

Beginner's Leathercraft

Starter Checklist — Quick Reference

SAFETY & WORKSPACE

- Self-healing cutting mat — A3 or larger
 - Thick cardstock or paper — for pattern-making
 - Pencil — for tracing and marking patterns
 - Metal ruler with cork or rubber backing — 300mm minimum
 - Disposable gloves
 - Face mask — for sanding
 - Box of plasters — sharp tools, accidents happen
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MARKING

- Scratch awl — general marking, tracing, poking
 - Wing dividers — scribing stitch lines along edges
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CUTTING

- Sharp craft knife or box cutter — keep spare blades; dull blades are more dangerous
 - Skiving knife — buy later, once you need to thin folds or overlaps
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GLUING

- Water-based contact adhesive (e.g. Renia Aquilim 330)
 - Glue spreader or strip of scrap leather — never apply by hand
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PUNCHING

- Punch pad or pound board — thick rubber or stacked leather scrap
 - French-style pricking irons — 2-tooth and 5-tooth or larger (3.85mm spacing to start)
 - Maul or hard rubber mallet — never metal
 - Round hole punch or rotary punch — for hardware holes
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STITCHING

- Harness needles — two per project (e.g. John James size 002)
- Waxed polyester thread — pre-waxed, 0.55mm is a versatile starting weight
- Scissors or thread snips

EDGE FINISHING

- Edge beveller — size #1 suits most beginner leathers
- Sandpaper — 180 / 320 / 600 / 800 / 1000 grit, work through in order
- Wooden edge slicker or burnishing stick
- Burnishing agent — clear to start (e.g. Tokonole or Gum Tragacanth)

OPTIONAL — USEFUL EARLY ON

- Stitching pony or saddler's clam
- Bone folder
- Bulldog clips

Start with vegetable-tanned leather. 1–1.5mm for small goods. 2–3mm for straps. Belts are a personal choice — 3.5mm or thicker is typical.