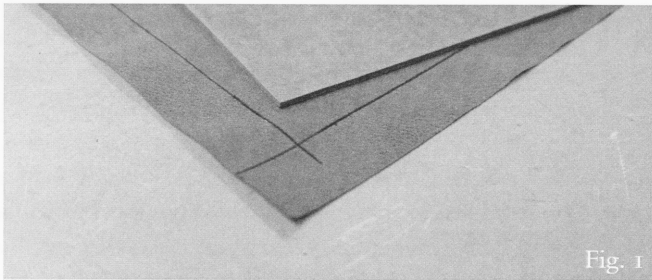


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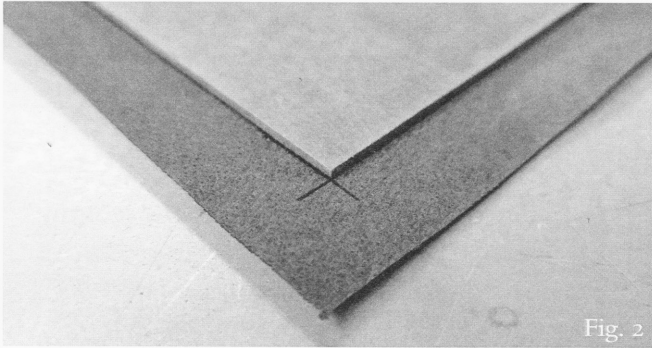
Step 1: Preparation

The first thing to do to get a nice leather corner is to prepare the leather and the board adequately. In this example I am using 2mm presspahn board which I have thinned down along the edges (chamfering) to approximately 3/4 of its initial thickness. I have slightly broken its sharp edges but not rounded the tip, as the leather will naturally do this job! The leather (goatskin) is pared to 0.6/0.3mm, which means it is 0.6mm thick on the outside and 0.3mm thick on the edge and on the inside (turn-in). These thicknesses are variables but this particular combination works for me in 99% of the cases. I have marked the position of the turn-ins with a biro line [ball point pen].



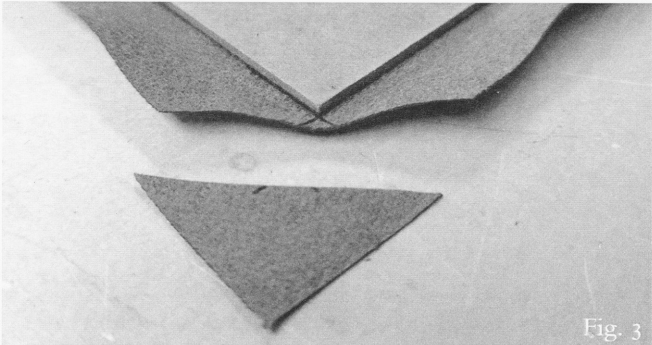
Step 2: Gluing down the board

I do this by applying PVA to the outer face of the board, using a roller.



Step 3: Cutting the corner

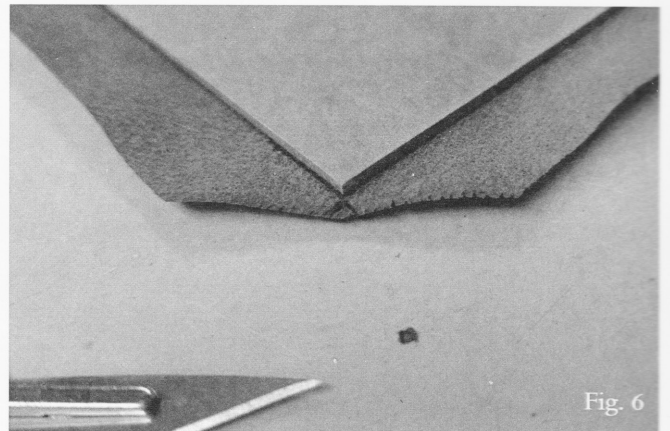
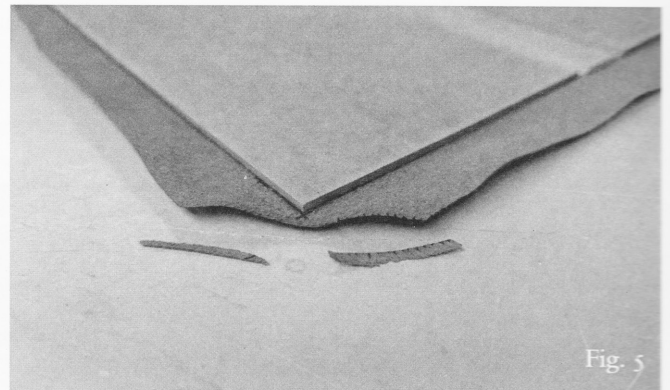
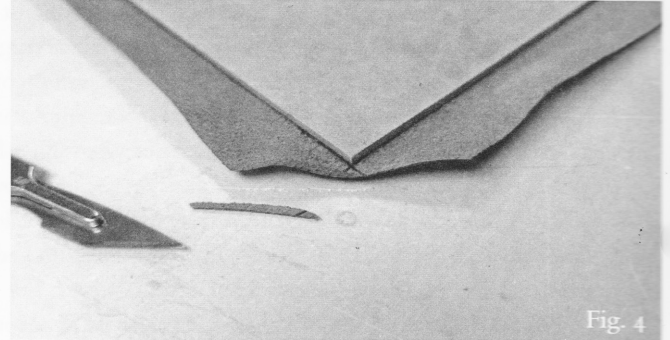
I cut the leather at a distance from the board tip equivalent to the board thickness (at the tip), plus 1 mm, which is the amount of overlapping which will occur on the inside. In this case this distance is approximately 2.5mm.



Step 4: Paring

Then I proceed to paring the leather. My goal is to edge-paring it (1mm wide, the amount of overlapping) and also to remove some flesh from the small triangle between the tip of the board and the edge of the leather. I execute both things with a scalpel with blade #10A. I do the edge paring in two steps because of the board in the way (figures 4 and 5), and the triangle, well...carefully! (Figure 6). This step is a bit tricky but it makes for a sharper tip, and easier pleating.

How to know if the leather has been cut at the right distance and if the edge-paring is sufficient? Turn in and check the overlap: there should be neither a bump nor a recess at this spot.



Step 5: Turning in

Now we can proceed with gluing and turning in. I use PVA for this as well but adding a bit of paste in it can't hurt. I like to do this in two steps, two turn-ins at a time. If we focus on the corner only, you can see that I have done one turn-in (figure 7), and before doing the second one (figure 9) I have lifted the leather slightly at the tip to be able to insert new glue in there (figure 8) to allow for pleating, which I do with an awl (figure 10). After some more rubbing and smoothing using various bone and Teflon folders, both inside and outside, the corner is finished (figures 11 and 12).

Benjamin Elbel (French nationality, 1983) has a background in illustration and trained as a bookbinder at the 'Centro del bel libro' in Ascona (Switzerland), and at the bench of various fine bookbinding firms in Germany and England, before setting up his own business in 2012, first in London and since 2015 in Haarlem, Netherlands. His studio currently provides services to bibliophiles, antiquarian book dealers and the hospitality industry. An inquisitive mind, Ben has a passion for the engineering side of bookbinding, and has developed many structures and processes which he uses in his practice, and shares with the community via Bookbinding Out of the Box, a project dedicated to innovation in hand bookbinding.

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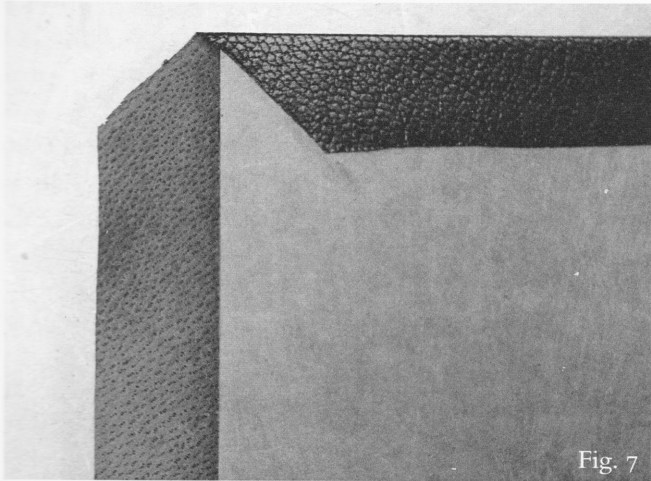


Fig. 7

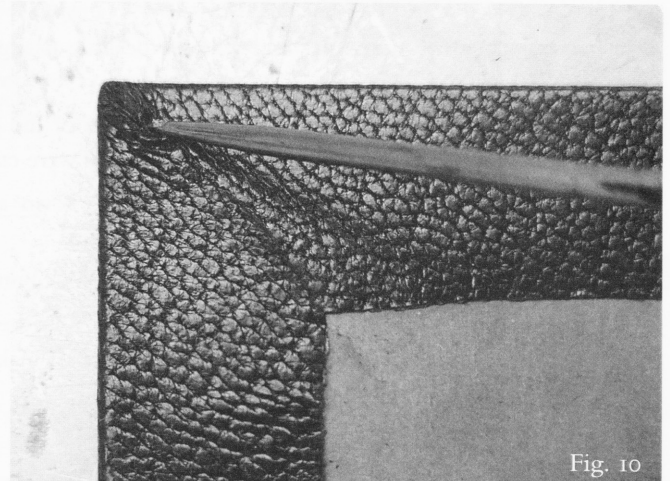


Fig. 10

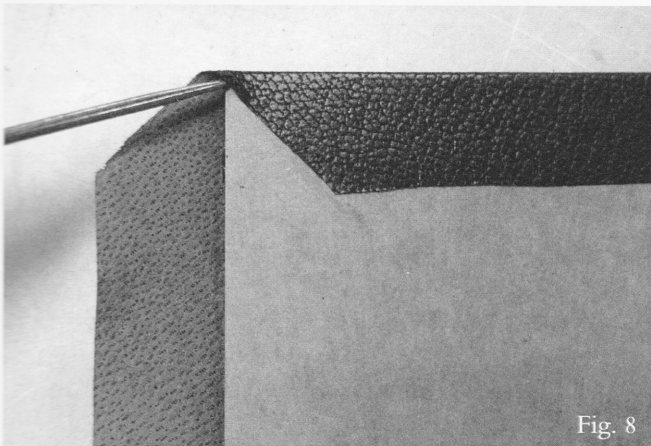


Fig. 8

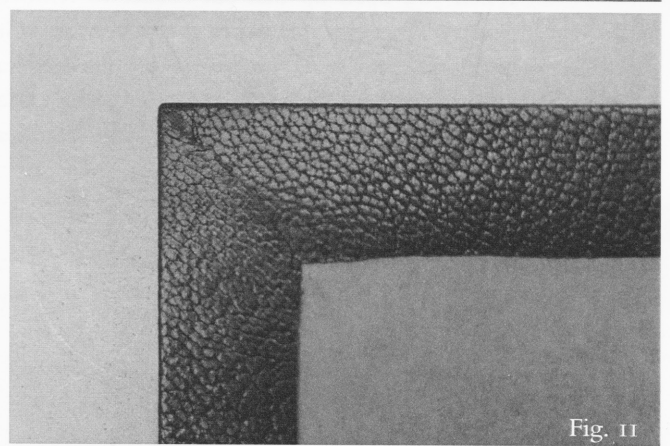


Fig. 11

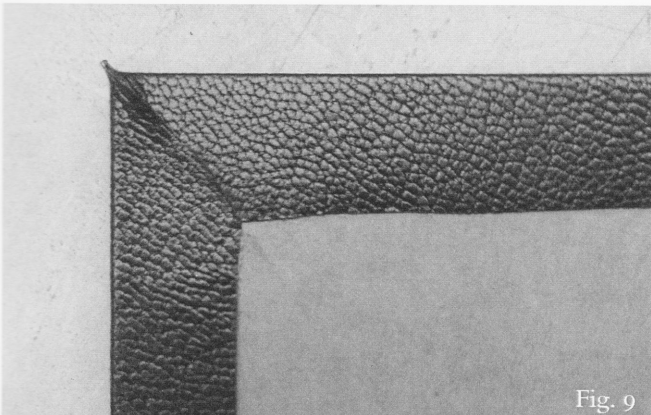


Fig. 9



Fig. 12