



IDENTITY LEATHER CRAFT

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

Making a Tool Roll

A guide to planning and making a leather protective roll for storing tools, paintbrushes, or other utensils.

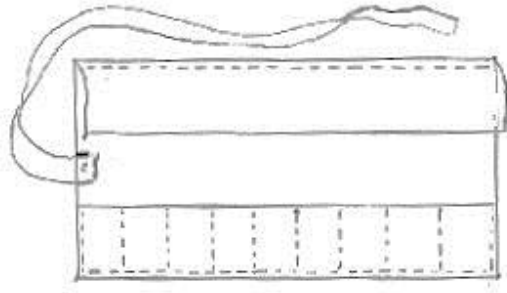
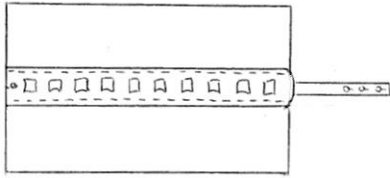
These make great gift ideas and can be so versatile – for almost any hobby they are a great way to look after your brushes, scissors, tools, pens etc. We have even made one for drum sticks.

Designing and planning ahead:

1. What items are going in? Collect together all the items you wish to store in the roll and layout onto a sheet of newspaper in the order you would want them to be presented. Are there any that are grouped together? Is there an item that is a lot smaller or that might need it's own little pocket?



2. Ensuring the items are spaced out, draw around on the newspaper and make notes of what will go where – drawing round the items can help too to give shape.
3. Decide if you will need a top and bottom layer to keep the tools from falling free when being carried. Draw this onto the newspaper pattern. This part can be stitched on or the leather can be folded over.
4. Fold a piece of newspaper over to make a strip, using masking tape position it over each item holding them in place. Now try rolling up – do you need to make adjustment? Make more room?
5. Once you are happy with your pattern you can cut out your leather.



Selecting your leather:

In most instances a strong soft leather makes for a good roll – look for the soft calf pieces on the website. If you are putting sharp tools into then you might want to use the firm calf, oil-tanned calf or veg tan – use around 2mm for the outer and a thinner leather for the flaps, pockets. Test to see where the blade falls and whether there is any stress areas that the blades could cut through.



Pictured above—Lewis Bunce (veg tan tool roll for chefs knives)

For a heavy duty project - Economy veg tan 1.8-2mm(as shown above) this leathers can be stamped and embossed Alternatively use, or waxy bullhide—these are already dyed and won't need edge slicking. For lining (see the Nigel Armitage video link) use Pig Suede.

For a lighter weight Lynne Smith used the firm calf with soft clothing leather in bright colours layered up to give pockets and structure against.



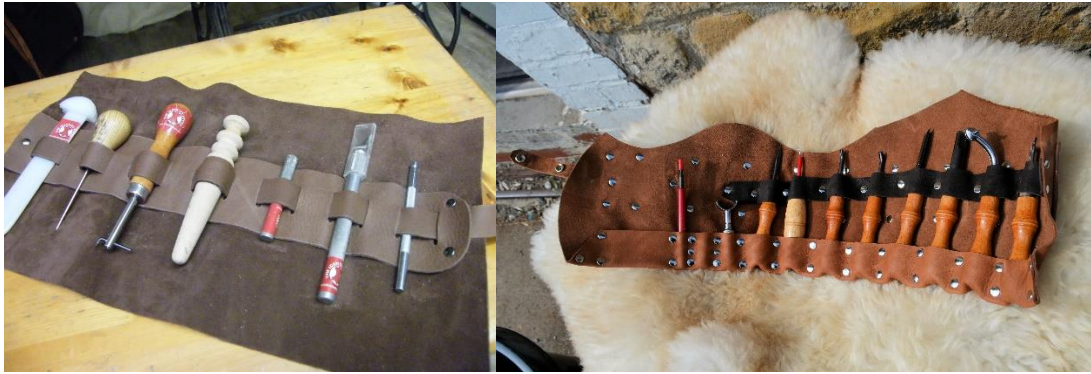
Tip: for items such as awls put a cork on the end to protect the blade and ensure it doesn't stab through the tool roll.

Your leather choice should reflect the end purpose of how you intend to use the tool roll. For example, if it is being used for spoon carving outdoors – then use a waterproof/resistant finish for the outer and ensure flaps on top and bottom. If you are making for kitchen knives or chefs knives then use the PermaProtect anti viral finish.

Pockets/Straps

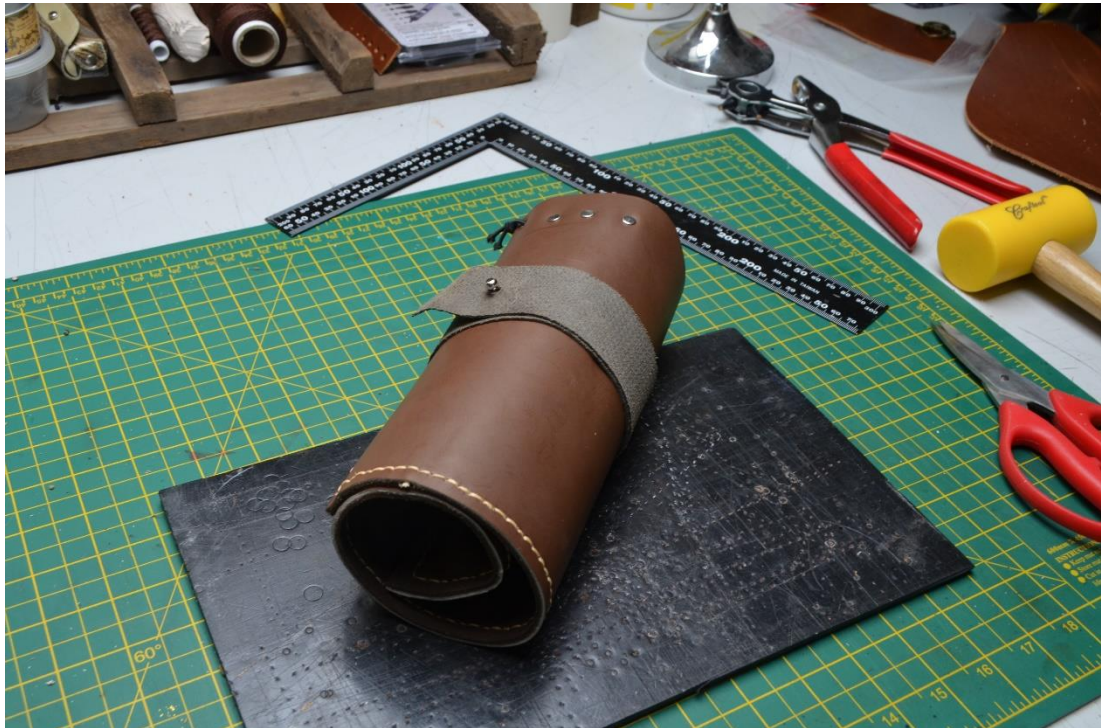
You can use a variety of methods to create the structure – riveting, stitching or lacing, or a slider strap. If you are using a strap to wrap around the whole thing to fasten make it as long as possible – it is surprising how once the contents are in the roll diameter grows.

It is a good idea to keep going back to the items and tested the fit, and roll before you make your stitch or rivet holes – check the direction of the tool... which end needs protecting in the pocket or avoiding being squashed in the pocket?



Left - tool roll with slider strap. Right -Riveted Tool Rolls by Peter Smedley, Hare & Wolf— Artisan Handmade Jewellery and Leather Work Made from The Identity Store soft calf pieces

A good fastening option is a Sam Browne. In this way you can make a couple of holes to make the strap adjustable if you were to change some items.



You could also fasten with a simple tie, two dee rings to slide and pull tight, a buckle. The choice may depend on the aesthetic and size of the finished project.



Left - Tool Roll with buckle by Jason Stocks-Young as featured on the TV Show Kirstie's Celebrity Craft Masters

Tool Roll by Sarah Benson - For my last roll I also added eyelets at the top corners so that I can hang it up above my workstation.



For more designs and examples see our Pinterest Board:

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/identitystore/tool-roll-designs/>

For video tutorial - Ian Atkinson – Leodis Leather – [Click here](#)

To shop for the materials and tools you would need for this project click the button below:



Other useful links:

The links below show some simple steps for making your tool roll :

Basic: You-Tube [Making a Tool Roll for Chisels](#) Advanced: [Armitage Leather—Leather Knife Roll](#)

Useful Guides from The Identity Store: [Guide to Hand Stitching Leather](#)

[Guide to Setting Rivets](#) , [Guide to getting a Professional Edge](#)

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