



USING THE PERMA-LOK LACING NEEDLE

The Perma-Lok lacing needle from BFG is probably the easiest and quickest tool for lacing a baseball glove. These needles come in two sizes, for different lacing needs. The most common size is the 5 inch long needle and has a diameter of about 1/8 inch. The smaller needle is 2 1/4" long and has a diameter of about 1/16".

Both needles are hollow and have threads cut into the hollow end to capture the lace and hold it. The other end is flattened to a point. The flattened point also aids in opening the lace holes to allow the lace to slide through easier.

Once you have the lace threaded onto the needle, you can lace up your glove as easily as sewing up a tear in your old pants.





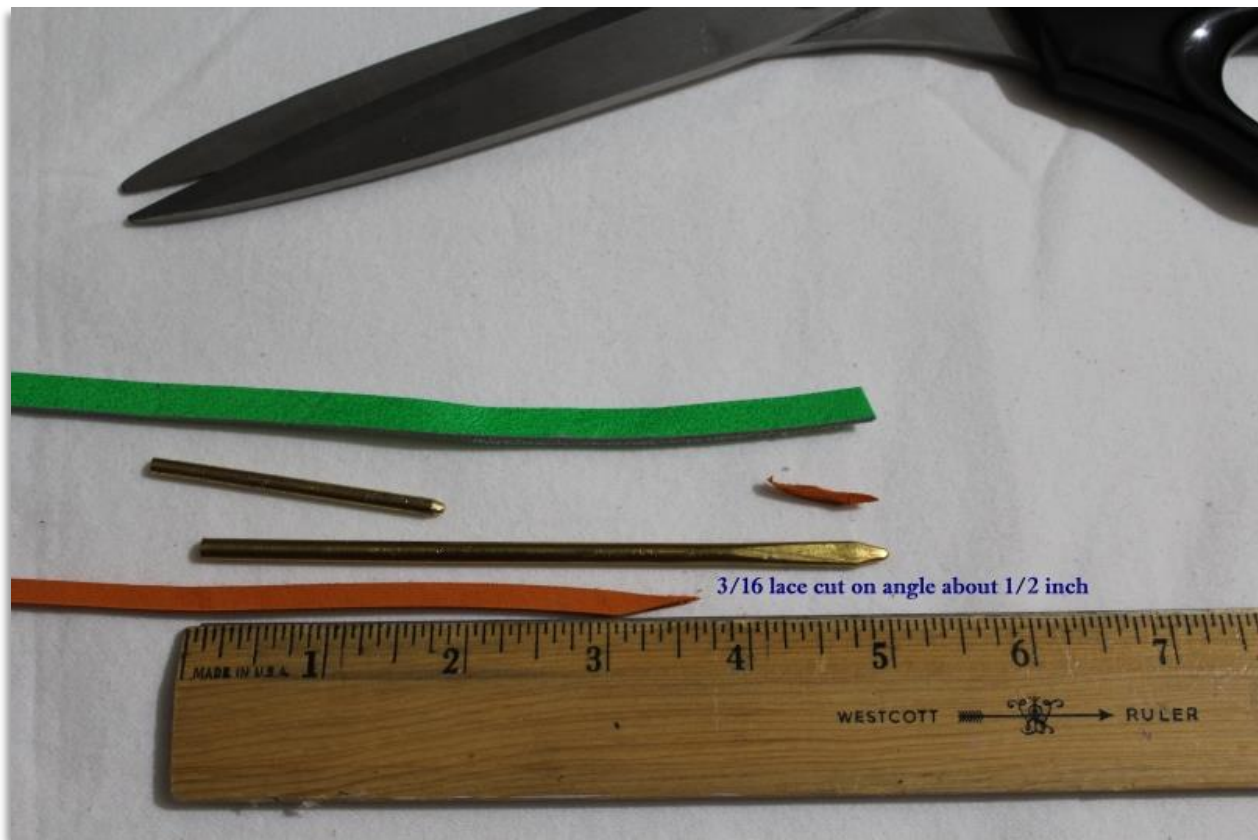
Preparing the Lace for the Needle

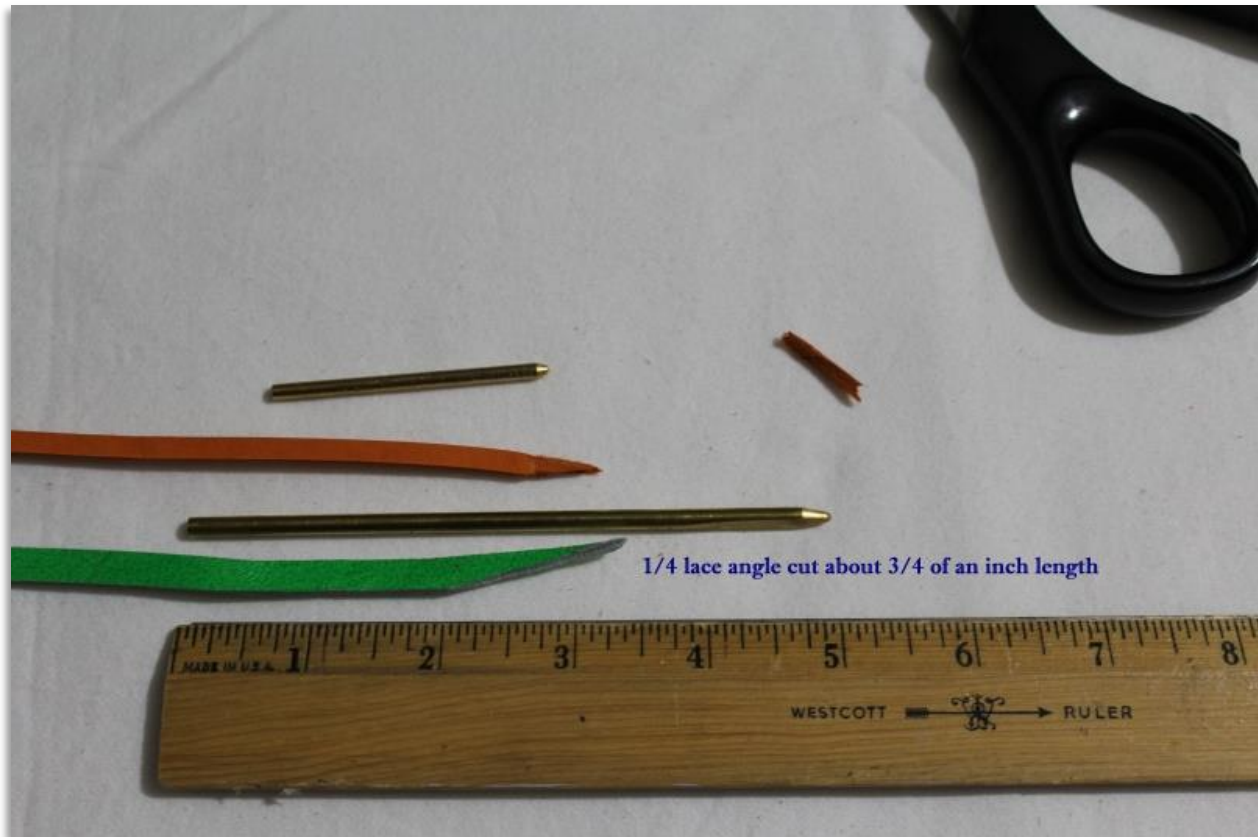
Preparing the lace to thread into the needle is a simple process and only requires a pair of scissors or a sharp blade such as a scalpel or sharp razor blade. I prefer the scissors because they are much safer and easier to cut with.

The first step is to simply cut an angle on the end of the lace. When using the 3/16" wide lace, cut the angle about 1/2" long. When using the wider 1/4" lace, the angle should be cut longer – about 3/4". You may also need to trim some off the bottom of the lace as well. The bottom side is the unfinished side.

To cut off the bottom of the lace, simply use the scissors and cut towards the point end. That usually works best for me, but however you get it off is fine. You can also use the scalpel blade by turning the lace on its side and slicing some off the bottom side of the lace.

When using the smaller needle, which has a smaller diameter you will need to trim the bottom of the lace to get it started.





Threading the Needle

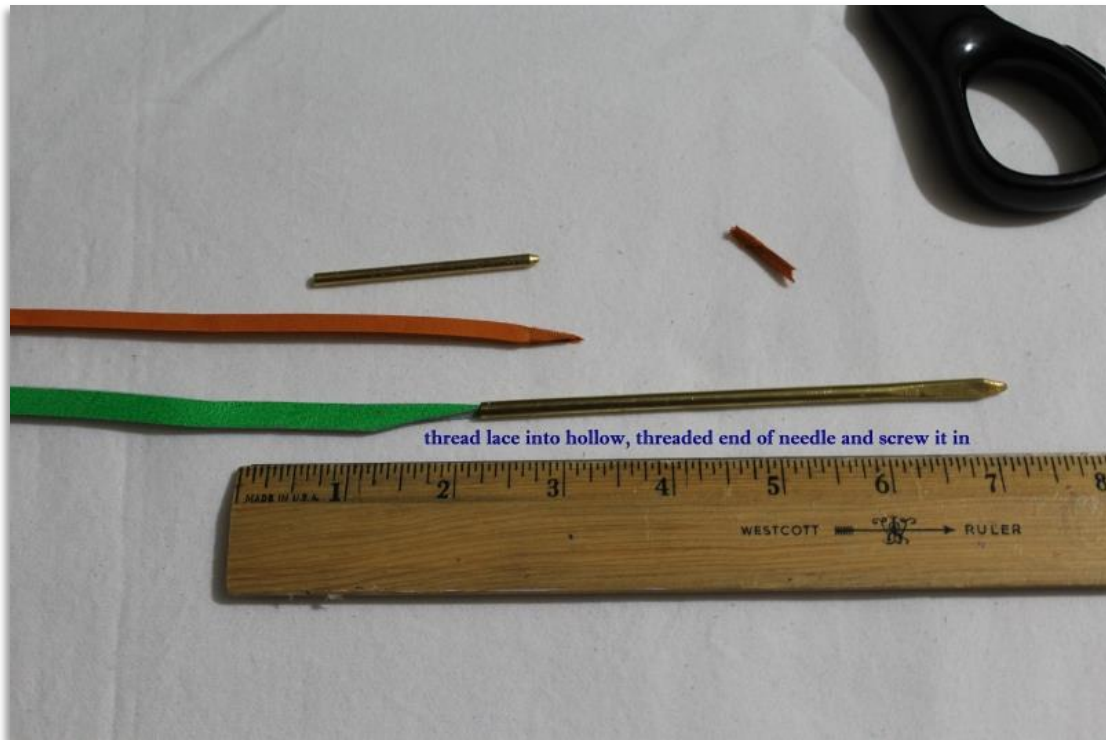
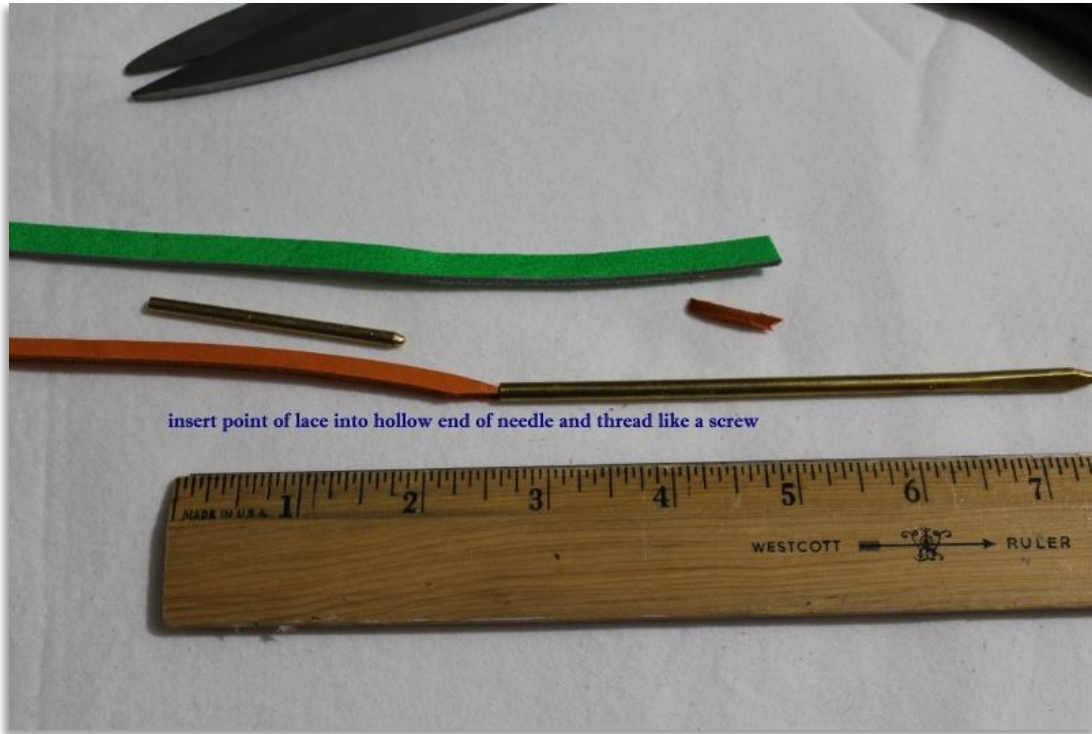
Once you have the lace prepared with the angle cut and the thickness trimmed, you can insert the point of the angle into the threaded end of the needle.

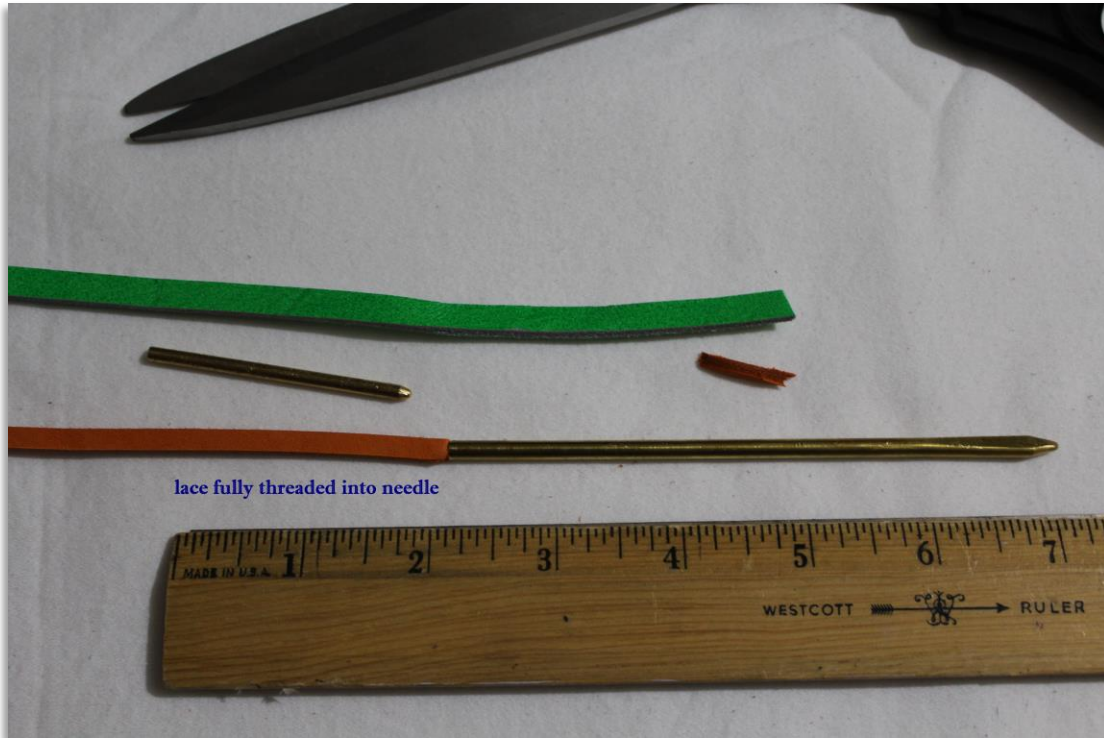
Insert the point into the needle and begin twisting the needle to allow the threads to “bite” into the leather lace and capture it.

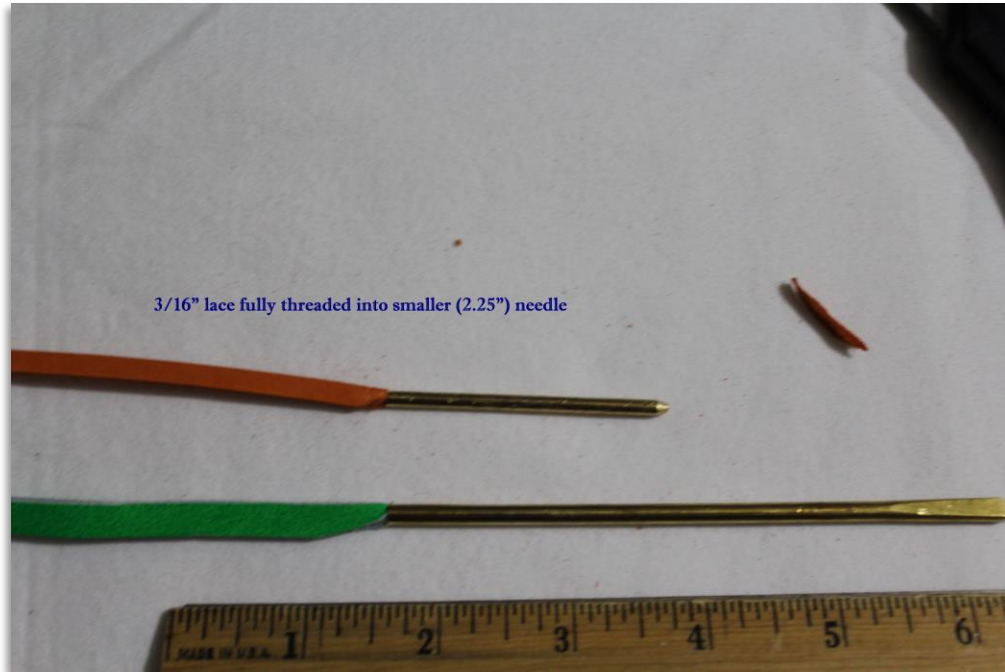
Continue twisting the needle until the lace is securely captured. Using the 3/16” wide lace you will thread it most of the way down the angle, about the 1/2”. Twist until you don’t feel it taking any more lace and give it a tug to make sure it is secure in the needle.

If using the wider 1/4” lace with the longer angle cut, the needle likely will not thread the full 3/4” length of the angle cut. Thread the lace on as far as you can. Then give it a tug to verify it is secure.

That’s all there is to it. You are now ready to begin lacing your glove.









Quick Tip – No Conditioner on Needle End

A lot of glove repair folks like to use a leather condition on the laces before installing in the glove. This is a good practice for a couple of reasons. It protects the leather lace and the inside of the glove. It also helps the lace slide through the holes easier. It is not always necessary to condition your laces though.

If you do apply conditioner to the laces, Do Not apply to the end that the needle will thread onto. If you get conditioner on the end of the lace, it will cause the needle to slip off. You can try wiping it off, or use some soapy water to clean it off. It may still be too slippery.

Leave a keep out area about two inches down from the needle end to be safe.

If the needle slips off, just re-thread it on the lace trying to tighten it farther into the needle.