

The
Top 10
Leatherworking Tools
For Beginners



eGuide



LEATHER
BEAST

Top 10 Leatherworking Tools For Beginners



Hi There!

And thanks for downloading my guide, **The Top 10 Leatherworking Tools for the Beginner!**

I hope this list helps to put you on a clear path enabling you to know exactly how to getting started with traditional leatherworking and ease any confusion that you might have about **how to get started.**

One of the most frequently asked questions that I hear is, "what tools do I need to get started and where can I purchase them?"

Well, you've come to the right place!

On the next 2 pages are 10 basic tools that will allow you to get started with traditional leatherworking.

I've listed each tool, a basic description of what it's used for and also the brand I tend to use and price ranges.

Some tools might be more of an investment but i've also included some that are less expensive and a great option if you're on a budget.

Let me know what you think! I'd love to hear from you and know where you're at in your leatherworking Journey!

Leather Beast

Top 10 Leatherworking Tools For Beginners



1. Sharp Knife- \$4.98 - \$5.20

One of the most important things that you need for leather working is a sharp knife. My favorites are Xacto knives and Olfas. You can tell if your knife is dull if it is dragging when you cut or if you have to make multiple passes through the same cut. When either happens, you should consider replacing or sharpening the blade.

Links: Xacto Knife <http://amzn.to/2m0jTJw>, Olfa Knife: <http://amzn.to/2mX3i82>

2. Chisel Punches and Pricking Irons- \$39.95 - \$149.99

Pricking irons are tools that are used to make your stitching marks and can vary greatly in price. If you prefer the classic slanted stitch, as seen on luxury leather goods, and want one of the best tools, you might consider Vergez Blanchard brand. However if you're looking for less of an upfront investment, a good 2nd option would be the chisel punches linked below.

Links: Craftool <http://amzn.to/2mMy9Ht>, Vergez Blanchard <http://amzn.to/2mb1Gav>

3. Wing Dividers- \$10.59

A set of wing dividers is essential in helping you create straight guidelines along your edges which allow you to know exactly where to mark your stitches with your pricking irons or chisels. I like to set my wing dividers at about an 1/8" and run them with slight pressure along the edge of my piece where I want my line of stitching to go. Now when you mark your stitches, you have a line to follow and know the exact placement. Using this technique helps to set you apart and take your work to the next level.

Link: <http://amzn.to/2lwfHTn>

4. Diamond Point Awl- \$19

The diamond point awl is an essential tool when it comes to saddle stitching. This type of awl is used to pierce the leather and make the hole that you saddle stitch through. It is imperative that the awl is kept sharp. A dull awl will require a lot of force to push through the leather and you will end up with distorted stitches on the back of your project.

Link: <http://bit.ly/2m0mBio>

5. Beeswax- \$5.95

Bees wax can be used in 2 separate processes in leatherwork. The wax is used to coat your thread which helps to lock your stitches and also prevents thread rot. The 2nd use is in edge finishing after you've stitched. Basic edge finishing steps consist of sanding edges to make them even, applying dye to the edge, coating the edge with wax and burnishing until you have a smooth and shiny edge.

Link: <http://amzn.to/2lwiig5>

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6. Needles- \$9.99

Saddle stitching requires saddlers needles. I use John James needles that come from a town in the UK known as the needle capital of the world. These needles are strong and have a slightly rounded tip which make them easy to use for long periods of time without injury and also without piercing through on-coming threads during stitching.

Link: <http://amzn.to/2m0p1gK>

7. Edge Slicker- \$1.92

An edge slicker is a simple wooden tool that is used to burnish your edges during the finishing process. One of the cheapest tools here but you'll be glad you have it when comes time to finish your project. Be sure to add this one to your toolkit.

Link: <http://amzn.to/2mMryNe>

8. Hammer and Rubber Mallet- \$6.93 - \$10.03

This is an easy one and you might even have these laying around the house. I use a steel hammer to hammer down my stitches after i've completed saddle stitching. I use a rubber mallet when using my pricking irons or steel punches.

Links: Hammer <http://amzn.to/2lFoqyr>, Rubber Mallet <http://amzn.to/2lFaa8S>

9. Granite Surface- \$28.95

A granite surface provides a flat and even surface to hammer on when marking your stitches with the pricking irons, setting rivets or punching holes with leather punches. Make sure you have a thick piece of leather under your work when using pricking irons or punches. This will protect and keep your tools from becoming dull. The weight of the granite slab is especially important if you're working on a table that bounces when you try to do any of the above types of hammering.

Link: <http://amzn.to/2mgnZ0O>

10. Stitching Pony or Clam- \$35.99 - \$189.99

The last tool to round out your kit would be a stitching clam or pony. The main purpose of this tool is to hold your work so you can use both hands to do your saddle-stitching. I use a stitching clam that functions by placing the clam between your legs so that one leg is swung over top of the opening. The weight of your leg keeps the clam closed tightly on your leather work. If you need to move your leather piece, lift up your leg, open the clam, reposition the work, and then lower your leg back down.

Links: Stitching Pony <http://amzn.to/2mRxpgd>, Stitching Clam <http://amzn.to/2mRCKnw>