

# EXPLORER BIFOLD KIT

3

## KIT CONTAINS:

Pre-Cut, Pre-Punched Leather  
Glove Snap  
Needles & Thread  
Instructions & Pattern



## BEFORE YOU BEGIN, YOU WILL NEED:

- Basic Snap Setter
- 3/32 in. Round Drive Punch or Rotary Punch
- Mallet
- Knife
- Scratch Awl
- 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...



#### **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...



#### **TOOLING LEATHER**

Stamp and carve leather into unique designs and creations.



#### **DYEING LEATHER**

Get creative by dyeing, staining or painting projects 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?

Card Pocket Back (A)  
Card Pocket Dividers (B)  
Card Pocket Front (C)  
Back Body (D)  
Snap Pocket (E)  
Snap Pocket Flap (F)  
Interior Midwall (G)  
Pocket Flap Template (H)  
Glove Snap (I)  
Needles & Thread

### Not Shown:

Instructions & Pattern

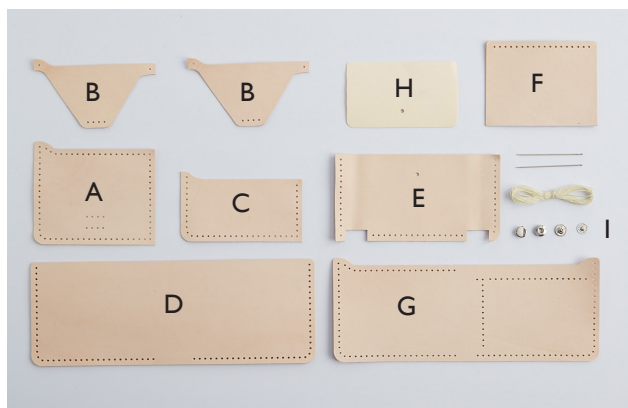
## OPTIONAL TOOLS:

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

## 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 top edges of Card Pocket Dividers (B), Card Pocket Front (C) and Snap Pocket (E), to desired finish. All other edges to be burnished once complete. **See *Level Up Your Skills* starting on page 8 for detailed instructions on How to Burnish Edges.**

## ASSEMBLING LEFT BODY

2. Place one Card Pocket Divider (B) onto Card Pocket Back (A). With grain sides up, align the top four "floating" stitch holes.
3. Cut thread 5 times the length of stitch line. Thread both ends with harness needles. **See *Level Up Your Skills* starting on page 10 for Detailed Instructions on How to Thread a Needle.**

4. Saddle stitch across then backstitch back to secure.  
(Figures 1-3) **See *Level Up Your Skills starting on page 10 for Detailed Instructions on How to Saddle Stitch and Backstitch.***

5. Align the second Card Pocket Divider (B) with the bottom four "floating" holes. Saddle stitch across then backstitch back to secure. Trim excess thread. (Figures 4-5)

Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



6. With grain side up, align Card Pocket Front (C) along bottom stitch line of Card Pocket Back (A). (Figure 6)

7. Begin with an edge lock stitch on top Pocket Divider (B). Saddle stitch down until there is only one stitch hole left. Backstitch 2-3 stitches to secure. Trim thread. Make sure to go through every stitch hole. Leave top and bottom hole unstitched. (Figures 7-9)

Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8

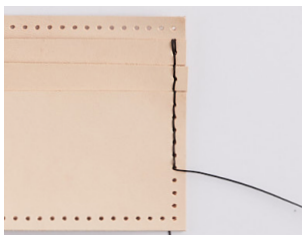


Figure 9



8. Align Interior Midwall (G) behind left pocket assembly.

9. Edge lock stitch over the right side of left pocket assembly. Saddle stitch across the top. Backstitch 2-3 stitches to secure, and trim thread. (Figures 10-12)

Figure 10



Figure 11



Figure 12



## SETTING SNAPS

10. Align Paper Flap Template (H) over Snap Pocket Flap (F) covering the stitch holes. The punch hole on the Template should be opposing end of the stitch line on the Snap Pocket Flap (F).

11. Score the bottom line with an awl and mark hole placement. (Figure 13)

12. Use a knife to cut along the line. (Optional to choose your own Snap Pocket Flap Shape) (Figure 14)

13. Use a rotary punch or 3/32" round drive punch and mallet to punch hole. (Figures 15-16)

Figure 13



Figure 14



Figure 15



Figure 16



14. Set cap & socket side of snap on Snap Pocket Flap (F). Cap goes on grain side, socket on flesh. (Figure 17, 19)

**See Level Up Your Skills starting on page 9 for Detailed Instructions on How to Set Glove Snaps.**

15. Set stud & post side of snap on Snap Pocket (E). Stud goes on grain side and post on flesh. (Figures 18-19)

Figure 17



Figure 18



Figure 19



## ASSEMBLING POCKET

16. Align stitch line of Snap Pocket Flap (F) to Interior Midwall (G), grain sides together with the Glove Snap (I) towards the top. There should be a stitch hole empty on the left and right of Snap Pocket Flap (F). (Figure 20)

17. Saddle stitch across and backstitch 2-3 stitches to secure. Trim thread. (Figures 21-22)

18. Align left row of stitch holes on Snap Pocket (E), grain side up, to Interior Midwall (G). There should be a stitch hole to the left of Snap Pocket (E) on Midwall (G) for an edge lock stitch.

19. Edge lock stitch off the left side of Snap Pocket (E). Then saddle stitch down until there is only one stitch hole remaining. Backstitch 2-3 stitches to secure. (Figure 23)

Figure 20



Figure 21



Figure 22



Figure 23



20. Align Back Body (D), flesh side up, under bifold assembly. Then align right side of Snap Pocket (E) to the right stitch line of Midwall (G).

21. Edge lock stitch off the top of Midwall (G) and Back Body (D) on the right. (Figures 24-25)

22. Saddle stitch down. Add in the Snap Pocket (E) and continue stitching. (Figure 26)

23. At the corner, stitch off the edge of the Snap Pocket (E). Align bottom stitch line of Snap Pocket (E) and continue to saddle stitch. (Figures 27-29)

24. At the end of bottom stitch line, edge lock stitch off the left side. Backstitch 2-3 stitches trim. Crease the pocket folds to the desired outcome. (Figure 30)

Figure 24



Figure 25



Figure 26



Figure 27



Figure 28



Figure 29



Figure 30



25. Align left side of bifold assembly and Back Body (D).

26. Edge lock stitch off the top of both layers, and saddle stitch all remaining stitch holes together. At the end of the stitch line, edge lock and back stitch to secure. (Figures 31-34)

Figure 31



Figure 32



Figure 33



Figure 34



## LEVEL UP YOUR SKILLS WITH TANDY

### BURNISHING 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 GLOVE SNAPS

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. (Figure 4)
3. For the other side, place post into corresponding size divet on the 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

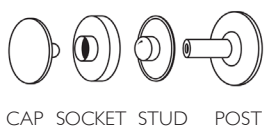


Figure 2

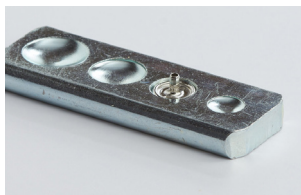


Figure 3



Figure 4

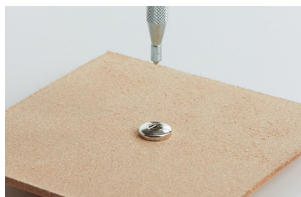


Figure 5

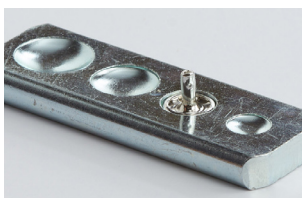


Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9



## HOW TO THREAD YOUR 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

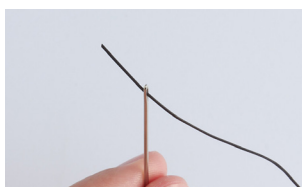


Figure 2

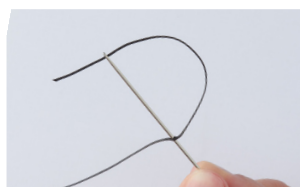


Figure 3

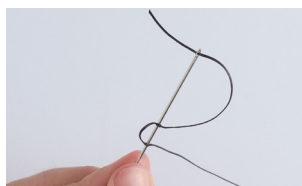


Figure 4



Figure 5

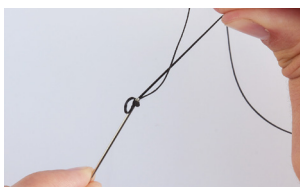


Figure 6



## HOW TO 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



## HOW TO EDGE LOCK STITCH

An edge lock stitch joins two separate pieces of material over a flat edge to prevent unravelling 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 the 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.

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

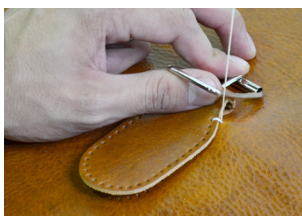


Figure 2



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. 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

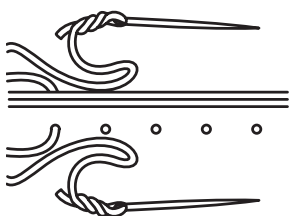
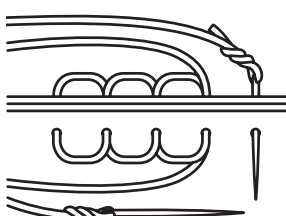


Figure 2



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