Proposal for Emoji: ACCORDION

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1. Identification
   A. Short Name: ACCORDION
   B. Keywords: ACCORDION | SQUEEZE BOX | CONCERTINA

2. Images
   Credit: Aphee Messer / Emojination.
   License: Free to use in the context of this proposal.

3. Sort location
   A. Category: Musical-Instrument
   B. ACCORDION should come after: DRUM-WITH-DRUMSTICKS.

4. Reference Emoji
   Reference emoji for evidence of frequency is: NECKTIE.
Abstract

This proposal requests the addition of the "ACCORDION" to the Unicode emoji library. Accordions\(^1\) are musical instruments in the free-reed aerophone\(^2\) family. They are popular in many countries and cultures around the world. "Accordion" is also often used metaphorically to describe things that expand or contract, ie. "accordion effect,"\(^3\) "accordion menu,"\(^4\) "accordion fold." Like the existing Drum emoji __, an accordion emoji would be useful in multicultural musical and other discussions where no other emoji now serves.

\(^1\) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Accordion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Accordion)
\(^2\) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_reed_aerophone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_reed_aerophone)
\(^3\) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Accordion_effect](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Accordion_effect)
Introduction

The first instrument called an “accordion” was patented in Austria in 1829. Different kinds of accordions spread to all parts of the world during and after the Industrial revolution. They joined the music of every continent, and became an important cultural symbol in many countries. Today, there are dozens of different instruments united in the accordion family. All these international traditions would be represented by the addition of an Accordion emoji. (For additional metaphorical uses for this emoji, see the Multiple Usages and Uses in Sequence sections under “Selection Factors” in this proposal.)

International Accordion Styles and Cultural Traditions Represented by an ACCORDION Emoji

Piano accordion
Common in many traditions including Brasilian forró, North American zydeco, Jewish klezmer, Egyptian Baladi and Korean trot music.

5 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_music_styles_that_incorporate_theAccordion
6 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piano_accordion
7 Saint Patrick's Day in Dublin https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish_traditional_music#Accordion_and_concertina
8 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piano_accordion
9 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forró
10 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zydeco
11 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Klezmer
12 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baladi
13 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trot_(music)
Diatonic button accordions

Dozens of different types of these button accordions have unique names in different traditions. “Trikitixa” in Basque Music; “Melodeon” in Irish and English folk music; “Acordeón” in Colombian cumbia, vallenato, and Mexican norteño. They play Cajun music in Louisiana, Jùjù in Nigeria, Inuit music in the Arctic, merengue típica in the Dominican Republic, rake ‘n’ scrape in the Bahamas, and many other styles globally.

14 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diatonic_button_accordion
16 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diatonic_button_accordion
17 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trikitixa
18 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish_traditional_music#Accordion_and_concertina
19 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morris_Dancing
20 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cumbia
21 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vallenato
22 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norteño_(music)
23 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cajun_music
26 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Merengue_t%C3%A9pico
Smaller Concertinas
Several types of hand-held concertinas[^00] are played in various folk styles including Irish traditional music[^33] and traditional Sotho and Afrikaans music in South Africa[^34].

Bandoneons and Chemnitzer concertinas
The larger concertina-like bandoneon is used in tango[^37] and chamamé[^38] in Argentina and Uruguay. The related Chemitzer concertina[^39] is played in European folk styles and in polka bands[^40] in the United States.

[^34]: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Music_of_South_Africa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Music_of_South_Africa)
Chromatic Button Accordions

These larger button keyboard instruments are used for folk, popular and concert (classical) music. Notable designs include the Russian Bayan, the French musette accordéon, and the Finnish harmonikka.
Many other squeezebox-style instruments and traditions would be represented by an ACCORDION Emoji, including:

Historical instruments\(^{47}\) from as early as the 1830s.

Unique regional designs like the smaller Garmon accordions played in Russia,\(^{48}\) the Caucasus,\(^{49}\) Iran and Azerbaijan.\(^{50}\)

Portable Harmonium\(^{51}\) pump-organs common in Indian and Pakistani music.\(^{52}\)\(^{53}\)

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\(^{46}\) [https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/503502](https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/503502)  
\(^{47}\) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flutina](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flutina)  
\(^{49}\) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garmon#Asian_and_Caucasian_garmons](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garmon#Asian_and_Caucasian_garmons)  
\(^{51}\) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pump_organ#Harmoniums](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pump_organ#Harmoniums)  
\(^{52}\) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pump_organ#In_the_Indian_subcontinent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pump_organ#In_the_Indian_subcontinent)  
\(^{53}\) “The harmonium was born in Europe – so how did it become synonymous with Indian music?” [http://scroll.in/article/811849/](http://scroll.in/article/811849/)
5. Selection Factors — Inclusion

A. Compatibility N/A

B. Expected Usage Level

1. Frequency

Google Trends: Web Search
https://trends.google.com/trends/explore?date=all&q=accordion,necktie

Google Trends: Image Search
https://trends.google.com/trends/explore?date=all_2008&gprop=images&q=accordion,necktie
Google Books NGram Viewer

https://trends.google.com/trends/explore?date=all_2008&gprop=images&q=accordion,necktie

Google Search

https://www.google.com
YouTube Search (within Google Trends)
https://trends.google.com/trends/explore?date=all_2008&gprop=youtube&q=accordion,necktie

Bing Search
https://www.bing.com
Instagram Search

https://www.instagram.com

#accordion
294,908 posts

#necktie
359,935 posts

Wikipedia Search


Accessed from:
2. Multiple Usages

The “accordion” concept is often used metaphorically. It describes “accordion folders” and wallets, “accordion pleats” in clothing, “accordion menus” in digital
GUIs, “accordion window-shades” and doors, “leporello” or “accordion-fold” books (Japanese, 折本; Korean, 折貼裝; Chinese, 摺子裝, 經摺裝), and the “accordion effect” in physics, traffic jams and collisions.

Other uses include the effect of expanding and contracting continental mountain-ranges, solar-panels on the International Space Station, and anything that gets squashed like a cartoon character.

The related “Concertina” is also used informally in English as the verb “concertinaed,” for compressing something, and in descriptions like “concertina wire.”

Google Searches for Accordion and Concertina Metaphors.

(Accordion Folder: 9 million results)

(Accordion Menu: 48 million results)

54 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Accordion_(GUI)
55 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Folding_door
56 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Folded_leaflet
57 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orihon
58 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Accordion_effect
60 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Concertina_wire
61 Accordion Metaphor google searches, Feb 6, 2019.
(Accordion bus: 6 million results)

(Accordion book: 44 million results)

(Accordion dress: 25 million results)
Accordion doors: 10 million results

The “concertina effect”: 6 million results
The verb to be “concertinaed” returns 45,000 results, and has entries in online dictionaries:

3. Use in sequences

The accordion idea is often used as an adjective and could be combined with 📚 BOOK, 🧥 DRESS, 🚍 BUS, 🗂 FILE FOLDER, among others.

The musical ACCORDION could also be used with Person and face emoji, such as 👩‍bour Singer (playing) + ACCORDION, or 😊 SMILING FACE (happy) + ACCORDION, etc.

Regional and national traditions might add flags: Irish 🇮🇪, Colombian 🇨🇴, Azerbaijani 🇦🇿 + ACCORDION. Various instrument types could be indicated using: Piano Keyboard 🎹+ Accordion, or Button 🎵+ Accordion.
4. Breaking new ground

There is no emoji for the adjective/verb used to indicate something pleated, crushed or expanding and contracting. This duel use for both a specific musical instrument and its many metaphorical uses is unique.

C. Image Distinctiveness

The pleated bellows and buttons or keyboard make the accordion one of the most recognizable musical instruments. This visual character has made it a common reference for many things of similar folding shape.

D. Completeness

N/A

E. Frequently Requested

There are calls for ACCORDION emoji on social media:

Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/search/str/accordion+emoji/keywords_search

May 31, 2018
"There is nothing in this world, besides my family, that I care more about than ALL of the accordionists I know and have known, and hope to meet yet. (insert accordion emoji here)"

March 16, 2018
"they need to make an accordion emoji"

August 29, 2017
"why is there no accordion emoji!? :[[[[]]]:"

January 24, 2016
"Sometimes I wish there was an accordion emoji"

September 20, 2015
"LOL! Where's the accordion emoji?"

July 17, 2015
Did you know that today is #WorldEmojiDay? Wish we could celebrate it with an accordion emoji...

Twitter:
https://twitter.com/search?q=accordion%20emoji&src=typd
14 Jan 2019
“We vacationed in Newfoundland this fall, including a few days at a local music festival. The energy and heart in the music is just... (Hey, there's no accordion emoji?!?)”

6 May 2018
(From the children’s singer Raffi Cavoukian)⁶²
“my kinda day!
wait, no accordion emoji?!!
#WorldAccordionDay”

30 May 2017
“Today we all weep for the lack of accordion emoji”

14 Jan 2015
“Why is there no cowboy boots and hat emoji? Or an accordion emoji??”

30 Jun 2014
“Just went looking for an accordion emoji as if there was actually a chance of there being an accordion emoji”

22 Mar 2013
“WHY IS THERE NO ACCORDION EMOJI?!?”

Text-based “Accordion” smileys have also been promoted:

“Accordion” [:|||||||||||:
2,380 views (60 views on Jan 14, 2019)
https://www.fastemoji.com/

“Fisarmonica” [:IIIIII:
“Lista delle emoticon” [Italian]
http://www.unascuolaperlavita.it/attachments/article/69/Lista%20delle%20emoticon.pdf

Graphical Accordion icons and emoticon have been independently designed:
https://www.google.com/search?q=accordion+emoticon

⁶² https://twitter.com/Raffi_RC/status/993170902001958913
There has also been at least one earlier, unrelated, proposal for an ACCORDION emoji (listed on the Unicode Emoji Requests page as "needs modification"):

http://unicode.org/emoji/emoji-requests.html

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Suggested Emoji</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>#Ad (text in box)</td>
<td>Declined: Other</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1st Place Medal</td>
<td>Emoji v3.0</td>
<td>Award-Medal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>20-30 Club Logo</td>
<td>Declined: Other</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2nd Place Medal</td>
<td>Emoji v3.0</td>
<td>Award-Medal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>3D Glasses Face</td>
<td>Declined: Other</td>
<td>Faces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>3rd Place Medal</td>
<td>Emoji v3.0</td>
<td>Award-Medal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Aardvark</td>
<td>No proposal form</td>
<td>Animal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Abacus</td>
<td>Emoji v11.0</td>
<td>Tool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Accessibility</td>
<td>Added as candidate</td>
<td>mixed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Accordion</td>
<td>Needs modification</td>
<td>Musical-Instrument</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. Selection Factors — Exclusion

F. Overly Specific

Accordions are central to traditional and popular music styles around the world, so an emoji would serve many regions and people. Similarly, an ACCORDION Emoji would represent all the related instrument types played internationally. These would include instruments called:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accordian</th>
<th>Concertina</th>
<th>Lootspill</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accordeon</td>
<td>Dragspel</td>
<td>Melodeon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acordeón</td>
<td>Fisarmonica</td>
<td>Organetto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acordeao</td>
<td>Garmon / гармоника</td>
<td>Sanfona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aeolidicon</td>
<td>Handharmonika</td>
<td>Schwyzerorgeli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Akkordeon</td>
<td>Handklaver</td>
<td>手風琴</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>アコーディオン</td>
<td>Konzertina</td>
<td>手琴</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>аккордеон</td>
<td>Konzertina</td>
<td>Squeeze-Box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□□□□□</td>
<td>Konzertina</td>
<td>Trekzak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armonika</td>
<td>Konzertina</td>
<td>Trikitixa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bandoneón</td>
<td>Konzertina</td>
<td>Ziehharmonika</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is also no other emoji that represents the instrument’s compressing / expanding action. Thus the ACCORDION emoji would be useful for both musical and non-musical users.

G. Open Ended

The ACCORDION emoji would represent a large and unique family of many instruments. Thus it fills a specific gap in the existing Musical-Instrument category without creating an expectation that other individual instruments have their own emoji.

H. Already Representable

No other emoji represents this family of musical instruments. And no other emoji is used for the metaphorical Accordion folding concept.
I. Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, deities

“Accordion” has been a generic term since the 1800s. There have been products and businesses that used the name or image, but it is not copyrightable and does not promote any product or brands in general.

Most of the uses of “Accordion” in branding are related to the musical instrument:

There are also uses of “Accordion” in the names of various non-musical products and businesses:

J. Transient

Accordions have existed since the 1800s, and their popularity grew steadily for more than a century. The instrument lost popularity in some English speaking cultures as amplification boosted new electric instruments, but the squeezebox remained part of the common culture and language for descriptive purposes. Since the 1980s the instrument has risen in popularity again and remains widely recognised with no sign of fading.
K. Faulty Comparison

The submission for ACCORDION is made on its own merits – in line with the Unicode selection factors for inclusion – and avoids the factors for exclusion.

L. Exact Image

The ACCORDION emoji is not limited to an exact image, and can be varied to remain consistent with other emoji designs.

M. Region Flags Without Code (N/A)

Other Character Properties

The other character properties are suggested to be defined as follows.
- General Category: So
- Canonical Combining Class: 0
- Bidirectional Class: ON
- Decomposition Type: Decomposition Mapping:
- Numeric Type:
- Numeric Value:
- Bidirectional Mirrored: N
- Unicode 1 Name:
- ISO Comment:
- Simple Uppercase Mapping:
- Simple Lowercase Mapping:
- Simple Titlecase Mapping:

Bio:

Bruce Triggs (accordion.noir@gmail.com) is an accordion historian and community radio programmer in Canada who appreciates creative uses of the universal visual emoji. After years of putting it off he is learning to play a Giullieti chromatic button accordion built in the 1960s.