



## WORLD COSPLAY SUMMIT AUSTRALIAN PRELIMINARY COMPETITION TEAM BUILD BOOK GUIDE 2022

### **Welcome to the WCS Australian Prelim Team Build Book Guide 2022.**

This document is not a template per say, but should be treated as a guide as to what to include in your finished **Team Build Book**.

You will see that some information that is on the Team Entry Form also needs to be included in your **Team Build Book** - this is because each document serves a different purpose:

- The Team Entry Form will be used for the collection of more detailed personal information for WCS Australia, information that is not relevant to the Judges, but needed for entry into the WCS Australian Preliminary Competition and to help get you and your props on stage for your performance.
- The **Team Build Book** will serve as a guide for the Judges, and aid in their assessment of your Cosplay Costumes, Weapons & Handheld Props, Stage Props & Handheld Stage Props, and Performance.

Both the Team Entry Form and the **Team Build Book** are required to ensure that your Cosplay Team is eligible to compete in the WCS Australian Preliminary Competition 2022.

As per Section 12 of the **Rules, Requirements & Guidelines**, each Cosplay Team will **submit 1 (one) Team Build Book as a PDF, no larger than 500mb in size.**

The Team Build Book should contain **detailed construction and crafting information** for all Cosplay Costumes made by the Cosplay Team, including but not limited to the construction process, sewing techniques, armour building, and wig work. It will also contain detailed construction and crafting information for any and all Weapons & Handheld Props made by the Cosplay Team, including but not limited to; construction processes, manufacturing techniques, CAD, 3D printing, foam work, thermoplastics, woodwork, electronics, etc.

This information must be supported by photographic evidence - Work In Progress Photos (WIP photos) of the construction process and, where possible, the finished item.

The **Team Build Book** is also a space for you to explain your design choices, costume selection, new or special techniques, any triumphs or challenges, and to highlight your favourite elements. The **Team Build Book** should be a celebration of your hard work!

It is important that you think about the formatting and presentation of the finished **Team Build Book**. While the **Team Build Book** will not be judged, a detailed **Team Build Book** with clearly labelled- reference images and WIP photos, with clear, informative and interesting commentary will contribute to a better Costume Judging score. A poorly formatted or confusing **Team Build Book**, with little to no information on the construction and crafting, will not contribute to a better Costume Judging score.

## **What to include in your Team Build Book**

Use this checklist as a guide to help you write your **Team Build Book**. You do not need to follow the same order as below - although we do suggest you put your Table of Contents at the start of your document!!.

- Cover Sheet** - consider giving your work a cover of some kind. Use this to convey the theme and mood of your Cosplay Costumes and Stage Performance before the Judges even open the document.
- Table of Contents** - depending on the programme you use to write your Team Build Book, you will be able to generate a Table of Contents automatically. This will not only help the Judges to navigate your document, but it will also help you to collect and collate your thoughts and important information.
- Team Information Page** - make sure you include:
  - Cosplay Team Name
  - Preferred Name for each Member of the Cosplay Team.
  - Name of the anime/manga/game/tokusatsu that you are cosplaying from.
    - Please give the full Japanese and English titles
    - If it has a shortened or fan name, give it also. If you have given the shorten or fan name feel free to use it to help with the writing/reading of the Team Build Book.
  - Names of the Characters you are both cosplaying as, along with a reference image so the Judges know what they look like.
    - Indicate which Team Member is cosplaying which Character.
    - Give the Characters full names, but also their shorten/nick name if they have one, feel free to use these shorten/nick names in the Team Build Book.

**Reference Images** - Add as many as you can. You may wish to put in a Full body reference image of each character taking up one page each. However, just remember the flow of the Team Build Book and don't just give 5 pages of only one reference Image per page. Add reference images throughout the build book.

Use additional reference images either in one specific section, or throughout the document to illustrate. For example; a specific feature, garment, or item in comparison to your progress images.

**Cosplay Costume Progress** - You may choose to divide your progress between each character OR between each Team Member's work. Indicate clearly which WIP photo refers to which character, who made what, and if you received any external help.

Use as many WIP photos and as many pages as required. You may want to mix reference images with the WIP photos to indicate which element you are working on.

Show off your hard work! Tell your judges all of the fun things you did! Showcase which techniques you used!

**Weapons & Handheld Props Progress** - As per the Cosplay Costume Progress - show off your hard work! So that you have a coherent Team Build Book, you may like to keep the same formatting and layout for all of your Progress sections. Include who made what, how, and why.

Indicate clearly which WIP photo refers to which character, who made what, and if you received any external help.

**Any Finished Cosplay Costume and/or Weapons & Handheld Props** - If you have any part of your Cosplay Team's entry complete- even if it's just the shoes, or armour component, wigs of your Cosplay Costumes. You might like to include any makeup tests or fit tests that you have done.

**Costume Weight** - As per section 5.7 of the **Rules, Requirements & Guidelines**, the total weight of ALL of the Cosplay Team's Cosplay Costumes - including wigs, footwear, Weapons & Handheld Props must be **no more than 40kg**.  
This weight does not include the personal weight of the Cosplay Team.

**Stage Props Progress** - As per the other Progress sections - show off your hard work! So that you have a coherent Team Build Book, you may like to keep the same formatting and layout for all of your Progress sections. Include who made what, how, and why.

Indicate clearly which WIP photo refers to which character, who made what, and if you received any external help.

**Stage Prop Weights and Dimensions** - as per sections 10.4 and 10.5 of the **Rules, Requirements & Guidelines**, you are allowed to have up to 3 Stage Props to enhance your performance. Each **Stage Prop** may **not weigh more than 10kg** & must not exceed the measurement of **2.1m in height X 2.1m in width X 0.9m in depth**.

**Bonus Content** - Remember to include bonus information throughout the Team Build Book for the Judges - Why these characters? These techniques? These accessories? Point out any cool stories or challenges that you overcame - or anything else you want the Judges to know about!

## How to Format your Team Build Book

Your Team Build Book needs to be submitted as a **PDF, no larger than 500mb in size**.

Your **Team Build Book** should be **A4 in size and portrait in orientation**.

You can be as advanced or as simple and streamlined with your design as you want. Think about your priorities in the lead up to the WCS Australia Preliminary competition.

**Use a font that is easy to read** - the WCS Australia font is Tahoma, but you might consider:

Times New Roman  
Garamond  
Arial  
Calibri

Think about your font size and line spacing as well. Don't make your Judges work too hard - remember they will have a lot of Team Build Books to look at - make sure that your Cosplay Team's is the most pleasurable for them to read!

**Think about your colour choice** - remember that this document will be printed, so avoid using a solid dark colour the background of each page.

Not only can it be difficult to read in hardcopy, it takes up a lot of ink.

Rather than using the entire rainbow, pick a simple colour scheme that complements the theme/s and style of your Cosplay Costumes.

Red+green can be difficult for some people to see/read

Avoid colours that are too similar

Use accent colours for attention

But sometimes simple is best.

**Avoid awkward page breaks** -. For example-

- Try to fit your Table of Contents onto the one page.
- Rather than having the first line of a paragraph start on the bottom of the page and continue to the next one, start a new page.

**You don't need expensive formatting or editing software** -

Use the software that you are most familiar with! Some examples are:

- **Word or Google Docs**- are good for text and use tables for WIP photos so that they stay where you want them.
- **PowerPoint** - has helpful templates and spacing guides.
- **Photoshop or similar imaging software**- can be seen as more advanced programs to use, be aware that the file size can get quite large and while the image quality might be better, you want to avoid blurry text.

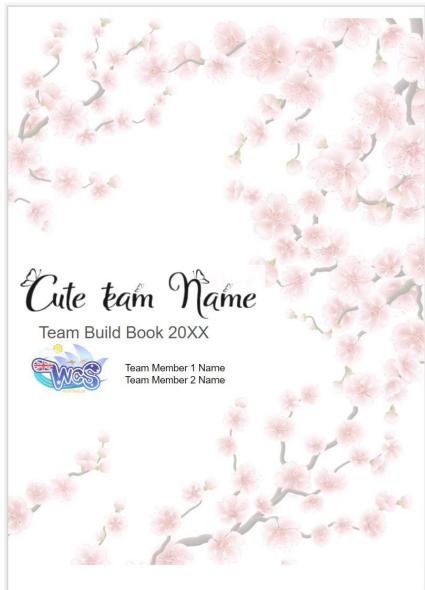
**WIP Photos**-

- Make sure that your WIP photos are clear and not blurred.
- WIP photos should be easy to understand and need minimal commentary, sometimes a picture does tell a 1000 words.
- However do take note of just grabbing a photo right off your phone and putting it straight into your Team Build Book. Sometimes HD WIP photos can be larger in size than you would think, so it might be worth taking them into a photo editing program (even paint will work!) and making them smaller in size and cropping them.

## Content and Layout

**Cover images** - Your cover may be the first impression of your Team the Judges have. Think about the themes and colour of your Cosplay Costumes and Stage Performance. Consider including your Team Name, character names, series title, and the year of competition.

You may like to include the current WCS Aus logo.



*Covers are examples only and should not necessarily be used as a guide or template.*

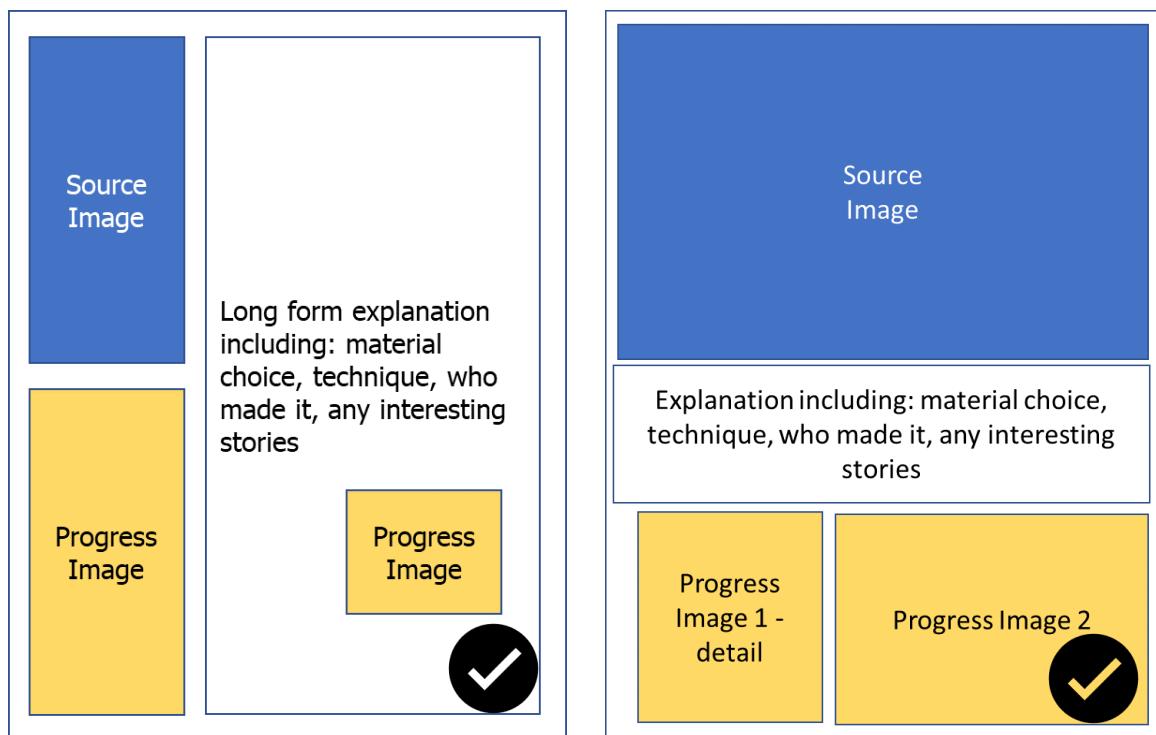
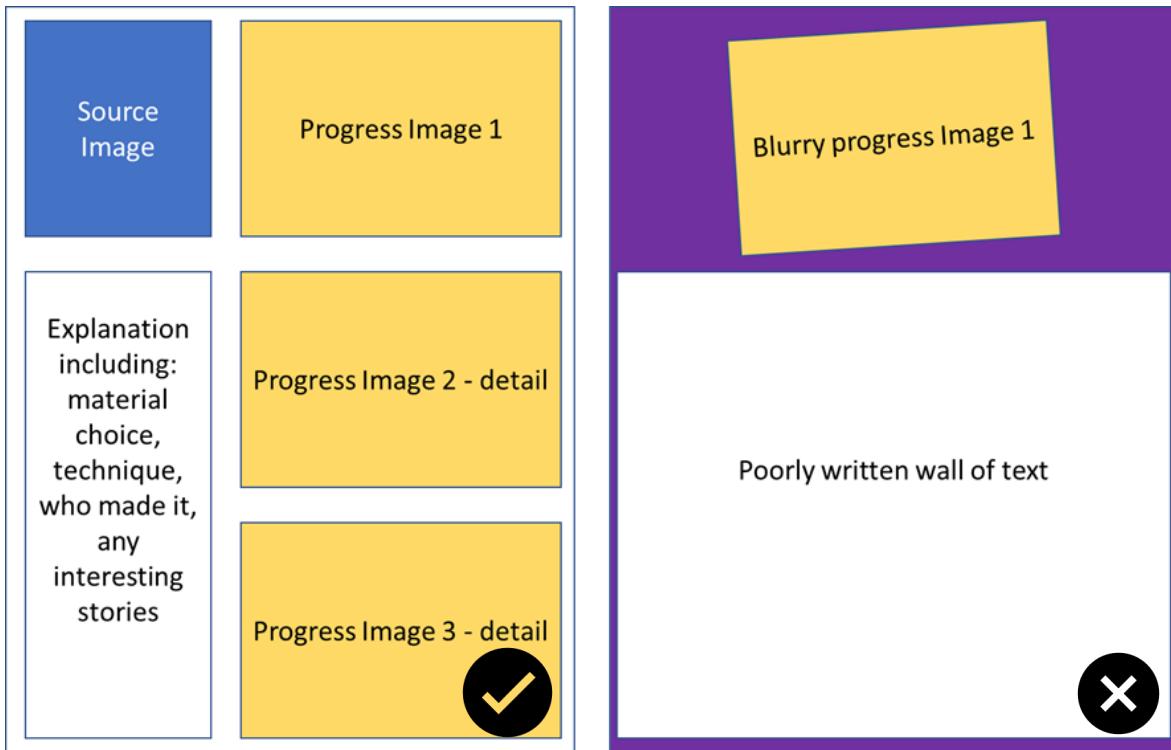
### Content - some examples

- Have you used a particular type of thread or a specific type of hand stitching? Let us know.
- Have you topstitched with metallic thread for the first time or 100th time and love the effect it gives? Tell us.
- Done hand embroidery? Done machine embroidery? Let us know.
- Have you added texture and wood grain to your EVA foam? Note that down.
- Got a Fur Baby helper? Judges love to see them!
- How did you finish your armour? What is that paint effect you used?
- Think about listing the materials used in each component.
- Are you trying to convey a certain image (velvets for rich or important characters; shiny leathers for stage impact; wools for military outfits etc)?
- How have you done things so that the Cosplay Costumes compliment each other?
- Are there repeated motifs or elements across each Cosplay Costume?
- Have you learnt something new just for this Cosplay?
- Have you reinvented a tried-and-true method?

**Why these Cosplay Costumes?**

**Why these Weapons & Handheld Props? Why these Stage Props?**

**Page layouts** - There are many ways that you can organise your pages. Try to avoid large walls of text, rather aim for a balance of image and explanatory commentary.



Blurry progress image with no commentary

Blurry progress image with no commentary

Long explanation, giving unnecessary detail with no source images or progress shots on a dark background.

Source Image detail

Progress Image

Progress Image

Progress Image

Progress Image

Progress Image 1

Progress Image 2

Progress Image 3

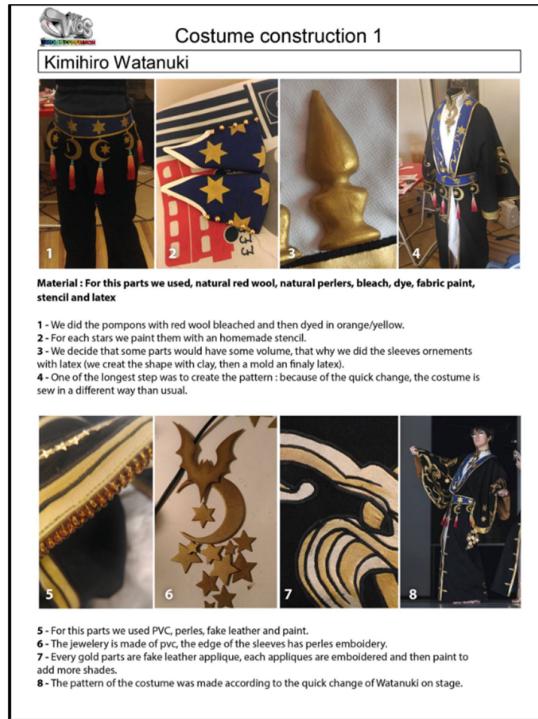
Progress Image 4

Progress Image 5

Numbered explanation  
1. Text  
2. Text  
3. Text  
4. Text  
5. Text

Let us know how you did it; Why you did it; And from what.

A good example can be found in [Team France 2017's portfolio](#).  
 Team France won the 2017 Brother Award for best Cosplay Costume.



*These layouts are just some examples - do what works best for you.*

## More examples-



peak by ventilating more fibres

The wig was also very thick to fit under the helmet neatly, so several wefts were removed to reduce bulk. It was then pinned up to hide under the helmet (but not cut short for when I want to do the casual version), and the side bits of hair cut and styled.

Liu Bei's facial hair is an optional thing (the default is no facial hair) but I chose do to the hairy version as it helps me look more masculine and hide my fat chin. The moustache and goatee were hand-ventilated into lace and then styled.



### WIG

A lacefront wig was purchased, however this had a round hairstyle. This didn't effect the version that wears the helmet, but I also wanted to be able to make the casual outfit (right picture), and also have the legitimate hairstyle, even if you can't see it, so the hairstyle was altered to add in temples and a widow's



The main chest piece is laced at the back with eyelets as this is mostly covered by the cape. This is then held up by use of press studs, magnets and Velcro to the yoke. The shoulder flaps serve no structural purpose, but are a separate piece glued on top to hide the sewing in press studs for the chest piece and the pauldron straps. The collar is glued on as it requires no structural strength and hence no stitches or straps.



Each piece was then tooled as per the design and the raw edges burnished to finish them properly. The bottom edge of the chestpiece was wetformed into a curve as per design.

### SHOULDER ARMOUR

The biggest problem with the shoulder armour is that it has no visible attachments and sits ABOVE the arm in some World of Warcraft feat of engineering.



### Costume construction

#### Sakura (Costume 2)



Materials: Glass seed beads, Sequins, Diamantes, Iridescent beads, & Beading Thread.

Explanation: The endless beading. This was another reason we didn't embroider directly onto the fabric, so we could share the beading workload. It takes 1-hour per skirt panel (x130 = 130-hours), & takes 2.5-hours per bodice panel (x20 = 50-hours)

#### Sakura (Costume 2)



Materials: Embossed Satin, Rayon Silky Thread, Beaded/Embroidered Tulle Panels

Explanation: Each design is then laid out & evenly placed in the circle skirt tiers & pinned in place flat ready to be sewn. This takes approximately 5mins per panel (x130 = 10.5-hours).



### Hand props

#### Li Syaoran

##### Original picture



##### Completed prop



#### Prons construction process



Materials : Wood, Polyurethane resin, worbla, foam (under to worbla for shape of handle), Leather, magic sculpt.

I used a wood base, that wasn't thick enough so had to sculpt and cast the blade part of the sword. A lot of sanding later. I also sculpted the handle detail and casted that too. I used foam and worbla on the handle to get its shape. And finished off with using magic sculpt right on the sword for final detail. Then Prime and Paint. Leather for the handle, and added the tassels which I made myself.

*These layouts are just some examples - do what works best for you.*

## **Submission**

Submit your Entry by emailing WCS Australia at [worldcosplaysummitaustralia@gmail.com](mailto:worldcosplaysummitaustralia@gmail.com)

- a) Only one (1) email is required for a Cosplay Team Entry- the email is to be sent from one of the Cosplay Team Member's own email.
- b) The email needs to contain a link to the Cosplay Team's Google or Dropbox folder, containing their Entry.
- c) The Subject of the email is required to be- "CosplayTeamName Entry for 2022"
- d) The email text is to also include the Cosplay Team Name, and the preferred Names of BOTH members of the Cosplay Team. WCS Australia will not accept emails that only have a link in it.

Entry Emails are to be submitted by - **11:59 pm (AEST) Tuesday, 12th of July 2022**

### **Entry checklist -**

- Entry Form (PDF)
- Build Book (PDF)
  
- Audio Only - MP3  
OR
- Background Video Only - MOV, MP4, AVI, or WMV.
  
- Reference Images of Cosplay Characters (PNG, JPG)  
*- We ask that you add another folder of all the original size reference images used in the Teams Build Book of Each Member's Cosplay Characters. Please give them appropriate naming conventions.*
  
- 3~5x Cosplay photos of each Team Member (PNG, JPG)