



ANIMEKON EXPO
COSPLAY
BUILD BOOK

WHAT IS A BUILD BOOK?

A build book is like a behind-the-scenes tour of your cosplay journey. It's a physical or digital document that captures every aspect of your costume creation, from concept to completion. Think of it as your cosplay portfolio—it's your chance to show the judges all the hard work, creativity, and problem-solving skills that went into bringing your character to life.



WHY DO YOU NEED A BUILD BOOK?

During the prejudging phase of a cosplay competition, judges don't have the time to dissect every costume detail on the spot. A build book allows them to understand the effort and techniques behind your cosplay, which might not be immediately visible. It's a tool to demonstrate your craftsmanship, especially for details that are hidden or complex.

WHAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN A BUILD BOOK?

Reference Images:

Start with images of the character you're cosplaying. Include multiple angles and any specific details you focused on. This helps the judges see how closely you've adhered to the character's design.



MATERIALS LIST:

Provide a detailed list of the materials and tools you used. Mention any special fabrics, paints, or techniques that contributed to the overall look. This shows your resourcefulness and understanding of materials.

WORK-IN-PROGRESS PHOTOS:

Document your process with photos at different stages. This could include patterns, sewing progress, painting, prop construction, and any modifications you made along the way. These images help judges see the evolution of your work.

TECHNIQUES AND PROCESSES:

Explain the techniques you used, such as sewing, embroidery, foam crafting, 3D printing, or electronics. Go into detail about any challenges you faced and how you overcame them. This is your chance to highlight your skills and any innovative solutions you came up with.



TIME MANAGEMENT AND CHALLENGES:

If relevant, discuss how you managed your time and any major hurdles you had to overcome. This section shows your ability to plan and adapt, which are important aspects of cosplay creation.

FINAL PHOTOS:

Include high-quality images of your finished cosplay, preferably in the same environment as the character (if possible). This gives the judges a complete view of your work and how it translates from reference to reality.

PRESENTATION TIPS

Organization:

Keep your build book organized and easy to follow. Use clear headings, bullet points, and concise descriptions. Judges should be able to quickly find information without sifting through clutter.



VISUAL APPEAL:

While the content is most important, presentation matters too. A well-designed build book that's visually appealing can make a strong impression. Use clean layouts, consistent fonts, and high-resolution images.

ACCURACY:

Be honest and accurate in your descriptions. If something didn't turn out as planned, it's okay to acknowledge it and explain how you adapted. Judges appreciate transparency and learning about your problem-solving process.

FINAL THOUGHTS

A build book is more than just a requirement; it's an opportunity to showcase the depth of your passion and skill. By taking the time to create a comprehensive and well-presented build book, you give yourself the best chance of impressing the judges and potentially winning awards. It's your story as a cosplayer—make it count!

GOOD LUCK!