

CROSSED STRUCTURE BINDING SOLO

This kind of binding is particularly suitable for slim books. The crossing remains completely hidden.

CSB Solo

I will assume that the book is ready to be bound and that all prior steps have been carefully carried out. This binding should be made either in handmade paper, parchment or vellum. Leather would be too thick for its double structure (unless it is pared to 0.3-0.5mm and laminated with Japanese paper, which I have never tried myself). The width of the covering material should be equivalent to 4x the width of the book block, plus 3x the thickness of the book block, plus 100mm excess.

This structure has an illogical procedure. We are used to turns-in while here the covers turn out instead. Another peculiarity is that whilst the template, for ease of understanding, shows the cover complete with all the cuts, you never actually see it like this when you are making it, because this binding is made step by step around the book block.

I will assume, again for ease of understanding, that vellum is being used for the cover, so you will find references in the description to hair side and flesh side.

I will not consider any dimension assuming the template to be clear enough for each person to adapt it to a given size.

Cutting the sewing straps and making the first part of the cover

(working left to right as you look at the template) For the cutting of the straps see images in the website: *Index - Cutting the straps*. The sewing straps should be long enough to be hidden inside the cover when the binding is finished. Cut them as shown on the left side of the template (*see template*). Lay the book-block on the hair side of the cover, with the spine aligned with the edge of the cover at the bottom of the straps, in order to establish the position of the fore-edge fold.

The fore-edge is folded by turning the cover back on itself flesh side in. Mark the positions of the straps on the flesh side of the underlying cover. Then the first series of slots is cut next to the spine joint, and the sewing straps are laced through these slots.

The sewing

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

Now, with hair side of the cover facing you and the laced straps vertical (the uncut covering material is hanging off the table in front of you), lay the book on the cover with the spine against the straps.

This binding has a sewing with kettle stitches inside the straps of both sides (see *sewings 4*). Choose the right kind of thread to obtain a flat spine.

Covering the spine and making the second part of the cover

After the sewing the second spine joint can be folded. A row of slots is cut at the spine joint for the sewn straps to go through, emerging on the flesh side. When pulling the straps out, the spine area of the cover is pulled tight to the book block.

The second fore-edge fold is made, parallel to the first, and the cover is then folded outwards, flesh side to flesh side. A row of slots is then cut at the spine joint for the straps to go out. The fourth row of slots is cut 10mm in front of the third row on the cover for the sewing straps to disappear into it. The straps are laced out and in these two

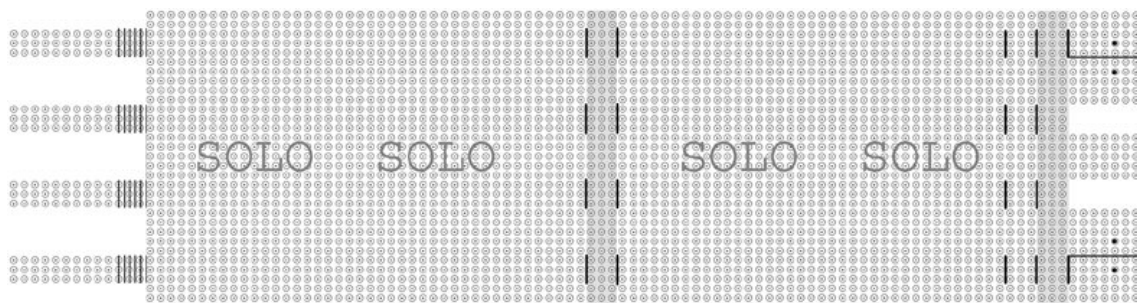
series of slots, in such a way that the front cover is fixed.

Wrapping the spine again

The remaining area of material (on the far right of the template) provides a second spine area which wraps around the first. Then the final straps of the template are cut out (see *template*), and are inserted into the first cover between the sewing straps. To avoid the head and tail straps of this second set moving out of place, stitch them together with the nearby strap. This is a bit tricky, but keep trying!

CSB Solo seems more complicated than it really is. It is worth making the effort to understand it because the result is very rewarding. You should study its out and in movements very carefully, making a dummy in order to understand its logic. See the binding's image in the website: *Index - CSB Solo*

TEMPLATE



SEWING 4
WITH KETTLE STITCHES ON THE FIRST AND LAST STRAPS.
FOR CSB LINKED AND CSB SOLO

The first and last straps of sewing 4 are situated approximately 6mm from each end of the section (depending on the book's dimension). The kettle stitches are made inside the last strap at each end.

Sewing 4

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 in at the second hole on the right, close to the right-hand strap, comes out at the first hole, encircles 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 it goes out before the last strap. It goes in at the last hole, encircling the strap and comes out through the same hole as before. The second section is laid in place.

Second section

The thread goes inside the second hole on the left, goes out at the first hole, encircles 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-but-one hole on the right, then goes in at the last encircling the right-hand strap and out again through the same hole as before. 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 second hole on the right, close to the right-hand strap, comes out at the first hole and goes back into the same hole as before, encircling the strap. The thread then travels left, passing out and in the section and over the other straps until the last strap is reached. 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 4

