

CROSSED STRUCTURE BINDING HIDDEN

There is no need for additional decoration on this clean, minimal binding. The straps disappear and the crossing of the parts remains hidden until the secret is revealed.

CSB Hidden

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.

Cutting the back cover

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 back cover itself, and an extension in which a window has been cut. This extension can be different sizes and may carry the title of the book. Its structural function, however, is to hide the link of the loose central flap of the front cover. See the binding's image in the website: *Index - CSB Hidden*

The sewing

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

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

The front cover should not be prepared until you know the exact thickness of the spine. After sewing, cut the front cover following *side b* of the template (*see template*).

The front cover includes the cover itself, the spine and a panel that will be fixed to the back cover after the crossing has been done. Cut two 'windows' on the spine for the exposed sewing, and then cut the central flap between the two windows following *side b* of the template. The end of this flap will be hidden by the extension of the back cover.

The crossing

The crossing of the CSB Hidden is a bit tricky: after cutting the front cover, insert the extension of the back cover (which is lying over the front endpaper) under the central flap of the front cover (it goes under the front cover but comes out through the cut of the central flap). In this way the front cover will lie between the extension and the front endpaper.

The panel of the front cover is taken to the back, the two windows at the spine framing the exposed sewing. The central flap will naturally come forward between the

sewing stations and, as in a puzzle, will fill the gap. The panel of the front cover is then fixed to the back cover. See the binding's image in the website: *Index - CSB Hidden*.

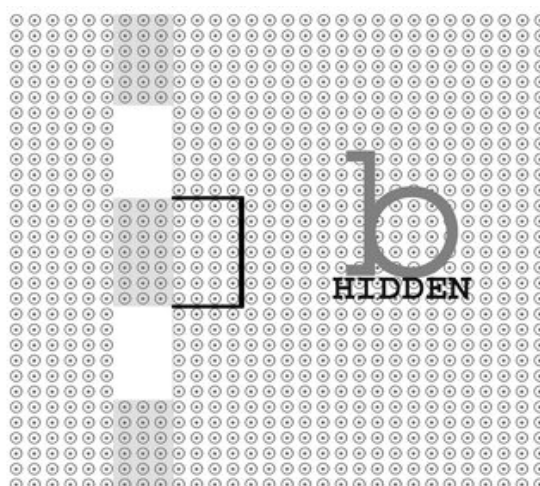
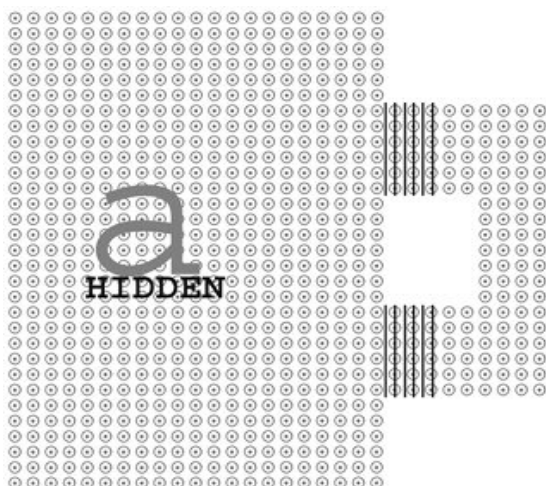
To keep the central flap on the front cover in place, the area around it (or the whole front cover) can be lined with Japanese paper. The flap's joint is hidden by the

extension of the back cover on the outside and inside is concealed by the endpaper.

To consolidate the book, put a heavyweight paper between the leather and the endpapers, and then put the binding between pressing boards under a weight.

This hidden structure must be carefully calculated and making a dummy might prove useful.

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 kettle stitch 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

