

## Leather Eye Patch Step-by-Step

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#1: I gathered/purchased the necessary supplies. These supplies included: leather remnants, an old crossbody purse strap, broken jewelry chains, and necessary leather tooling supplies.

#2: I began working on the pattern of my eye patch. Because I wanted to layer two different leather pieces on top of each other, 2 different patterns were needed. I sketched them out, placed them on the face for reference and kept adding more shape to fully cover the eye socket.



#3: After I had my paper pattern completed, I wanted to test the shape with an actual piece of leather. I had some grey leather remnants and decided to see how the pattern would settle with a more pliable material.

#4: Once I was happy with my pattern pieces, I began playing with tooling. I found that the thickness of leather that I had chosen for the eye patch did not allow tooling; I wanted the eye patch to be thinner to allow flexibility, but thin leather does not tool cleanly.

#5: I then looked at using leather stitching groovers to create ornamental grooves atop my eye patch. I was much more impressed with the pay-off. Once the leather is grooved, the suede below is able to provide a contrast.

#6: I practiced performing curves with the groovers, and looked into different line thickness that I was and was not able to manipulate. Once I felt comfortable it was time to start grooving the actual piece.



#7: I decided to use thinner leather for the top of the eye patch and a slightly thicker one below. I was able to find colors and thickness that suited my project.

#8: After cutting out my pattern pieces, I began sketching in my curves on the top piece. I used an embossing ball to trace out the design and then I used the stitching groovers to lift the top layer of the leather to create the design.



#9: Once I was happy with the overall grooving and design work, I moved on to burnishing. I was nervous that grooving the leather would cause it to peel, but burnishing gave me peace of mind. Before burnishing, you could feel the dips in the leather from the grooves. Afterwards the whole piece felt smooth and consistent. It also added a nice shine.

#10: While I had the burnisher out, I went ahead and burnished the edges of my lower eye patch piece. The black leather showed a more evident shine from burnishing, so I burnished the whole piece.

#11: I used the stitch groovers once again, but this time to minimize the bulk along the piece's edges prior to gluing the pieces together so they are more flushed.



#12: I used leather weld to adhere my pieces together. I applied a light coat of glue to both sides of my pieces and pressed them together while still wet. I waited for the glue to dry which was only about 15 minutes.



#13: I decided that having a whip stitch around both patch pieces would be aesthetically pleasing in addition to further securing the top and bottom patches together. I used prong stitching hole punch tools to create holes along the edge of my upper piece, I used the four pronged fork. I made sure to keep reusing the last punch as I moved to ensure consistency. I'd place the prongs into place and hammer until the tool had gone through both layers of leather.



#14: Once my stitch holes were all punched, I began whip stitching the edge. I used a leather needle and wax-covered black nylon thread.



#15: I cut the strap off of a worn crossbody purse and began using a skiving knife to peel sections off the ends to create a smooth flush when attached to the eye patch.



#16: I began playing with placement of the straps. I kept clipping the straps in place and putting it on to check that the strap was not positioned oddly. Once confident in the placement, I used leather weld to adhere the strap to the eye patch and let the glue dry.

#17: I used the prong stitching hole punch tools again, but this time I used a single prong fork. I punched four holes to create an "X" with my stitching to further secure the strap to the eye patch.

#18: I repeated the last three steps for the other side of the strap and eye patch, so that I had a fully functioning eye patch with a buckle.



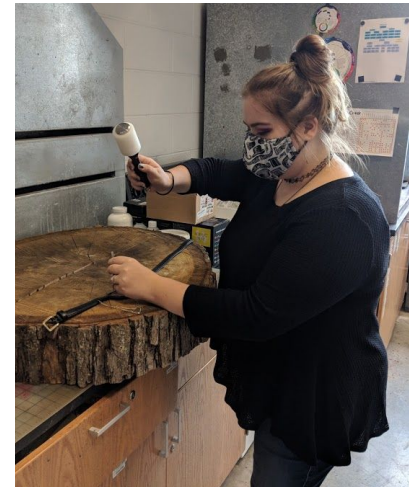
#19: I cut out two pattern pieces in the shape of the lower eye patch layer. I used a cotton fabric. I stitched these two pieces together, turned them inside out and I had a nice lining/pocket for my patch.



#20: I used a hole punch to puncture a hole for the chain, then utilized pliers and repurposed old chain from broken jewelry. I first looped the chain through the eye patch hole. I placed it on the face to see where the chain should be located on the strap, and I punched the other hole and positioned the chain.



#21: I went back to the prong stitching hole punch tools to create holes along the edge of my black leather, I used the four pronged fork. I made sure to keep reusing the last punch as I moved to ensure consistency. I'd place the prongs into place and hammer until the tool had gone through.



#21: Once my stitch holes were all punched, I began whip stitching the edge. I used a leather needle and wax-covered brown nylon thread. I made sure while whip stitching to catch my liner/pocket layer. I made sure to only catch the lining/pocket layer along three sides to ensure that the pocket was functional.



Finished Design (On Headform):



Finished Design (Worn):



Eye Patch Coin Function:

