

CROSSED STRUCTURE BINDING MARCOPOLO

In the past some bindings were specially conceived for travelling: geographical itineraries, doctor's manuals, currency books and books of hours for pious ladies. Even today painters carry a sketchbook with them and writers slip a notebook in their pocket for fleeting thoughts. The Crossed Structure Binding Marcopolo can easily be converted into a travelling book...

CSB Marcopolo

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 two templates are almost symmetrical apart from small differences. At first sight it is hard to imagine the two parts of this binding crossing at the spine, each side having a complete series of straps without cut-outs and no evidence of a counterpart. The vertical half-cuts in the centre of the spine make the crossing possible. These cuts should be made when the text-block is sewn and the thickness of the spine is known. The sewing remains hidden.

Cutting the back cover

For the cutting of the straps see images in the website: *Index - Cutting the straps*. The two sides of the cover are cut separately. Cut the back cover following *side a* of the template (see *template*). The back has two parts: the cover itself and the straps that can be of different lengths according to

the use to which the book is to be put (see *Variations below*). For a binding with five straps the book block should be sewn to the second and the fourth.

The sewing

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

The sewing is carried out with kettle stitches in the normal way (see *sewing 1*). 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. After the sewing, the spine is still accessible and can be lined if desired.

Cutting the front cover

Cut the front cover following *side b* of the template. The front has two parts: the cover itself and the straps that can be of different lengths according to the use to which the book is to be put (see *Variations below*).

Two vertical slots should be cut in the front cover, 5mm away from the base of the second and fourth straps (see *template*).

The crossing

After sewing, the sewn straps are slipped out through the vertical slots of the front cover and are overlaid by the

straps opposite. See the binding's image in the website: *Index - CSB Marcopolo*.

The crossing of the remaining straps is made possible by the half cuts in the centre of the spine area at both sides. Cut the vertical half cuts. The cuts are complementary, being inserted one into the other. When you make the vertical half cuts it is very easy to get confused, give them some thought before cutting.

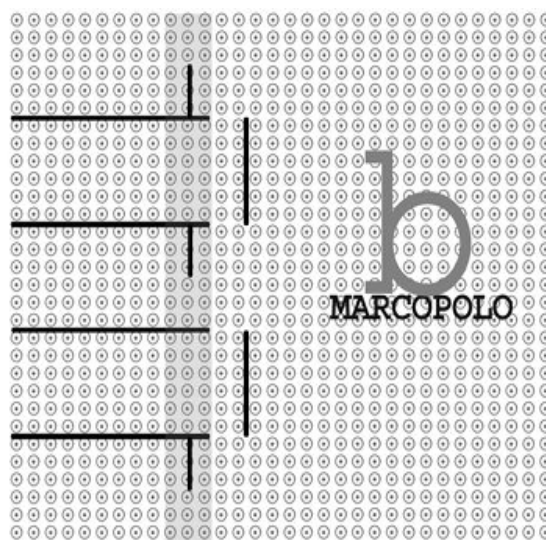
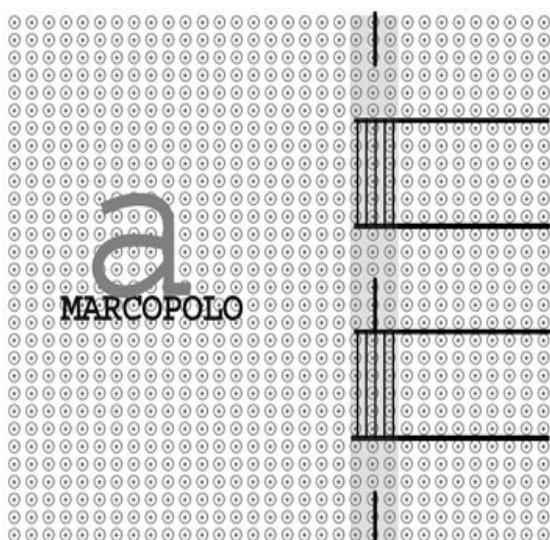
Variations:

The straps of this binding can

be cut aligned or have different length.

The CSB Marcopolo may easily become a traveller's book that can be fastened and hung up. The two upper straps pinched together make a very firm hanger. The elongated middle straps of both sides can be used as fasteners. These alternatives have to be planned and calculated right from the beginning. See the binding's image in the website: *Index - CSB Marcopolo*.

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. Tension 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

