

# EXPLORER JOURNAL COVER KIT

## KIT CONTAINS:

Pre-Cut Pre-Punched Leather  
Eyelet (4)  
Rivet  
Lace Hook  
Paracord  
Needles (2)  
Thread  
Instructions & Pattern



## BEFORE YOU BEGIN, YOU WILL NEED:

- Rivet Setter
- Eyelet Setter
- 3/32 & 3/16 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...

(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 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?

Body (A)  
Eyelets (B)  
Lace Hook (C)  
Rivet (D)  
Paper Template (E)  
Paracord (F)

### Not Shown:

Instructions & Pattern

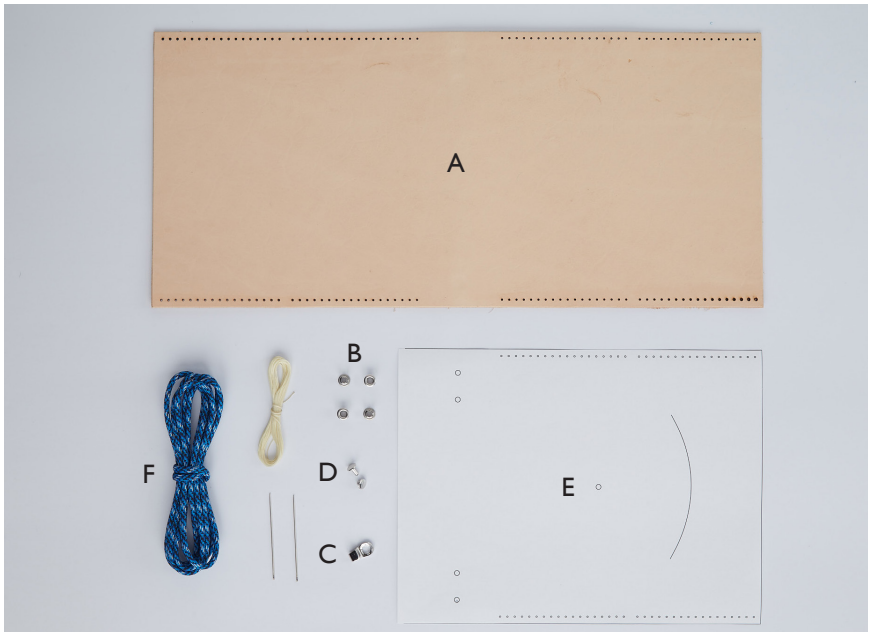
## RECOMMENDED TOOLS:

Binder Clips or Preferred Adhesive to secure leather pieces.  
Stitching Horse to hold leather pieces while stitching.  
Scratch Awl to widen stitch holes.  
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.

## 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 to desired finish. **See *Level Up Your Skills starting on page 11 for detailed instructions on How to Burnish Edges.***

## ATTACHING HARDWARE

2. Cut Paper Template (E) out from paper pattern.
3. Place Paper Template (E) on grain side of Body (A) and mark all large punch holes and optional slit to hold your journal open. (Figure 1)
4. Punch the four holes located in the center of Body (A) using the 3/16" Round Drive Punch or Rotary Punch. Use the 3/32" Round Drive Punch or Rotary Punch for the remaining hole. (Figure 2)
5. Cut the optional slit if you choose to do so. (Figure 3)
6. Insert Eyelet post (B) and stud into one of the punch holes. Use Mallet and Eyelet Setter to set. Repeat for the other three Eyelets (B) in the center of the Body (A). The finished side of the hardware should be on the grain side of the leather. (Figures 4-5)
7. Attach the Lace Hook (C) to the remaining hole using Rivet (D). The lace hook needs to face the closest short edge of Body (A). (Figure 6) **See *Level Up Your Skills starting on page 11 for detailed instructions on How to Set Rivets.***

Figure 1



Figure 2

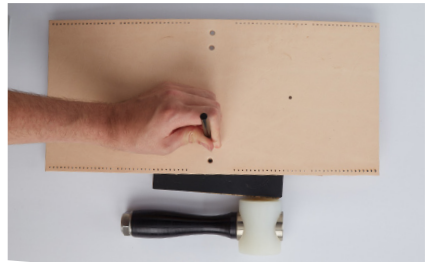


Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



## STITCHING JOURNAL

8. Fold one of the short ends over, flesh sides together. The crease of the fold should be at the break in the stitch line.

9. Cut 5x the amount of thread as the length of the stitch line. Thread both ends with a needle. **See *Level Up Your Skills starting on page 11* for detailed instructions on *How to Thread a Needle*.**

10. Starting at the leather fold, create a few back stitches to keep this fold together tight. Continue to saddle stitch to the edge of the fold. Finish with an edge lock stitch and 2-3 backstitches. Trim thread. (Figures 7-8) **See *Level Up Your Skills starting on page 11* for detailed instructions on *How to Back Stitch, Saddle Stitch, and Edge Lock Stitch*.**

11. Stitch the other three sides in the same manner. (Figure 9)

12. Insert Journal. (Figure 10)

Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10



## ATTACHING PARACORD

13. Loop the center of the Paracord (F) onto the Lace Hook (C). (Figure 11)

14. Wrap around the other side of the Journal and insert each end into the Eyelets (B) closest to the edge. (Figure 12-13)

15. Loop the Paracord (F) back through the next eyelet to the outside of the journal cover. (Figures 14-15)

16. Use Figures 16-24 to tie a sliding knot near one eyelet.

17. About an inch away, tie another sliding knot facing the other way. (Figure 25)

18. Play with the knot until it is even and hold the journal cover closed comfortably.

19. Trim. (Figure 26) **Pro Tip: Burn the tips of the Paracord (F) to prevent fraying. (Figure 27)**

Figure 11



Figure 12



Figure 13

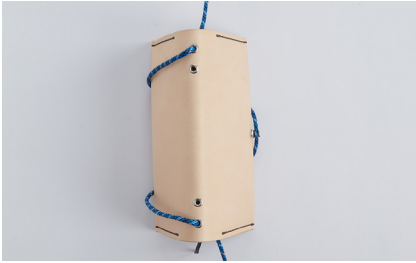


Figure 14



Figure 15



Figure 16



Figure 17



Figure 18



Figure 19



Figure 20



Figure 21



Figure 22





Figure 23



Figure 24



Figure 25



Figure 26



Figure 27



**CONGRATULATIONS, YOU'VE MADE A  
JOURNAL COVER!**



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

# LEVEL UP YOUR SKILLS WITH TANDY

## 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 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 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

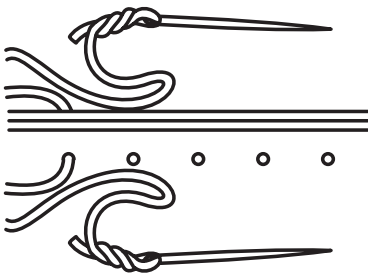
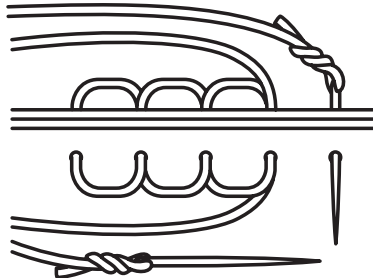


Figure 2



## HOW TO 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

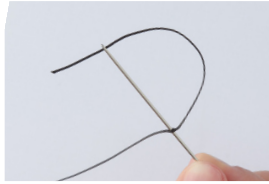


Figure 3

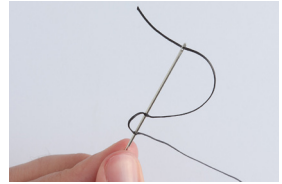


Figure 4



Figure 5

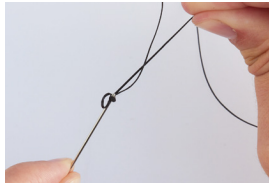


Figure 6



## HOW TO SET RIVETS

1. Place rivet post into correctly sized anvil divot. (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

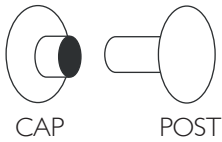


Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



## HOW TO EDGE LOCK STITCH

An edge lock stitch joins two separate pieces of material 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 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





FOR MORE PATTERNS, PROJECTS, AND TIPS,  
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