



The Identity Store

Guide to stropping knives and tools



www.identityleathercraft.com



IDENTITY LEATHER CRAFT

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

Stropping Knives and Tools

Keeping your leather craft tools sharp makes for a more professional finish to your project. Whether it's cutting and paring knives, bevellers, or punches these techniques will really help to save time and prolong the life of your tools.



IDENTITY STROP LEATHER

Unique to The Identity Store Designed from specially made 5mm leather tanned in the UK with trivalent chromic dioxide, the same material used to make green stropping paste, we call it stropping with synergy.



IDENTITY PRO CORDOVAN STROP

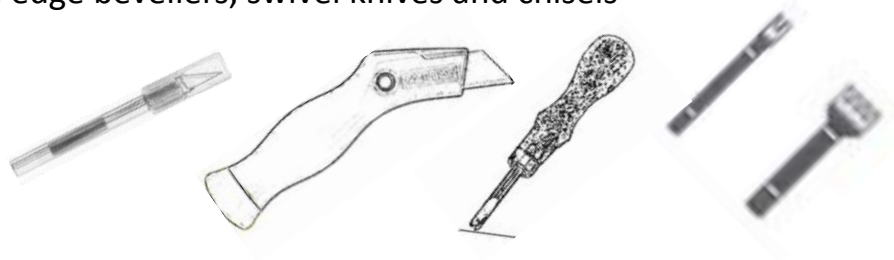
Cordovan is considered the best leather for stropping and polishing fine blade edges, including cut-throat razors. Can be used both sides as a hanging strop for a coarse and fine finish.



IDENTITY SWIVEL KNIFE STROP

This compressed hard leather strop is ideal for stropping swivel knife blades. The top surface structure is very smooth and dense enabling the blades to sharpen evenly across the width of the blade.

Sharpen knives, edge bevellers, swivel knives and chisels



With thanks to: *Jon Ashmore, Ian (Longstrider) Allen-Rowlinson*

Step 1 – Using a sharpening block or stone move the tool away from you using light strokes



Step 2 – Liberally apply using polishing compound or [jewellers rouge](#) to your stropping leather flesh side covering a good part of it.



Step 3 – Pressing the tool down bring it towards you with firm pressure



Step 4 – Repeat, going over the same lines to create a channel to help strop the inside of the beveller



The beveller before stropping... The beveller after stropping...





To see Ian (Longstrider) Allen-Rowlinson at the Atlanta 2009 Blade show demonstrating just how sharp his knives are go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wzAo2yZitoU>



Sharpening Edge Bevellers

Using a strop fastened down to the workbench or onto a wood base, rub in the jewellers rouge or stropping paste until the strop was well covered. Pressing down hard and pull the tool towards you, lifting and repeating with firm pressure. You will see the leather turn black quickly from the fine metal particles collecting on the surface. The beveller leaves a channel which you can keep working into to sharpen the inner blade edges.

The aim of Stropping

For most knives it is best to avoid letting them get too blunt—the honing of the edge each time takes away a little more of the metal. It is better to remove a small amount of the metal edge rather than have to remove a larger amount if the tool gets too blunt.

Regular stropping with the leather helps to keep those microscopic metal particles polished away and prevents the blade from dragging and getting blunter.

It is even worth stropping disposable blades such as those in precision craft knife or an industrial knife.

To prevent chisels and punches from going blunt push the tool end into a beeswax block before use and ensure you have a good cutting mat underneath (see below). Punches in particular are very tricky to sharpen although you can use small jewellers files on them.

Poundo Board



Professional Cutting Block



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