

# EXPLORER BELT BAG KIT

## KIT CONTAINS:

Pre-Cut Pre-Punched Leather  
Belt Buckle  
Button Studs (2)  
Line Snaps (5)  
Medium Rivets (5)  
Small Rivets (8)  
Needles & Thread  
Instructions & Pattern



## BEFORE YOU BEGIN, YOU WILL NEED:

- Flathead Screwdriver
- Deluxe Rivet & Snap Setter
- 3/32 in. Round Drive Punch or Rotary Punch
- Mallet
- Scratch Awl
- Knife
- Straight Edge

### ⚠ CAUTION

**CUT HAZARD:** Functional sharp points. **CHOKING HAZARD:** Small parts.  
Keep out of reach of children.

# PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE BEGINNING PROJECT.

**NOTE:** ALL STAINING, DYEING, CONDITIONING, AND TOOLING SHOULD BE DONE PRIOR TO ASSEMBLY.

## IN THIS KIT YOU WILL...

(TECHNIQUES USED)



### TRANSFER PATTERNS

Use paper template to transfer pattern and mark punch holes onto leather.



### CUT LEATHER

Cut leather to specific size and/ or trim corners for decorations and embellishment.



### PUNCH HOLES

Punch holes into leather for hardware and other items before constructing project.



### SET HARDWARE

Set rivets, snaps, and/ or eyelets into leather before final assembly.



### STITCH LEATHER

Use a variety of stitching techniques to secure leather together and finish project.

## CUSTOMIZE YOUR KIT BY...

(OPTIONAL TECHNIQUES)



### TOOLING LEATHER

Stamp and carve leather into unique designs and creations.



### DYEING LEATHER

Get creative by dyeing, staining, or painting to add a personal touch.



### BURNISHING EDGES

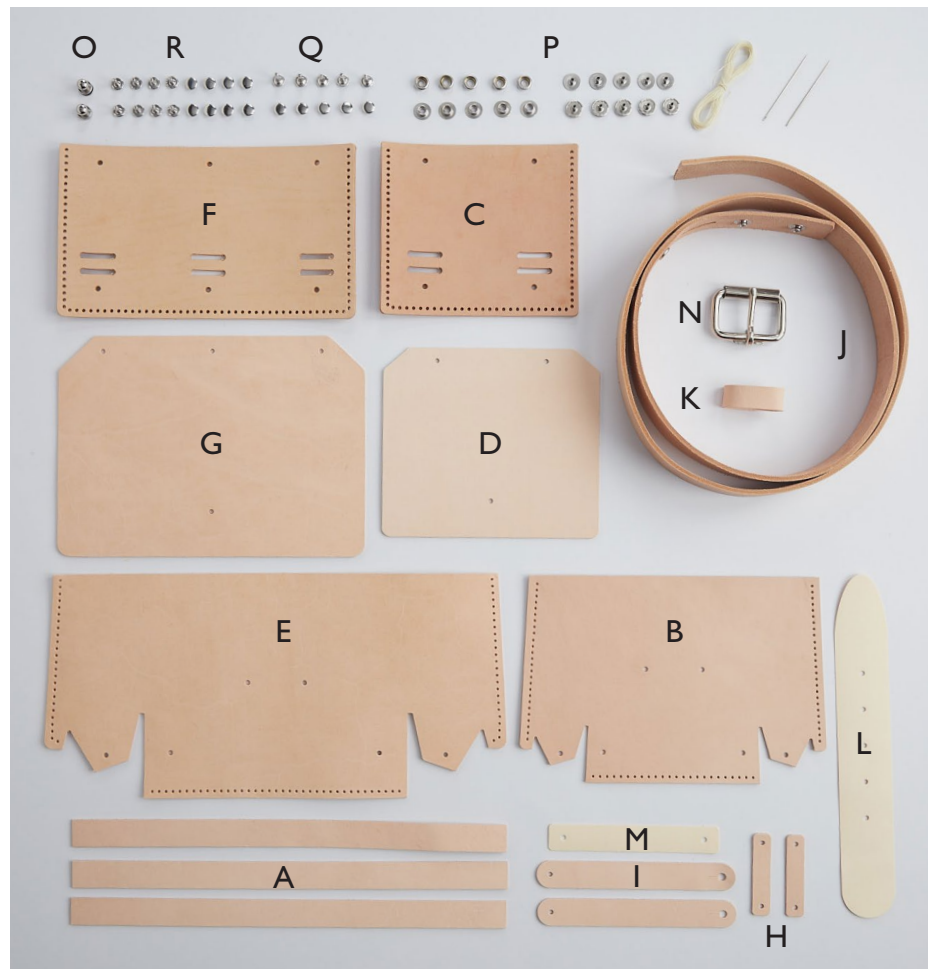
Give your project a clean professional look by burnishing edges with gum traganath or other solution.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Attachment Tab Strips (A)
- Small Pouch Front (B)
- Small Pouch Back (C)
- Small Pouch Flap (D)
- Large Pouch Front (E)
- Large Pouch Back (F)
- Large Pouch Flap (G)
- Closure Keepers (H)
- Closure Tabs (I)
- Belt Blank (J)
- Belt Strap Keeper (K)
- Belt Tip Template (L)
- Attachment Tab Template (M)
- Belt Buckle (N)
- Button Studs (O)
- Line Snaps (P)
- Medium Rivets (Q)
- Small Rivets (R)

### Not Shown:

Instructions & Pattern



## RECOMMENDED TOOLS:

Binder Clips or Preferred Adhesive to secure leather pieces.  
Stitching Horse to hold leather pieces while stitching.  
Scratch Awl to widen stitch holes.  
Multi-size Wood Slicker to burnish edges.  
Gum Tragacanth to burnish edges.  
Cotton Swab to apply gum tragacanth.  
Emery Board to sand edges.  
Loctite® Threadlocker to secure hardware.

## 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.

## OPTIONAL: BURNISHING EDGES

1. Before assembling, burnish edges of Flap (D & G), Belt Blank (J), Keepers, and Closure Tabs (K, H, & I) to desired finish. All other edges to be burnished once complete. **See *Level Up Your Skills starting on page 11 for detailed instructions on How to Burnish Edges.***

## CUTTING TABS

2. Cut Templates (L & M) out from paper pattern.
3. Place Tab Template (M) over Tab Strip (A).
4. Use Scratch Awl to mark the end and punch holes onto Strip (A). (Figure 1)
5. Move Template (M) down the strip and mark the end and holes again, for a total of 5 pieces.
6. Use a Knife and a Straight Edge to cut along score line. Then punch holes using Rotary Punch or a 3/32" Round Drive Punch with a Mallet. (Figures 2-4) **Pro Tip: Round corners with Knife for a more finished look.**
7. **OPTIONAL:** Burnish edges of Attachment Tabs (A) to desired finish.

Figure 1



Figure 2

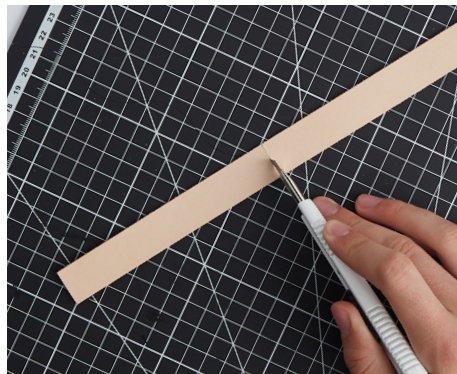


Figure 3



Figure 4



## SETTING HARDWARE

8. Set post & stud side of Line Snap (P) on one of the bottom holes on the Small Pouch Back (C). Stud on grain side of Pouch Back. (Figure 5) Repeat with corresponding hole. **See *Level Up Your Skills starting on page 12 for detailed instructions on How to Set Snaps.***

9. Set cap and socket side of Line Snap (P) on Attachment Tab (A). Socket on flesh side of Tab. (Figure 6).

10. Repeat with another Line Snap Cap and Socket on another attachment tab.

11. Figure 7 shows Small Pouch Back (C) and Attachment Tabs (A) set with Line Snaps (P).

Figure 5



Figure 6

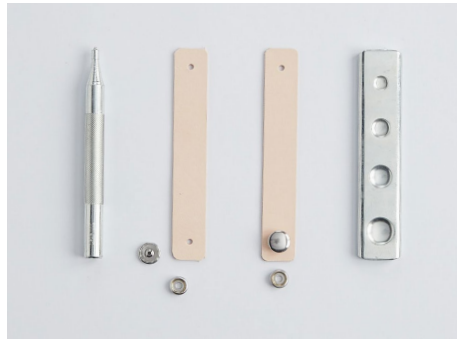


Figure 7



12. Align the two punch holes on Small Pouch Flap (D) and the two Attachment Tabs (A), grain side up, onto Small Pouch Back (C).

13. Set with Medium Rivets (Q) through Small Pouch Back (C), Small Pouch Flap (D) and Attachment Tabs (A). (Figures 8-9) **See *Level Up Your Skills starting on page 11 for detailed instructions on How to Set Rivets.***

14. Weave Attachment Tab (A) in and out of oblong punch holes. Attach Snaps together. (Figure 10)

Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10



15. Align Closure Keeper (H) on Small Pouch Front (B), grain sides up. Set two Small Rivets (R) to secure Keeper (H). (Figure 11)

Figure 11



16. Repeat Large Pouch Hardware.

17. Set 3 Post and Stud of Line Snap (P) onto Large Pouch Back (F). All three punch holes near the stitch line should be set. (Figure 12)

18. Set Cap and Socket from Line Snap (P) into the three remaining Attachment Tabs (A). (Figure 13)

19. Figure 14 shows Large Pouch Back (F) and Attachment Tabs (A) set with Line Snaps (P).

Figure 12

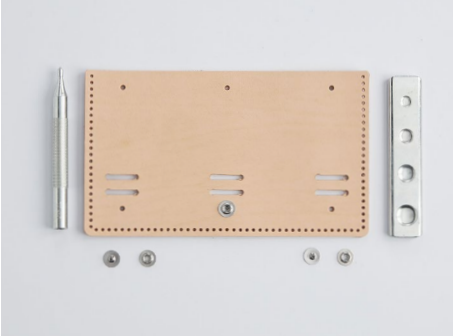


Figure 13

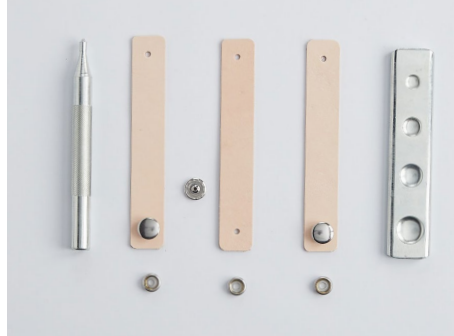
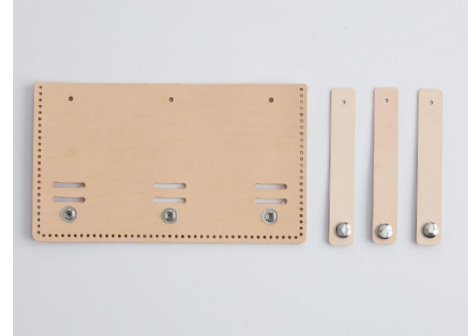


Figure 14



20. Align three punch holes on Large Pouch Flap (G) and Attachment Tabs (A), grain side up, onto Large Pouch Back (F). (Figure 15)

21. Set three Medium Rivets (Q) with Deluxe Rivet & Snap Setter to secure flap and tabs to back body. (Figure 16)

22. Weave Attachment Tab (A) in and out of oblong punches. Attach Snaps together. (Figure 17)

Figure 15



Figure 16



Figure 17



23. Align Closure Keeper (H) on Large Pouch Front (E), grain sides up. Set two Small Rivets (R) to secure Keeper (H). (Figure 18)

Figure 18





24. Fold Large Pouch Front (E) so that the left tab goes under the bottom tab. Align punch holes. Set with Small Rivet (R). (Figures 19-20)

25. Repeat on the right side. (Figure 21)

26. Repeat steps 24-25 on the Small Pouch Front (B).

Figure 19



Figure 20



Figure 21



27. Lay Large Pouch Back (F), flesh side up. Cover with corresponding front body. Align left stitch holes.

28. Cut thread 5 times the length of total stitch line (both sides and bottom), and thread both ends with harness needles. **See Level Up Your Skills starting on page 10 for detailed instructions on How to Thread a Needle.**

29. Begin with an edge lock stitch. Saddle stitch down the line. (Figures 22-24) **See Level Up Your Skills starting on page 10 for detailed instructions on How to Edge Lock Stitch and Saddle Stitch.**

Figure 22



Figure 23



Figure 24



30. Stitch in between left and bottom sides and continue to saddle stitch across bottom stitch line. (Figures 25-27)

31. Repeat process on the right and bottom side of pouch body. Saddle stitch up the right side. (Figures 28-29)

32. End with another edge lock stitch and 2-3 backstitches to secure. (Figure 29) **See Level Up Your Skills starting on page 11 for Detailed Instructions on How to Backstitch.**

33. Repeat steps 27-32 on the small pouch body.

Figure 25



Figure 26



Figure 27



Figure 28



Figure 29



34. Lay Large Pouch Flap (G), flesh side up. Align the smaller hole on Closure Tab (I) on top, grain side up. (Figure 30)

35. Secure Button Stud (O) through overlapping holes with a flathead screwdriver. (Figure 31)

36. Pull Closure Tab (I) through Closure Keeper (H) and secure. (Figure 32)

37. Repeat steps 34-36 on small pouch body. (Figure 33)

Figure 30



Figure 31



Figure 32



Figure 33



38. Set remaining Line Snaps (P) on Belt Blank (J). Post and Stud are used for the top two holes. Posts go through the grain side. Cap and Socket for the remaining two holes. Cap goes on the grain side. (Figure 34)

39. Lay Belt Blank (J) grain side up. Slide Keeper (K) on. Slide Belt Buckle (N) tongue through oblong punch. (Figure 35)

40. Fold Belt end over and snap together with keeper in-between each snap. (Figure 36)

41. Try on belt and use an awl to mark where the buckle lays when the belt fits well on your waist. (Figure 37)

42. Choose desired belt end, and lay Belt Tip Template (L) over belt end so that center hole punch aligns with awl mark. (Figure 38)

43. Mark punch holes and belt end with awl.

44. Cut belt end and punch holes. (Figure 39)

45. Slide pouches onto belt. (Figure 40)

Figure 34

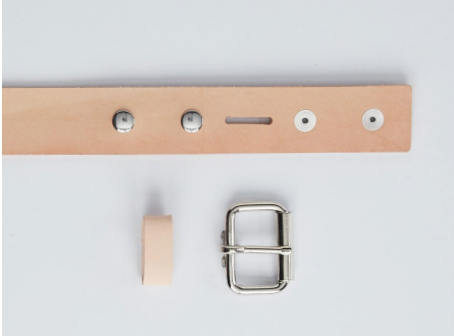


Figure 35



Figure 36



Figure 37



Figure 38

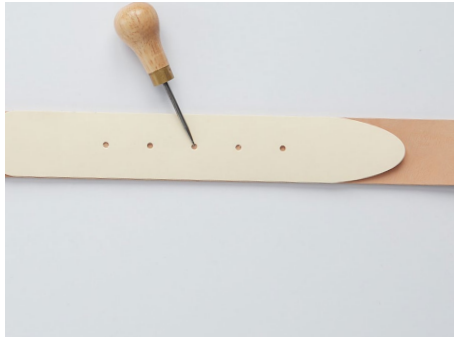


Figure 39



Figure 40





**CONGRATULATIONS, YOU'VE MADE A BELT BAG!**



\* Images are for construction purposes only. Colors may vary.

## HOW TO THREAD NEEDLES

1. Cut your thread to 5 times the length of the stitch line.
2. Feed one end through the eye of one needle. (Figure 1)
3. Take the point of the needle and push it through the longer portion of the thread. Repeat and push needle through again. (Figures 2-3)
4. Pull long side of thread toward the eye of the needle to form a knot. (Figure 4-6)
5. Repeat steps 2-4 on the other side with other needle.

Figure 1

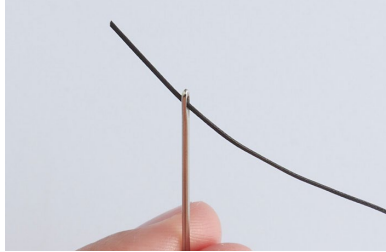


Figure 2

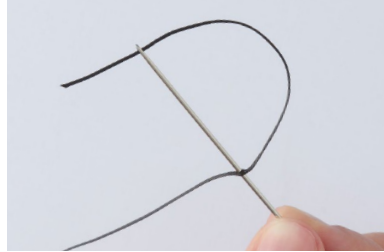


Figure 3

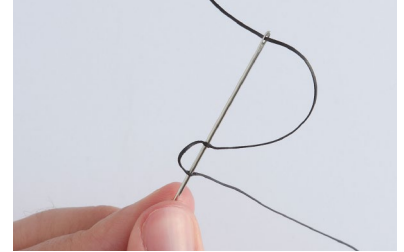


Figure 4



Figure 5

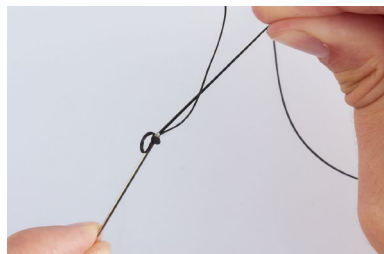


Figure 6



## 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. Holding one threaded needle in each hand, begin saddle stitching by inserting one needle into the first hole of stitch line. Pull the needle and thread through the hole until there are equal lengths of thread on either side. (Figure 1)

**Pro Tip:** Use a stitching horse to secure your pieces in place and allow for easier sewing.

2. 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 start 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.

3. 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 each side 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.

4. Repeat Steps 3-4 until you reach the end of the 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

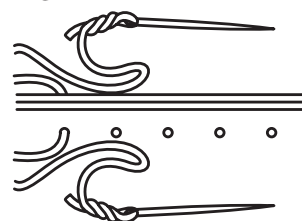
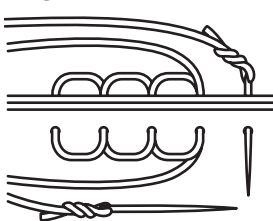


Figure 2



## HOW TO BURNISH EDGES

Burnishing consists of sealing edges with product by using hand tools and burnishing agents. The burnishing process gives smooth and clean edges to any veg-tan project.

1. Rub emery board gently across the edges so that the leather is even and smooth. Dust off. (Figure 1)
2. Use a cotton swab to gently seal the edges with gum tragacanth burnishing agent. Let air dry. (Figure 2)
3. Burnish edges with a wood slicker: (Figure 3)
4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 until you reach desired outcome.

Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



## HOW TO SET RIVETS

1. Place rivet post into correctly sized anvil divet. (Figure 2)
2. Place pattern piece(s) onto rivet post and cover post with rivet cap. (Figures 3-4)
3. Line up corresponding setter tool. Hit firmly with a mallet a few times to set the rivet. (Figures 5-6)

Figure 1

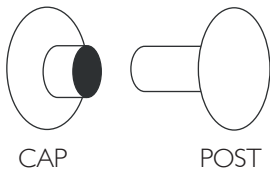


Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



## HOW TO BACKSTITCH

The backstitch is a securing stitch that goes over existing stitches to prevent unravelling.

1. At the final hole in the stitch line, reverse the direction of the needles and saddle stitch back through the last 2-3 holes in the line. If the stitch line meets back where the line began, simply saddle stitch over the first 2-3 stitches without reversing the direction of the needles to lock them in. **Pro Tip: If needles are difficult to pull through stitches, use a pair of needle nose pliers to help pull the needles through.**
2. To finish, pull the remaining thread to the less visible side of the work. Snip off the excess, and tuck it into the last hole.

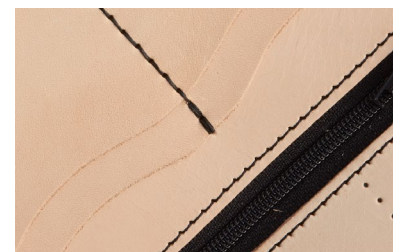
Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3





1. Place cap into corresponding size divet on the Anvil. Place pattern piece onto the cap. (Figures 2-3)
2. Cover cap with socket. Line up corresponding setter tool. Hit firmly with a mallet a few times to set the snap. (Figures 4-5)
3. For the other side, place post onto a flat anvil. Place leather onto the post, and cover post with stud. (Figures 6-7)
4. Line up corresponding setter tool. Hit firmly with a mallet a few times to set the snap. (Figures 8-9)

Figure 1

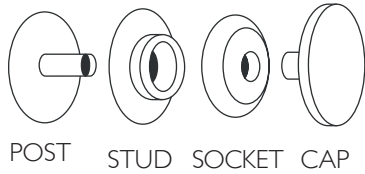


Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

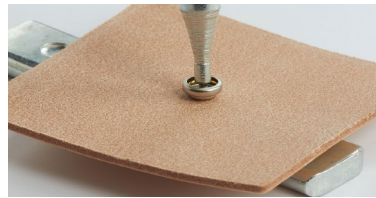


Figure 6

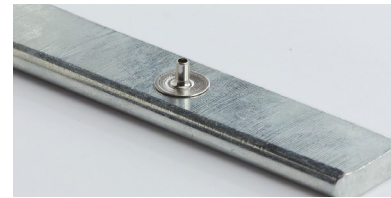


Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9



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

**To start with an edge lock stitch,**

1. Insert one of the threaded needles through the first hole. Pull needle through until there are equal lengths of thread on either side.
2. Take one needle and make a loop that goes around the outside edge of leather. Insert opposing needle through the opposite side to close the loop. (Figure 1)
3. Resume stitching as normal. (Figure 2)

**To finish with an edge lock stitch,** reverse needles and place them back through the last stitch hole making a loop that goes around the outside edge of leather.

An edge lock stitch can also be used when all edges are flush and the thread loop goes around the outside edge of leather. (Figure 3)

Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



FOR MORE PATTERNS, PROJECTS, AND TIPS, VISIT [TANDYLEATHER.COM/BLOG](http://TANDYLEATHER.COM/BLOG).