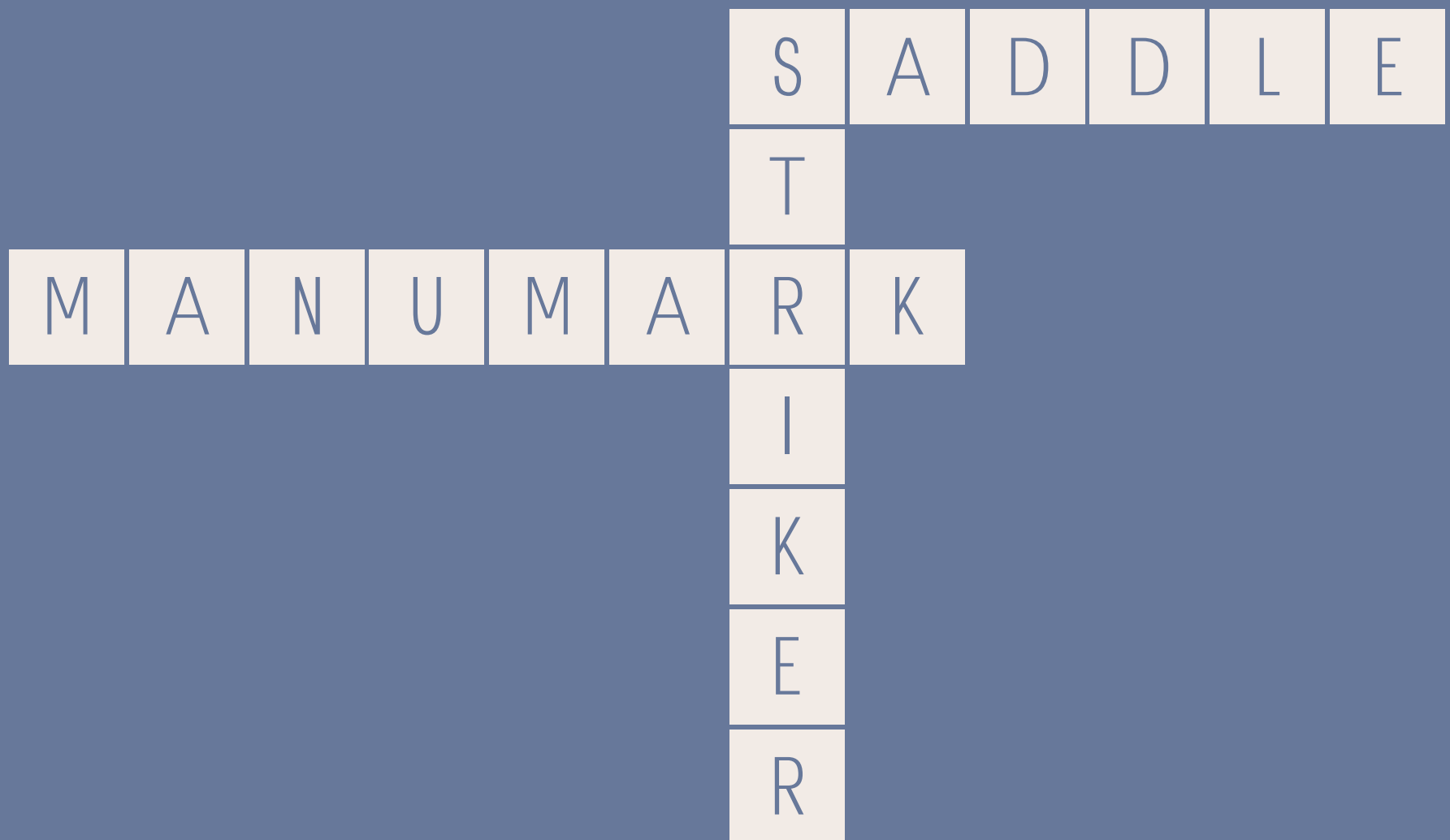


Matchbooks: Anatomy & Basic Vocabulary



General make-up

The basic form of matchbooks has remained largely unchanged over the last hundred years. Today, many size variations exist such as the 10-strike, 20-strike, and even 200-strike, to name a few. Regardless of quantity, matchbook anatomy stays consistent:

- Cardboard material
- Fold in the middle
- Matches stapled inside
- One end of cover tucked into the other

Due to safety issues, it eventually became federally mandated to place strikers on the back panel instead of the front. This 1973 order marked the most significant permanent change to matchbooks. These versions are known as “Reverse Strikers” which vary from the earlier versions called “Front Strikers.”

Anatomy

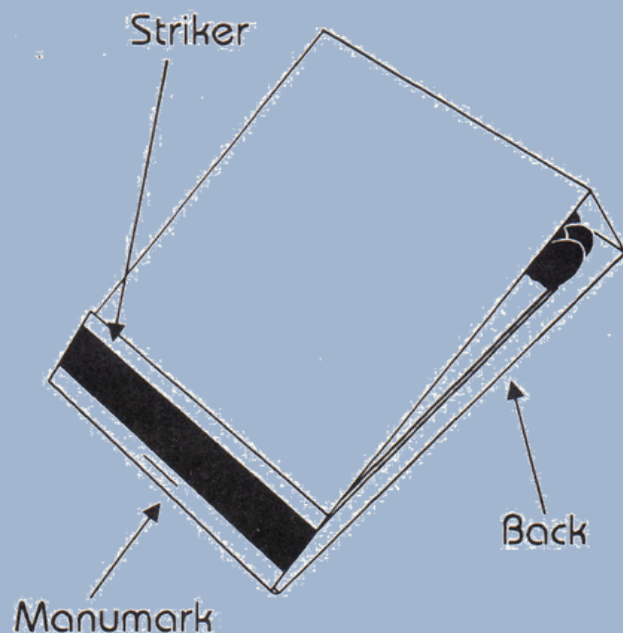
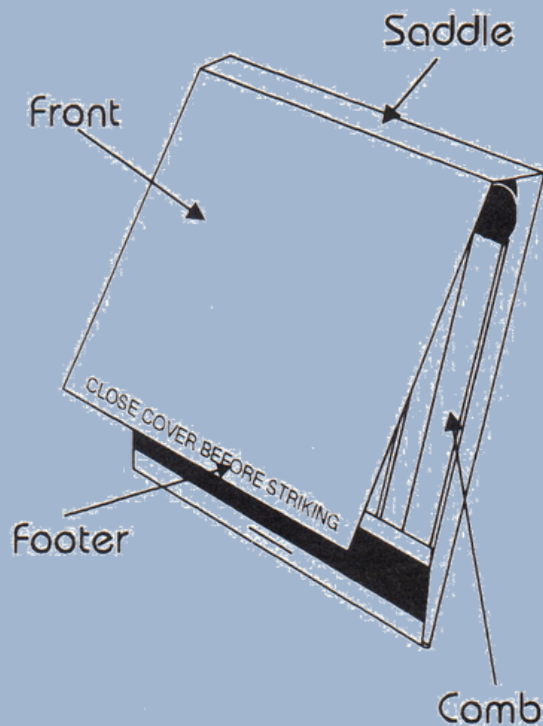


Diagram via The Matchcover Vault

The diagram to the left represents an early Front Striker. Key components include:

Front / Front Panel

Portion of the cover between the saddle and the bottom (where the footer would be)

Back / Back Panel

Portion of the cover between the saddle and the striker

Saddle

Portion of the cover between the two central folds; divides the front and back

Footer

Text at the very bottom of a cover

Striker

Abrasive strip upon which a match is struck

Comb

Row of matches

Manumark

Text line(s) near the striker on the front flap fold which identifies the manufacturer or distributor

Anatomy

The diagram to the right represents a Reverse Striker. Key components remain the same as the Front Striker, but with the striker placed on the back panel instead of the front.



Diagram via The Matchcover Vault

References & cool sources to check out

The Matchcover Vault

Webpage: <https://matchpro.org/Anatomy.html>

The Matchcover Vault

Webpage: <https://matchpro.org/Vocabulary.html>