

LEVEL

EXPLORER HIKING STAFF KIT

2

KIT CONTAINS:

Pre-Cut, Pre-Punched Leather
Clip D-Rings (2)
Medium Rivets (4)
Paracord
Needles (2)
Thread
Instructions & Pattern



BEFORE YOU BEGIN, YOU WILL NEED:

- Deluxe Rivet & 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?

Main Body (A)
Sizing Template (B)
Clip D-Rings (C)
Medium Rivets (D)
Paracord (E)
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.
Lighter to secure ends of Paracord.

COMPATIBLE WITH:

1-1/8" diameter hiking staff

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 all edges to desired finish. All other edges to be burnished once complete. **See *Level Up Your Skills starting on page 7* for detailed instructions on *How to Burnish Edges*.**

CUTTING MAIN BODY

NOTE: Depending on length of the Main Body (A) will determine the outcome of your stitch pattern. You will want an even number of holes on each side.

2. Shorten Main Body (A) by aligning Sizing Template (B) and mark/ score each end to desired length. (Figure 1)

3. Align Sizing Template (B) on top of Main Body (A) and use awl to mark punch holes on Main Body (A).

4. Use Straight Edge and Knife to cut along score lines. Be sure not to cut through any stitching holes. (Figure 2)

5. Use a Round Drive Punch and Mallet or Rotary Punch to punch holes on marked spaces. (Figures 3-4)

Figure 1



Figure 2

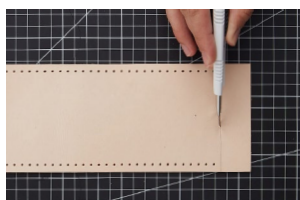


Figure 3

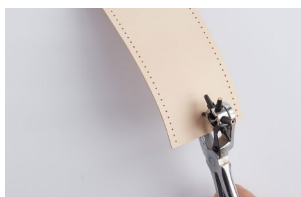


Figure 4



ATTACHING CLIP D-RINGS

6. Lay Main Body (A) grain side facing up. Align Clip D-Rings (C) so that the rings face inward and over the punch holes. (Figure 5)

7. Insert Rivet Post (D) through one of the holes from the flesh side of the Main Body (A) and Clip D-Ring (C). Cover with Rivet Cap (D).

8. Set Rivets (D). **See *Level Up Your Skills starting on page 7* for detailed instructions on *How to Set Rivets*.**

9. Repeat steps 8-9 for other three holes.

Figure 5



STITCHING GRIP

10. Wrap the flesh side of Main Body (A) around hiking staff.
11. Thread both sides with needles. **See *Level Up Your Skills* starting on page 8 for instructions on How to Thread Needles.**
12. Stitch through top two holes on grain side of Main Body (A). Even out thread on both sides to form the top stitch. (Figure 6)
13. Bring each needle back up through the flesh side of the opposing diagonal hole. Repeat the cross stitch and go through the grain side. This should form an X. Pull tight. (Figures 7-8)
14. Repeat step 13 until there are no stitch holes left. Finish by stitching across both sides. Pull needle up and stitch across one more time. Cut thread on flesh side. (Figures 9-11)

Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10

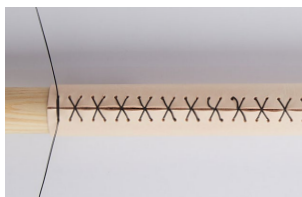


Figure 11



KNOTTING PARACORD

15. Find two ends of Paracord (E). Feed ends through D-Ring (C) so there is a small loop on other side. (Figure 12)
16. Pull the two ends through to secure. (Figures 13-14)

Figure 12



Figure 13



Figure 14



17. Feed the two ends again through the other D-Ring to desired tightness. (Figure 15)

18. Pull ends to each side. Take left side to the right side. Leave a small loop. Take right side and cross over left end and through back side of the loop. Tighten to form 1st stitch. (Figures 16-19)

19. To make second stitch, take right side to left side. Leave a small loop. Take left side and cross over right end and through the back side of the loop. Then tighten.

20. Repeat steps 18-19 till you reach other D-Ring. (Figure 20-21)

21. Trim ends close to the handle. **Pro Tip: Run a lighter close to the ends to singe ends to prevent fraying.** (Figure 22)

Figure 15



Figure 16



Figure 17

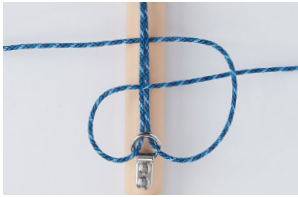


Figure 18



Figure 19



Figure 20

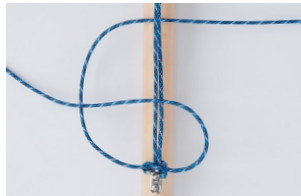


Figure 21



Figure 22



CONGRATULATIONS, YOU'VE MADE A HIKING STAFF!



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

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

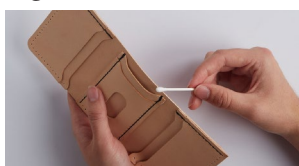


Figure 3



HOW TO SET 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

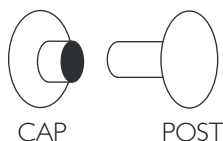


Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

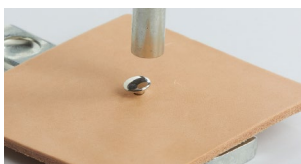


Figure 6



HOW TO 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



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LEATHER

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