

ArtSkills® LEATHER CRAFT



WARNING: SHARP POINTS.

Product has functional sharp edges and points. Contact may result in injury. Always keep points away from fingers and body. Handle with care. Use adult supervision.

Read all warnings and instructions prior to use. Adult supervision recommended. This product is not a toy. This product contains artist-quality components and may stain. Please protect clothing and work surfaces. Retain these instructions for future reference.

LEARN MORE!



SCAN QR CODE TO LEARN MORE AND FIND ADDITIONAL FREE DOWNLOADABLE DESIGN TEMPLATES.

WHAT'S INCLUDED:



PREPARE THE WORK AREA

When leather crafting, always work on a hard surface to achieve the best impressions. You will be using the mallet to create designs, so be sure your work surface is steady.

PRACTICE FIRST!

Before jumping into a project, get comfortable with how to use the tools. Use the scrap pieces to practice cutting and stamping before working on the final piece you plan to make.

GET TO KNOW THE TOOLS

In each step, tool descriptions and what you will need are highlighted in gray. Read this part first so you can gather your supplies and learn about the tools you will be using.

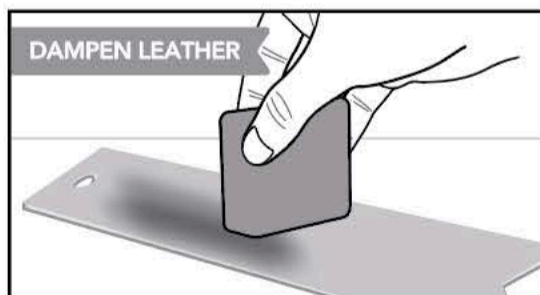
1 TRANSFER DESIGN TO THE LEATHER

WITH THE MODELING STYLUS TOOL

STYLUS →  ← SPOON

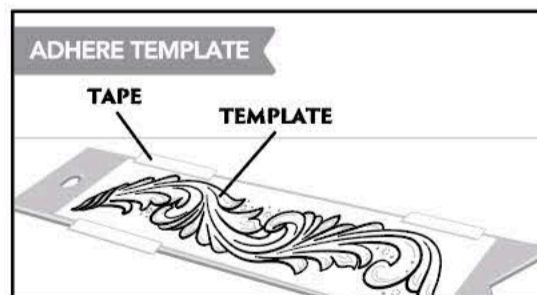
- Trace designs into leather.
- Add fine details and accents to designs.
- Smooth areas of cut edges.
- "Erase" mistakes by wetting and pressing into leather.

YOU WILL NEED:

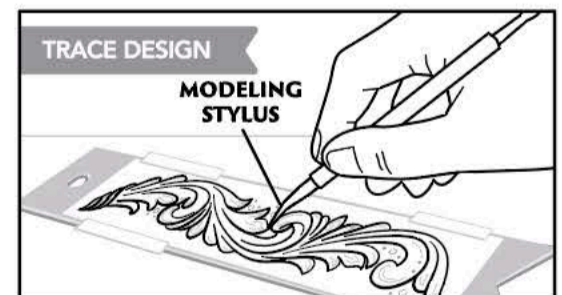


Use the **sponge** to apply an even coat of water to the surface of the leather. *Leather should be slightly moist, but not soaked.*

This process is called "casing" the leather. It will soften the fibers, making carving and stamping easier.



Choose a design from the **reusable templates** and gently pop out of sheet. To prevent sliding and shifting, align template to leather piece and securely tape the sides to the work surface. *Do not apply tape to a large area on the the front of the leather — it could cause damage.*



Trace template onto leather using the stylus end of the **modeling tool**. Tracing works best when done on a hard, flat surface. *For best results, apply constant, gentle pressure over each line of the template and trace the entire template in one sitting.*

* TEMPLATE GUIDE



- OUTLINES** - Cut with the swivel knife. Trace with the modeling stylus.
- ACCENTS** - Cut with the swivel knife. Tracing is optional.
- SHADED AREA** - Stamp with the beveler tool.



While tracing, peek under the template without moving it to be sure all parts of the design are being transferred to the leather. If the traced lines are not showing up, apply more pressure with the stylus.

2 CUT DESIGNS INTO THE LEATHER

WITH THE SWIVEL KNIFE

ADJUSTING NUT

• Used to lengthen the knife.

CRADLE

BARREL

BLADE

CAP

• Cuts straight and curved lines into leather.



YOU WILL NEED:



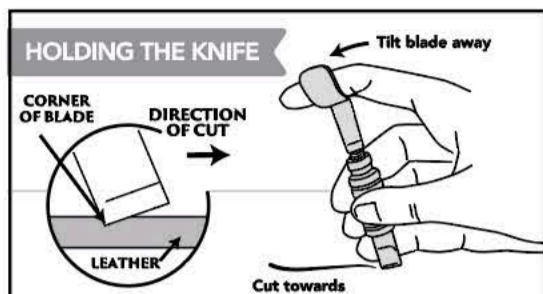
SWIVEL KNIFE



CAP

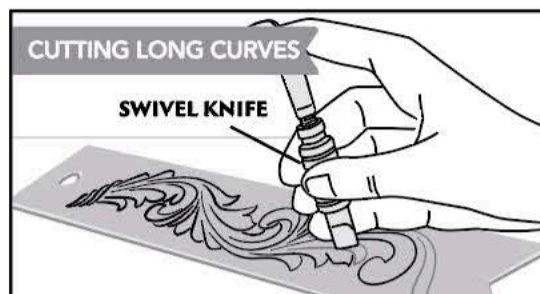


TRACED DESIGN ON LEATHER



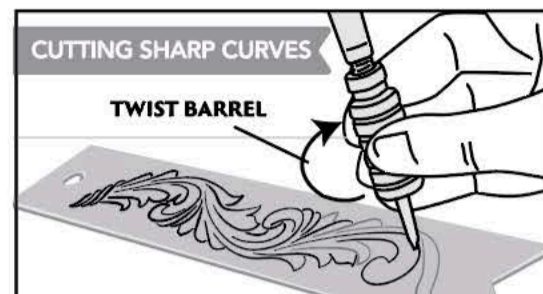
Rest the first joint of your index finger in the cradle. Hold the **barrel** of the knife as you would a pencil. The knife should tilt away from you as you cut towards yourself using the far corner of the blade.

The size of the knife can be adjusted by unscrewing the adjusting nut below the cradle and pulling the cradle out further. This will make the length of the knife longer for larger hands.



Before starting a cut, turn the leather so that the line is facing vertically in front of you.

Set the corner of the blade at the top of a traced line. Apply downward pressure with the index finger and pull the **swivel knife** slowly in toward yourself, along the traced line.



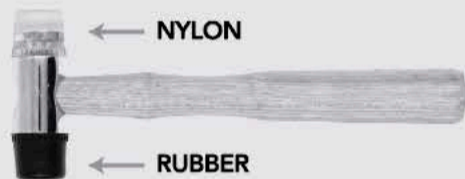
When cutting a curved line, use the grip on the **barrel** to slowly turn the blade.

Do not turn your entire hand or the leather when cutting curves.

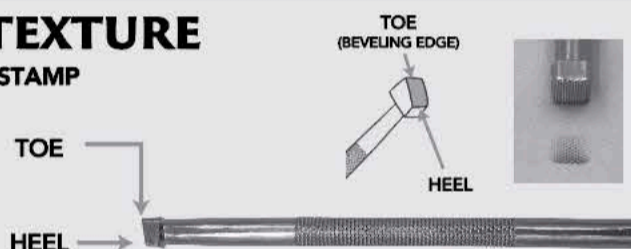
Tip: Practice cutting curved lines on a practice piece to get used to using the swivel blade correctly.

3 ADD DIMENSION AND TEXTURE

WITH THE DUAL-ENDED MALLET AND BEVELER STAMPER

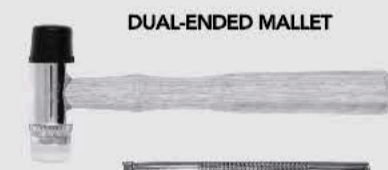


• Hit the ends of stampers to create impressions.



• When hit with mallet, adds dimension and textures.

YOU WILL NEED:



DUAL-ENDED MALLET

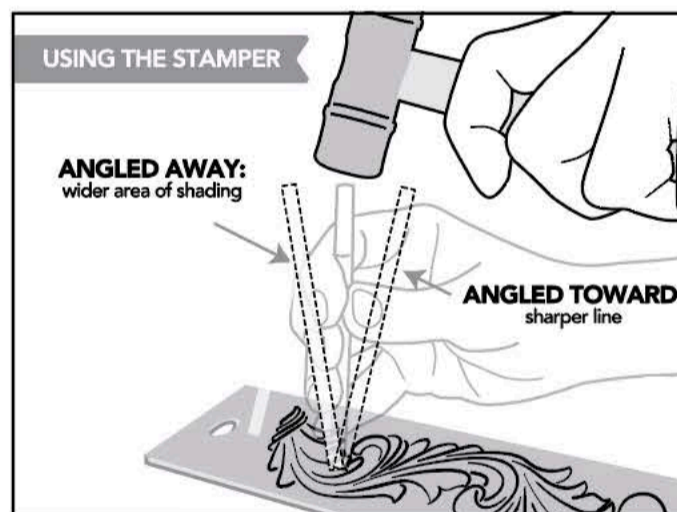
STAMPER - BEVELER

WATER

SPONGE



The **mallet** has a yellow nylon side and a black rubber side. The rubber side is best for hitting the stampers, as it will deliver the most force to create impressions in the leather. The nylon side is less rigid, creating a lighter look when stamped into the leather.

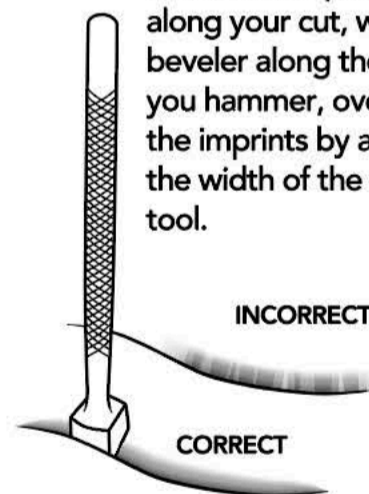


Dampen the leather before using a stamper. Align the **toe end** of the **beveler stamper** along a cut line. Hold perpendicular to the leather and hit with the mallet to create dimension along the cut line. The way the stamper is held determines how much of the texture is imprinted onto the leather.

Refer to the above image for instruction on how to adjust the angle of the stamper to achieve more or less texture.

WALK THE LINE

To achieve smooth and consistent impressions along your cut, walk the beveler along the line as you hammer, overlapping the imprints by at least half the width of the beveling tool.



Good to know Stamping along the cut lines adds dimension to the design. Sloped for a graded impression, the beveler stamper is used to push down the leather on one side of a design so certain areas look like they stand taller than the rest.

ADD DECORATIVE CUTS



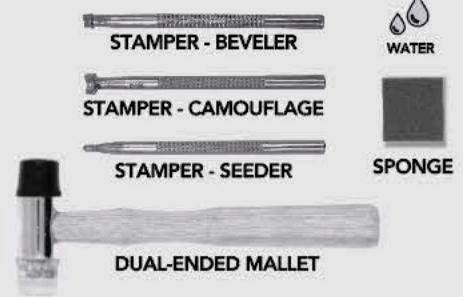
After carving and adding dimension with stampers, you can add decorative cuts. These are shallow cuts made with the swivel knife between areas that have not been stamped. They are indicated on the design templates with gray lines, but you can also get creative and design your own!

4 ADD VARIETY AND SMALL DETAILS

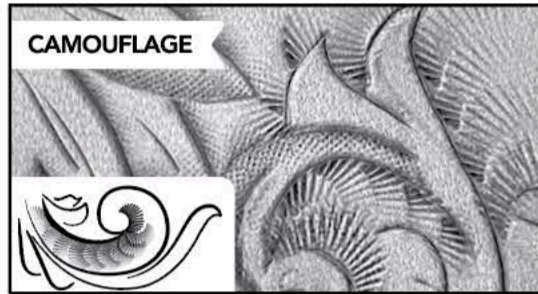
WITH THE BEVELER, CAMOUFLAGE AND SEEDER STAMPERS



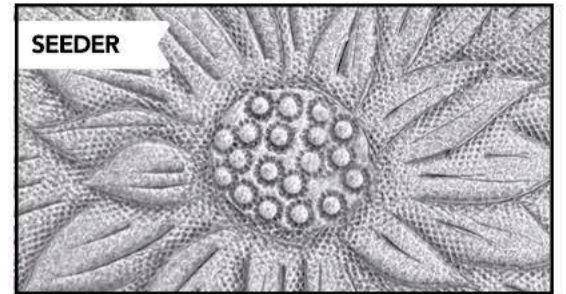
YOU WILL NEED:



Use the **beveler stamper** with varying pressure along cut lines to add depth and shading to the main shapes of your design.



Use the **camouflage stamper** along the lines of stems and scrolls. For best results, tilt the tool towards the line. This tool can also be used to add texture to flower petals.



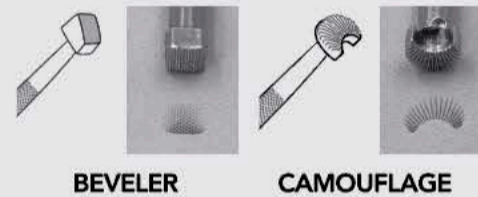
Use the **seeder stamper** to indent round dots on leather. To fill blank spaces, work around the perimeter first, then fill the center. *This tool is also great for border decoration.*

Good to know Refer to the diagram under Step 3 to learn how to angle the stampers to achieve different impressions and variations.

5 FLATTEN AND TEXTURE THE BACKGROUND

WITH THE BEVELER AND CAMOUFLAGE STAMPER TOOLS

Flattening the background can add more depth and detail. This technique is not required for a finished leather carving. *If you wish to skip this step, move on to Step 6 to finish the piece.* This step is done last and the leather should be a bit drier.



YOU WILL NEED:



Use the **beveler stamper** with varying pressure to add depth and shading to the areas outside of your design.



The darker areas on the templates indicate where to use the flattening technique.

SHADED AREAS indicate where to flatten the design.

Fix Mistakes by slightly dampening the area and carefully running the flat side of the modeling spoon tool over the misplaced stamp. Apply even, light pressure and polish away the mistake. Leather is relatively forgiving, but don't wait too long to fix mistakes.

Leather Finishing Options on the back of this instruction sheet.

ENDLESS LEATHER CRAFTING

Now that you know the basics, check out these additional techniques and options to take your leather crafting to the next level.

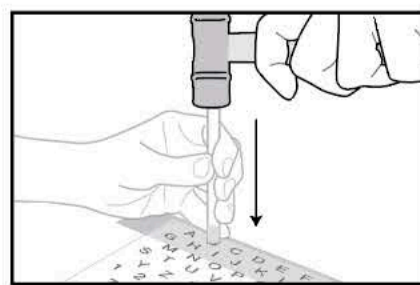


STAMPING A PATTERN

Create endless patterns with the **camouflage** and **seeder stampers**. Small dots can be made by firmly pressing the **modeling stylus** into the leather. Be sure to hold the stamper perpendicular to the leather and firmly strike a few times before lifting away.



PERSONALIZE IT!



Use the lettering stamp and dowel rod to personalize any piece that you wish. Position the lettering stamp where you want your letters to be. *The letters should be right-reading, NOT flipped or upside down.* Firmly hold the dowel rod perpendicular to the lettering stamp and strike with the mallet a few times before lifting away.

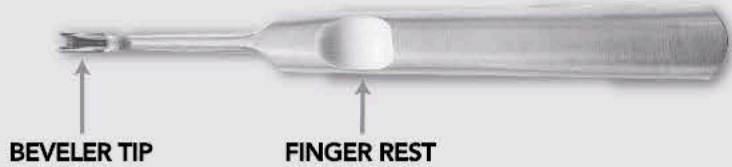
YOU WILL NEED:



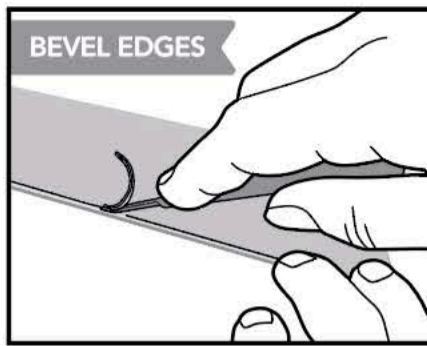
FINISHING LEATHER PIECES

After the design is carved and stamped into the leather, beveling the edges and adding color create a finished look!

SMOOTH THE EDGES



• The edge beveler removes the sharper square edges on a piece, leaving a more rounded finish.



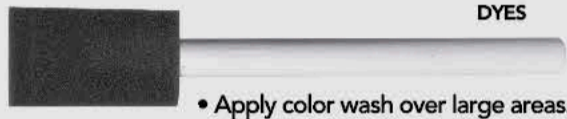
Place index finger in the finger rest and hold the beveler firmly. Position the **edge beveler** tip in line with the edge of the leather. Tilt the tool up 30 degrees and apply gentle pressure while pushing the beveler down the length of the leather. This will scrape off the top level of the leather, giving the piece a finished look.

DYEING AND PAINTING LEATHER

WITH THE FOAM BRUSH AND PAINT BRUSH

Leather dyes are highly saturated and add a beautiful finishing touch to leatherwork. *This step is done before applying leather sheen and is not required for a finished leather carving.*

• Paint individual areas and fine details.



DYES



BOWL



PAPER TOWEL



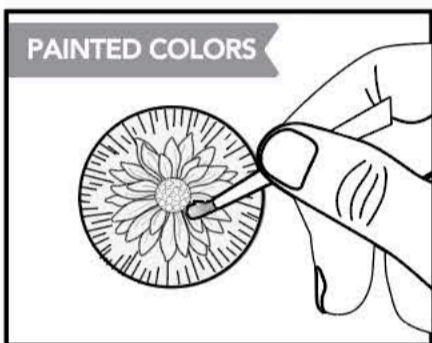
DROP CLOTH

Protect work surface

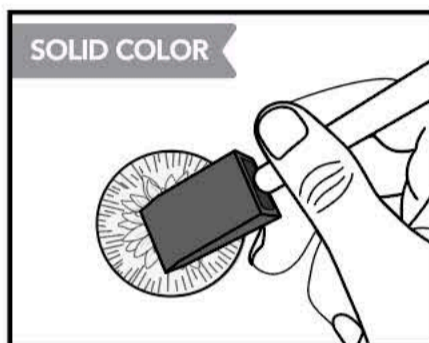
Dyeing leather can be messy, so be sure to protect your work surface. Using a cut open trash bag works nicely.

Work outside

Sometimes the smell of the dyes can cause discomfort. Work outside or in a well-ventilated area.



The paintbrush can be used to paint individual areas with dye. Squeeze a small amount of dye into a bowl and sparingly dip the paintbrush into the dye. For richer colors, keep painting more dye onto the leather.



Squeeze a small amount of dye into a dish and dip the foam brush into the dye. Rub over the leather piece in small, circular motions until desired result is achieved. For even coverage, use multiple light coats of pigment. For an uneven, textured look, apply a few heavy coats.

ADD SHINE AND PROTECT



BOWL



DROP CLOTH



SPONGE



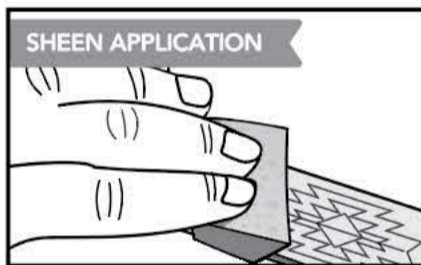
SHEEN BOTTLE

- Creates a glossy finish.
- Protects and seals leather.
- Prevents dye from wearing off.

Leather sheen can be applied to natural leather or dyed leather that has dried completely.



Good to know Immediately after application of leather dyes or sheen, rinse tool and let dry to reuse next time.

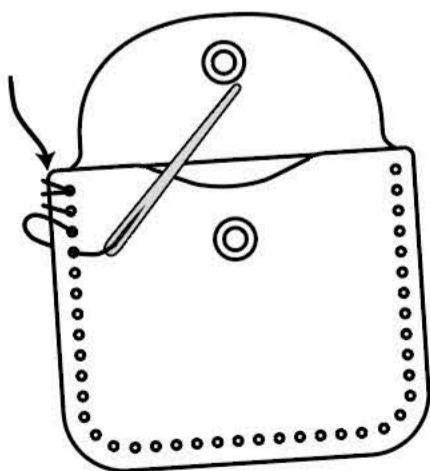


Pour a small amount of sheen onto the sponge OR into a small dish where you can dip the sponge. Apply a thin layer onto leather with even strokes until covered.

ASSEMBLING LEATHER PIECES

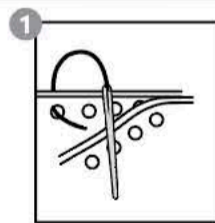
NOTE: Be sure to do all tooling, dyeing and finishing before assembly.

COIN PURSE

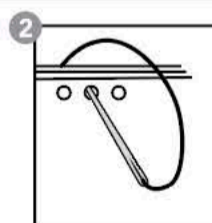


Face the rough sides together and place the front over the back, aligning the lacing holes. Lace as shown using a *whip stitch* (see instructions).

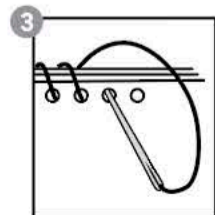
Cord will need to be strung through the hole in the end of the lacing needle first.



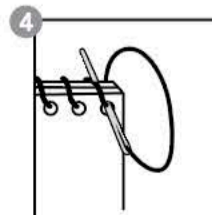
Begin with cord coming out from between the two layers of leather. Leave 3/4" of cord sandwiched between the two layers.



Wrap cord over the edge and lace through the **NEXT** set of holes, securing the end of the lace between the layers.

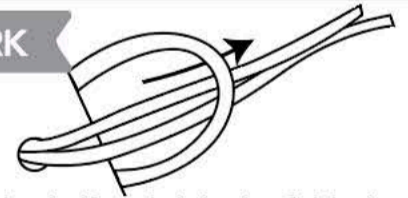


Continue lacing around the edge of the purse. Stitches should be snug, but not tight.



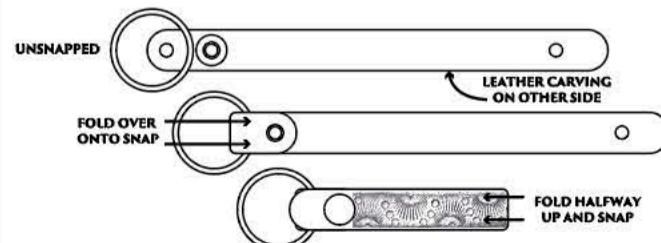
Leaving the second to last stitch loose, make last stitch through only one layer of the purse. Bring needle up between layers and through the loose second-to-last loop. Pull tight and trim.

BOOKMARK



Fold the cord in half and slide the folded end through the hole of the **bookmark** to create a loop. Slip the two loose ends through the loop. Hold the loose ends in one hand and the bookmark in the other and pull tight.

LOOP KEYCHAIN



When unsnapped, the **loop keychain** can be easily carved. To assemble, fold the short end over the ring and onto the snap as shown. Then fold the other end up and snap closed.