

'Liv' Arming Girdle Belt Assembly Instructions



Introduction

The following is a guide to making your own arming girdle belt from the provided patterns. If you find yourself requiring more information or clarifications, please email thewarfactoryau@gmail.com or message us through any of our social media channels.

Required items

- Printer and A4 paper
- Scissors or paper cutting implements.
- Masking tape or similar
- Measuring tape
- 1.5mm, 3.5mm and 6mm dia. hole punches for leatherwork
- Sharp knife for cutting leather.
- Leather glue
- 8mm single or double cap two-piece rivets
- Three (3) 32mm 'D' rings
- Three (3) 25mm buckles with matching keepers OR 25mm full buckles.
- 5-6 oz (2.0 – 2.4mm thick) leather
- 8-9 oz (3.2 – 3.6mm thick) leather
- 1mm thick waxed poly sewing thread.
- Two (2) saddlery needles

- Approx. six (6) metres of paracord OR 6mm flat kangaroo lacing

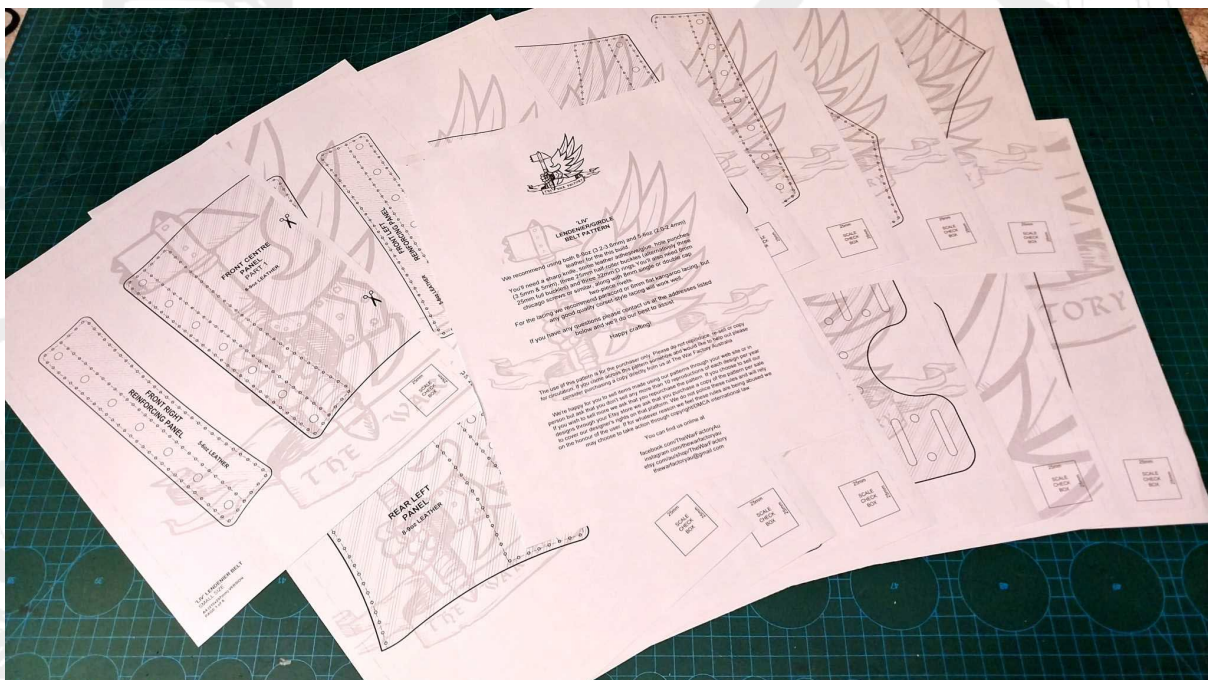
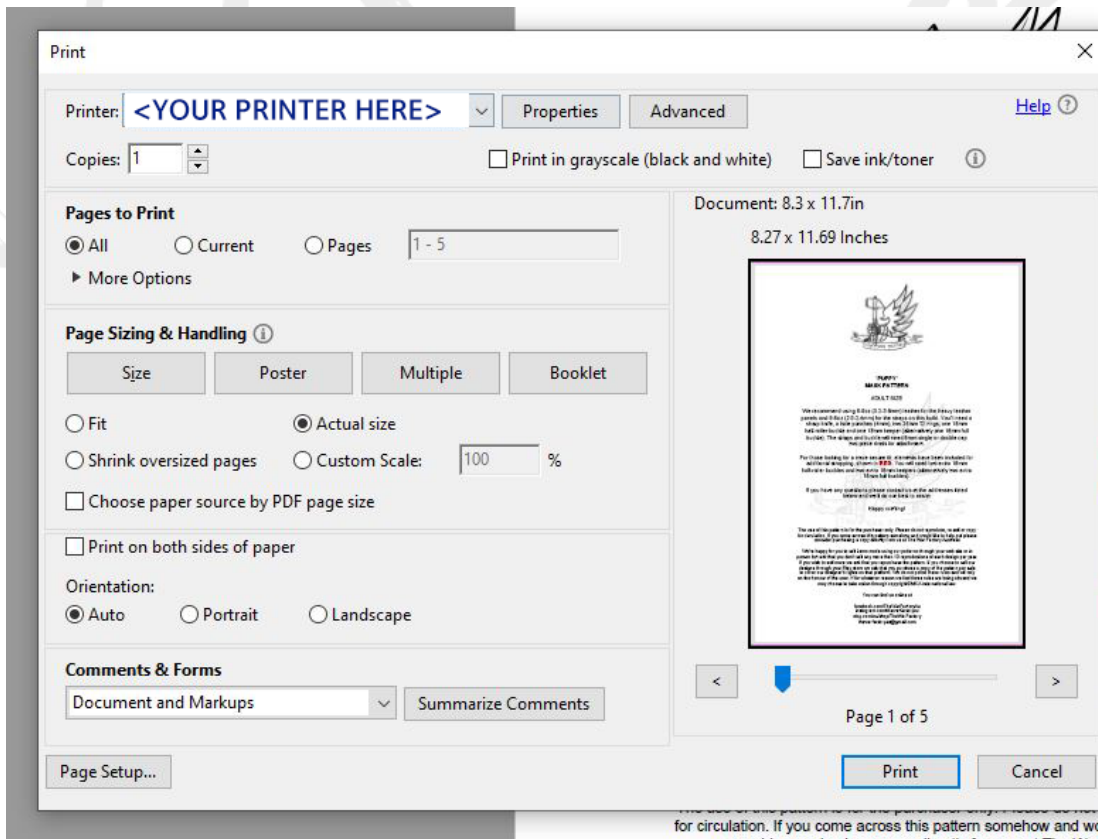
Optional items

- A straight-edge or ruler
- Leather dye (for use with vegetable tanned leather). I recommend Black Raven Armoury leather dyes.
- Leather dye sealer/finisher
- Latex gloves or similar
- Wool daubers or similar dye applicators
- Oblong and strap end punches
- Size 2 Edge Beveller
- Leather burnisher or Edge slicker
- 6mm Chicago screws

Printing the Pattern

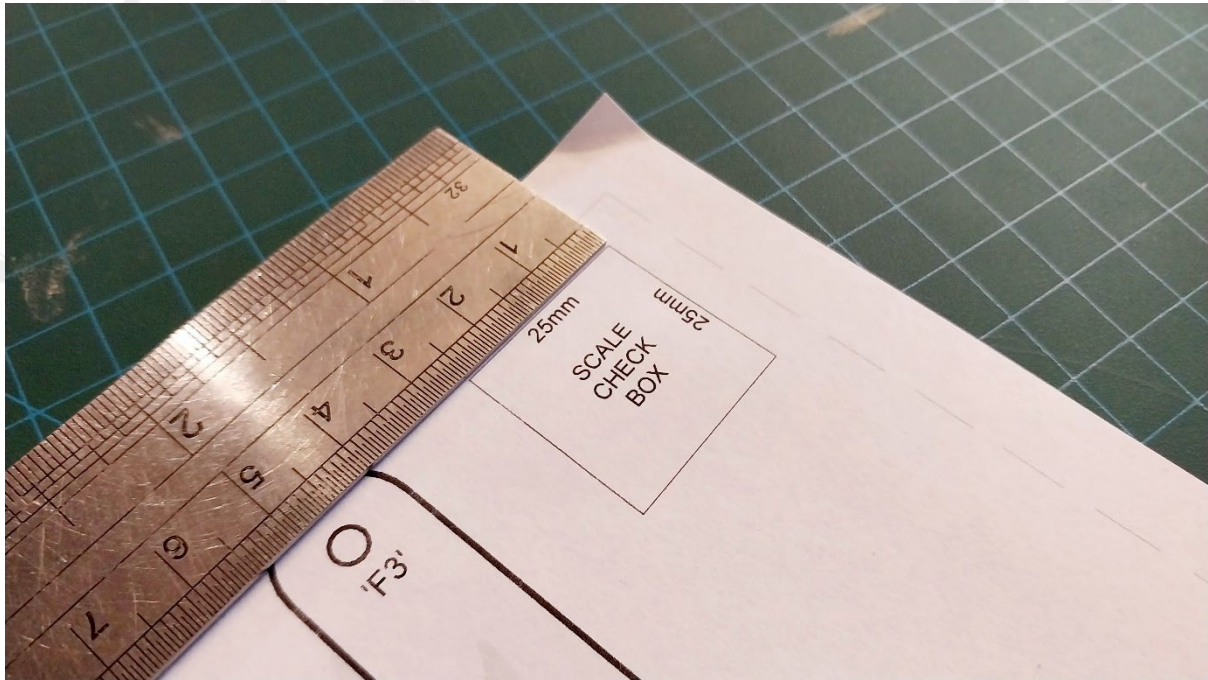
This pattern is designed to print on standard A4 paper.

Setup your PDF to print to your chosen machine and ensure the scaling is set to 'Actual Size' or '100%'.

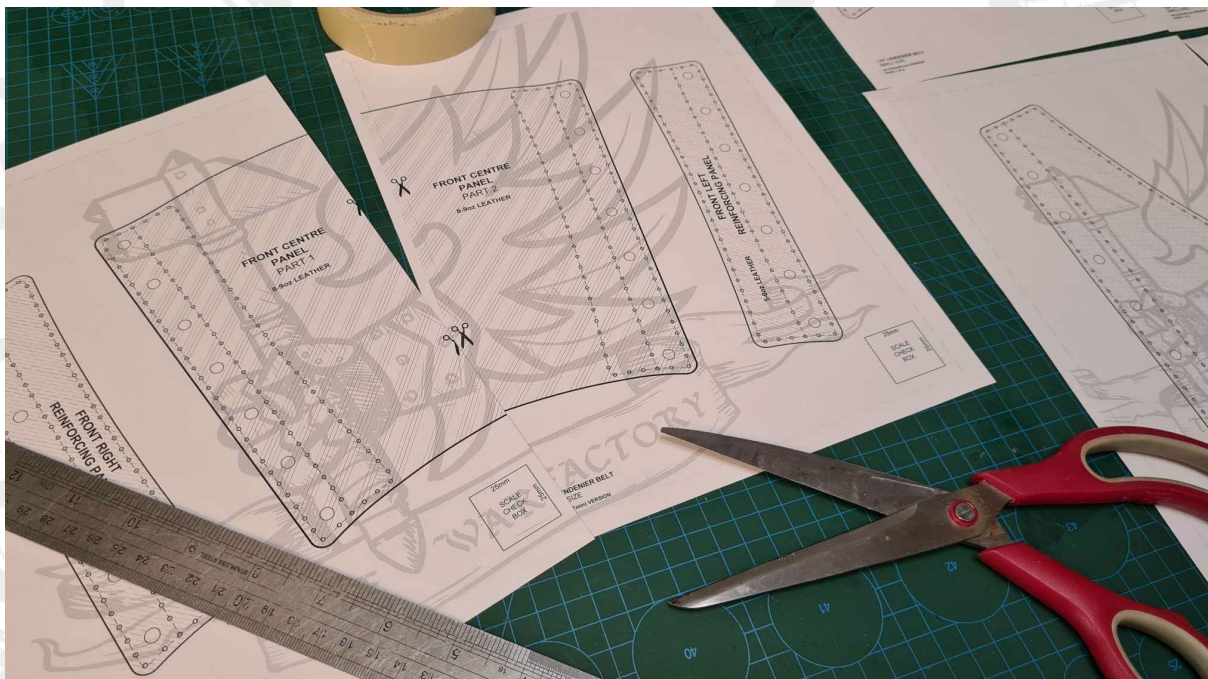


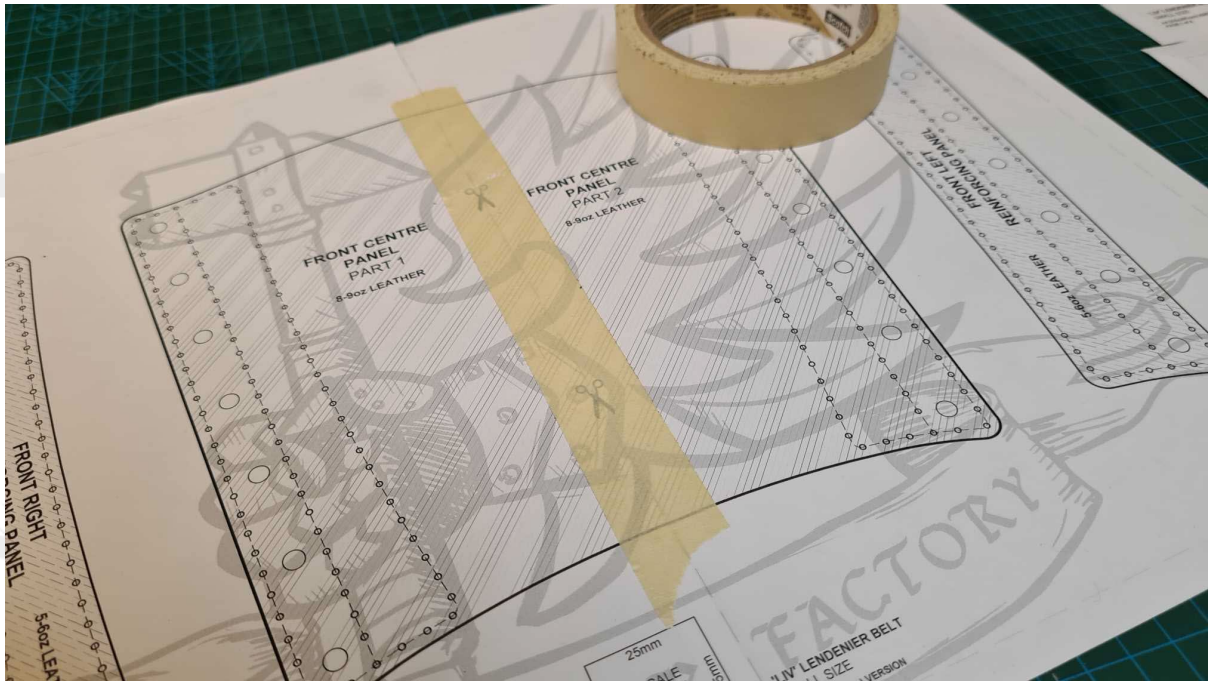
Assemble the Pattern

Once your pattern has been printed it is helpful to check the scale has been produced to the correct size. You can do this by measuring the 'Scale Check Box' found on every sheet. It should measure 25mm by 25mm.

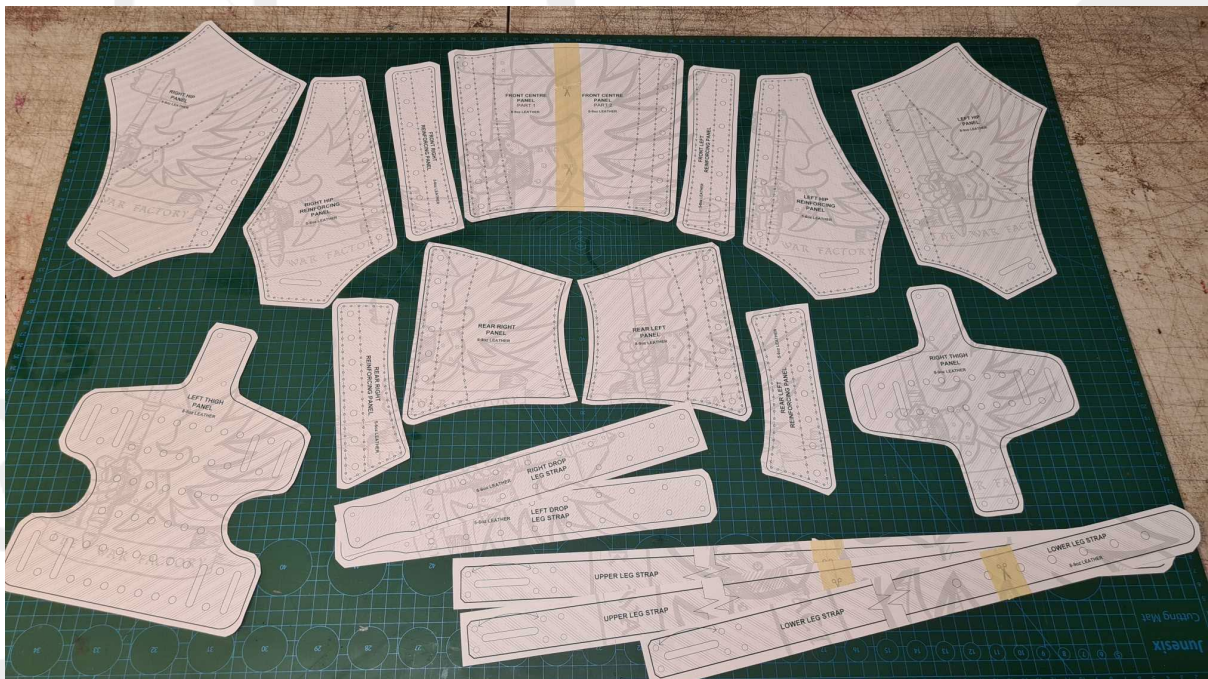


Tape your parts together where panels are shown across two or more pages. Its best to trim off one side along the dashed line. The scissor symbols should line up.





Roughly cut out your pattern pieces, taking care to leave about half a centimetre or similar around the external line of each pattern panel.



Cutting out your pattern

Using your masking tape, stick down each paper pattern piece to the face side of your leather. Ensure you thoroughly cover all edges of the paper pattern and leave some space between panels for ease of work later. Once your paper patterns have been stuck in place, cut out each panel from the leather to assist in handling in future. You may choose to group smaller pieces together.

Note the leg straps will be done separately using a different set of steps later in this tutorial.



The next step is to punch your holes in each panel. It is recommended to do so using a plastic mallet or similar to protect your hole punches from damage. Always ensure the material under your leather is suitable for punches. A plastic chopping block or similar can be helpful.

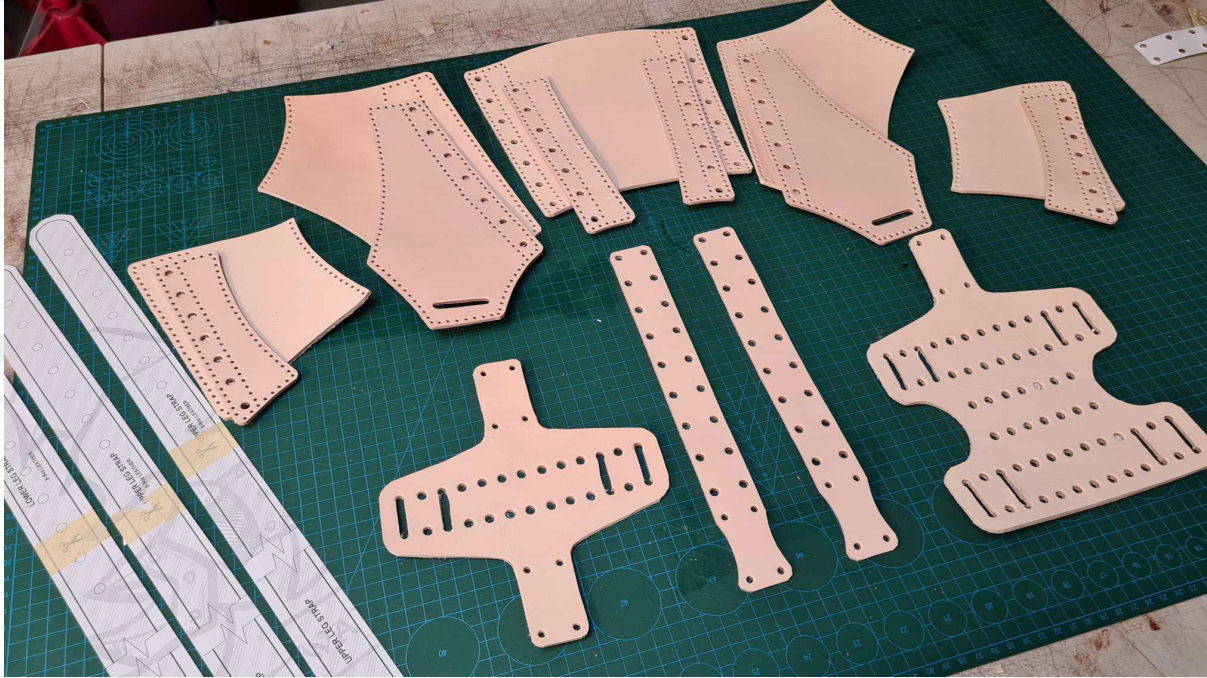


Following that you can begin cutting out each panel. Work your way around the piece with clean, even cuts. It is easier to make many small, straight cuts on tight curves than to attempt to do it in one tight curving cut. As an option you can use a smaller hole punch in your internal corners to prevent the chance of over-cutting.



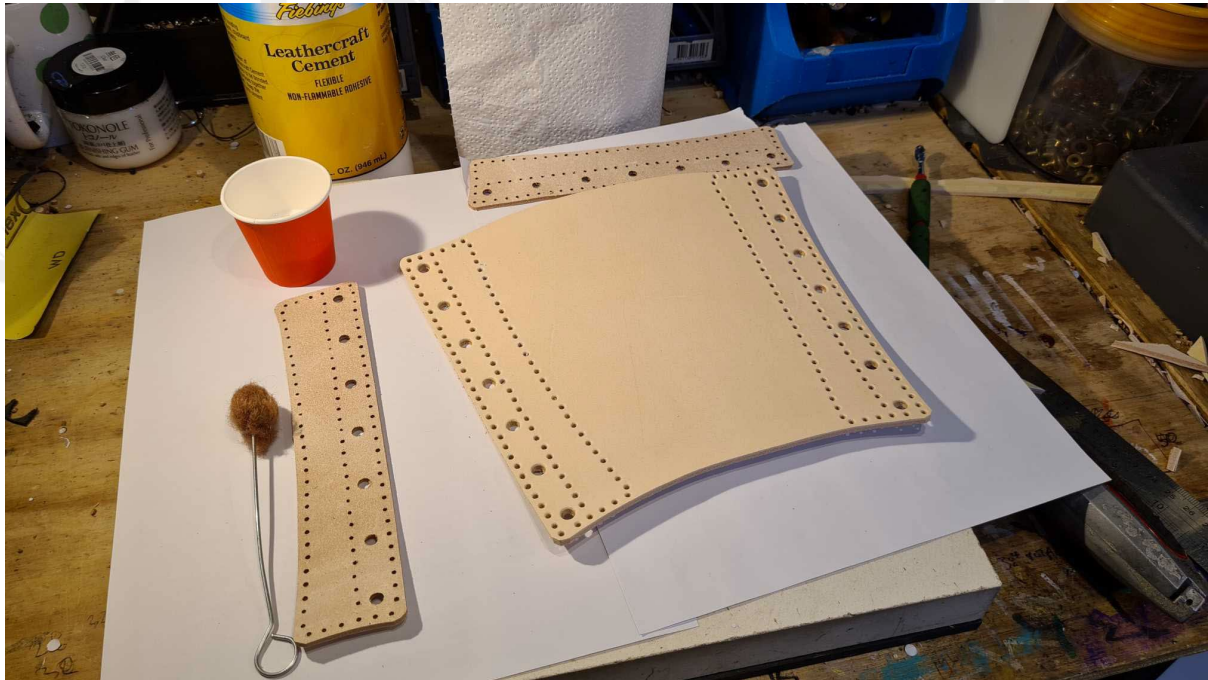
I recommend only punching the lacing holes and slots on the outer 5-6oz panel at this stage to improve your finish later.

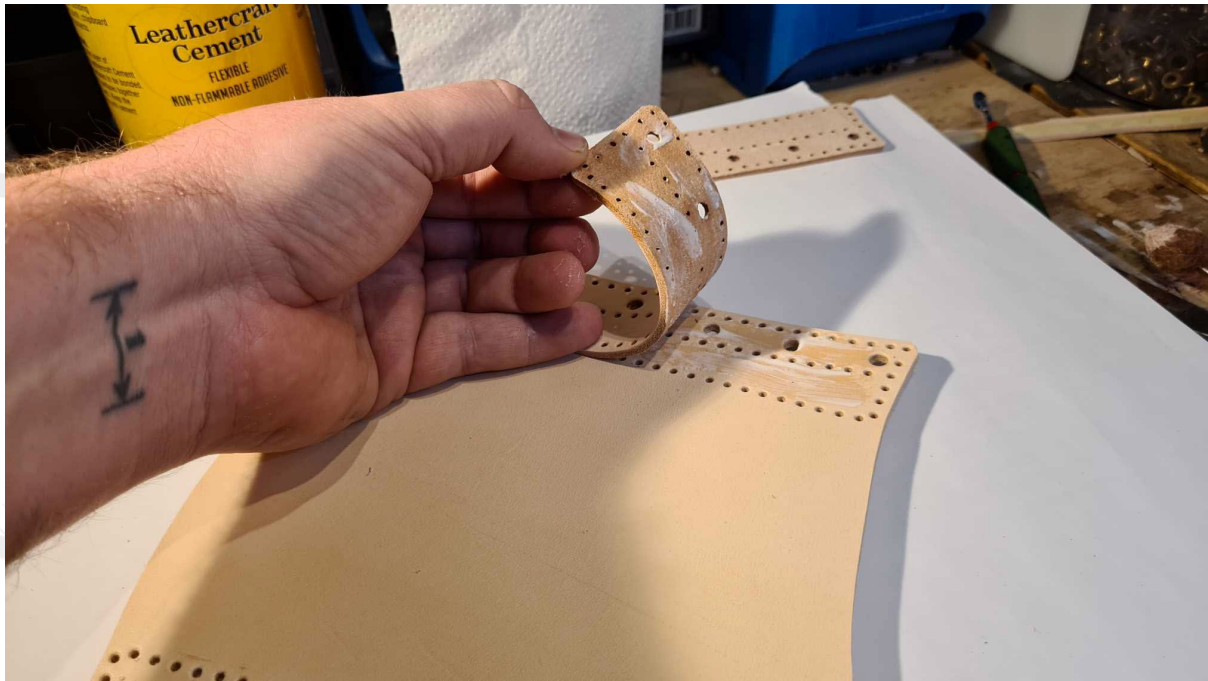
Pieces below shown ready for assembly.



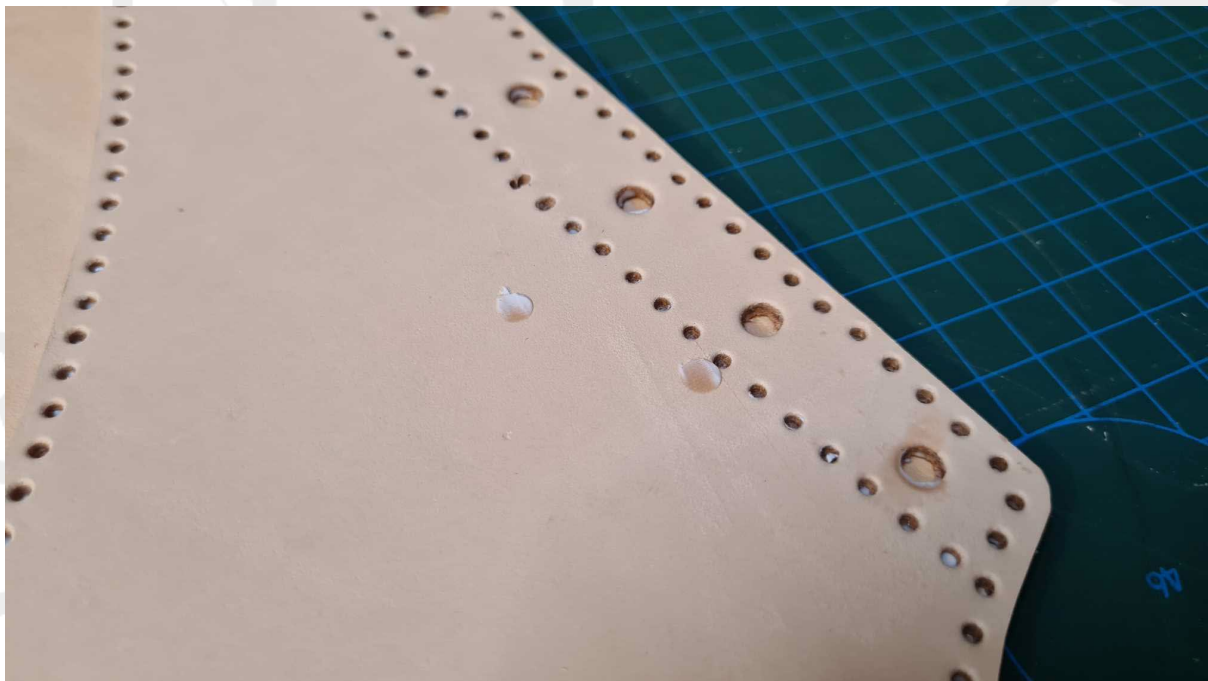
Gluing your panels

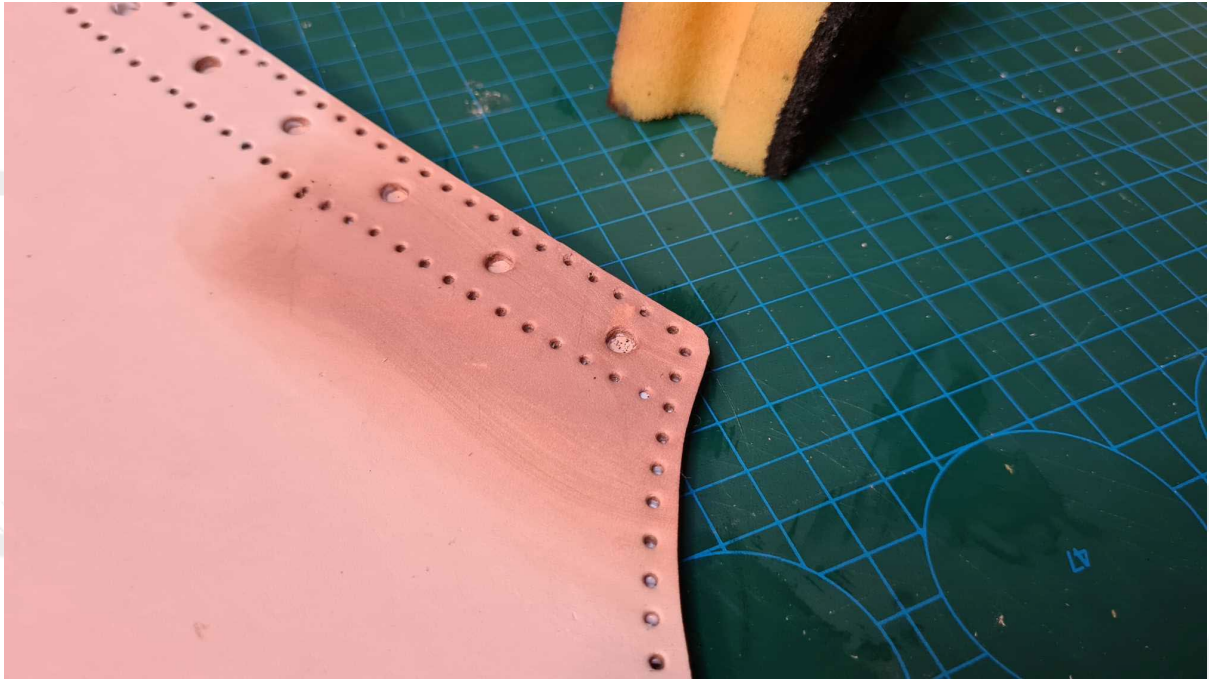
Where there is lacing, you'll have a secondary outer panel that is glued and stitched in place. Apply a light layer of glue to each side of the panel and press in place. You can make it easier by lining up previously punched holes to ensure the best match.





If you do make a mess with the glue, its best to get it cleaned up ASAP with simple water and a cloth.





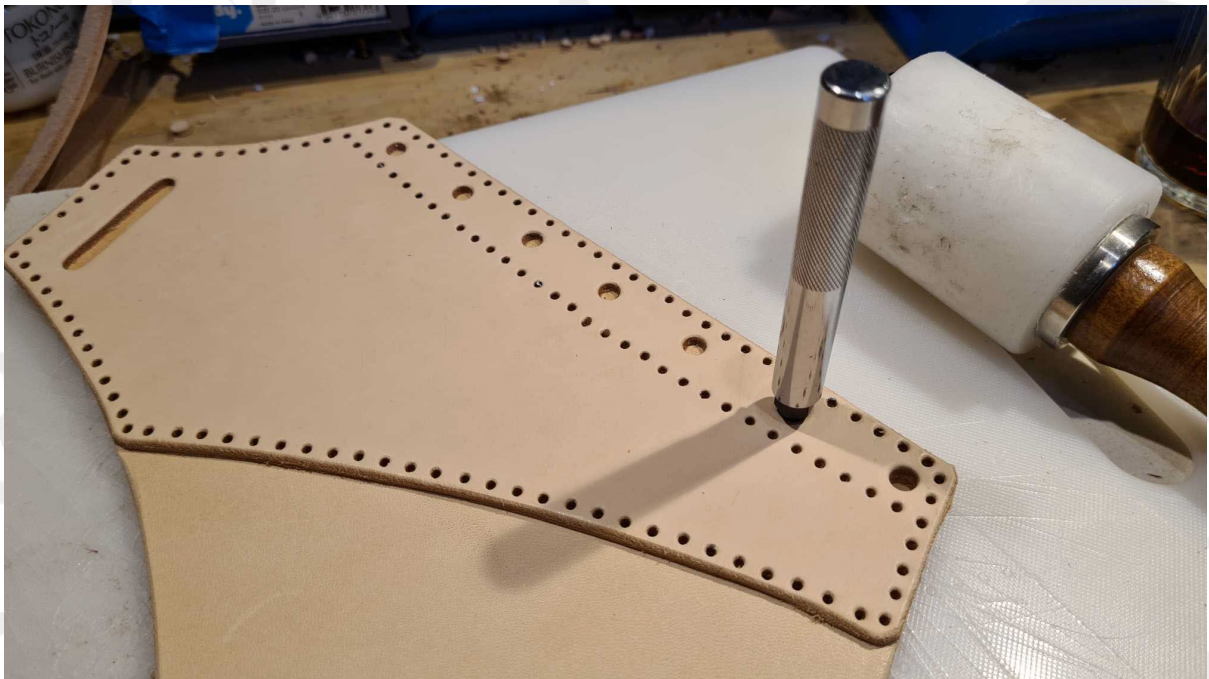
Once you've glued your panels together it's a great idea to provide some even pressure while the glue dries. Some old books or other weight flat object can be helpful.



Your glued pieces are now ready to continue your build.



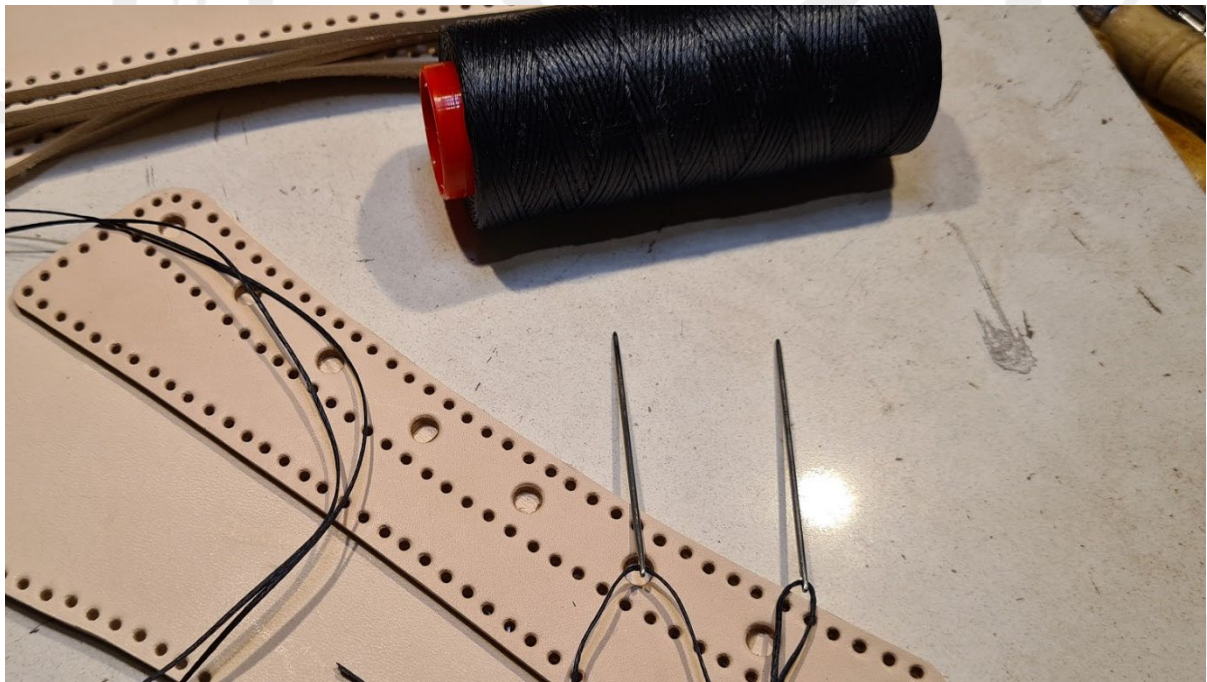
At this stage you can now finish punching your lacing points and oblong slots all the way through the panels. This ensures that the holes are clean and consistent through both layers of leather.



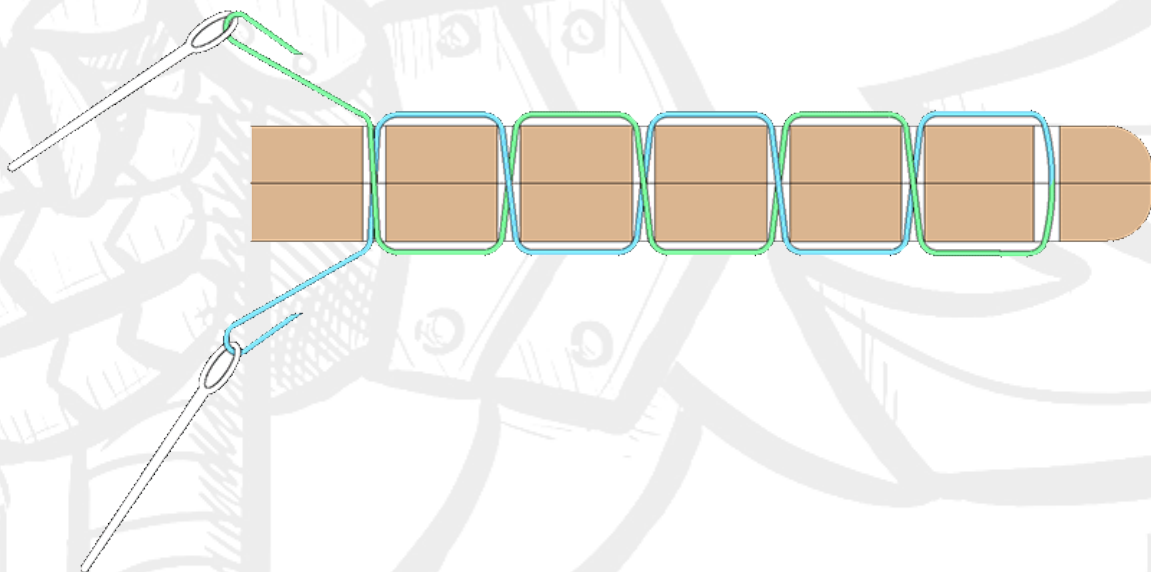
Stitching the panels

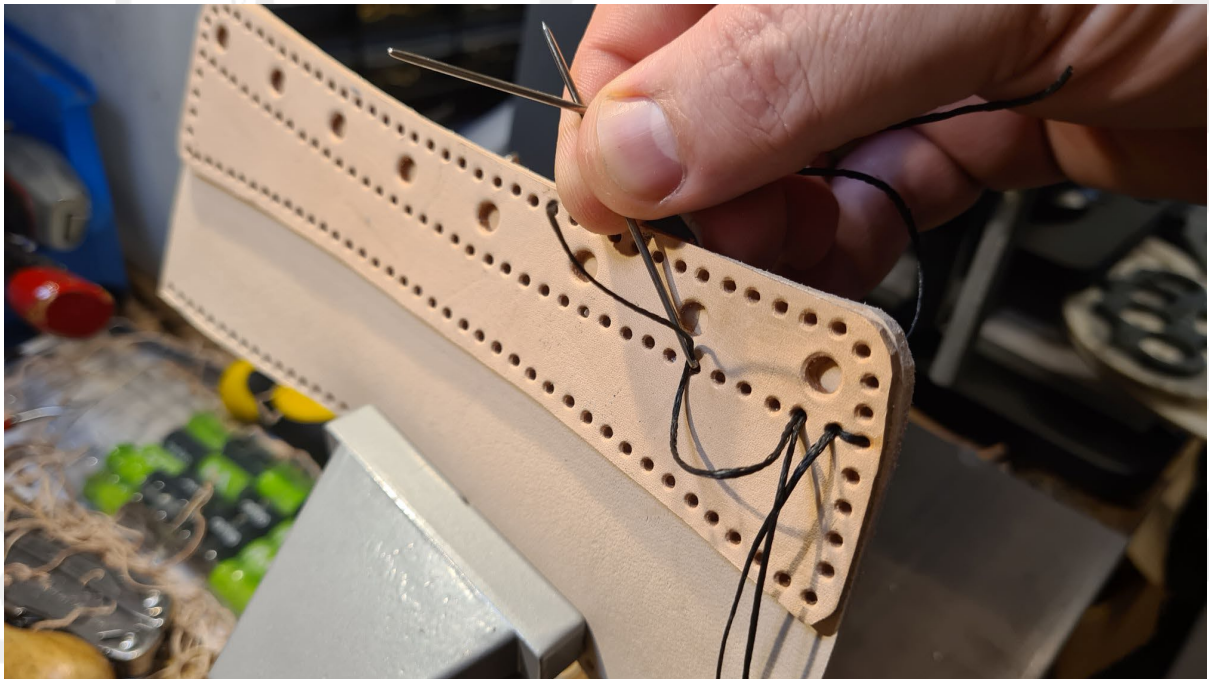
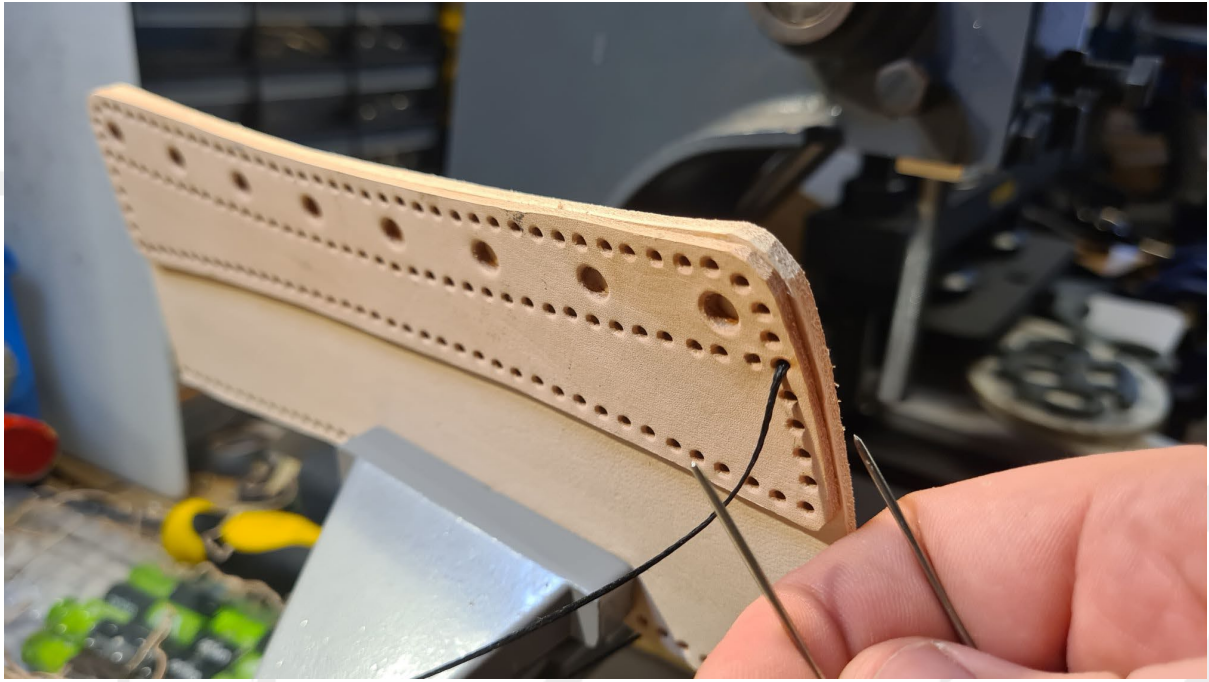
Hand sewing the leather panels together takes two forms. The first is to stitch together your glued panels to ensure a firm, secure piece that'll survive for many years to come. The second is to connect your panels into the belt form.

For your glued panels you'll need a pair of saddlery needles, the sewing thread, a pair of scissors or cutting implement and a source of flame to finish your ends.



For the glued panels you'll be using a saddle stitch for maximum strength. Diagram below





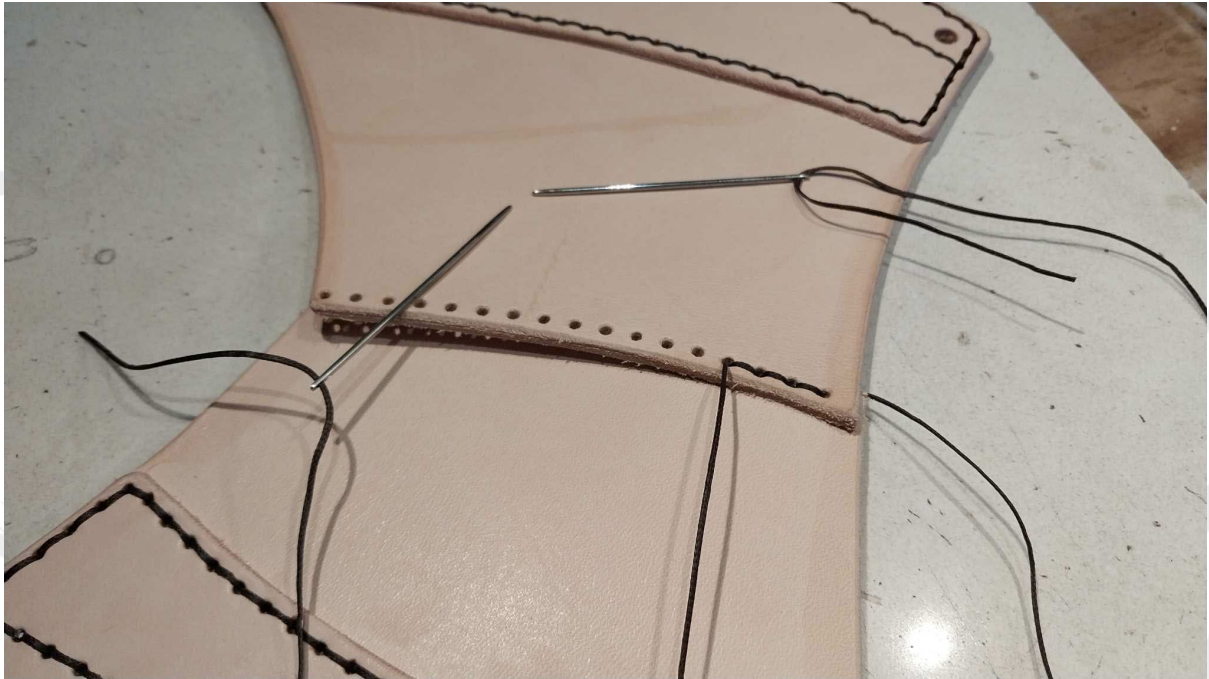
Once you get the end of your run, go back a stitch or two before trimming off your ends as pictured.



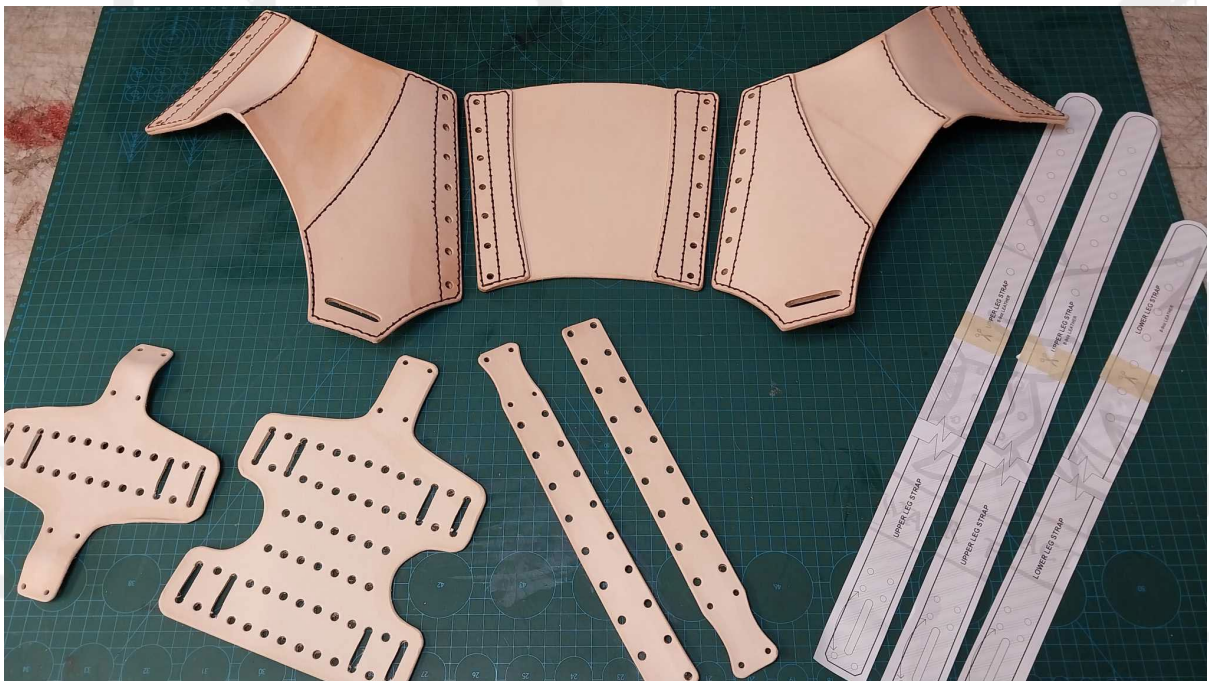
Once trimmed use your flame source to melt down the last little bit before smoothing it flat. Please remember that the melted end will still be hot to the touch so use a source of moisture to prevent any burns.



Your second lot of stitching are the hip panels as pictured below.



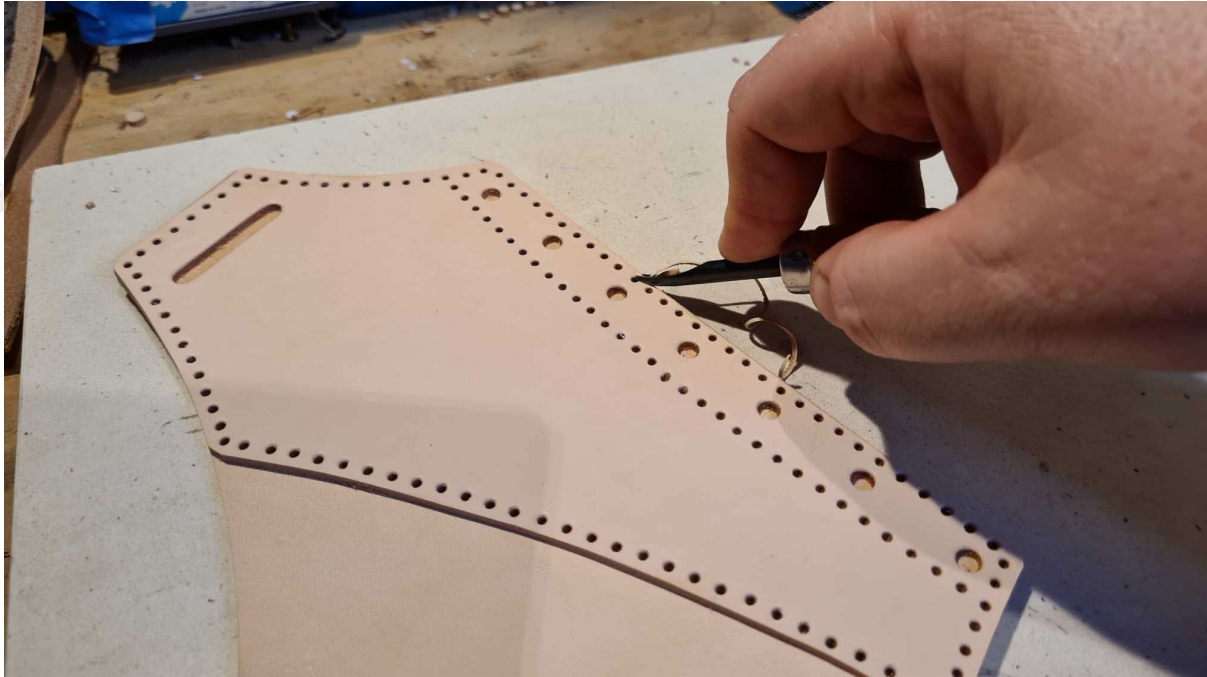
Once your hand sewing is complete you can move onto your leg straps.



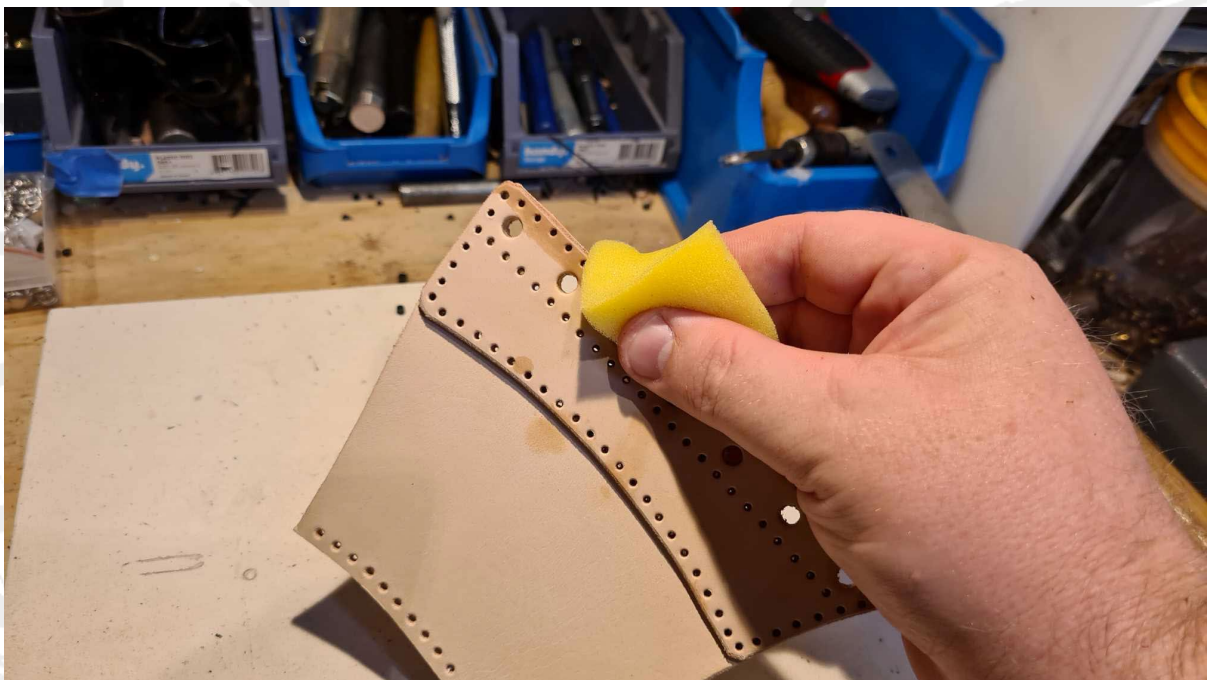
Optional – Edges

As an option before assembling your belt you may wish to clean and burnish your edges for a more polished look.

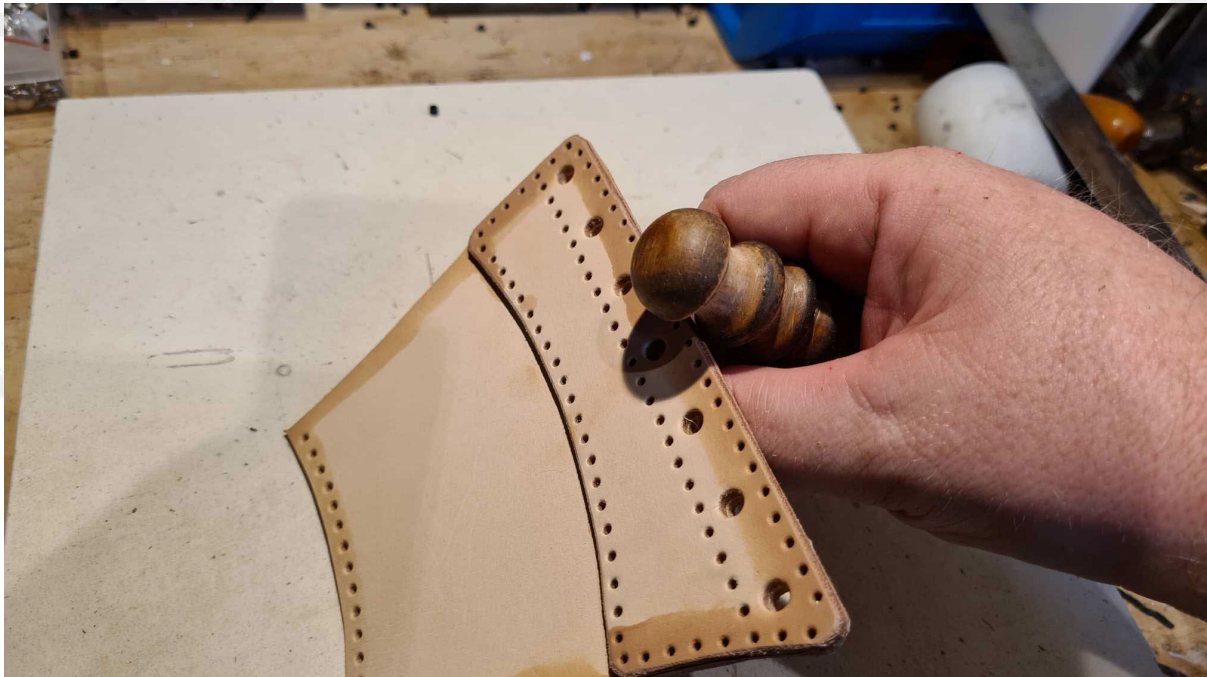
Begin by bevelling your edges. I've used a Size 2 beveller on both sides of these panels to remove a small amount of material to assist with burnishing.



For vegetable tanned leather I recommend wetting your edges first.

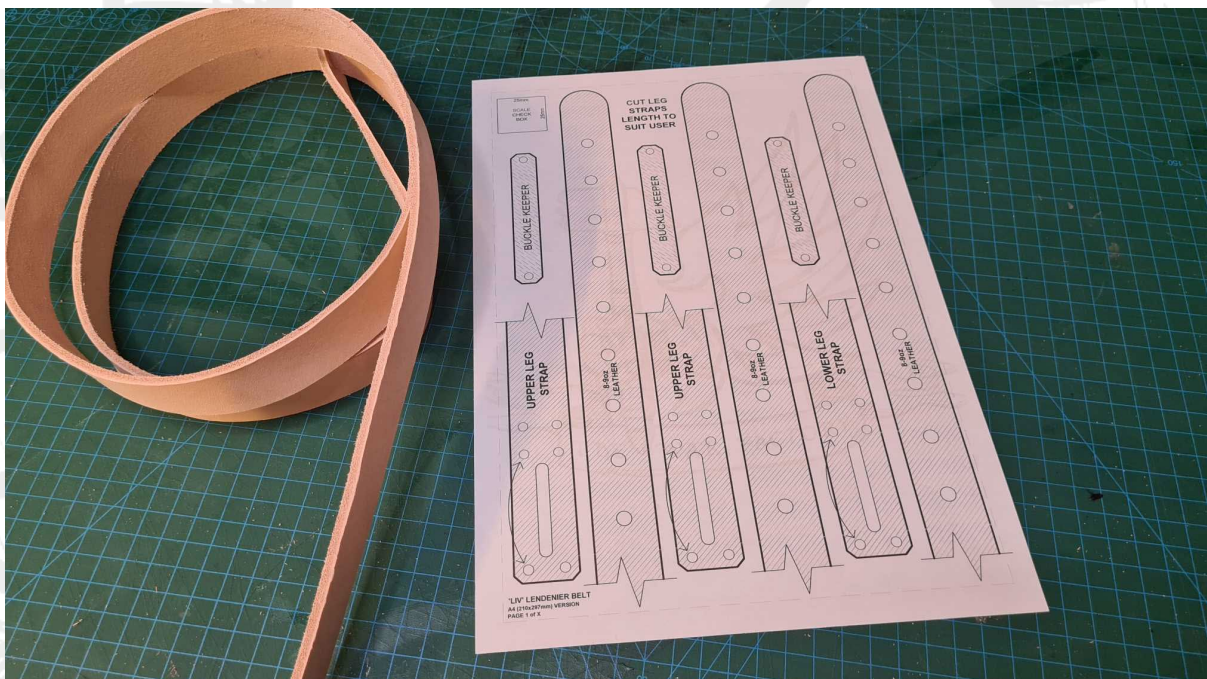


Ensure the water penetrates fully before using a burnishing tool or slicker to work the edge into a smooth form.



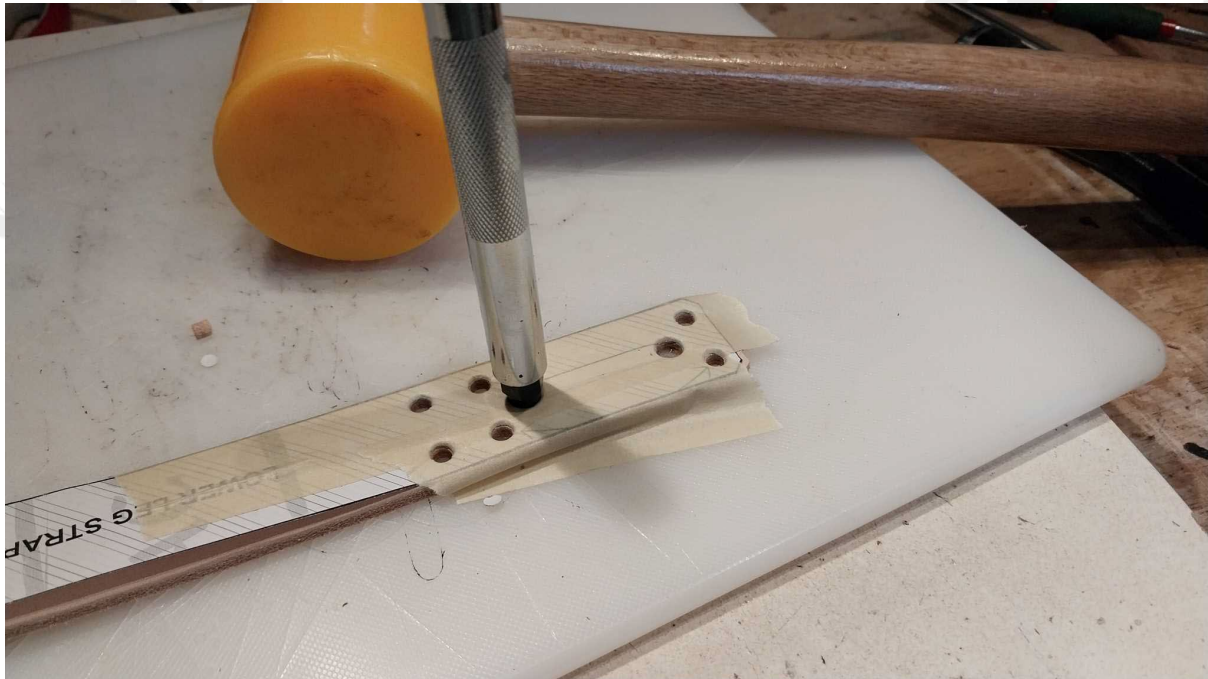
Making the leg straps

For the leg straps I recommend working from pre-cut lengths of 25mm wide leather. This can be purchased separately or cut from your source of leather by hand using a straight-edge and knife or a purpose-built strap cutter.

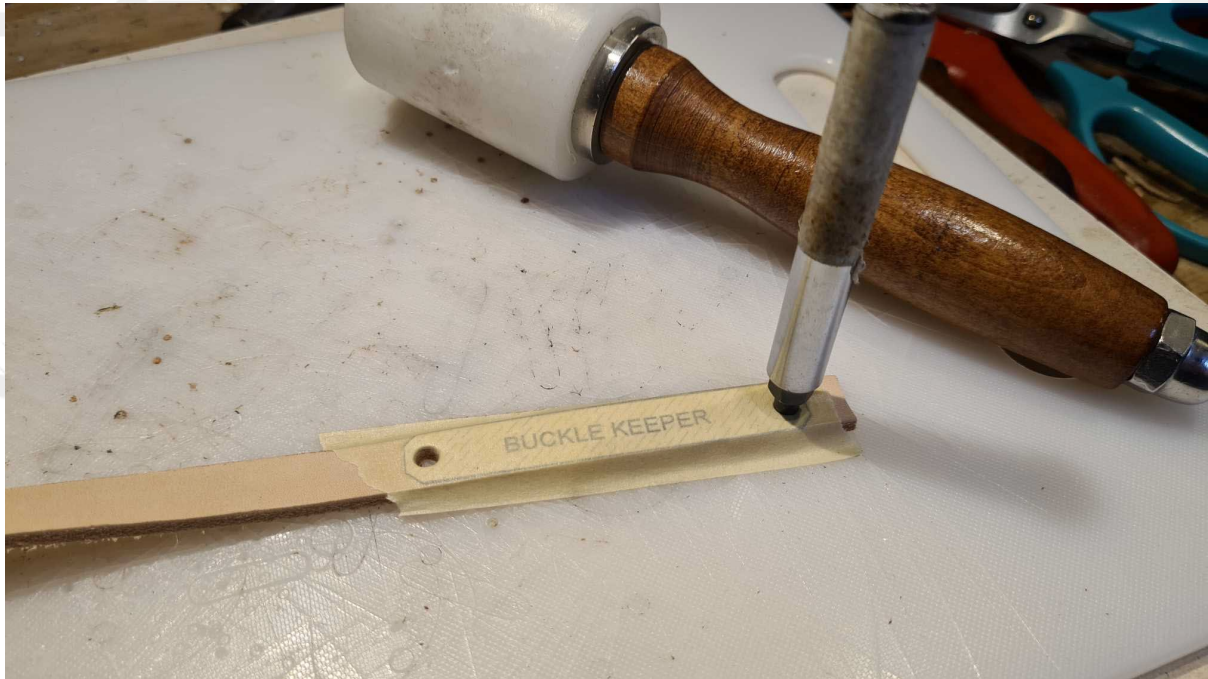


To measure the required lengths for leg straps, use your tape measure wrapped around the intended wearer's thigh, placing the tape at the respective matching height. Once writing down that measurement add 15cm to that for the overall length of your leather strap.

Cut your straps to length and then tape down your paper patterns for the strap buckle and end before punching your holes.



For the keepers you'll need a 12mm wide leather strap and in a similar fashion, tape down your paper pattern and punch your holes before cutting to length.

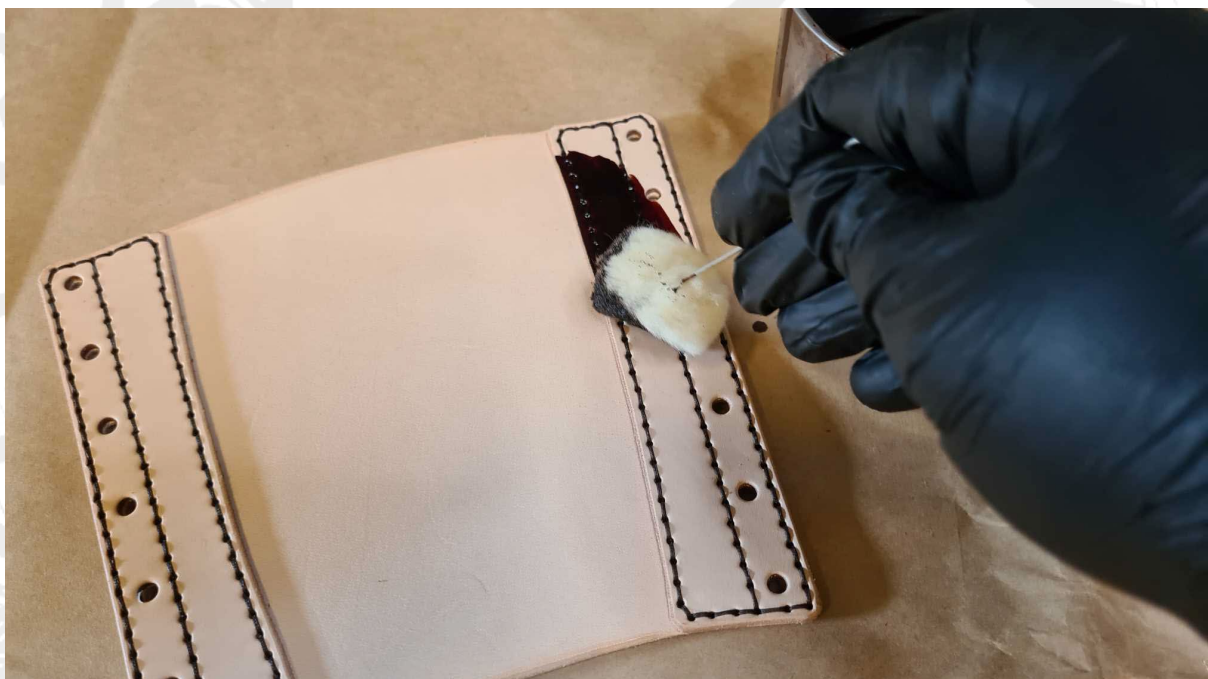


Optional – Dyeing and finishing your leather

Firstly, assemble all your required tools and materials. Remember that leather dye is designed to stain skin, including yours. While it may not be permanent its always best to wear gloves at a minimum to prevent accidentally making your hands match your project for a few days.



Begin with applying a generous coat of your leather dye to the face of the leather. Ensure you use smooth, even strokes but maintain a healthy speed as the dye will begin penetrating the surface the moment it touches.



Once your first coat is applied, use a cloth rag or similar to clean up your surface to remove any excess dye. This will help improve the consistency of your finish.

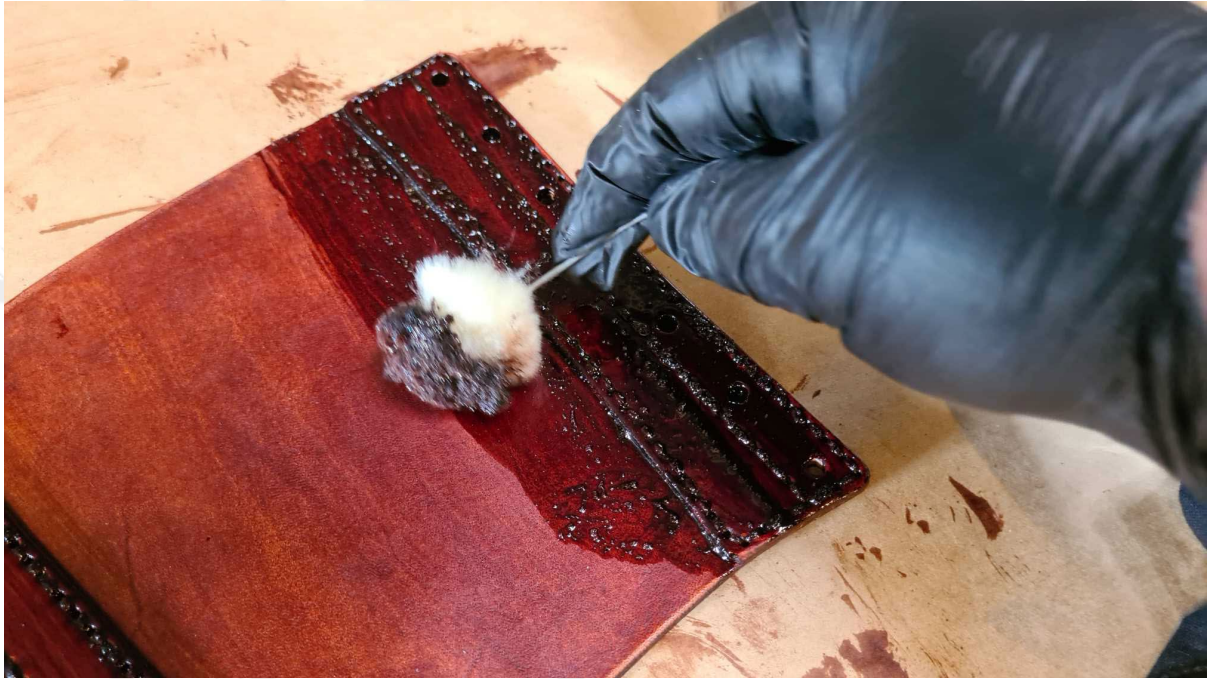


Use your dauber or applicator to give your edges a generous coat of dye as well. You may also choose to dye the inside of the piece to a more consistent appearance.

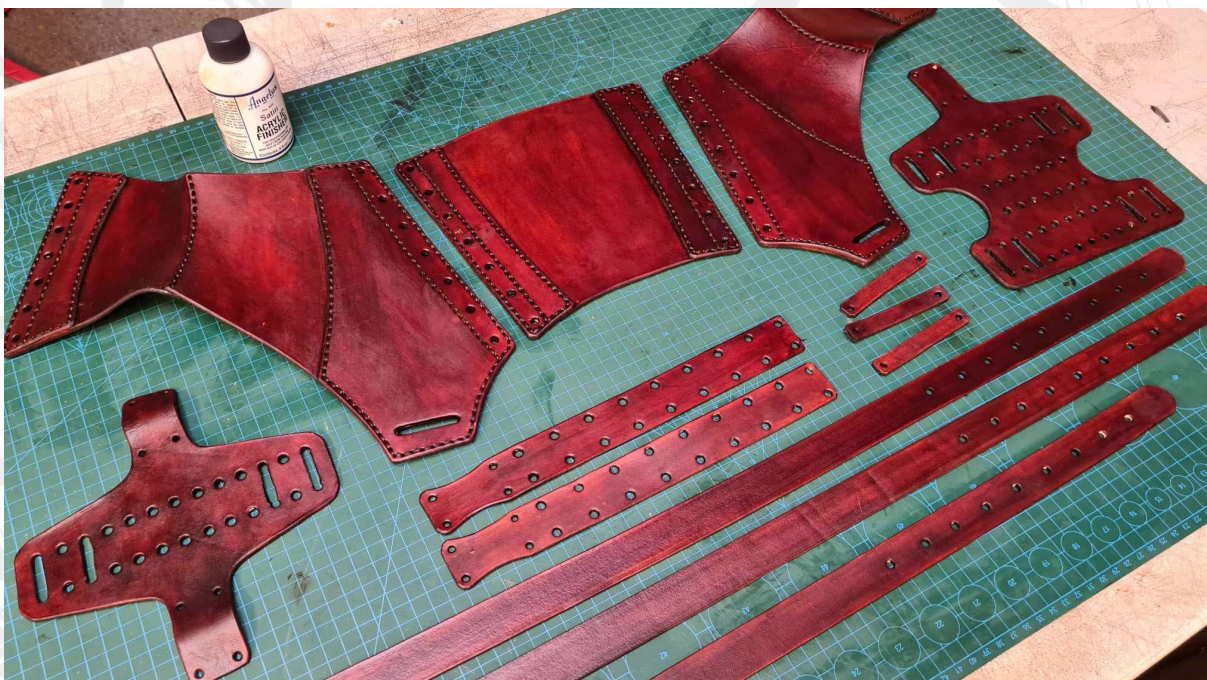


Once your first coat is applied, I recommend leaving the piece to dry for at least 5-10 minutes, preferably in the daylight, to let the dye fully soak in and get a better idea of your finish.

If you feel the piece could use additional coats repeat the previous steps until its reach the colour and finish you desire. Remember you can always apply more dye for a richer/darker finish, but you can't readily remove it if you go to dark. It pays to take a little extra time between coats of dye to ensure the piece meets your vision.

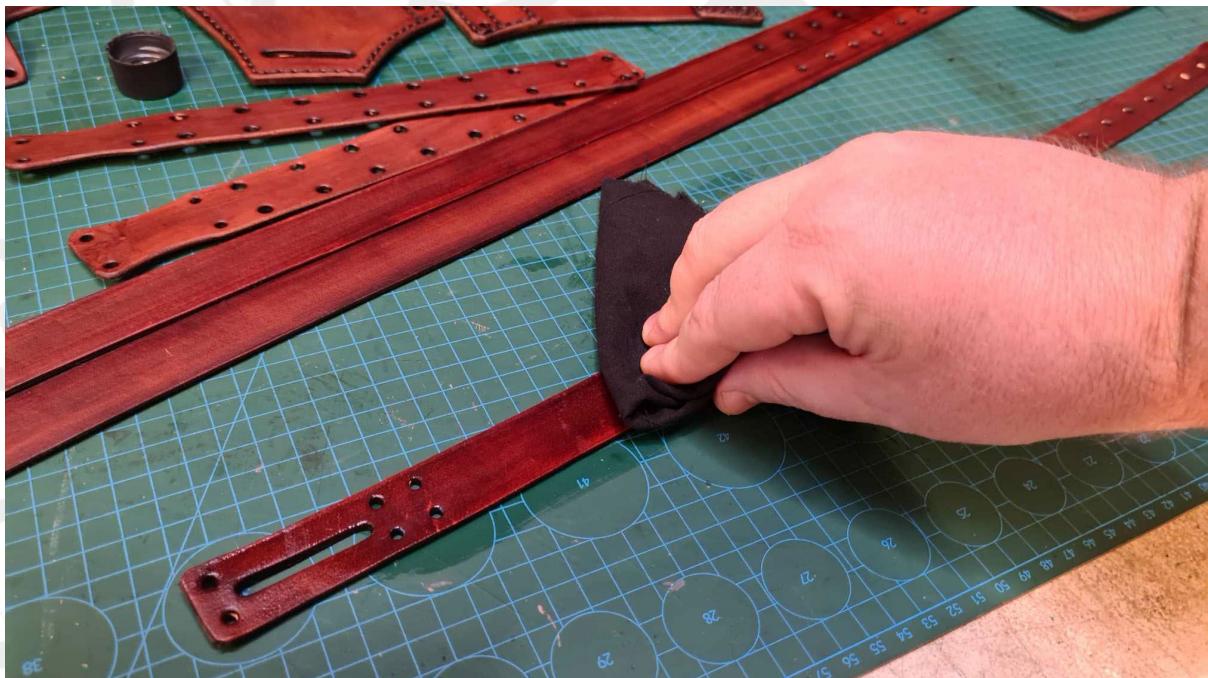


Once you're happy with your dyed finish set your piece aside to fully dry before returning to apply your sealer/finisher. It may be advised to leave the pieces overnight to make sure the dye has fully set and dried before proceeding.



I recommend applying your sealer/finisher with a cloth rag or similar. Follow the manufacturer's instructions where possible.

Remember to apply your sealer/finisher to the inside of the leather straps and any other place you've dyed to prevent the stain readily rubbing off on the wearer during use.

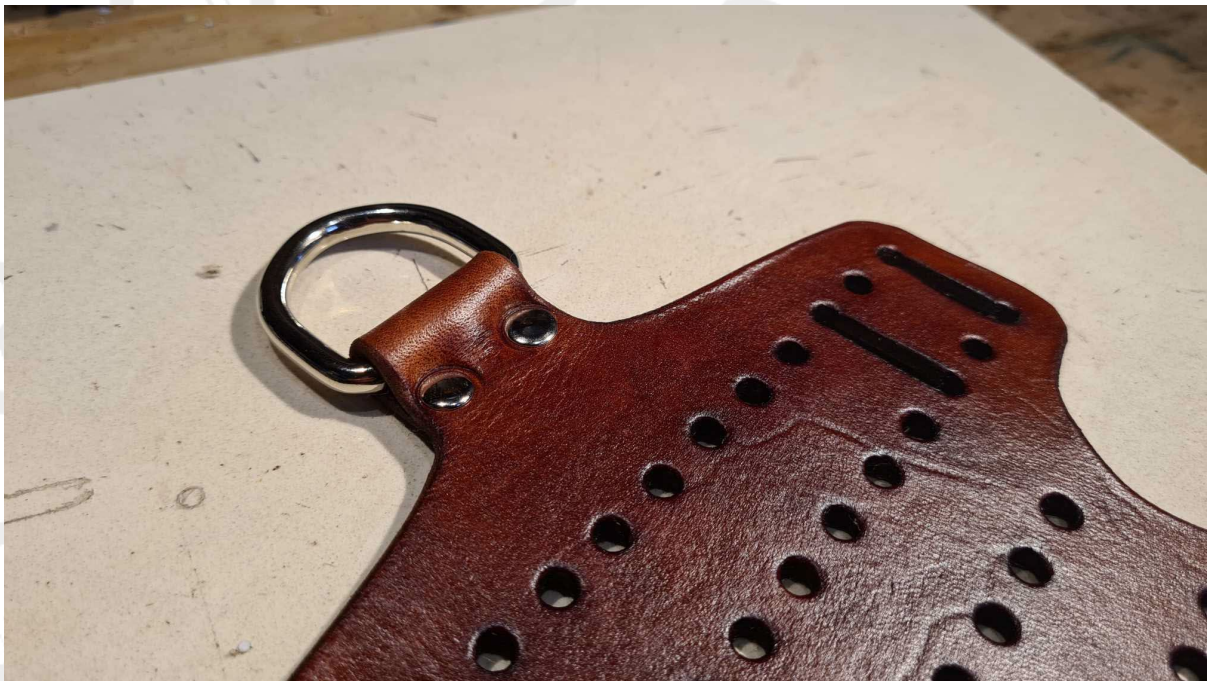


Assembling the leg harnesses

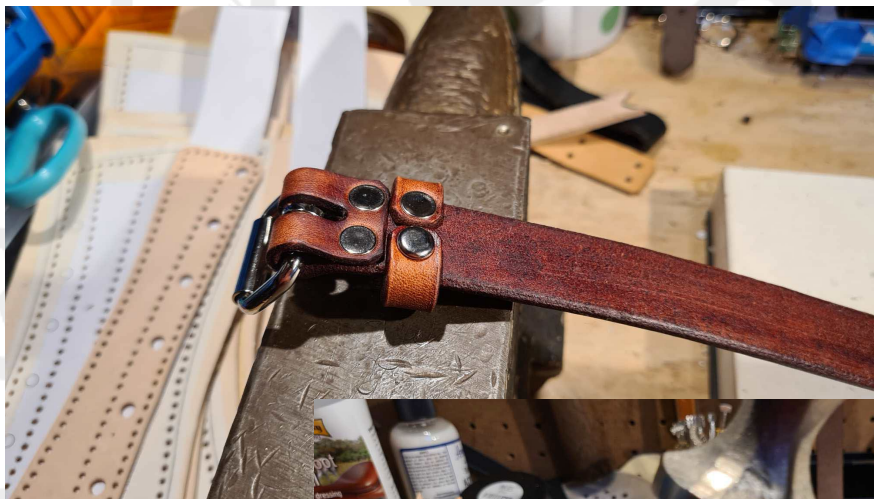
You should now be ready to put together the drop leg panels and straps. Gather your buckles, D rings and rivets.



Rivet your D rings in place on the leg panels.



Assemble your leg straps by attaching the buckles and keepers.



Then attach your drop leg straps to your leg panels.



Before finally threading your leg strap into the leg panels as shown



Lacing it together

Gather your finished pieces and your chosen cord or lacing material.



Starting at the top, thread the ends of the cord through the lacing holes from the back before going across and down to the adjacent piece, coming up from the back as well.



Repeat for the other side.



Continue down to the end. Be generous with your extra lacing to ensure ease in future adjustments to suit wearer's fit preferences.



Repeat the lacing both side before moving onto the back lacing.



And the very last step – Attaching your leg panels.

Finally, you can attach your leg panels by threading the drop leg strap through the slot on the hip panel. Its best to size this with the wearer and have them move about and check what position feels best for them, before finalising the fit. Once you're happy with the drop leg strap length you can use a length of cord or lace to tie off the position using the holes in the strap.



Optionally you can utilise Chicago screws for a cleaner look.

Congratulations!

Your girdle is now complete and ready to wear.

