

# Make Along with Popov Leather:

## DIY Field Notes Cover Kit



Thank you for purchasing this DIY leathercrafting kit! This Field Notes Cover is an iconic design and the perfect way to keep your favourite journal close by. We've included (almost) everything you need to construct and finish your own, just follow the instructions below.



**Watch our video instructions here:** <https://www.popovleather.com/YOUTUBE>

We **strongly recommend** watching this video, these written instructions are much easier to follow when you can see the motion of our work and hear us explain the process. Please like and subscribe to our YouTube channel to get future videos and updates on all our DIY kits.



**Buy your DIY kits here:** <https://www.popovleather.com/DIY>

Your choice of thread and leather options. Great for learning how to craft leather goods in the comfort of your home.



**For personal use only**

These DIY kits are for personal use. The leather cover is designed and owned by Popov Leather Ltd. Any commercial use of this product is prohibited.

# What's in your Kit



## Included:

- 4 Lengths of Tiger Thread (1 spare)
- 2 Harness Needles for Sewing
- 1 Tin of Leather Balm
- 1 Burnishing Square
- 1 Piece of Sandpaper
- 4 Pieces of Cut Leather
- 1 Field Notes Memo Book

## Not Included:

- Scissors
- Crafting Glue
- Lighter

# Instructions

---

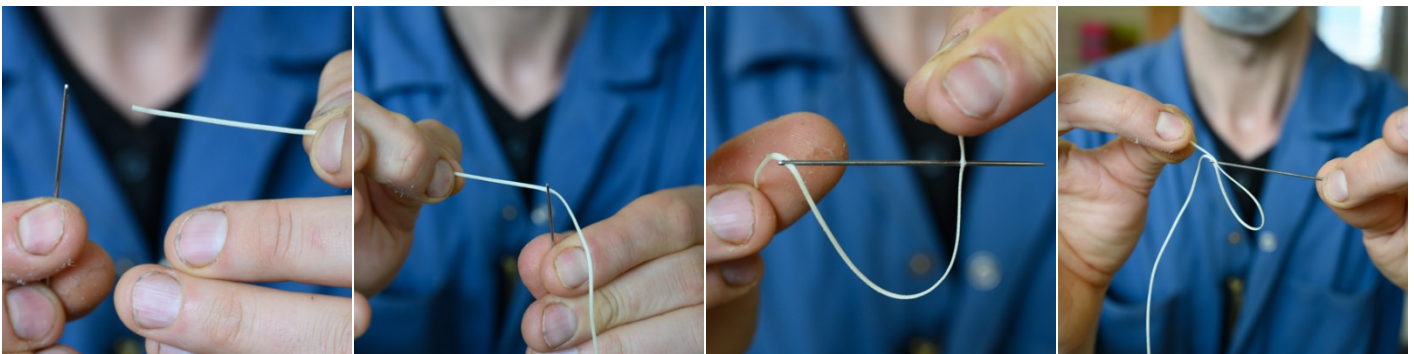
## Step 1: Gluing Internal Pockets



Take the internal pockets and glue along the inside as shown above. Apply the two pieces so that the middle holes align with each other.

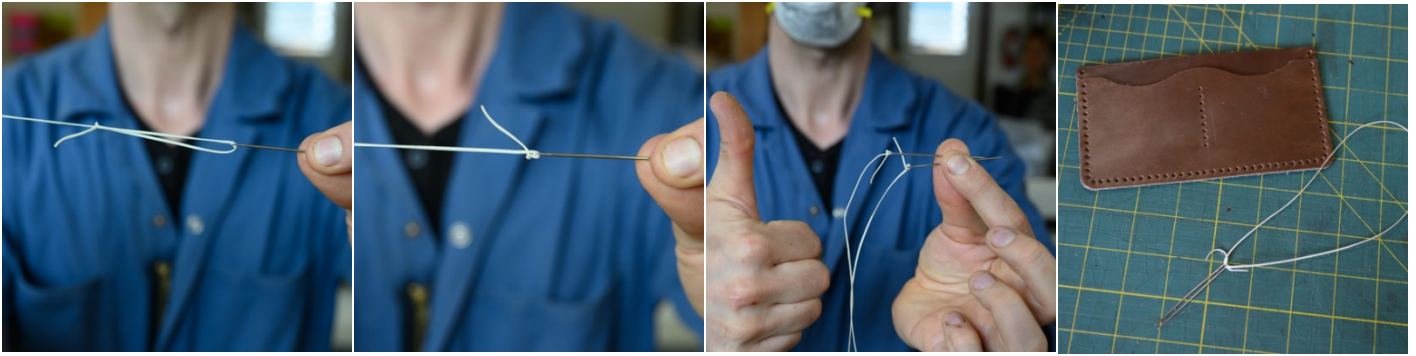
## Step 2: Sewing Preparation (Internal Pockets)

Take both harness needles and the smallest length of thread. Attach one needle to both ends of a single piece of thread. You have 4 lengths of thread included in your kit; one is a spare. This step is for the smallest length used on the internal pockets you glued above.



Put thread through the needle eye, then pull the thread through about 5 cm. Take that same needle and pierce the length of thread you pulled through the needle eye. Then pull the thread to complete a knot.





Repeat this process on the other end of the thread. You should have one length of thread with 1 needle knotted.

## Step 3: Hand-Sewing Internal Pockets



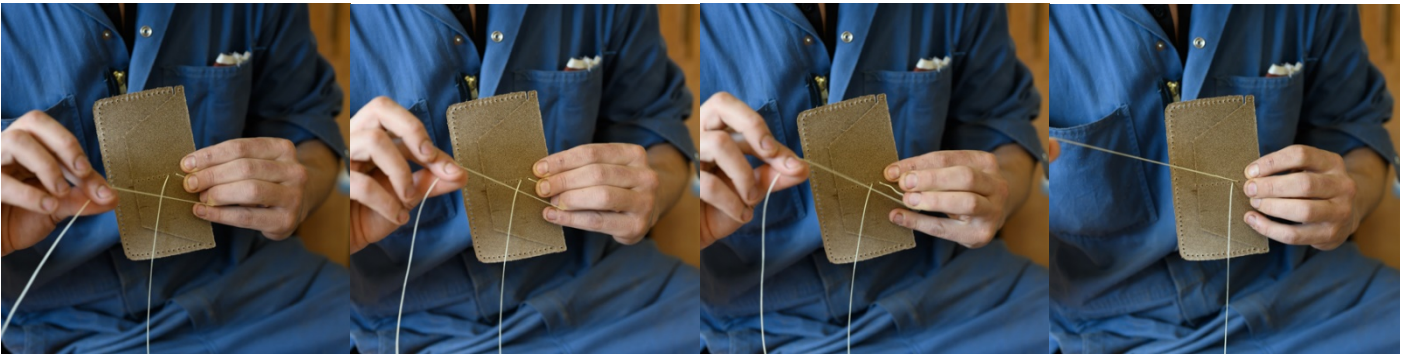
*In the workshop, we normally use a stitching pony (or clamp) that holds our wallet together while sewing. The methods below show you how you can sew without a pony at home.*



Pull needle through the first hole of the internal pockets until halfway through the thread. Both needles should be equal distance, you should have the same length of thread on either side of the pockets.

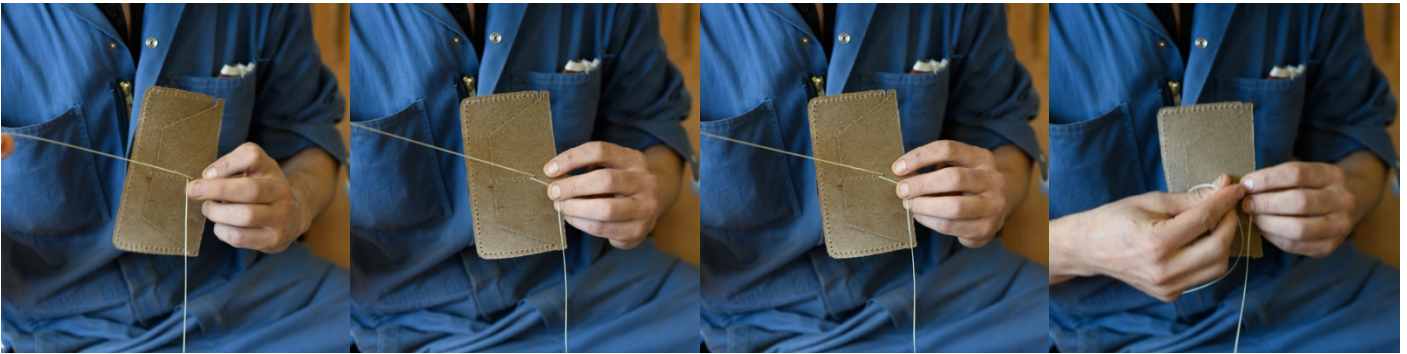


Take one needle and pull through the second hole, allow it to drop, hold that length of thread with your finger and pull to the side.



*Take care not to pierce the thread with a needle while stitching, it can be very difficult to fix this mistake.*

Take the other needle and pull it through the same hole in the opposite direction. Every hole should have both needles passing through it, as you work your way down the length of the internal pocket piece.



Always work from the same side, if you pull your needle through the left side of the piece when you start a new hole, always start on the left side. This keeps the stitching straight and consistent. Work your way all the way to the end of the internal pockets piece.







At the end, work backwards twice, so that both threads end up hanging from the “back” of the cover. This is called a backstitch.



Carefully cut the thread with your scissors but leave about 0.5 cm length of thread. Use a lighter to melt the 0.5cm length of thread, do not let the flame linger too closely to the leather or you risk burning the leather. Let the flame dance near the thread.

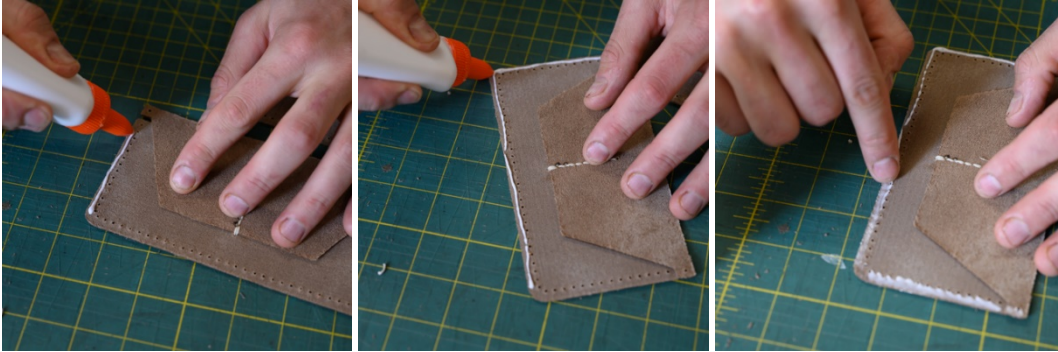


Use the side of the lighter or your finger to flatten the melted bits of thread. Rub the lighter along the entire length of the stitching. This will eliminate any “bumps” showing through the leather once it’s glued to the main cover.

## Step 4: Gluing



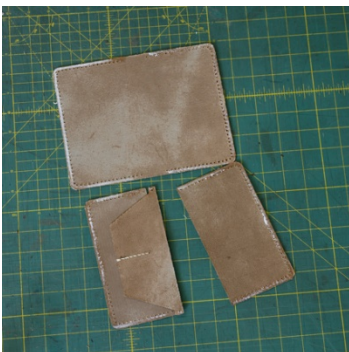
*Our kit does not include glue, you will have to supply your own. In our example we use Elmer's Craft glue. Any white crafting glue should do the trick.*



Apply glue to the inside of the sewn internal pockets as shown. All along the perimeter, careful to not get glue inside the holes. Smear the glue with your finger to get the glue worked into the leather and allowing it weld faster.



Repeat this for the other inside pocket piece



Finally, glue the large cover piece along perimeter of the holes.



Combine leather pieces as shown, careful to make sure corners are perfectly matched up. Wipe away any glue that forms on edges as you press together. Allow piece to dry and allow glue to weld (30min-1hr)

## Step 5: Sewing Preparation (Cover)

Cut the used thread off needles and re-thread the needles with a large length of thread. See step #2 for preparing needles and threading. You will use this for the next step.

## Step 6: Hand-Sewing Internal Pocket




Pull needle through the first hole of cover until halfway through the thread. Both needles should be equal distance, you should have the same length of thread on either side of the pockets.





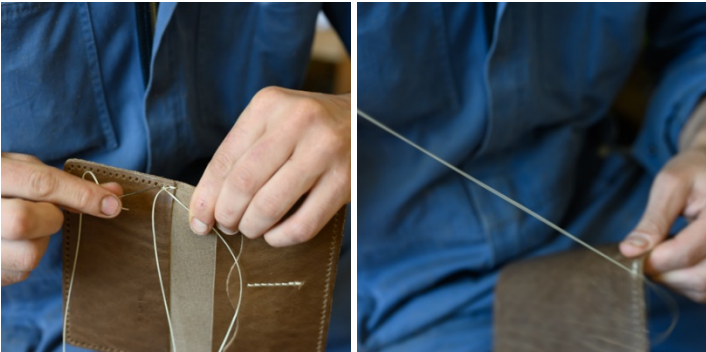
Take one needle and pull through the second hole, allow it to drop, hold that length of thread with your finger and pull to the side.





*Take care not to pierce the thread with a needle while stitching, it can be very difficult to fix this mistake.*

Take the other needle and pull it through the same hole in the opposite direction. Every hole should have both needles passing through it, as you work your way down the length of the Field Notes Cover.



Always work from the same side, if you pull your needle through the left side of the piece when you start a new hole, always start on the left side. This keeps the stitching straight and consistent.



Work your way all the way to the end of the cover. Work backwards twice, so that both threads end up hanging from the “back” of the cover. This is called a backstitch.



Carefully cut the thread with your scissors but leave about 0.5 cm length of thread. Carefully use your lighter to melt the 0.5cm length of thread, do not let the flame linger too closely to the leather or you risk burning the leather. Let the flame dance near the thread.

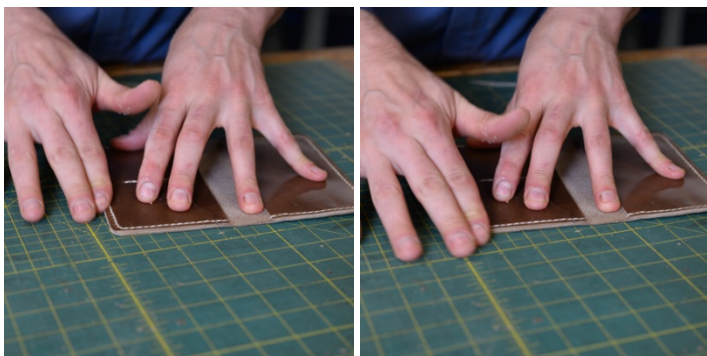
Repeat this step for the remaining internal pocket.

## Step 5: Sanding



Take your sandpaper and carefully sand the edges of the Field Notes cover to get a nice flat finish.





Sand until you're happy with the smoothness, run your fingers on the corners of the edges to flatten them.

## Step 6: Burnishing edges



*We normally use a cocktail of gum trag, beeswax and a burnishing wheel to get our shiny edges, but Leather Balm and a patch of leather works in a pinch as well!*

Take a liberal amount of Leather Balm and apply it to the sanded edges until they are moist.



Use the smooth, shiny side of the burnishing leather square to burnish the edges. Rub the edges and use a small amount of friction to get a nice shine.



Be careful, too much friction can burn the edges and leave dark marks.





*Leather balm can also be used on all your other leather goods! Great for restoring, conditioning, and waterproofing*



All done! Enjoy your Field Notes cover!

## Feedback? Questions?

This is the first in a series of DIY kits we hope to release. **Nothing is ever perfect, so if you have any difficulty with your kit, please reach out: [hello@popovleather.com](mailto:hello@popovleather.com)** We can help and we will use your feedback to make our instructions and kit even better. Would you like to make other things? Tell us!

## Show us your finished wallet

Tag us on Instagram with the hashtag **#makewithpopov** and show us what your wallet looks like!