

How to Cut Leather



by eHow Hobbies, Games & Toys Editor

Introduction

Most leather-working projects require that the leather be cut. Use these suggestions to cut thin or thick leather.

Instructions

Difficulty: Easy

Steps

1 Step One

Lay the leather out on a flat work surface. Protect the surface with a rubber mat made especially for leather working. This mat will also help protect your tools from being blunted or damaged by contact with the surface.

2 Step Two

Use a pencil and a ruler or yardstick to make the cutting line along the leather's surface. Make very light pencil marks that don't score the leather.

3 Step Three

Use a French curve or other rounded edge to trace a curved line.

4 Step Four

Place a straightedge, such as a metal ruler, along the drawn line. A thick straightedge provides stability for the cutting blade.

5 Step Five

Draw the tip of a razor knife along the straightedge, cutting into the leather as you go. Keep the blade pushed against the straightedge as you cut into the leather.

6 Step Six

Cut only as deep as you can while still being able to control the blade. Take as many cutting passes as necessary to cut through the leather.

7 Step Seven

Cut curved lines in the same manner. If you draw your curve freehand, position your razor so it's perpendicular to the leather's surface. Make several light passes with the razor along the drawn line until the leather is cut.

8 Step Eight

Use leather shears to cut suede and garment leather.

Tips & Warnings

Change the knife blade as often as needed. One blade should last for the duration of a project.

Keep the leather damp while you work it. This makes the leather easier to manipulate. Either spray the entire piece lightly with a spray bottle of water or dampen it with a sponge.

Dampen the piece evenly with water. If a few drops of water spill onto the piece, then wet the entire piece. This will help prevent water spots.

Overall Things You'll Need

[Flat Work Surfaces](#)

[Leathers](#)

[Pencils](#)

[Pencils](#)

[Yardsticks](#)

[Rubber Mats](#)

[Utility Knives](#)

[Rulers](#)

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