

CROSSED STRUCTURE BINDING BASIC

Asymmetry as the absence of formal equilibrium of the parts, around an idea univocal and clear.

Gian Carlo Calza

CSB Basic

I will assume that the book is ready to be bound and that all prior steps have been carefully carried out. The description refers to a full-leather binding with clean-cut edges (handmade paper, parchment and vellum can also be used). I will not work to any particular dimension, assuming the template to be clear enough for each person to adapt it to a given size.

The cutting

Asymmetry is a constant feature on all Crossed Structure bindings. The two parts of the CSB Basic are complementary and asymmetric. The number of straps will be even on one side and uneven on the other. The two parts of this cover are cut in just one go, each one fitting perfectly in its counterpart. This feature belongs only to the basic form; any other crossed structure has to be cut in two separate pieces. For the cutting of the straps see images in the website: *Index - Cutting the straps*. Cut the covers following *sides a and b* of the template (see *template*). The two parts include the cover itself and the bands both for the sewing and for the crossing.

The sewing

The sections can be sewn to either half of the cover. I

shall explain both alternatives because they imply different patterns of sewing.

For the fixing of the cover to the sewing frame, see image in the website: *Index - A Sewing Frame - CSB Basic*.

Sewing 1

The book-block is sewn to the three central straps of CSB Basic *side a* (see *template*). The sewing is carried out with kettle stitches in the normal way (see *Sewing 1*). After sewing, the spine is still accessible and can be lined if desired. The thickness of the thread should provide enough 'swell' in the spine to allow you to round the book. I always round by hand, not with a hammer.

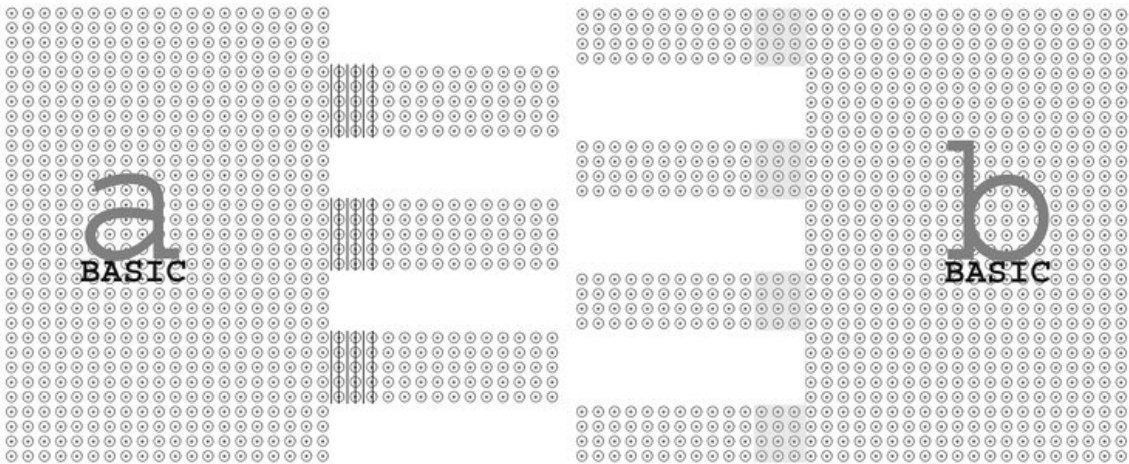
Sewing 2

This sewing is carried out on the four straps of CSB Basic *side b* (see *template*). In this case the first and the last strap become structural headband cores. This will add solidity and support to the spine and will allow smooth opening even with heavy volumes (see *Sewings 2 & 3*).

The crossing

After sewing, the straps of the two covers interlock at the spine and can be secured to the opposite side. See the binding's image in the website: *Index - CSB Basic*.

TEMPLATES



SEWING 1

WITH KETTLE STITCHES.

FOR CSB BASIC, CSB PROTECTIVE, CSB MARCOPOLO AND CSB HIDDEN

This is the commonest kind of sewing and the first that the majority of us learned how to make, as it can be used for many different bindings. The thing to be careful about, if you are a beginner, is never to pull the thread in the opposite direction to the direction in which you are sewing, because it is quite easy to tear the paper. Try to be as even as possible and do the stitches neither too tight nor too loose. It all comes with practice. After 500 books it will be almost perfect!

Sewing 1

See drawing and follow the direction of the red thread, then compare the image with your finished sewing. Here follows a very schematic description.

First section

The thread goes into the first hole on the right (kettle stitch hole), and then travels

left, passing out and in the section and over the straps until the left end is reached. It comes out at the kettle stitch hole on the left and goes up into the next section.

Second section

The thread goes inside the kettle stitch hole on the left, then it goes to the right, out and in all along. It goes out at the right hand kettle stitch hole. Before going up to the third section a knot is tied with the tail of the starting thread which is hanging from the first section.

Third section

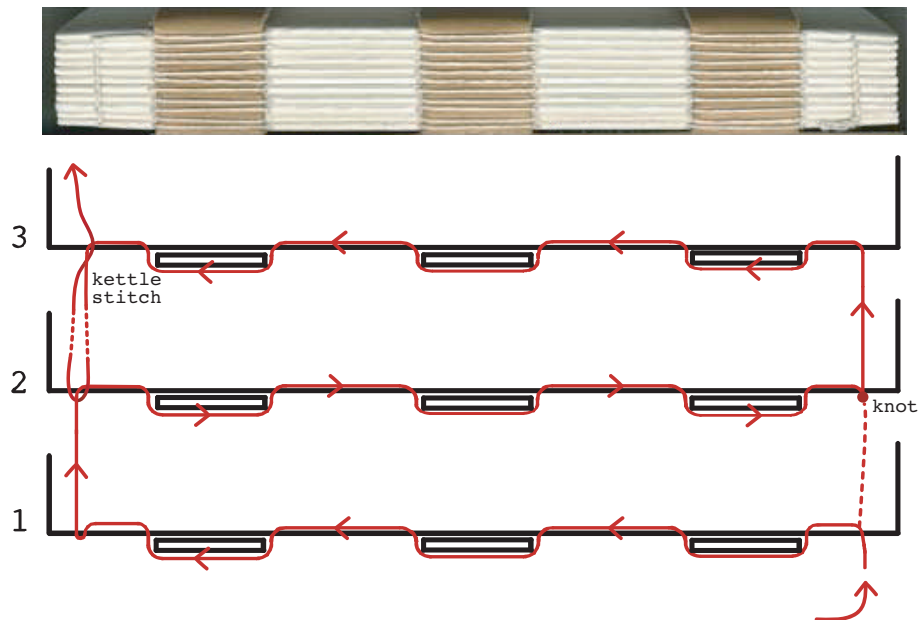
The thread goes inside the kettle stitch hole on the right and then it goes to the left, out and in all along. It goes out at the kettle stitch hole on the left. Before going up to the following section a kettle stitch is made by slipping the needle under the

section which is below the one which you have just sewn on; slip the needle behind the thread which links it to the section below that, and loop the thread over the needle as it emerges from between the sections. Tighten the thread by tugging it upwards. NB The needle must always be slipped

behind the thread in the same direction as the direction in which you are sewing (usually outwards, towards the edge of the book-block.)

From this point the sewing goes on in the same way, making kettle stitches at each section before going up to the next one.

sewing 1



SEWINGS 2&3

WITH HEAD AND TAIL SEWN STRAPS.
FOR CSB BASIC AND CSB PROTECTIVE.

Sewing 2

See drawing and follow the direction of the red thread, then compare the image with your finished sewing. Here follows a very schematic description.

First section

The thread goes into the first hole on the right, close to the right-hand end strap, comes out at the end of the section, passes over the top of the section, encircling the strap and goes back into the same hole as before (each time you go back through the same hole, be careful not to go through the thread when inserting the needle).

The thread then travels left, passing out and in the section and over the other straps until the end strap is reached. The thread comes out before the last strap, passes over the top of the section to encircle the strap and emerges through the same hole. The second section is laid in place.

Second section

The thread goes into the first hole on the left, close to the left-hand end strap. Comes out at the end of the section, passes over the top of the section, encircling the strap and goes back into the same hole as before. The thread goes to the right, out and in all along. It goes out at the last hole and out again after encircling the right-hand strap.

Before going up to the third

section a knot is tied with the tail of the starting thread which is hanging from the first section.

Third section

The thread goes into the first hole on the right, close to the right-hand strap, encircles the strap, goes back into the same hole as before, and goes out and in to the left.

The thread comes out before the last strap, goes over it, goes back into the section and comes out at the same hole. Before going up to the next section a kettle stitch is made by slipping the needle under the thread you have just sewn around the strap and also catching up the thread at the same point in the section below the one which you have just sewn on. The needle then goes back up and under the thread that emerges from the upper section, making a loop. (NB The needle must be slipped outwards, towards the edge of the book-block). Tighten the thread by tugging it upwards to make the characteristic pattern that you can see in the image above.

From this point the sewing goes on in the same way, making kettle stitches at each section before going up to the one above.

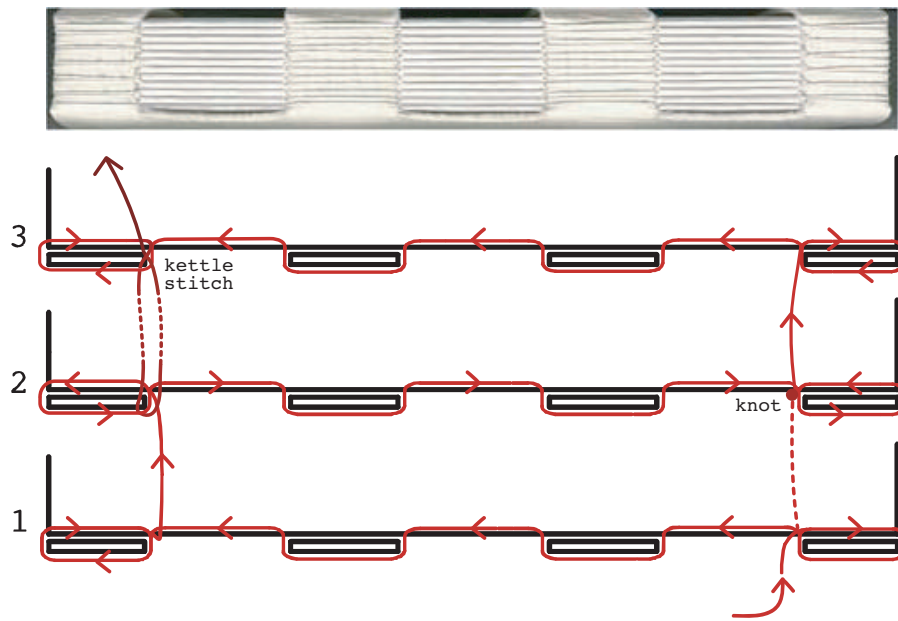
Sewing 3

See drawing and follow the direction of the red thread, then compare the image with your finished sewing.

Seen from the outside there is no difference between Sewing 2 and 3. The process is as before but this time the thread encircles each strap. This gives an all-along sewing inside each section, with the

thread running over head and tail edges as well. It keeps a consistent swell along the volume's spine and can be a good choice for larger or heavier books.

sewing 2



sewing 3

