

## READ BEFORE GETTING STARTED

### **-STITCHING AND BURNISHING-**

#### LEATHER GLOSSARY

**Full Grain Leather:** Full grain leather is considered the strongest and most durable leather. This is because the grain has not been sanded, buffed, or snuffed to remove any imperfections that are found on cowhides. That top layer is also where leather gets most of its strength from. With Full Grain leather you get to keep the full original beauty of these natural hides!

**Vegetable Tanned:** Vegetable tanned leather is tanned using natural materials such as tree bark. Buckleguy uses full grain vegetable tanned leather from the Pennsylvania tannery Wickett and Craig. Natural vegetable tanned leather like the Vachetta from Wickett and Craig is toolable and dyeable.

**Chrome Tanned:** Chrome tanned leather is a quick and easy method to tan leather by using chromiums (chemicals, salts, dyes, etc). This type of leather is more common and affordable. Buckleguy uses full grain chrome tanned leather from the Chicago based tannery Horween.

**Flesh vs. Grain:** The leather you are using has a front (Grain) and back (Flesh). The Grain is where the hair used to be until it was removed during the tanning process. This is the more beautiful and durable side that we always want showing on the outside of our goods. The Flesh side is what was once connected to the meat. This side is typically more rough and fibrous. We like to hide this side on the inside of our goods.

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color coding in instructions

#### EDGE FINISHING

Burnishing is the process of polishing the edges of leather. This is an aesthetic choice and is optional. The edges will burnish naturally on their own over time!

**Burnishing:** First use water to lightly dampen the edge. Wait ten seconds for it to seep in. Once wet, use the canvas cloth or a wood edge slicker to rub back and forth along edges until a light shine is achieved. When you're burnishing a single layer of leather, make sure that you are gentle. After this, rub beeswax along the edge and repeat the process of burnishing with the cloth or the wood edge slicker. This process can be repeated to darken or smooth further.

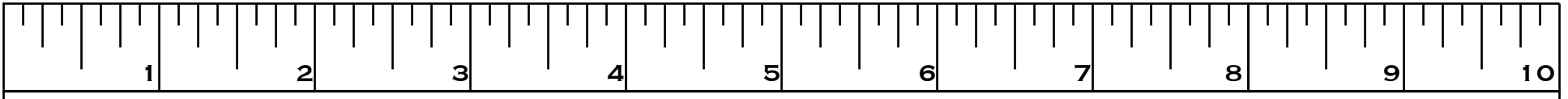
**Sanding:** This is done before burnishing when you have multiple layers of leather stitched together. Use the sandpaper to lightly sand the sides of the leather until the multiple layers of leather are flush. Hold the sandpaper at an angle on the edge of leather to round any corners. This is not necessary on single layers.

**Note:** If during the burnishing process edges peen over, sand the edge again at a 45° angle and re-burnish. If you have an edge beveler, you can take off the corners and round off the edges before repeating the burnish process.

USE THIS RULER TO MEASURE AND  
CUT YOUR THREAD.

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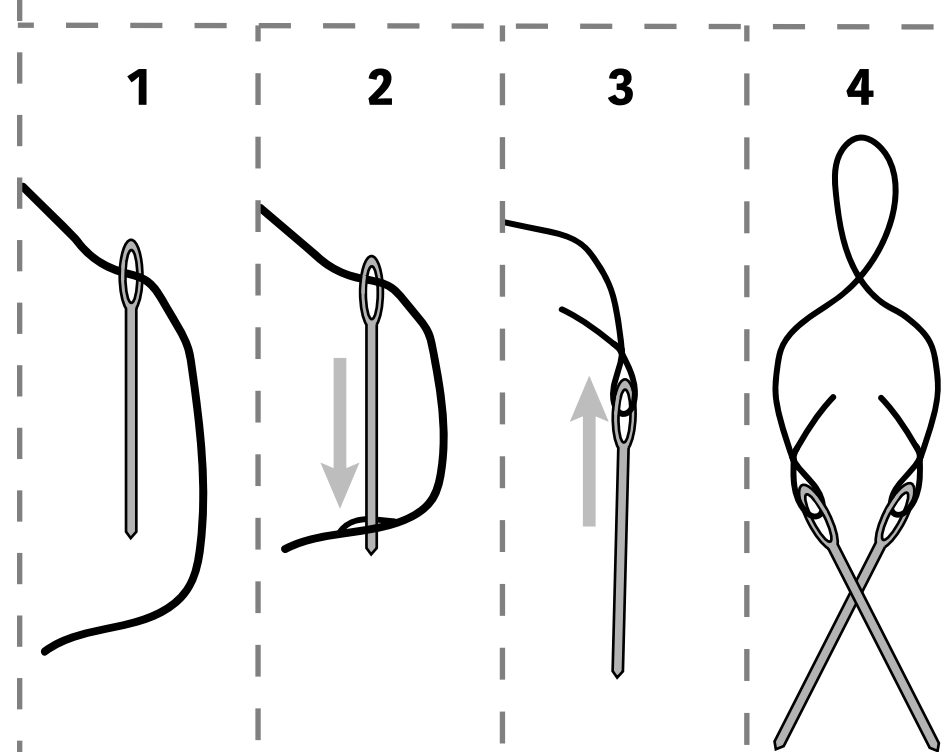


### SADDLE STITCHING

**Saddle Stitching:** This is the hand stitching technique that we will be using on this good. Hand Stitching is a simple process that is super durable. This process is done with 1 thread and 2 needles, one needle at each end of a single piece of thread. See the next page for the step by step instructions.

#### **Threading the Needles:**

1. Send thread through the eye of the needle.
2. Send point of needle through the center of the plies of thread 1/2" from the end on the part of the thread that has already been passed through the needle. (tip: place the thread on a hard surface, then stab needle through thread into the hard surface).
3. Pull knot taut.
4. Repeat on the other end.



Here is the handstitching technique for saddle stitching:

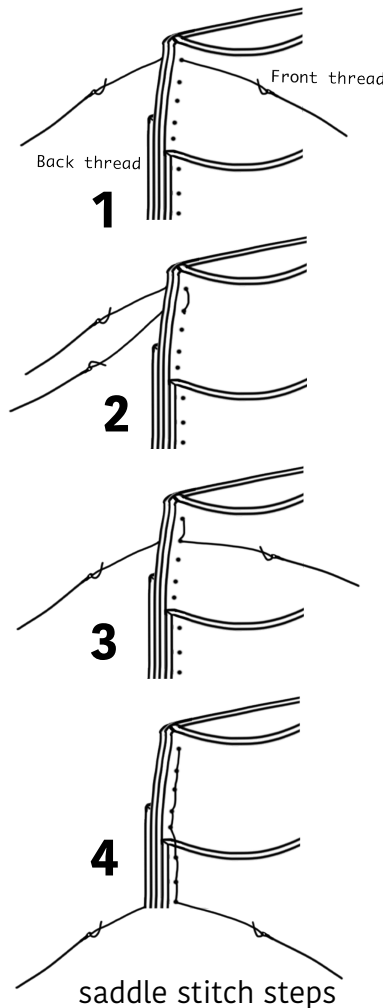
1. After you have a needle at each end of the length of thread, send the thread through the first hole with EQUAL AMOUNTS of thread on either side of the project.

2. Stitch the front side of thread through the second hole.

3. Stitch the back side of thread through the second hole as well from the opposite direction.

4. Continue this step through each hole, making sure all layers of leather remain lined up.

**Note:** if you make a mistake, you can go back through the opposite way and “unstitch” the project, or carefully cut the threads and re-stitch the seam.



saddle stitch x-ray view

## BACKSTITCHING:

Once stitching is complete (you have stitched the last hole possible), restitch through the last two holes again by stitching in the opposite direction. This will lock in the threads.

On projects with a clear “inside” and “outside,” it makes sense to backstitch back one stitch, and then send the outside thread back one more stitch, towards the inside, so that both threads end on the inside. This will provide a cleaner finished product.

## BURNING THREADS:

Most seams require you to trim the excess thread and melt the ends of the thread to seal and finish off the seam. To melt the threads, trim the threads down to 1/8”. Hold the seam with the trimmed thread flat and carefully bring down a lighter flame and slowly descend until the ends of the threads melt into a ball. Be careful not to touch the flame against any of the leather, especially if you’re using a lighter colored leather.

THANKS FROM ALL OF US AT BUCKLEGUY!

SHARE YOUR PROJECTS WITH US ON  
SOCIAL MEDIA

BY USING THE HASHTAG #BGKITS

