LEATHER PREPARATION

If you plan to stamp or carve a design on your leather project, you must first moisten the leather. This is called CASING THE LEATHER. NOTE: Only leathers sold as TOOLING or VEG-TANNED may be carved and stamped.

1) In the stamping and carving area of your workspace, apply water to both sides of your leather using a clean sponge and clean water. Dampen the leather, but don’t soak it too much. 
   NOTE: Always use a plastic or glass bowl for water. Metal bowls could cause discoloration of the leather.

2) Set leather aside. When it has returned to its natural color and feels cool to the touch, it is ready. 
   NOTE: For best results, place dampened leather in a plastic bag and allow to case overnight before stamping or carving.

3) If some areas begin to dry too fast, lightly re-dampen with a sponge or sprayer. Note: You will need to keep the leather damp during stamping or carving. If your leather is too dry, it will be hard to stamp. If your leather is too wet, the stamps will go too deep into the leather.

4) If water drops accidentally spill on the leather, immediately dampen entire surface of leather, feathering out the spots. Left untreated, spots will dry and be visible on your project.
   CAUTION: If you must leave dampened leather for a long period of time (several days), place leather in a plastic bag and put in refrigerator. This will help prevent drying out and mildew.

5) TIP: To prevent leather from stretching during stamping, adhere leather to a piece of hard surfaced cardboard with rubber cement. Apply a light coat of cement to cardboard. When dry, adhere together. When tooling is completed and leather is dry, place tooled (grain) side of leather face down on work surface. Peel cardboard from leather, keeping leather flat to avoid wrinkles.

BASIC STAMPING

To stamp a design on your leather, you will need these Craftool® stamps.

CAMOUFLAGE BACKGROUNDER VEINER STOP PEAR SHADER BEVELER BASKET STAMP MULESFOOT VEINER SEEDER

STAMPING A DESIGN

Here are a few fun designs using these basic tools: CAMOUFLAGE, PEAR SHADER, BEVELER, VEINER, SEEDER and BACKGROUNDER.
STAMPING BASKETWEAVE

The Basket Stamp X511 used to create a basketweave: Hold tool straight up and down. Strike firmly for best impressions.

The X511 stamp is just one of 15 basketweave stamps available. See our complete selection on page 47 of our 2013 Buyers' Guide. Our 172 page Buyers' Guide is free with your request at any store. The basketweave stamp offers so many possibilities for creative designs.

HOW TO STAMP BORDERS

These are just a few border design ideas. There are hundreds of possible combinations. Experiment!

Looking for some hands-on experience? Contact your closest store about FREE available classes and workshops hosted in the store. You can also contact us to see if you qualify for us to come to your camp and host a "training session" for your staff. Allow us to help you have a most successful summer camp season with leathercraft.
FINISHES

Leather finishes are applied to protect and preserve the qualities of genuine leather. They also seal in applied dyes and stains, preventing color rub-off. Tandy Leather Factory offers many types of finishes for every need including acrylic, oil, resin and lacquer based finishes.

APPLICATORS:
- Sponge
- Good Quality Brush (for smaller areas)
- Wool Pieces (for applying and buffing)
- Soft Cloth (for applying and buffing)

APPLICATION:
1) Before applying leather finish, be sure the surface area is free from dirt, dust or other foreign matter.

2) Any final touches or clean-up work in the tooled design must be completed prior to applying a finish.

3) If the leather is still damp from the casing during the application of the design (stamping or carving), allow leather to dry thoroughly before applying a finish. Remember when you apply the leather finish, you seal off the leather surface.

4) Be sure the applicator is clean and free of foreign matter to ensure uniform application. When applying acrylic based finishes with a sponge, slightly dampen sponge with water to help evenly spread the finish.

5) Apply one light coat of finish. Allow project to dry for at least 10 minutes, then apply a second light coat if it appears necessary.

6) Allow project to dry completely, then buff to a desired gloss with a soft cloth or wool pieces. Drying time may vary in humid weather conditions.

NOTE: The Resist Dyeing Technique uses a finish as a resist (see below).

RESIST DYING

This technique allows desired parts of your design to be dyed or not dyed for different effects.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:
- Resist (normally a finish is used as a resist: Super Shene®, Block-Out, etc.)
- Good Quality Brush
- Stains and a Finish

APPLICATION:
1) Using a brush, apply the resist to the parts of your design that you don’t want stain to penetrate into. Let resist dry.

2) Apply stain to project. Remove excess until desired effect is achieved.

3) Allow to project to dry completely before applying a finish. See above for how to apply a finish.

ALL-IN-ONE STAIN & FINISH

Adds color and a finish, all in one application.

APPLICATORS:
- Sponge
- Wool Pieces
- Soft Cloth

APPLICATION:
1) Using a wool piece or soft cloth, apply a liberal coat onto leather, rubbing in a circular motion over surface and in all cuts and impressions.

2) When desired color is achieved, remove excess IMMEDIATELY with a dry, clean piece of wool or soft cloth.

3) Let dry completely, then buff to desired shine.

ALL-IN-ONE STAIN & FINISH (pg. 24) is available in a large selection of colors. Visit your nearest Tandy Leather Factory store or shop online at tandyleatherfactory.com
LEATHER STAINS & ANTIQUES

Leather stains and antiques are the easiest and most commonly used products for coloring leather. They not only bring out the natural grain of the leather, but also settle in all cuts and impressions enhancing and making designs stand out.

APPLYING STAINS & ANTIQUES:

1) Using a slightly dampened sponge (for acrylic based stains only), piece of sheep wool or soft cloth, apply a liberal coat of stain, rubbing in a circular motion until color is even and all cuts and impressions are filled. Allow to set for a few moments. Don't over dry.

2) Using clean, slightly dampened sponge, (for acrylic based stains only), wool piece or soft cloth, remove excess stain until desired effect is achieved.

3) Buff stained leather with a clean wool piece or with a soft cloth.

4) Apply a protective finish as recommended on antique or stain container labels.

ACRYLIC COVA COLOR

Another way to color leather is using acrylic Cova Color® paints. Unlike alcohol based dyes and stains, acrylic color is normally opaque (non-transparent). It is an excellent medium for emphasizing a design, alphabet or numerals on a project (such as a name belt).

APPLICATION: Normally one coat will cover. If a second coat is needed, allow the first to dry completely before applying more color.

APPLICATORS: The better the brush, the better the result. A fine haired brush will allow the color to flow on smoother with fewer streaks.

FINISH: Normally, a finish is not needed over Acrylic Cova Colors - unless other dyes and stains have also been used on the project.

COVA COLOR® ACRYLIC PAINTS (pg. 24) are available in a wide spectrum of colors and shades. Visit your nearest Tandy Leather Factory store or shop online at tandyleatherfactory.com

When applying acrylic Cova Color® to leather, it should be used sparingly, only in the accent areas or on parts of the stamped or carved design that are to be emphasized. Too heavy an application will cover the quality of the leather. If the leather is not allowed to show, your project might as well be made of cloth or paper.
EDGE TREATMENTS

Here are several ways to finish the edges of your project. (For more about Lacing & Stitching Techniques, see Tandy Leather Factory’s full line Buyers’ Guide.)

EDGE COLORING
For extra protection and color, apply an edge dye with an applicator bottle, brush or dauber.

SLICKING with Edge Slicker
Lightly dampen raw edge of leather. Place leather over edge of work surface. Hold firmly and rub slicker quickly back and forth over edge to compress fibers making edges shiny and smooth.

LACING

LACING with a Two Prong Needle:

To attach lace, skive and trim end of lace. Spring open needle. Insert lace end. Close end. Tap with mallet to secure.

1) Leave 3/4” lace end. Don’t twist lace.
2) Hold end down.
3) Lace under the X.
4) Pull tight and lace through next hole.
5) At corner holes: Stitch 2 to 3 times through same hole.
6) Lace up to last hole on both sides.
7) Pull starting lace end free.
8) Pull up lace to end comes out of hole.
9) Lace under X. Repeat steps 3 & 4 to corner.
10) Pull lace from loop. Keep loop.
11) Pull lace end up between layers.
12) Lace through loop.
13) Lace under X.
14) Lace through loop.
15) Lace under X.
16) Lace back through loop again.
17) Adjust stitches & pull tight.
18) Lace through last hole & up between layers.
19) Pull stitch tight. Trim lace close to lace.
20) Tap down lace with mallet for better look.

DOUBLE LOOP LACING

1) Leave 3/4” lace end. Don’t twist lace.
2) Hold end down.
3) Lace under the X.
4) Pull tight and lace through next hole.
5) Lace through loop again.
6) Lace through loop.
7) Lace through loop.
8) Lace through loop.
9) Lace through loop.
10) Lace through loop.
11) Lace through loop.
12) Lace through loop.
13) Lace through loop.
14) Lace through loop.
15) Lace through loop.
16) Lace through loop.
17) Lace through loop.
18) Lace through loop.
19) Lace through loop.
20) Lace through loop.

DOUBLE LOOP (see below)

Whip Stitch (see facing page)

Running Stitch (see facing page)
HOW TO ADD LACE (“Dry Splicing”)

1) When only 5” of old lace remain, stop and attach new lace to a new needle. Insert new needle. Lace down between parts, 4 holes from last stitch. Stitch out the back. Leave 3/4” lace between parts.

2) Tuck 3/4” lace end between parts. Continue lacing with old needle, securing end of new lace so it won’t show.

3) Lace through hole across from new lace. Bring lace up between parts. Cut off old lace at angle; leave 1/2” end between parts.

4) Continue lacing with new needle and lace, securing end of old lace under next stitches so the end won’t show.

WHIP STITCH LACING

1) Cut slit in end of lace. Start between layers, lace over edge, through slit to other side. Option: no slit: Just catch end with first stitch.

2) Continue lacing over edge through next holes around project, pulling stitches tight.

3) Back at starting hole, stitch under two previous stitches between layers.

4) Pull stitches tight. Push end down between layers. Trim lace close.

HAND STITCHING using waxed thread

The Hand or Saddle Stitch gets its name from being used to sew saddles. This type of sewing is strong and holds well because it is double stitched. This means that even if the thread on one side is broken, the sewn item will still stay together.

Leathers can be joined using one needle by sewing in and out in one direction, then tying off. This is called a Running Stitch (shown bottom left). Start between layers or on back, stitching in one direction in and out to last hole.

To create the same look as achieved with two needles:

1) Pull thread through hole to center of length of thread.
2) Alternating needles, stitch in and out holes. Don’t pierce the thread.
3) Back at starting hole, stitch back through several holes. Pull stitches tight and trim thread close.
Foster Creativity at Camp

Creative Stamping Set
This economically priced set has the most popular tools needed for stamping creative designs. Many designs require just one or two tools. This set also includes Easy Carve Knife with instructions and patterns. Stamps shown actual size.

46102-00 Ret. $29.99
Your price 23.99

Geometric Designs Stamp Set
Twelve intricate stamps with sharp details to test your creativity. Use by themselves to stack together to create eye-catching designs. Set includes handle. 1/2” (12.7 mm).

8163-00 Ret. $39.99
Your price 31.99

Tejas Suede Lace Spools
This is our best suede lace. Add decorative leather lace to any project for a great feel and look. Suede lace has many uses, from American Heritage crafts to keychains, jewelry and more.

5014- 1/8” x 25 yds.
(3.1 mm x 25 yds)
Ret. $9.99
Your price 5.99

A Rainbow of Colors

(01)* Black
(02) Dark Brown
(03)* Medium Brown
(04)* Beige
(05)* Light Rust
(06) White
(07) Red
(08) Turquoise
(22) Cobalt
(33) Purple

To find the store location nearest you and for the most up to date store information, scan the QR code at right.