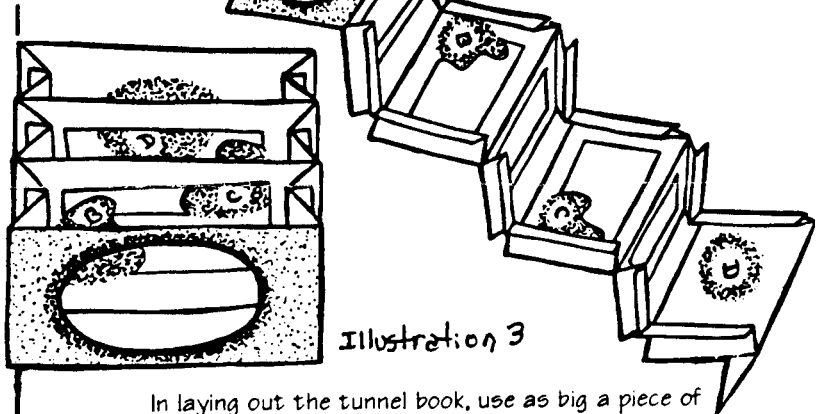


Illustration 3

In laying out the tunnel book, use as big a piece of paper as possible. Ledger paper (11" x 17") works well, but a roll of butcher paper is even better. The model here is for a four-panel tunnel book. Each panel has a front side that you see and a back frame that folds behind and is glued to it for strength. Along each side is a strip of hinges and tabs.

When your book is designed, score all of the folds and be careful making the cuts. Where a frame folds back behind a panel, you cut from the panel across the hinge and tab on each side. Between panels, you cut from one tab all the way across to the opposite tab. Do not cut across the tabs here, just between them.

To assemble your book, valley fold the hinge strips on each side to the center. Then mountain fold the tab strips back to the outsides. See illustration 1.

Start with the front panel. Mountain fold the back reinforcing frame behind. Valley fold the connecting tabs so that the next panel (B) lines up behind the front cover. Continue folding the reinforcing frames behind and the connecting tabs up. See illustration 2.

To finish the book, glue the reinforcing panels in place and the connecting tabs together. The finished book will look like illustration 3.

R-FRONT (FRONT COVER)    R-BACK    B-FRONT    B-BACK    C-FRONT    C-BACK    D-FRONT    D-BACK (BACK COVER)

