



# IDENTITY LEATHER CRAFT

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



*Leather belt made by Suguru Amakubo*

## You will need:

In addition to the tools and supplies overleaf you will need:

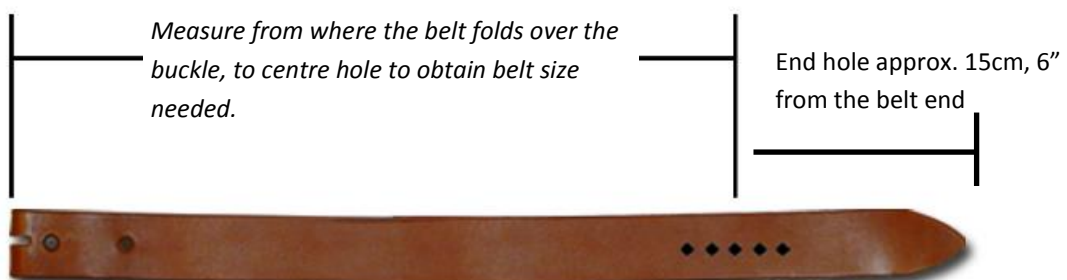
- A ruler or tape measure
- A wooden or poly head mallet
- A good sharp knife and cutting board surface



## Measuring up

Belts are measured in size from the point where the buckle attaches to the leather to the centre hole in the belt. Measure yourself or a favourite old belt (you will be able to see the most used hole) and use this to mark out your holes.

Using an existing belt, correct measurement begins from the place where the buckle connects to the belt and then to the middle of the holes. The rest of the belt is not considered for measurement purposes.





# IDENTITY LEATHER CRAFT

## HOW TO MAKE A LEATHER BELT

You will need the following tools and supplies— buckles and hardware come in a choice of colours and the belt can be dyed— for starting out with dyeing a good product to use is the Eco-Flo Antique Gel (dye and finish).



*Click on the highlighted links and add to your shopping cart*



[Identity Leathercraft vegetable tanned cowhide strip](#) Choose from natural and dye yourself or a pre-dyed through strip.

Standard jeans belt is usually 38mm x 127cm (1 1/2" x 50")

**1639-06 Stainless Steel Buckle** for 38mm, 1 1/2" strip—other buckles available.

This type of buckle is called a 'heel bar' and is used with either a leather or metal keeper to stop the belt end flapping around.



**4600-04 Leather Keeper** 38mm, 1 1/2" - also comes in metal (see 1126-)



**3240-00 Deluxe Rotary Hole Punch**—use to make holes for the buckle prongs, the screwposts and can also be used instead of the slot punch but punching a hole either end and cutting between them to join.



**31567-00 Slotted drive punch** for making the slot for the buckle prong to sit into. To prolong the sharpness of the tool push into a beeswax block before use and always have a good cutting surface underneath.



### [1290-02 Screw Posts](#)

Buckles can be secured in place with stitching, rivets, press studs (snaps) or screw-posts. Press studs and screw posts allow for the buckle to be changed.

*Tip: add a little glue to the thread when putting in place for greater security.*



**3025-00 Super Skiver**—use to remove leather from the back of the belt to thin down the area around the buckle fold for a neater look.



### Smoothing the edges on the belt:

**8076-03 Edge Beveller**—use to shave a little leather from the top edge and bottom edge. Paint the edge with [2620-01 Gum Tragacanth](#) and then 'slick' or burnish by rubbing along the edge with the [IDS-8121A Wood Slicker](#)

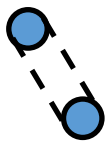


Finish with an edge paint such as Fiebing's Edge Kote, or Leading Edge in a variety of colours and neutral.



## Instructions

1. Taking a strip fold over one end allowing for the buckle and overlap. From the crease area to the end you will need to remove some of the thickness of the reverse side of the leather with a knife, super-skiver or safety beveller. This will make for less bulk and allow the buckle to move freely.
2. Dampen the crease on the reverse (flesh) side of the leather and press down flat to 'set' the fold. Marking the centre of this fold make an oblong slot for the buckle prong—either by making two punch round holes and using a knife cut to join them or by using an oblong belt punch. As a general guide If the buckle is 1" make a 1" slot.



3. Decide on the final length of the belt and shape the end to a straight, round or pointed tip using either a belt strap end punch or a knife. Mark out and punch out the belt holes.

**If you wish to dye, tool or emboss your belt do it now.**

4. **Edging** (for more details see our Guide to Edging) - bevel, slick (using saddle soap or gum tragacanth) and burnish the edges all round the belt. Finish with an edge sealer such as Fiebings Edge Kote, Leading Edge coat or Eco-Flo Edge Flex.



Guide to Edge Finishing Leather



5. Dyeing—dye or stain your belt to your desired colour where appropriate, add the dye inside the punched holes and slots for an even look.
6. Add the buckle (and keeper if needed) and secure in place either by stitching, rivets or the addition of screw-posts. If you would like the option of changing the buckle then use Line 24 press studs.

Give the belt a final rub down with Carnauba Cream or similar wax and polish up to a good shine.



### Useful links:

[Ian Atkinson— Leodis Leather](#)

[Dimitri Artemov—How to make a leather Belt](#)

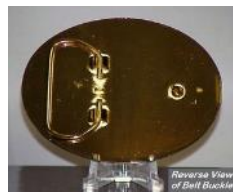
Note: the splitter in the video is item number is 3792-00, for beginners use the super skiver as listed. For setting rivets use setter 8100-00 and anvil 8056-00.

### Buckle Glossary:

**Trophy buckle** – usually a large buckle with a pin on the reverse that sits into the holes, originally crafted for rodeo events with the event depicted on the buckle



*Vintage Trophy Buckle*



*Reverse view*



*Example from our Collection*



**Centre bar** buckles provide a 'keeper' for the leather to pass through so that it looks like the image when done up...



**Heel Bar Buckle**—With a heel bar buckle the leather is returned around an end bar – the leather end is usually secured by a leather or metal 'keeper'



**Double prong Buckle**— Great for wider width belts – the double prong needs parallel sets of holes.



**Roller Buckle**—has a metal tube over the end to allow the leather to be pulled smoothly.



**Keeper** – to secure the leather end once it is done up – can be metal or leather



*For more information see our Facebook page, Twitter and Pinterest Boards*



[www.theidentityleathercraft.com](http://www.theidentityleathercraft.com)

The Identity Store Holt Lane Matlock Derbyshire DE4 3LY