



DIY LEATHERCRAFTING KITS

# SKILLS, TOOLS, AND TERMS

- USE AS A REFERENCE WHEN CRAFTING YOUR KIT -

THANK YOU FOR EMBARKING ON THIS JOURNEY WITH ME,  
AND FOR SUPPORTING MY CRAFT!

CONNECT WITH ME ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND POST PHOTOS OF  
YOUR FINISHED PROJECT WITH THE HASHTAG  
#EMBERCRAFTKITS



@EMBERCRAFTCREATIONS



A: MALLET

B: 2 LEATHER NEEDLES

C: SWIVEL KNIFE

D: JAR OF SEALER

E: SPONGE

F: SANDPAPER

G: BEESWAX BLOCK

H: SEEDER STAMPING TOOL

I: BACKGROUNDER STAMPING TOOL

J: BEVELER STAMPING TOOL

K: PEAR SHADER STAMPING TOOL

L: WOODEN EDGE SLICKER

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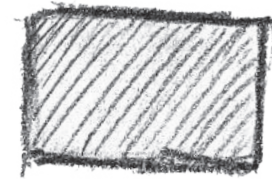
# LEATHER TERMS

### “VEG-TANNED” vs “CHROME-TANNED” LEATHER:

VEGETABLE TANNED LEATHER IS TANNED USING NATURAL MATERIALS SUCH AS TREE BARK. THIS NATURAL PROCESS ALLOWS THE LEATHER TO BE MOLDED, TOOLED, CARVED, AND DYED. THE LEATHER IN THIS KIT IS VEGETABLE TANNED. CHROME TANNING IS A QUICK AND EASY METHOD TO TAN LEATHER, AND USES CHROMIUMS (CHEMICALS, SALTS, DYES, ETC). THIS TYPE OF LEATHER IS MORE COMMON AND AFFORDABLE, BUT DOESN'T ALLOW FOR TOOLING, DYEING, OR MOLDING.



GRAIN SIDE



FLESH SIDE

### “GRAIN SIDE” vs “FLESH SIDE”

THE LEATHER YOU ARE USING HAS A FRONT (GRAIN) AND BACK (FLESH). THE GRAIN IS WHERE THE HAIR USED TO BE UNTIL IT WAS REMOVED DURING THE TANNING PROCESS. THIS IS THE MORE ATTRACTIVE, DURABLE, AND SMOOTH SIDE THAT YOU WANT SHOWING ON THE OUTSIDE OF YOUR PROJECT. THE FLESH SIDE IS THE SIDE THAT WAS ONCE CONNECTED TO THE MEAT. THIS SIDE IS TYPICALLY MORE ROUGH AND FIBROUS, AND YOU WILL WANT TO HIDE THIS SIDE ON THE INSIDE OF YOUR PROJECT.

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# SKILLS

TIP: THE PIECE OF LEATHER THAT YOU WILL BE TOOLING IS TEMPORARILY BACKED WITH AN ADHESIVE CARDSTOCK. THIS WILL PREVENT THE LEATHER FROM WARPING DURING THE TOOLING PROCESS!

## - TOOLING -

### PREPARE YOUR SPACE

TOOLS NEEDED: CARDSTOCK-BACKED LEATHER FOR TOOLING, TOOLING TEMPLATE ON TRACING FILM, SWIVEL KNIFE, MALLET, 4 STAMPING TOOLS, SPONGE, BOWL OF WATER, BALLPOINT PEN, HARD SURFACE (LIKE A WOODEN TABLE, STONE COUNTERTOP, OR CUTTING BOARD).

HAVE ALL OF YOUR TOOLS CLOSE AT HAND, AND USE THE ATTACHED DOUBLE-SIDED TAPE TO SECURE YOUR LEATHER, GRAIN SIDE UP (SEE LEATHER TERMS), TO YOUR HARD TOOLING SURFACE.

### CASING

CASING IS THE ACT OF WETTING THE GRAIN SURFACE OF THE LEATHER, IN ORDER TO MAKE IT PLYABLE AND RECEPTIVE TO STAMPING. IF YOU WERE TO STAMP YOUR TOOLS INTO DRY LEATHER, THE IMPRESSION WOULD NOT HOLD OVER TIME. TO CASE YOUR LEATHER, ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS DUNK YOUR SPONGE INTO YOUR BOWL OF WATER, THEN WET THE GRAIN SURFACE OF THE LEATHER WITH AN EVEN COAT, UNTIL THE ENTIRE SURFACE IS DARK BROWN. WAIT 1 MINUTE AFTER CASING, UNTIL THE SURFACE OF THE LEATHER IS NO LONGER DAMP OR DARK, BUT IT'S STILL COOL TO THE TOUCH. A SIGN OF PERFECTLY CASED LEATHER IS WHEN A STAMP IMPRESSION LEAVES A DARK BROWN MARK AND DOESN'T BOUNCE BACK.

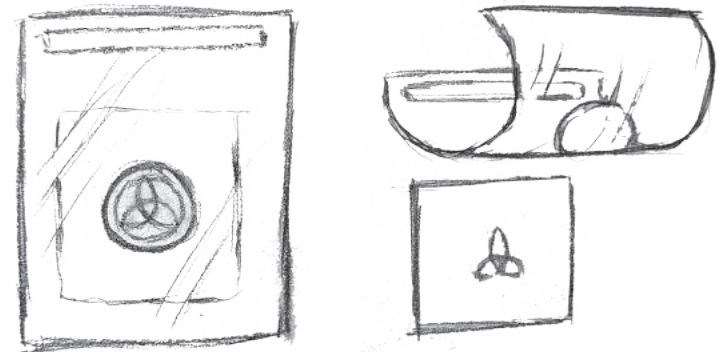
IF AN IMPRESSION DOES NOT LEAVE A DARK MARK WHILE YOU ARE TOOLING, IT IS TIME TO RE-CASE YOUR LEATHER.

## - TOOLING CONTINUED -

### PATTERN TRANSFER

BEFORE YOU CAN BEGIN TOOLING, YOU WILL NEED TO TRANSFER THE OUTLINES OF THE PATTERN ONTO THE LEATHER FROM THE INCLUDED TEMPLATE. THE TEMPLATE IS ATTACHED TO A SHEET OF TRACING FILM, SO YOU CAN ACCURATELY CENTER THE TEMPLATE ON YOUR PIECE. ONCE YOU FEEL THAT THE TEMPLATE IS CENTERED, SIMPLY PEEL THE BACKING OFF OF THE DOUBLE-SIDED TAPE, AND STICK THE EDGE OF THE TRACING FILM TO YOUR TABLE OR TOOLING SURFACE. THIS WILL ACT AS A "HINGE" SO YOU CAN LIFT THE TEMPLATE TO CHECK YOUR WORK, THEN LAY IT RIGHT BACK DOWN WITHOUT SACRIFICING ITS ALIGNMENT.

ONCE YOU HAVE YOUR TEMPLATE MOUNTED TO YOUR TOOLING SURFACE, LIFT YOUR TEMPLATE, CASE YOUR LEATHER (SEE "CASING"), LAY THE TEMPLATE BACK DOWN, AND START TRACING OVER THE TEMPLATE LINES WITH A BALLPOINT PEN. THERE IS NO NEED TO PUT A LOT OF FORCE BEHIND THE PEN - YOU ONLY NEED JUST ENOUGH PRESSURE TO MAKE A SLIGHT IMPRESSION IN THE LEATHER UNDERNEATH THE TEMPLATE. FEEL FREE TO LIFT UP THE TEMPLATE AND CHECK YOUR WORK AT ANY POINT DURING THIS PROCESS. ONCE YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE TRANSFER, YOU CAN UNSTICK YOUR LEATHER FROM YOUR WORK SURFACE.



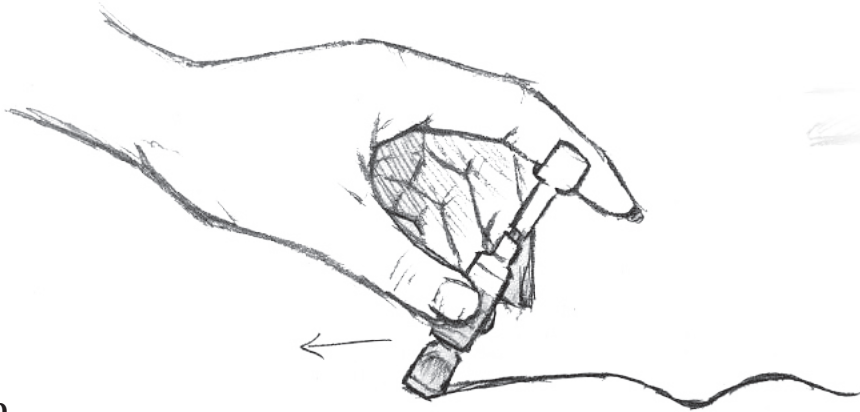
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## - TOOLING CONTINUED -

### OUTLINING

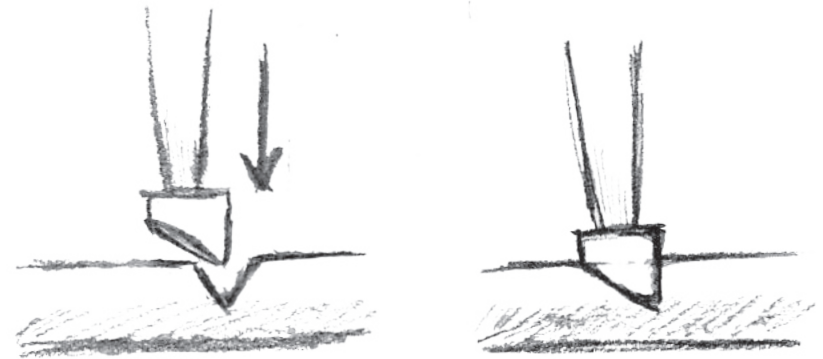
AFTER YOU TRANSFER YOUR TOOLING TEMPLATE ONTO YOUR LEATHER, IT'S TIME TO CARVE THE OUTLINES OF THE DESIGN WITH YOUR SWIVEL KNIFE. HOLD THE MIDSECTION OF THE SWIVEL KNIFE WITH YOUR THUMB, MIDDLE FINGER, AND RING FINGER, WITH THE KNIFE POINTING DOWN TOWARD THE LEATHER. REST YOUR POINTER FINGER IN THE CRADLE AT THE TOP. TOUCH THE FAR END OF THE BLADE TO THE LEATHER, AND DRAG THE KNIFE TOWARDS YOU TO CUT. USE YOUR POINTER FINGER PRESSURE TO "STEER" THE KNIFE AROUND CORNERS AND TURNS AS YOU SWIVEL THE BLADE SIDE TO SIDE WITH YOUR THUMB AND MIDDLE FINGER. YOU WANT THE CUT TO BE NO MORE THAN HALF AS DEEP AS THE THICKNESS OF THE LEATHER.



### BEVELING

ONCE YOU CUT YOUR OUTLINES, YOU'RE READY TO START STAMPING WITH YOUR BEVELER STAMPING TOOL AND MALLET. BEVELING GIVES THE IMPRESSION OF "DEPTH" IN LEATHER TOOLING. WHEN YOU BEVEL ONE SIDE OF A CUT, IT BRINGS A 3-D EFFECT TO THE EDGE OF YOUR DESIGN. WHEN MAKING A STAMPING IMPRESSION WITH THE BEVELER, ALWAYS MAKE SURE THAT THE "POINT" OF THE STAMP IS PLACED IN THE GROOVE OF THE CUT, SO THAT YOU CREATE A SMOOTH EDGE OUT OF THE CUT LINE.

## - TOOLING CONTINUED -



**TIP:** WHEN STAMPING, YOU DON'T NEED TO HAMMER VERY HARD! JUST HOLD THE STAMPING TOOL TIGHTLY WITH YOUR THUMB AND FIRST TWO FINGERS, AND HOVER THE STAMP JUST A MILLIMETER ABOVE THE SURFACE OF THE LEATHER. TRY "WALKING" THE STAMP SLOWLY TOWARDS YOU, WHILE LIGHTLY TAPPING THE END WITH YOUR MALLET IN A REPETITIVE MOTION.

### BACKGROUNDING

USING THE BACKGROUNDER STAMPING TOOL AND MALLET, YOU CAN TAKE THE 3-D EFFECT EVEN FURTHER BY COMpressING AN ENTIRE SECTION OF THE LEATHER AND MAKING IT LOOK LIKE THE "BACKGROUND" OF THE DESIGN. YOU CAN USE THE BACKGROUND TOOL TWO DIFFERENT WAYS: YOU CAN HOLD THE STAMPING TOOL PERPENDICULAR TO THE SURFACE OF THE LEATHER AND HAMMER A FLAT IMPRESSION, OR YOU CAN HOLD THE STAMPING TOOL AT AN ANGLE AND LIGHTLY MAKE A BEVELLED IMPRESSION WITH JUST THE POINTED TIP OF THE STAMP. THIS IS USEFUL FOR CREATING DEPTH IN CORNERS.

## - TOOLING CONTINUED -

### SHADING

USING THE PEAR SHADER STAMPING TOOL AND Mallet, you can incorporate shading into your design. This tool has a rounded stamping surface, so the stamped impression won't have a hard edge. Layer gentle impressions of this tool to resemble a shaded area in your design.

### SEEDER

USING THE SEEDER STAMPING TOOL AND Mallet, you can create a stamp that looks like a "seed", or a small circle. This is a very specific tool, but it can be very useful for creating small dots (or a seeded background) in your design. Be sure to tap the mallet very gently while using this tool! The stamping surface is smaller, which means that it's easy to stamp too deeply into the leather.

### DECORATIVE CUTS

AFTER ALL OF THE STAMPING ELEMENTS ARE COMPLETE, it's common to go back in with the Swivel Knife to make final decorative cuts. Any decorative cuts made before stamping will likely be flattened by the stamping process, so save any delicate linework for last (or redo those lines).

## - CREASING -

JUST LIKE HOW CASING THE LEATHER ALLOWS FOR TOOLING, it also allows you to create permanent creases in the leather when needed. After wetting the surface of the leather with your sponge and water, all you need to do is fold the leather along the crease line, and flatten the crease by rolling your Edge Slicker along the fold a few times. If you want the crease to be very pronounced, you can use binder clips to secure the fold as the leather dries overnight.

## - COLORING & SEALING -

\*\*LEATHER COLORANTS ARE NOT INCLUDED WITH THIS KIT. COLORING IS OPTIONAL\*\*

### COLORING OPTIONS

LEATHER DYES, LEATHER ANTIQUING GELS,  
LEATHER PAINTS, PERMANENT MARKERS

### PREPARE YOUR SPACE

TOOLS NEEDED: LEATHER PIECES, SPONGE, NEWSPAPER OR PLASTIC TABLECLOTH, CHOICE OF COLORANT (OPTIONAL), DISPOSABLE GLOVES (OPTIONAL), JAR OF SEALER, SOFT CLOTH.

BEFORE YOU START COLORING AND SEALING YOUR LEATHER, you want to protect your work surface from any risk of spills. Spread out some newspaper, or lay down a plastic table cloth before opening your liquids.

### TIPS FOR COLORING LEATHER

DYES: USE YOUR SPONGE TO APPLY AN EVEN COAT TO THE ENTIRE PIECE OF LEATHER, USING WIDE CIRCULAR MOTIONS. LET DRY, AND APPLY ANOTHER COAT OR TWO UNTIL YOU HAVE ACHIEVED AN EVEN AND DEEP COLOR.

ANTIQUING GELS: APPLY HEAVILY WITH A SPONGE TO THE SURFACE OF THE LEATHER. MAKE SURE TO PUSH THE GEL INTO ALL OF THE TOOLED IMPRESSIONS AND CARVED LINES. COVER THE ENTIRE SURFACE OF THE LEATHER, USING CIRCULAR MOTIONS. WIPE OFF EXCESS GEL WITH A FOLDED PAPER TOWEL, LEAVING GEL IN THE TOOLED CREVICES.

PAINTS: USE ANGELUS LEATHER PAINTS OR ACRYLIC PAINTS AND BRUSHES TO DECORATE YOUR LEATHER WITH BRIGHT COLORS AND DETAIL.

MARKERS: USE SHARPIES OR OTHER PERMANENT MARKERS FOR FINE LINEWORK OR DETAILED DECORATION.

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## - COLORING & SEALING CONTINUED -

BEFORE SEALING YOUR LEATHER, MAKE SURE YOUR SPONGE IS CLEAN AND YOUR LEATHER IS DRY! IF YOU USED YOUR SPONGE FOR DYES OR GELS, WASH IT THOROUGHLY WITH WARM WATER AND SOAP UNTIL THE WATER RUNS CLEAR.

### SEALING

BY COATING YOUR PROJECT WITH A LEATHER SEALER, YOU WILL PRESERVE ANY DYED OR PAINTED DESIGNS, AND KEEP THE COLOR FROM BLEEDING. IT WILL ALSO MAKE YOUR FINISHED LEATHER PROJECT SLIGHTLY WATER RESISTANT, MORE DURABLE, AND EASIER TO CLEAN.

USING THE INCLUDED JAR OF SEALER AND CLEAN SPONGE, APPLY A LIGHT COAT OF SEALER EVENLY TO ALL SURFACES OF YOUR PROJECT. BE SURE THAT YOU ARE SEALING BOTH THE GRAIN AND FLESH SIDES OF YOUR LEATHER. USE BROAD, EVEN STROKES TO AVOID STREAKING. LET DRY AND BUFF IN GENTLE CIRCULAR MOTIONS WITH A SOFT CLOTH UNTIL SHINY. REPEAT THIS PROCESS 3 MORE TIMES FOR 3 EVEN COATS OF SEALER.

## - SEWING -

TIP: YOUR KIT COMES WITH PRE-MEASURED LENGTHS OF THREAD. HOWEVER, IF YOU ARE CUTTING YOUR OWN THREAD FOR A DIFFERENT PROJECT, A GOOD RULE OF THUMB IS TO MEASURE 4X THE LENGTH OF THE SEAM.

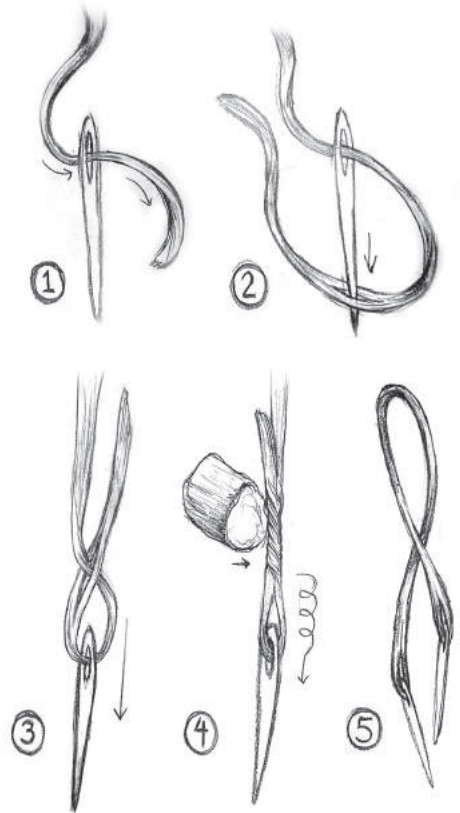
### PREPARE YOUR SPACE

TOOLS NEEDED: LEATHER PIECES, 2 LEATHER NEEDLES, THREAD LENGTHS, SCISSORS, LIGHTER, BEESWAX.

## - SEWING CONTINUED -

### THREADING THE NEEDLES

1. SEND ONE OF THE LENGTHS OF THREAD THROUGH THE EYE OF THE NEEDLE.
2. PIERCE THE TIP OF THE NEEDLE THROUGH THE FIBERS OF THE THREAD, ABOUT 1" FROM THE END OF THE SECTION OF THREAD THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN PASSED THROUGH THE NEEDLE.
3. PULL THE NEEDLE THROUGH.
4. RUB THE THREAD ACROSS THE BEESWAX BLOCK, PULLING THE NEEDLE AWAY FROM THE BLOCK. TWIST THE FIBERS TO LOCK.
5. REPEAT WITH THE OTHER NEEDLE, ON THE OTHER END OF THE SAME THREAD.



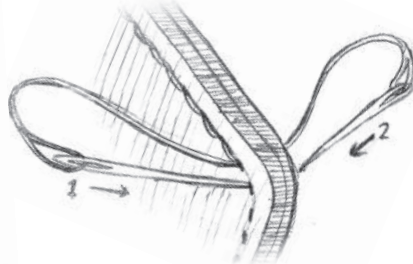
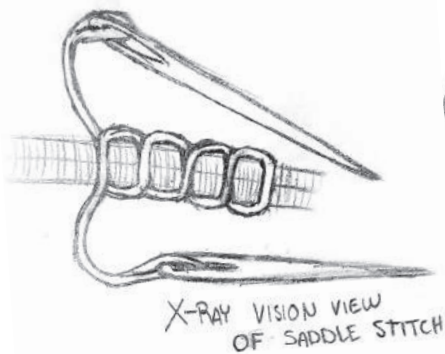
### ABOUT THE SADDLE STITCH

THIS TRADITIONAL HANDSTITCHING TECHNIQUE YIELDS VERY STRONG AND DURABLE STITCHES. EACH STITCH IS MADE UP OF TWO INDEPENDENT STITCHES, UNLIKE THE LOCK STITCH, WHICH IS THE TYPE OF STITCH USED BY SEWING MACHINES. THE LOCK STITCH WILL COMPLETELY UNRAVEL IF A THREAD BREAKS, BUT THE SADDLE STITCH WILL STILL HOLD TOGETHER.

## - SEWING CONTINUED -

### THE SADDLE STITCH

1. ONCE YOU HAVE YOUR NEEDLES THREADED, LINE UP YOUR LEATHER PIECES SO THAT THE SEWING HOLES MATCH UP. REFERENCE THE DIAGRAM IN YOUR CRAFTER'S KIT INSTRUCTIONS.
2. BEGIN YOUR STITCH BY PUSHING ONE OF THE NEEDLES THROUGH THE SET OF STARTING HOLES. PULL IT THROUGH UNTIL THERE IS EQUAL AMOUNT OF THREAD ON EITHER SIDE.
3. STITCH THE LEFT NEEDLE THROUGH THE NEXT SET OF HOLES, AND PULL THE THREAD THROUGH. THEN, STITCH THE OTHER NEEDLE THROUGH THE SAME SET OF HOLES FROM THE OPPOSITE SIDE, SO THAT THE NEEDLES HAVE SWAPPED SIDES AND YOU HAVE A COMPLETE STITCH. YOU SHOULD STILL HAVE EQUAL LENGTHS OF THREAD ON EITHER SIDE.
4. CONTINUE STITCHING THROUGH EACH SET OF HOLES, MAKING SURE THAT BOTH LAYERS OF LEATHER REMAIN LINED UP. YOU CAN USE BINDER CLIPS TO HOLD YOUR LAYERS TOGETHER.
5. WHEN YOU REACH THE END OF THE STITCH HOLES, SWITCH DIRECTION AND BACKSTITCH THROUGH THE LAST THREE HOLES AGAIN.
6. TRIM THE THREADS SO THAT ONLY 1/8 INCH OF EACH SIDE IS POKING OUT OF THE STITCH HOLE. HOLD THE SEAM HORIZONTALLY AT EYE LEVEL AND SLOWLY LOWER A LIGHTER FLAME UNTIL THE END OF THE THREAD melts INTO A BALL. BE CAREFUL NOT TO TOUCH THE FLAME AGAINST THE LEATHER. REPEAT FOR OTHER SIDE.



## - BURNISHING -

### PREPARE YOUR SPACE

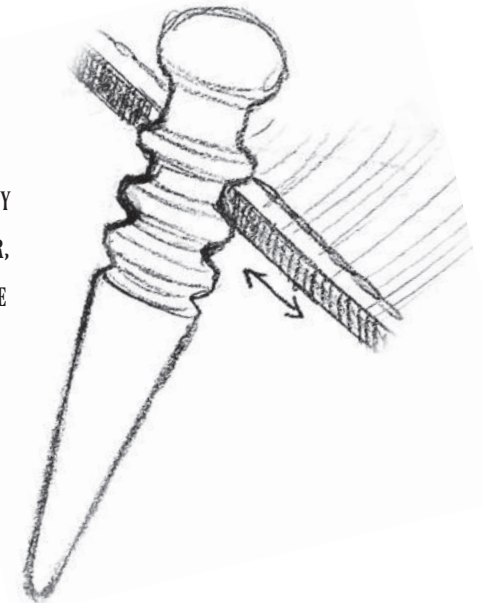
TOOLS NEEDED: LEATHER PROJECT, SANDPAPER, EDGE SLICKER, BEESWAX, SPONGE, WATER

### SANDING

USE YOUR PIECE OF SANDPAPER TO LIGHTLY SAND DOWN ANY UNEVEN OR ROUGH PARTS OF THE EDGES. THIS WILL MAKE IT EASIER TO BURNISH YOUR EDGES TO A SMOOTH FINISH. AFTER YOU SAND THE EDGES, YOU MAY NEED TO TOUCH UP UP THE EDGES WITH THE COLOR METHOD OF YOUR CHOICE.

### WATER BURNISHING

USING YOUR CLEAN SPONGE, DAMPEN THE EDGES WITH WATER. WITH THE APPROPRIATELY SIZED GROOVE ON THE WOODEN EDGE SLICKER, RUB THE GROOVE BACK AND FORTH ALONG THE EDGES UNTIL A LIGHT SHINE IS ACHIEVED. THIS REQUIRES MANY PASSES, TO BUILD UP HEAT AND FRICTION. HOWEVER, IT DOES NOT REQUIRE HEAVY PRESSURE.



### BEESWAX BURNISHING

AFTER YOU HAVE BURNISHED YOUR EDGES WITH WATER, IT'S TIME TO REPEAT THE PROCESS WITH A LAYER OF BEESWAX. THIS WILL MAKE THE SEALED, SLICK EDGES LAST LONGER. RUB THE BEESWAX BLOCK ALONG THE EDGES AND REPEAT THE PROCESS OF BURNISHING WITH THE EDGE SLICKER. THIS STEP CAN BE REPEATED TO DARKEN OR SMOOTH FURTHER.