



The Identity Store

**Guide to stamping and
embossing leather**

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for people that make,
mend or adapt things
out of leather

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Stamping /Embossing Leather



This guide is designed to offer some starter points on using the alphabet stamps, 3d stamps and crafttools. Using the stamps is relatively easy to master, creating your own artwork or “tooling” leather can take more practice—to find out more try our little book [“The Leathercraft Handbook” 6009-00](#)



Alphabet and Number Stamps



Available in a range of size options and fonts, and each set come with a handle. Create a light base line on the leather to position the letters up to. Leave in place the first letter, and remove the handle, then take the next letter and place by the side butting up to the first letter and so on.



You will need:

- A stone or marble block
- A poly head or wooden mallet
- A sponge and dish of water
- A good sturdy table to work on
- A ballpoint stylus or scratch awl to mark out designs
- Stamps and stamping handles
- A ruler is also useful for marking out placements



INSTRUCTIONS :

1. To get the best 3d effect from the stamp dampen the leather with a sponge and leave for 60 seconds or more to soak in, until the leather begins to look lighter again. *

2. Start with some practice pieces of leather to get an idea of how hard you will need to hit the tools.
3. Place the leather onto the stone block on a solid table or over the table leg to minimise the vibration and jump.
4. Place the stamp where you want it to appear on the leather. Hit the stamp firmly with a mallet to make an impression, making sure the handle is upright and straight, at right angles to the leather.
5. Try not to move the stamp when hitting—if a further hit is required to make a deeper impression, carefully move the stamp into the grooves and hit again
6. Leave the leather to dry and if desired add colour with paints, felt tips or metallic pens. Leave to dry.
7. Use a clean dauber to apply the Eco-flo Super Shene (2610-00) over the leather (after all dyes and paints are dry) and buff up with a lint free cloth.

Old towels can be cut up and placed under stone blocks to minimise the noise. The smaller the tool the deeper the impression so usually start with large stamps and work down to smaller shapes.

If the leather seems to be drying out then re-dampen as you work.

If the leather is left natural and undyed it will 'mellow' and darken over time with exposure to sunlight and the natural oils in our skin.



**Tip: for best results especially when 'tooling' the leather can be 'cased'. Dampen the leather and place inside a Ziploc bag and put in the fridge for an hour or overnight to allow the moisture content to become even throughout.*

Crafttools— available in a wide variety of shapes that allow you to create or 'tool' your own designs. There are u-tubes tutorials and books or you could come to one of our workshops to learn how to develop this amazing art-form.



Swivel Knife



Starter Kit



Basketweave stamp



Geometric Stamp

3D Stamps— in a variety of designs approx. 2.5cm (1") square. Use with 8200-00 handle or for a deeper impression use the hefty handle or rams foot.



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