

LEVEL

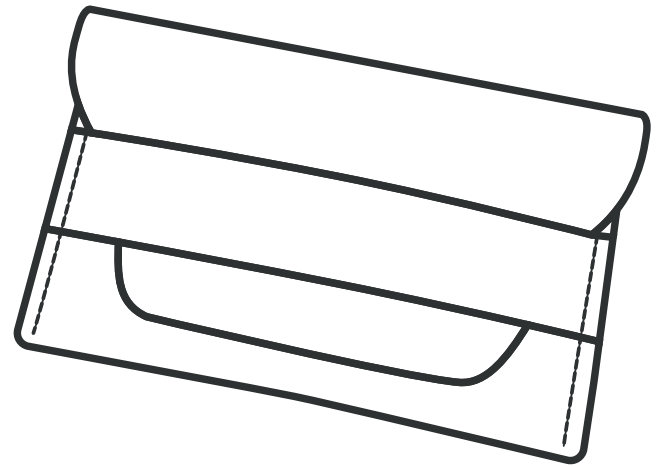
# ASPEN CARD CASE KIT

PORTA TARJETA ASPEN  
ÉTUI À CARTES ASPEN

2

## KIT CONTAINS:

Pre-Cut Veg-Tan Leather Pieces  
Needles (2)  
Thread  
Instructions & Pattern



## YOU WILL NEED:

- Small Binder Clips (2)
- Leatherworking Hammer
- Thread Cutter or Scissors

## LEVEL UP YOUR SKILLS WITH TANDY

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
Includes basic project assembly skills with no hand-sewing or hardware setting required. Plus, learn additional skills like lacing, braiding, and knot tying.	Introduces skills like hand-sewing with pre-punched stitching holes, hardware setting, and edge burnishing.	Build your skills with more added components, project layers, and detail work like edge beveling and edge dyeing.	Can be machine or hand sewn and do not have pre-punched stitching holes. Learn new skills like skiving, wet molding, heat creasing, and more.

# PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE BEGINNING PROJECT.

NOTE: ALL STAINING, DYING, AND TOOLING SHOULD BE DONE PRIOR TO ASSEMBLY

## WHAT'S INCLUDED?

Card Case Body (A)  
Keeper (B)

### Not Shown:

Needles (2)  
Thread  
Instructions & Pattern

## SKILLS USED:

Saddle Stitching



*Scan this code with your phone to learn about these skills and more!*

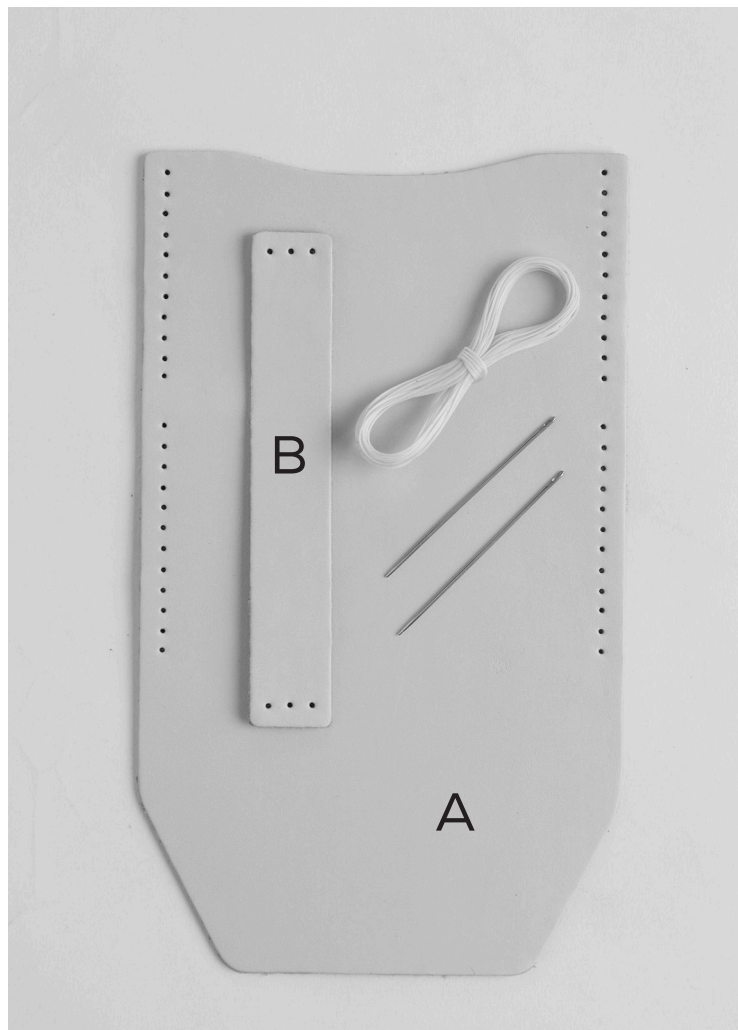
## OPTIONAL TOOLS:

Stitching Horse to hold leather pieces while stitching.  
Sanding Sticks for sanding edges.  
Multi-size Wood Slicker to burnish edges.  
Gum Tragacanth for burnishing edges.  
Scratch Awl to widen stitch holes or mark edges.

## GLOSSARY:

**FLESH SIDE:** The underside of an animal's hide. On veg-tanned tooling leather, this is the rough side.

**GRAIN SIDE:** The hide's surface that had the hair of the animal. Typically used for carving and stamping.



## MARK NOTCHES FOR KEEPER ON CLUTCH BODY:

1. Align your paper pattern on top of Clutch Body (A) with the grain side of the leather facing up. With a pencil or (optional) scratch awl, mark near the edges where Keeper (B) will be placed. The keeper should lay between the 10th and 18th holes. Begin counting from point 2 (Figure 1) and note the paper pattern indication for Keeper (B) placement. (Figure 2)

Figure 1

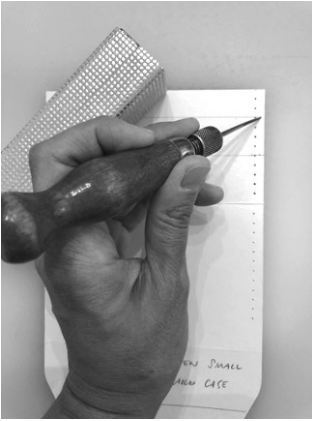
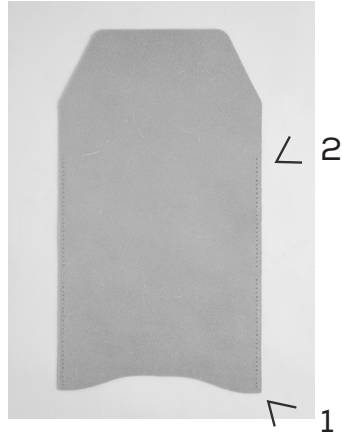


Figure 2



## PREPARE CLUTCH BODY FOR STITCHING:

2. Place Clutch Body (A) with the grain side down and fold the front end of point 1 towards point 2. Match the corner of point 1 to the last hole near point 2 with the flesh sides meeting. (Figure 3)

3. Align the stitch holes by taking a harness needle and inserting it through the first stitching hole of point 1 and the second to last stitching hole of point 2. Repeat for the opposite side. (Figure 4)

4. Align the side edges and place one of the harness needles through the last holes near the bottom of the fold. This should make certain that all stitch holes align on the seam. Once your edges and stitches holes are aligned, secure the edges with binder clips. Note: you should have 1 hole that is offset at point 2.

5. Gently hammer or mallet to form the bottom fold. Pro tip: Place a clean towel between the hammer and leather to help prevent damage to leather. (Figure 5)

6. Align the short end of Keeper (B) on the Clutch Body (A) between the 10th and 18th hole, counting from the top/opening of the Clutch. The flesh side of Keeper (B) should meet the grain side of Clutch Body (A).

7. Secure your Keeper (B) in place by attaching binder clips. Once edges and stitch holes are aligned and secured with binder clips, the harness needles can be removed.

8. If using an optional stitching horse, place the leather pieces into the stitching horse to prepare for saddle stitching. The bottom of the clutch (where the fold is) should face away from you. (Figure 6)

Figure 3



Figure 4

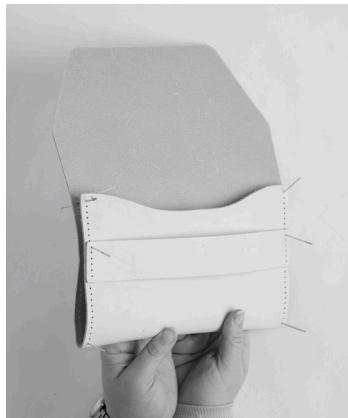


Figure 5

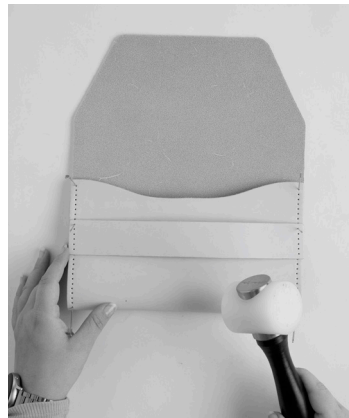
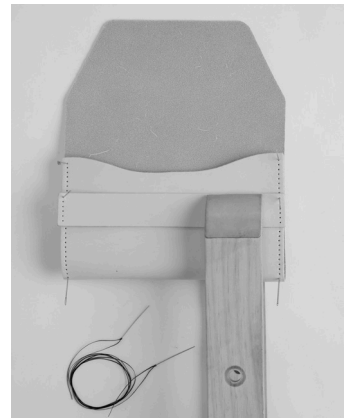


Figure 6



## CLOSE THE CLUTCH BODY:

9. Measure out thread to 4 times the length of the area to be stitched and thread both ends with harness needles. **See *Level Up Your Skills with Tandy* starting on page 6 for detailed stitching instructions.**
10. Begin a saddle stitch with the holes closest to the fold on the Clutch Body (A). (Figures 7 & 8)
11. When you start stitching the section with Keeper (B), remove the binder clip after making one stitch. Take your time on this part as the three layers of leather may be more cumbersome to stitch. You can use a needle nose plier to pull the harness needle through if needed. (Figures 9-11)
12. When you reach the final stitch hole of point 1, close the stitch with the final hole on point 2. Secure your stitches with a backstitch. (Figures 12-14)
13. Once your stitches are secured, cut and hammer your thread. Hammering your threads will flatten them and allow them to lay better. (Figures 15 & 16)
14. Repeat steps 9 through 13 on the other side.

Figure 7

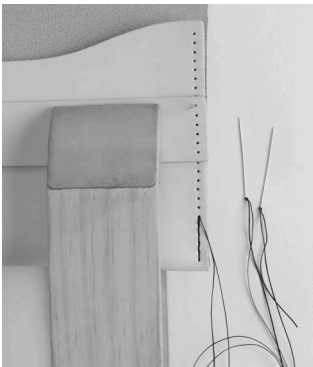


Figure 8

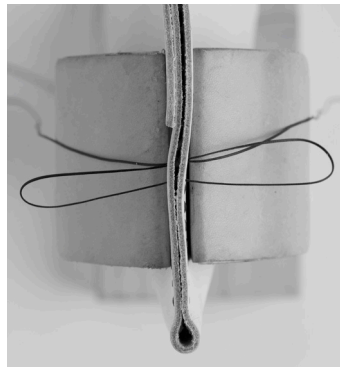


Figure 9

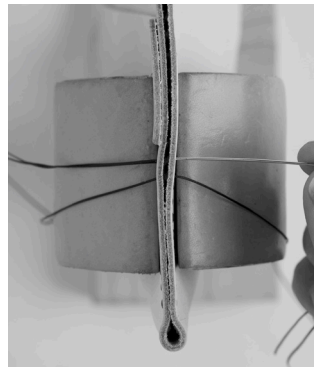


Figure 10

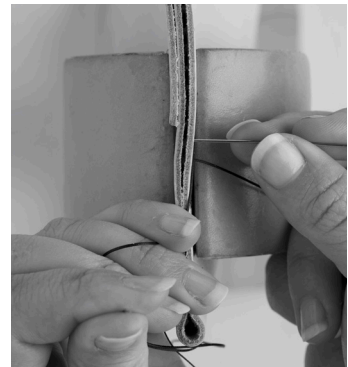


Figure 11

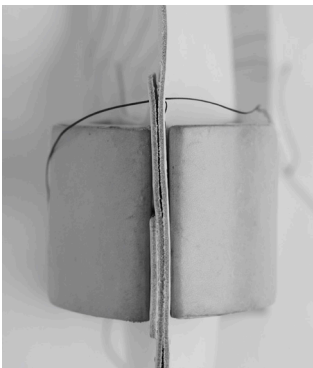


Figure 12



Figure 13

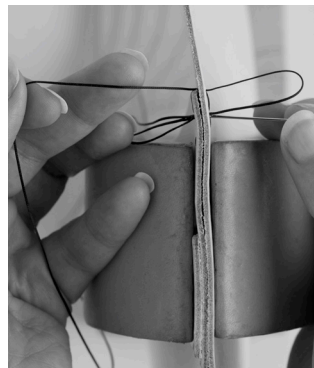


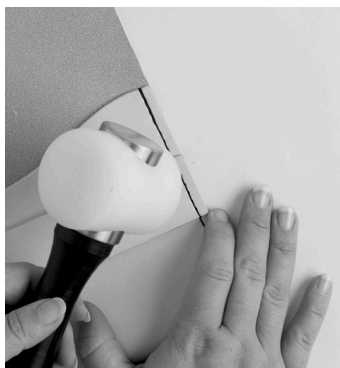
Figure 14



Figure 15



Figure 16



## OPTIONAL EDGE FINISHING:

Use a Sanding Stick or take a small piece of fine grit sandpaper and wrap it around a small block of wood or something similar. Sand the corners of the bag until the edges are even. For best results, apply a couple of layers of gum tragacanth onto raw edges, let dry and burnish with a wood slicker. Repeat this step a few times for best results. (Figure 17)

Figure 17



**CONGRATULATIONS, YOU'VE MADE AN ASPEN CARD CASE!**



# LEVEL UP YOUR SKILLS WITH TANDY!

## HOW TO THREAD YOUR NEEDLES:

1. Cut your thread to 5 times the length of the seam you are sewing and feed one end through the eye of one needle, moving over to the opposite end of the thread. Repeat step 1 for the second needle. (Figure 1)
2. Take the point of your needle and push it through the longer portion of the thread. Once the needle is all the way through, give a gentle tug to lock thread into place. (Figure 2)
3. Repeat Step 2 with the second needle. There should now be a knot behind both needles to secure the thread in place as you are stitching. (Figure 3)

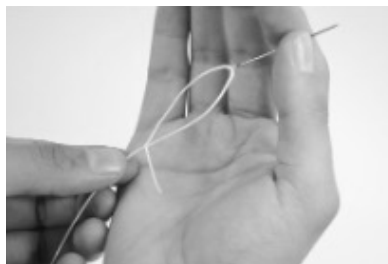
Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



## HOW TO EDGE LOCK STITCH:

An edge lock stitch joins two separate pieces of material over a flat edge to prevent unraveling and can be used at the start or end of a saddle stitch.

1. Insert one of the threaded needles through the first hole. Pull the needle through until there are equal lengths of thread on either side.
2. Take one of the needles and make a loop that goes around the outside edge of leather. Insert the opposing needle through the opposite side to close the loop. (Figure 1)
3. Resume saddle stitching as normal. (Figure 2)
4. To finish with an edge lock stitch, reverse your needles and place them back through the last stitch hole. Making a loop that goes around the outside edge of leather.
5. Another example of an edge lock stitch can be used when all edges are flush and the thread loop goes around the outside edge of all layers of leather. (Figure 3)

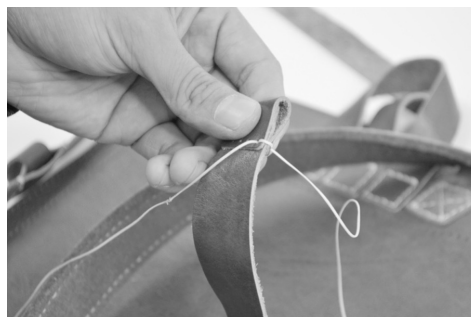
Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



## HOW TO SADDLE STITCH:

The saddle stitch is a strong stitch that is made up of two independent stitches that lock together. This allows the stitches to hold even if a stitch is broken.

1. Thread your needles with a length of thread that is 5x the length of the line you are stitching. *Tip: Use a Stitching Horse to secure your pieces in place and allow for easier sewing*
2. Holding one threaded needle in each hand, begin saddle stitching by inserting one needle into the first hole of your stitching line. Pull the needle and thread through the hole until you have equal lengths of thread on either side. (Figure 1)
3. With one needle in each hand, begin weaving the needles through the next stitch hole, one needle at a time. It is important to be consistent with your motions, always starting each stitch with the same hand. *We will start with the left-hand needle for each stitch for these instructions.* Push the left needle through next hole in your stitch line.
4. Once the left needle is through the hole, insert your right-hand needle through the same hole, being sure to pull the left thread back to avoid piercing it with the right needle. Pull the thread from both needles all the way through the hole and give the thread a gentle tug to tighten up the stitches. (Figure 2)

*Optional:* If your stitch holes are large enough, you can insert your needles in the same hole at the same time. Cross your needles into an "X" as you push them through the hole. Be sure to always place the same side needle on the top and bottom for each stitch, then pull the needles through and tighten up the thread with a gentle tug.

5. Repeat Steps 3-4 until you reach the end of your stitch line, starting with the same side needle for each stitch. Be sure to give the thread a light tug at the end of each stitch to keep even tension.

Figure 1

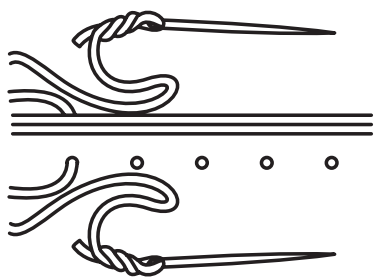
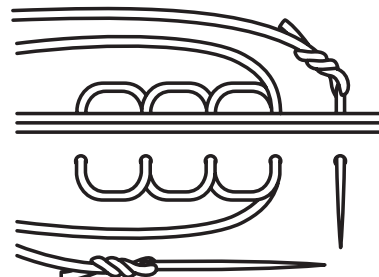


Figure 2



## HOW TO BACKSTITCH:

1. When you reach the final hole in your stitch line, reverse the direction of your needles and saddle stitch back through the last 2-3 holes in your line. If your stitch line meets back where the line began, you can simply saddle stitch over your first 2-3 stitches without reversing the direction of your needles to lock them in. *Tip: It may be tighter to get the needles through the holes that have already been stitched, you can use a pair of needle nose pliers to help pull the needles through if needed.* (Figures 1-3)

2. To finish, pull the remaining thread to the less visible side of your work, snip off the excess then tuck it into the last hole.

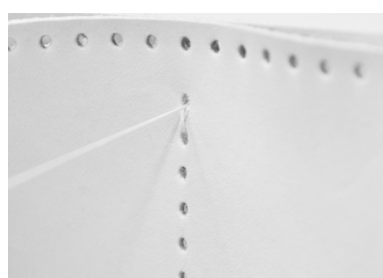
Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3





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