

METROCON Build Book Guide and Outline 2025

What is a build book?

Think of the build book as an extension of your in-person judging. It is another opportunity to showcase parts of your cosplay and give highlights of the crafting process. It is not meant to be a step-by-step written tutorial of how you crafted your costume.

Why is it Important?

A build book is important as it helps the judges have a better understanding of your costume and prop crafting process. In-person judging is limited on time, so a build book also assists the judges in remembering your costume and crafting process during award deliberation. There might even be small details you missed talking about during the in-person judging, or that are hidden by other parts, that can be showcased in your build book.

What should be included in a build book?

At a minimum you should include:

- References – Remember to include a front, back, and side view of your costume design when possible.
- Breakdown of parts & skills utilized with clear and well-lit photos of your build process.
- Front and Back picture of contestant (or model) wearing the finished costume – can be up to 90% finished at the time of build book submission.

What can I use to create a build book?

You are free to use any software you have at your disposal (for example Word, Power Point, Canva, In-Design, to name a few). We do require that you convert your final build book into a PDF when submitting for judging, and request that you keep the file size under 4MB.

METROCON Build Book Requirements

- Must be 15 pages or less.
- Must include several pictures of costume creator participating in the build being entered. Examples of these pictures include but are not limited to: photos of you or your model having the costume fitted (this can also be a mirror selfie) or photos of you working on a specific part of your costume (e.g. crafting armor, painting, wig, styling, sewing, etc.)
- Images should be clear and well lit.
- Must be submitted as a **PDF** to cosplay@metroconventions.com by **11:59PM** on **Sunday July 20, 2025**.
- PDF Build Book must use proper file naming convention or risk disqualification from the competition: **stagename.buildbook.championship25**
- Build Book Cover Page must include all of the following:
 - Name of Contest (Metrocon Craftsmanship Contest or Metro Cosplay Championship)
 - Year (2025)
 - Competition Level (Novice, Journeyman, or Master)
 - Character(s) Name and Series

- Legal Name (as submitted in application) & Stage Name (name you would like us to use for introductions)
- Reference Image of your character
- Last Page must be a front and back image of your completed costume (We understand there might be last minute details and fixes, but pictured costume should be at a minimum 90% complete)

Example Outline of a Build Book

Page 1 – Cover Page: This follows the requirements listed above.

Pages 2 through pages 14

- **Patterning:** In this section you can include photos of your patterning and brief descriptions of the process. You want to answer questions the judges might have such as:
 - Did you craft your own pattern? Did you use an existing pattern?
 - Did you modify a pattern, and how was that done?
 - Did you create mock ups to test the fit?
- **Sewing Details:** In this section you can include pictures and brief explanations of techniques you utilized in your build. Some examples include but are not limited to:
 - Type of fabric and notions used and why you chose them.
 - Specific hand stitching techniques used.
 - How the fabric edges were finished or hemmed.
 - Explain why a part was constructed a certain way.
 - Explain whether the fabric was modified by either fabric, paint, and/or heat transfers.
 - Explain embellishments added such as beading, gem stones, lace, etc.
- **Embroidery:** Some examples include but are not limited to:
 - Was embroidery done by hand or machine?
 - Did you buy an embroidery pattern or did you digitize it using a specific software?
- **Armor Making:** Some examples include but are not limited to:
 - Did you pattern your armor or did you use an existing pattern?
 - What materials did you use to create armor?
 - What materials and techniques did you use to paint the armor?
 - How does the armor attach?
- **Prop Making:** Some examples include but are not limited to:
 - What materials were used?
 - For 3D printed parts, did you model the image or did you buy it?
 - Did you model and cast the gems?
- **Wig Styling:** Some examples include but are not limited to:
 - Did you cut and style the wig?

- Did you dye the wig?
- What techniques did you use to create the design?
- **Make Up:** Some examples include but are not limited to:
 - What did you use to paint your body?
 - What techniques were utilized?
 - How did you achieve the scar shape?
 - How did you achieve the tattoo showing across your arm?

Page 15 – Front and Back Pictures of Final (or 90% finished costume)