#leprevoleather

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STARTING OFF IN LEATHERWORK

You don't need a lot of kit to get started with leather – build a set of decent 'core' tools and then add to them as and when you need something new.

Instruction book
"Leathercraft Tools" shows most of the common tools along with a short explanation of using them.

Cutting
We recommend something from our range of Olfa brand craft knives with snap off blades.

Cutting surface
Cutting mats come in a variety of sizes and the guide lines make them ideal for cutting leather – use with a metal ruler for best results.

Hole cutting.
Hand operated rotary pliers with six cutting tubes set like spokes on a wheel (order code T06) are always popular, or the mini punch set (T118) which is used with a hammer.

Slot cutting.
To cut a slot to put a buckle onto a strap the best tool is a slot punch (order code T129).
You can also punch a round hole at each end of the slot and cut between them with a wood chisel or craft knife.

Edge finishing
A burnished chamfered edge on veg tan work can improve the look. Edge bevellers take the square edge off – available in sizes 1, 2 & 3 (order code T46) – the larger the number the more it takes off the edges.

Riveting
The most popular rivets are the two part tubular ones. These are used with a setting tool. The basic method is to bash the rivet cap with the rivet tool and hammer which causes the rivet stem to mushroom inside the cap and form a permanent bond.

Eyelets
These are fixed with a hammer tool. Eyelets tools are shown eyelet size chart.

Sewing
The basic starter kit for hand stitching sturdy leathers is a ready made awl handle (T201J) and a packet of T116 needles.

Thonging
This can produce many decorative effects. Flat 3mm lace(order code L2) is often used with a flat spring thonging needle (T23) and holes made for this with any of the 3 mm thonging chisels or a round hole punch. Round thonging can also be used – for that you can use a round thonging needle (T80 or T81).