



UW-MADISON EXTENSION

Leathercraft Project

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What is it All About?

In this project, you can learn the construction of small leather articles involving carving, stamping and lacing. You can start with simple articles, such as a coaster, and learn the skills to advance methods of decorating leather such as filigree and figure carving.

Grow in Your Project

Starting Out

- Learn how to prepare leather.
- Choose designs for your leather project.
- Learn to trace designs onto leather.
- Understand basic tools and how to use them.
- Practice cutting leather.
- Learn how to finish your leather products.
- Learn how to lace.

Learning More

- Learn how to sharpen a swivel knife.
- Learn how to camouflage with leather.
- Practice smoothing out your decorative cuts.
- Learn how to attach snap buttons.
- Identify different types of leather.
- Understand the history of leather.

Going Further

- Learn how to tan your own leather.
- Make a leather sculpture.
- Be able to skive your leather.
- Dye your own leather.

Resources for All Three Levels

- [Leathercraft Unit 1 Project Guide](#)
- [Advanced Leathercraft Unit 2 Project Guide](#)

Take Your Project Further!

- Learn the history of leather.
- Look in your closet and around your house to see what leather items you own.
- Do comparison shopping to see if it is best to make your leather garment or buy them.
- Make a piece of clothing out of leather and model it at a Fair.
- Take a class about leather. Tandy Leather offers classes and shows throughout the United States.
- Visit a leather store.
- Visit a factory that makes boots or other leather products.
- Look of videos on YouTube about tanning and other processes in leather making.
- Talk to your art teacher about the art of leathercraft.
- Visit a saddle maker.



*Resources available at your local Extension office or shop4-H.org.

Applying Project Skills to Life

Enhance Your Communication Skills

- Give a club demonstration on how to use a swivel knife.
- Host an event at your library to show the public the types of projects you can make with leather.

Get Involved in Citizenship and Service

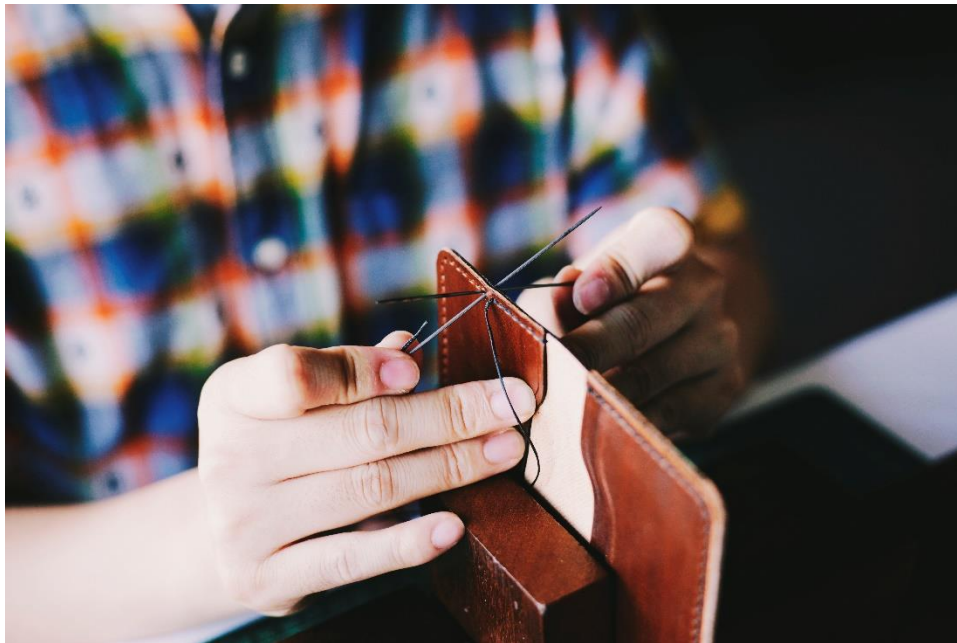
- Make leather bookmarks that can be handed out at your local library.
- Make leather Christmas ornaments to share with your family and friends or donate them to a local hospital or nursing home.

Learn about Leadership

- Teach how to make a simple leather project at 4-H camp or your club meeting.
- Make items to display in a craft fair. Share your knowledge with the public at the craft fair.

Showing What You've Learned

- Make a poster displaying the different types of leather tools.
- Create a display showing the different types of leather.
- Create a book or binder of designs that you can use on leather.
- Make something out of leather (bookmark, belt, purse, etc.).
- Make a display on how leather is tanned.
- Show what different dyes do to leather.
- Do a display on the history of leather.
- Make a sculpture using leather.



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