



LACING & STITCHING FOR LEATHERCRAFT

*10 Different Lacing &
Stitching Techniques*

PLUS

*Tips on Splicing, Hole Punching &
Needle Threading*

INTRODUCTION

When early man first began using the skins of animals, he probably just used them as blankets or shawl-poncho type clothing. But as he began to find more uses for leather and skins, he needed ways to hold the skins together. Simple thongs were used at first, to tie pieces together. Later, holes with laces were utilized, much as our shoe laces. Today lacing can be as simple as that same shoe lacing or as intricate as a multi-thong applique done on leather just for show.

Like early man, we use most of the leather articles we create, so they must be durable. But today, we also insist that our creations be appealing to the eye as well. In this book I hope to show you a few types of lacing techniques which are both practical and attractive.

There are a few things to remember when doing any type of lacing. Always lace with the outside of the project facing you. This is the side which everyone will see, so you want the lacing to be attractive on this side.

Your lacing should be smooth and even throughout the entire project. Pull each stitch snug, not tight, and use the same tension on each stitch so they are all even. The lacing or stitching can either make or break a project.

Lace usually has a front and a back side to it. Never twist the lace! Always keep the front side of the lace out on the outside of the project. I have a little trick I use for this when I'm using a flat needle. I call it speed lacing and it can be used for any lacing technique. After I push the needle through a hole or slit, I pull through four or five inches of lace, without turning loose of the needle, and then I stick the needle through the next hole or under the next stitch, whatever the next step is. The flat needle will keep the lace from twisting while you pull it through the last hole, and your hands are free. This saves time when you are working with a long piece of lace. You don't have to run the lace through your fingers before every stitch to make sure it's not twisted or fumble with the needle while you're pulling the lace through the hole.

There is a lacing technique suited to every purpose. In deciding which technique to use, several things should be considered; such as the size of the project and the stress which the seams of this project will receive. Generally the smaller projects, coin purses, billfolds, checkbooks, clutches, etc., will need 3/32" wide lace. Larger projects, handbags, holsters, bowling bags, attaches, need lace which is 1/8" in width. Wider laces are usually used for buckstitching. Also the more intricate, or the more times the lace crosses the seam, the stronger the seam will be. But these rules of thumb are not cut in stone. I have seen some nice work with 3/16" florentine lace, double loop laced through 1/8" slits; and buckstitching, using 5/32" buckstitch lace and straight slits will hold even the heaviest leather together. So when deciding which lace and lacing technique is best suited for your project, just make sure it is strong enough for the job, then use your imagination and the instructions in this book to guide you.

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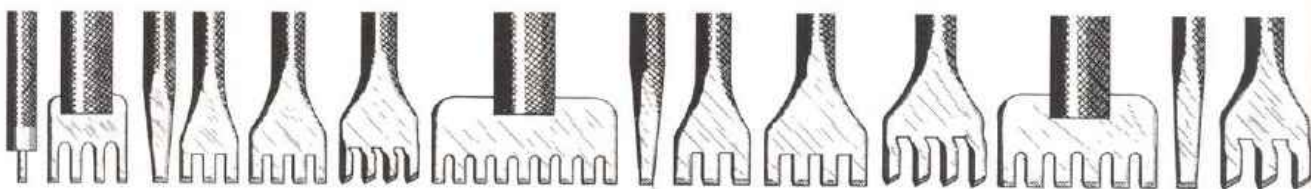
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PUNCHING LACING HOLES

Before you can begin lacing, you have to punch precisely spaced lacing holes or slits in the leather. There are

several ways to do this and many tools available to the leather crafter or hobbyist.

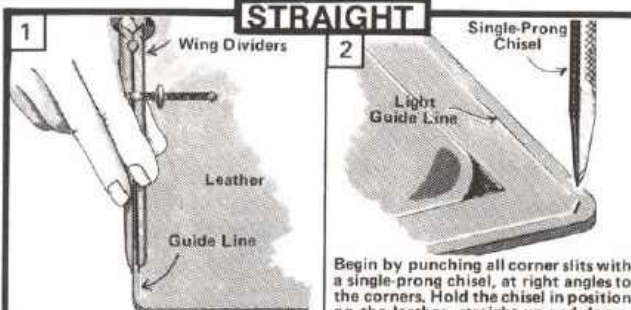
THONGING CHISELS



Thonging Chisels are so called because they look like small chisels. They punch lacing slits instead of round holes. These chisels come in single-prong, three-prong, four-prong, six-prong and eight-prong punches and they punch slits ranging in size from 1/16" to 5/32" in width. They also come in angled chisels for slanted lacing slits. The 1/16"

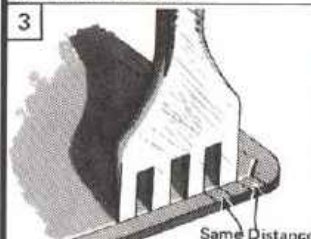
chisels are used for punching saddle stitching slits, to be sewn with thread. The 3/32" chisels are for 3/32" lace, 1/8" for 1/8" lace and 5/32" for buckstitch or florentine lace. Of course, these rules are not hard and fast as stated in the introduction.

STRAIGHT

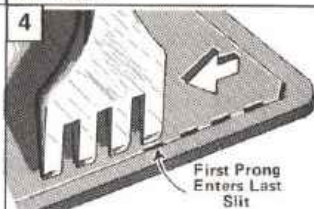


To prepare for positioning lacing slits, scribe a light guide line 1/8" from the edges of the project to be laced, with a pair of wing dividers.

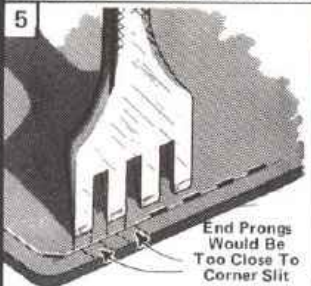
Begin by punching all corner slits with a single-prong chisel, at right angles to the corners. Hold the chisel in position on the leather, straight up and down, and strike sharply with a wooden mallet. Always punch on a rubber protecto board to prevent damage to the chisels.



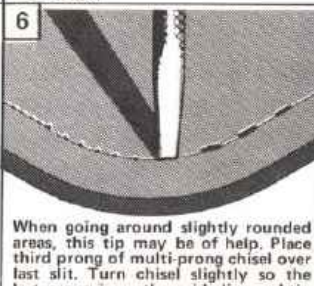
After punching the corner slits, begin next slits with a multi-prong chisel. Space the first slit from the corner the same distance as between the prongs of the chisel. If you are using a 1/8" chisel, the first slit after the corner should be 1/8" from the corner slit.



To properly align succeeding slits, place first prong in last slit punched and punch again. Continue punching to next corner. When punching through several layers of leather, be sure all edges are lined up and the chisel is held straight, otherwise you might punch through the edge of an inside piece, such as a pocket. (See next page.)

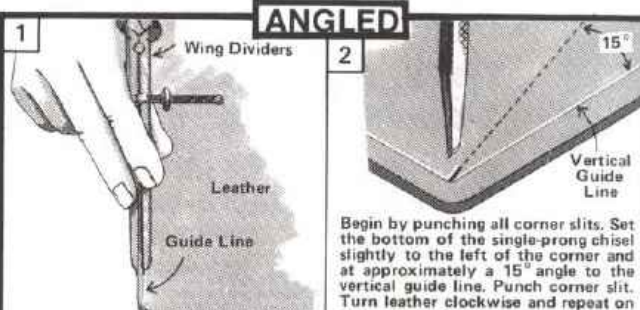


If slits do not come out evenly spaced at the next corner, adjust the spacing slightly by using the single-prong chisel as shown above.



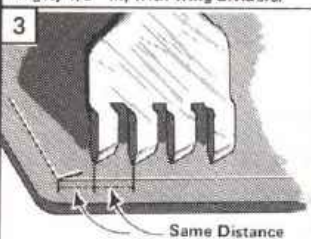
When going around slightly rounded areas, this tip may be of help. Place third prong of multi-prong chisel over last slit. Turn chisel slightly so the last prong is on the guide line and tip the chisel so the last prong makes a faint impression and repeat the process until again on a straight area. Then punch the impressions with a single-prong chisel.

ANGLED

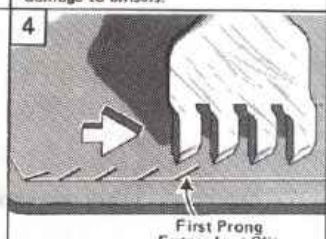


Prepare for positioning angled lacing slits the same way you did for straight slits. Scribe a light guide line around edges, 1/8" in, with wing dividers.

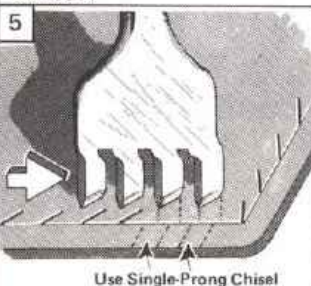
Begin by punching all corner slits. Set the bottom of the single-prong chisel slightly to the left of the corner and at approximately a 15° angle to the vertical guide line. Punch corner slit. Turn leather clockwise and repeat on next corner. Continue in this manner, always turning leather clockwise, and punch all four corners. Always punch on a rubber protecto board to prevent damage to chisels.



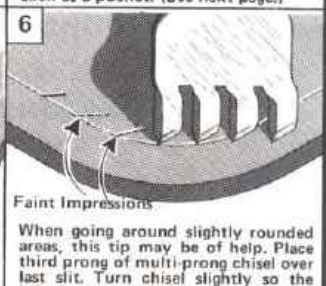
Begin next slits with the multi-prong angled chisel. Space the first slit from the corner the same distance as between the prongs of the chisel (always measure between the bottom of the slits). If you are using a 1/8" chisel, the first slit should be 1/8" from the corner slit.



Properly align succeeding slits, as with straight slits. Place first prong in last slit punched and punch again. Continue punching to next corner. Be sure all edges are lined up and that the punch is held straight, to avoid punching through the edge of an inside piece such as a pocket. (See next page.)



If slits do not come out evenly spaced at the next corner, adjust the spacing slightly by using the single-prong chisel as shown above.



When going around slightly rounded areas, this tip may be of help. Place third prong of multi-prong chisel over last slit. Turn chisel slightly so the last prong is on the guide line and tip the chisel so the last prong makes a faint impression and repeat the process until again on a straight area. Then punch the impressions with a single-prong chisel.

THESE INSTRUCTIONS ARE THE SAME FOR BOTH STRAIGHT AND ANGLED CHISELS

THIS VIEW SHOWS TOP AND EDGE OF THE PROJECT

THIS VIEW SHOWS EDGE AND BOTTOM OF THE PROJECT

POCKET EDGE CAN BE TRIMMED TO EXPOSE SLIT IN LINING AND CARVING LEATHER

Sometimes it is preferable to punch lacing slits in the back of a project before assembling the inside parts. The purpose of punching lacing slits in the carved back before cementing the pockets in place is to insure proper spacing and easier punching through the total thickness. When cementing the pockets in place (after the back has been punched) often the edge of the pockets will be in the center of a slit... and when punched, the prong would cut through the edge of the pocket. This is undesirable. Adjustments have to be made to prevent this. Study the suggestions presented above.

Example A: This shows the edge of the pocket coming directly in the center of the slit. Punch up to this slit in Step 1. Pull out the punch and move over, skipping this slit as in Step 2. Then carefully trim off the corner edge of the pocket as shown. Example B: Here, the edge of the pocket sufficiently covers the slit so that the single-prong chisel can be used at an angle to prevent cutting the edge. Should the edge be cut, simply trim off the corner edge as shown in example A.

LACING NIPPERS

A pair of Lacing Nippers is a handy tool for punching those areas which won't lay flat against a table, like handbag gussets. You can't reach these places easily with a chisel. Lacing Nippers punch a 1/8" slit.

When making handbags or cases or really any project, the slits are usually punched before installing the gussets. After the gussets have been cemented in place, use the nippers to punch the slits in the gussets. Place the top "tooth" in the pre-punched slit and the bottom tooth on the gusset and squeeze the handles. (It is a good idea to scribe a light guide line around the gusset to be sure the slits come out straight.

NIPPERS CAN ALSO BE USED WITH THE ANGLED CHISELS.

USE NIPPERS WITH OVERSTITCH WHEELS (Page 6) FOR EITHER STRAIGHT OR ANGLED SLITS.

4-IN-1 ROUND HOLE PUNCH

This punch is used in the same way as the multi-prong punches except it punches 1/16" round holes instead of slits. It punches the holes more accurately and rapidly than could be accomplished with the mini-punches. The punching tubes are replaceable. Always remember to use a protecto board under your leather to protect your tools.

Scribe a guide line with wing dividers as with chisels. Insure proper spacing by placing the end tube in the last hole punched.

USE A #0 MINI PUNCH TO PUNCH AROUND CURVES AND TO ADJUST SPACING AT CORNERS.

REPLACING TUBES

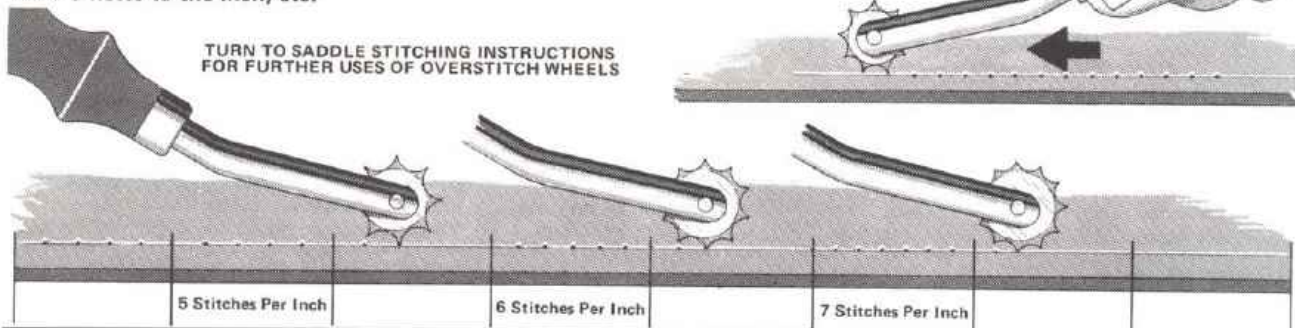
Remove tubes with pliers; grasp the shoulder of the tube with pliers and pull. Replace tubes by pushing tube in hole and then placing the punch on a piece of leather or protecto board and hitting punch with a mallet.

OVERSTITCH WHEELS

These tools are used to mark spacing for holes when you are not using multi-prong punches or are using an awl to punch holes, as in saddle stitching. They are available in several sizes. The numbers indicating size tell you how many stitches per inch each wheel marks. For instance, a number 5 wheel will mark 5 stitches to the inch, a number 6 will mark 6 holes to the inch, etc.

Scribe a light guide line with wing dividers first. Hold the wheel in position shown at left. Apply firm downward pressure to make distinct impressions. Push wheel carefully along guide line.

TURN TO SADDLE STITCHING INSTRUCTIONS FOR FURTHER USES OF OVERSTITCH WHEELS



MINI PUNCH

The Mini Punch is an all-purpose hole punch with interchangeable tubes from zero to five. For lacing holes the number zero or number one is generally used unless using latigo or buckstitch lace. It comes in a set with one handle and 6 tubes. Extra handles are available. Be sure you protect the tips with a protecto board or piece of leather.

TUBE SIZES

Size 0 Size 1 Size 2 Size 3 Size 4 Size 5
5/64" 3/32" 7/64" 1/8" 5/32" 11/64"

Remove tubes with a pair of pliers. Grip the tube with the pliers and turn counter-clockwise. Replace the tube by turning it clockwise.

Use the mini punch with the 4-IN-1 Punch to go around curves or to adjust spacing or use to punch all holes after marking positions with an Overstitch Wheel. It can also be used in conjunction with the Rotary Punches as it can reach many places a Rotary Punch can't. Place the punch in position on leather and strike with a mallet.

WHEN YOU REMOVE THE PUNCH FROM THE LEATHER, TWIST IT SLIGHTLY CLOCKWISE TO FREE IT. THIS WILL KEEP IT FROM UNSCREWING WHILE YOU ARE WORKING.

ROTARY PUNCH

A Rotary Punch is a plier-like tool, with a punch on the end. You squeeze the handles to punch the hole. The head of the punch has six tubes radiating out like the spokes of a wheel. With a turn of the wheel you can change hole sizes.

Scribe a guide line with wing dividers. Rotate wheel until desired tube size is over the anvil. Place tube on guide line with anvil under the leather and squeeze the handles. If leather seems a bit tough it will help to swing your hand to the right and left as you squeeze the handles.

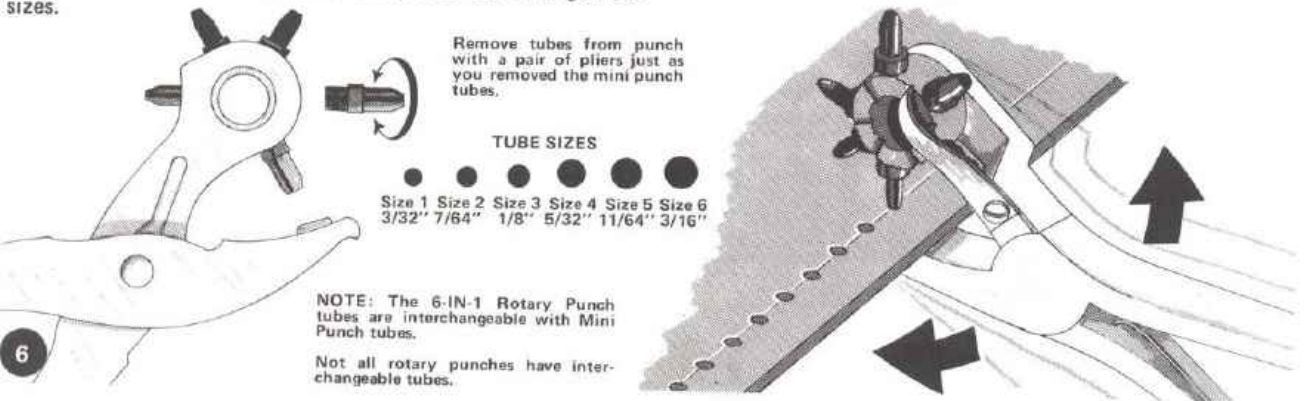
Remove tubes from punch with a pair of pliers just as you removed the mini punch tubes.

TUBE SIZES

Size 1 Size 2 Size 3 Size 4 Size 5 Size 6
3/32" 7/64" 1/8" 5/32" 11/64" 3/16"

NOTE: The 6-IN-1 Rotary Punch tubes are interchangeable with Mini Punch tubes.

Not all rotary punches have interchangeable tubes.



THREADING THE NEEDLES

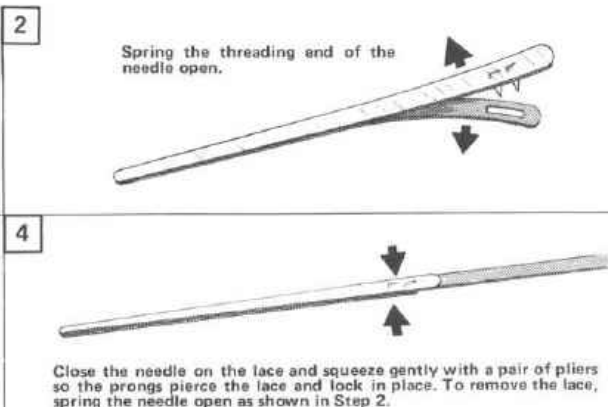
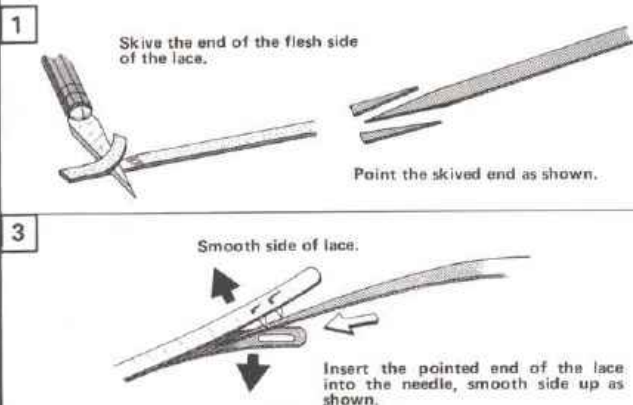
Just as in sewing, a needle is advantageous when lacing. When you start lacing, the lace is usually stiff enough to go through the holes without a needle, but after going through a hole it soon becomes too soft and pliant to

push through. It's like trying to push a piece of thread through cloth without a needle. Below we will show you how to thread three different kinds of lacing needles.

TWO PRONG NEEDLE

This is a flat lacing needle recommended for $3/32''$ and $1/8''$ flat laces. The Two-Prong Needle is the most

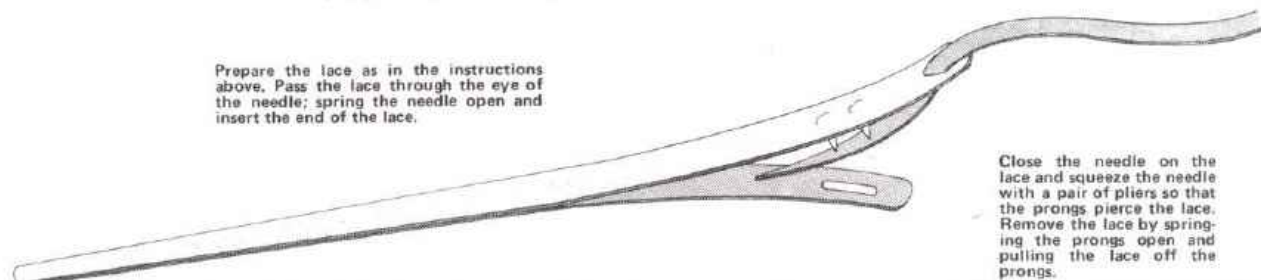
widely used lacing needle. It is inexpensive and can usually be used for several lacing jobs before it is discarded.



HOOK AND EYE NEEDLE

This is also a flat lacing needle. It is recommended for $3/32''$ flat lace. The lace passes through a hole or eye in the end of the needle before it is gripped by the prongs and

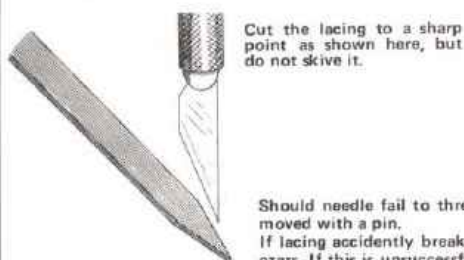
hooks. This helps to insure the lace will not slip out of the needle when you pull it through the leather. This needle is also considered to be disposable.



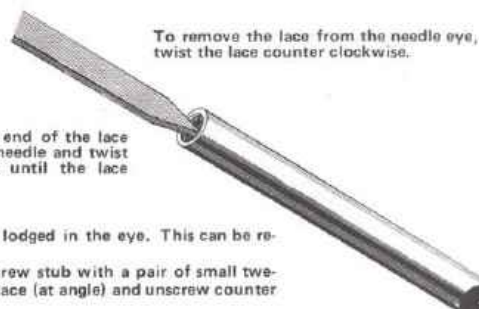
LIFE EYE NEEDLES

These are solid brass round needles, much preferred by professional craftsmen. Unlike the two previous needles, the Life Eye Needles can be used again and again, as their names imply. The small size is recommended for $3/32''$

and $1/8''$ laces while the large size, called the Latigo Life Eye, is used for larger laces such as $3/16''$ florentine, $5/32''$ buckstitch and even latigo laces.



Now insert the pointed end of the lace in the open end of the needle and twist clockwise several times until the lace is firmly secured.



SPLICING

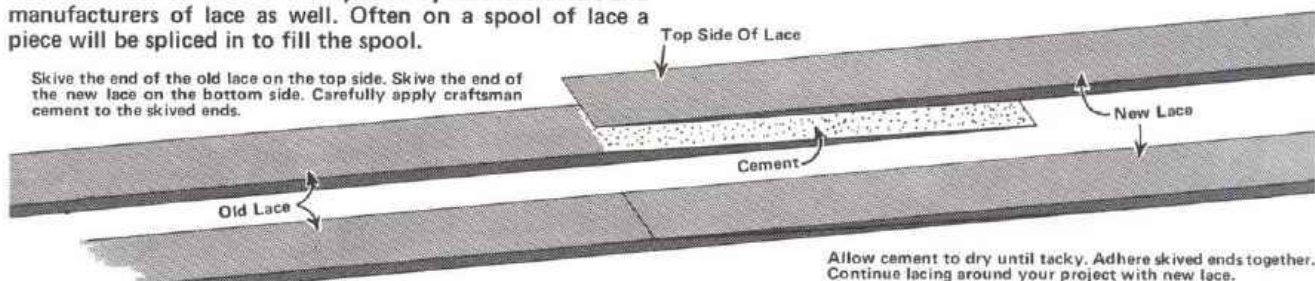
When you lace a project it is generally recommended that you use no more than 2 yards of lace at a time. This is because pulling the lace through all those holes wears the lace and may weaken it. It also frays the edges so that the lace doesn't look good toward the end of

the project. Well, unless your project is very small and you are doing a very simple stitch, 2 yards of lace will not go completely around it. You will have to splice in a new length of lace, maybe even several times.

CEMENT SPLICING

This method is commonly used by leathercrafters and manufacturers of lace as well. Often on a spool of lace a piece will be spliced in to fill the spool.

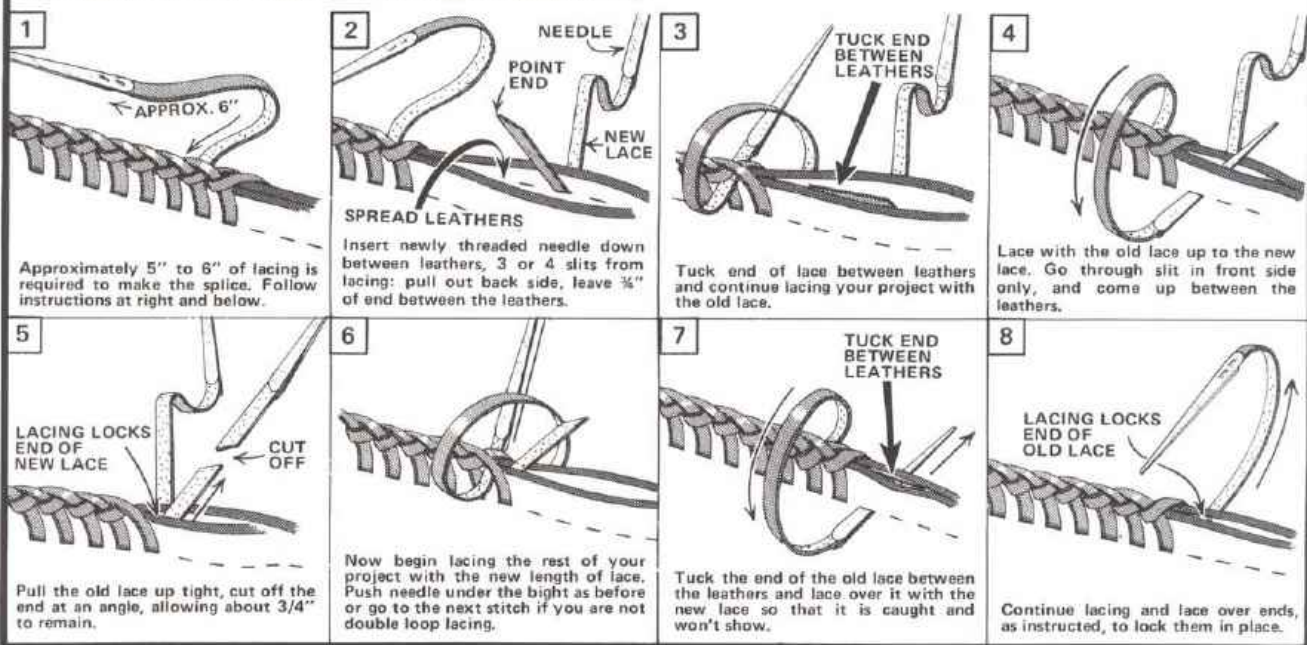
Skive the end of the old lace on the top side. Skive the end of the new lace on the bottom side. Carefully apply craftsman cement to the skived ends.



DRY SPLICING

This type splicing can be used on any type lacing as long as you have more than one layer of leather. It is easy and doesn't take as much time as cement splicing. The

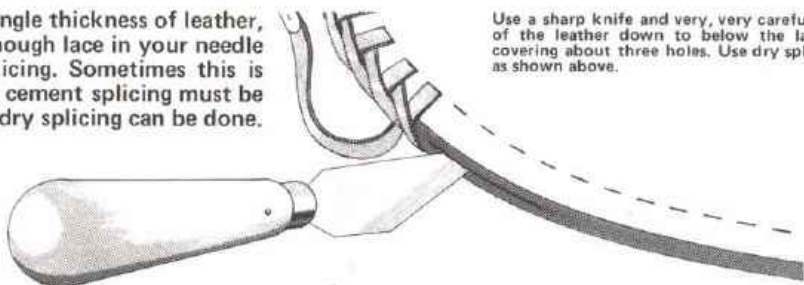
illustrations are on double loop lacing, but it is done the same way regardless of the type lacing being done.



SPLICING ON A SINGLE THICKNESS

Generally when lacing on a single thickness of leather, it is recommended that you put enough lace in your needle to complete the area without splicing. Sometimes this is just not possible. On thin leathers, cement splicing must be used, however on thicker leathers, dry splicing can be done.

Use a sharp knife and very, very carefully slit the edge of the leather down to below the lacing holes and covering about three holes. Use dry splicing technique as shown above.



LACING TECHNIQUES

Lacing puts the finishing touch to handmade leather articles. How you lace, your technique and proficiency, has a great deal of importance in the overall appearance of the finished product. With the following instructions, plus a little practice, you will soon be doing a professional job of lacing.

There are two rules to remember when lacing, no matter what technique you are using. 1.) You should load no more than 2 yards of lace in your lacing needle at a time as lace can fray and wear from being pulled through the holes. 2.) When lacing, always lace with the front or outside of the project facing you!

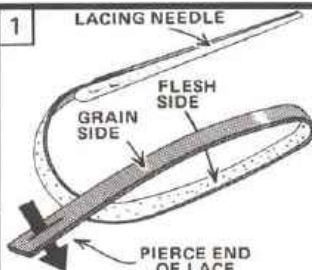
THE WHIPSTITCH

RECOMMENDED USAGE:

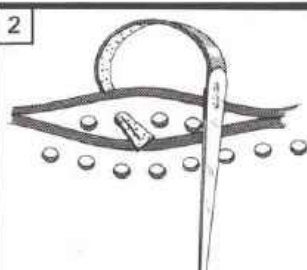
Small projects with little stress on seams or as decorative edging.

Use 3/32" holes and 3/32" lace.

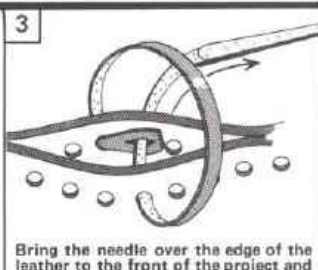
The Whip Stitch uses 3½ times the length of lace to the length of your project. For example; if your project measures 2 ft. around the laced part, you will need 3½ times that amount of lace, or 7 ft. of lace.



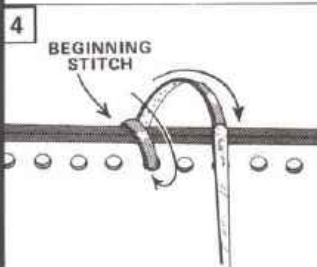
Thread the needle and then pierce the opposite end of the lace with a sharp knife leaving a slit of 1/8".



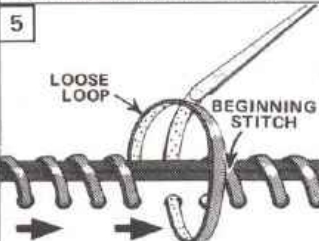
Begin lacing in between the two layers of leather. Leave about 1/4" at the end where you slit the lace.



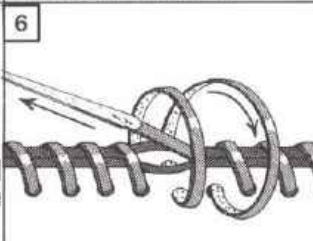
Bring the needle over the edge of the leather to the front of the project and through next hole over from beginning hole, then thread it through the slit in the end of the lace and through the opposite hole, as shown.



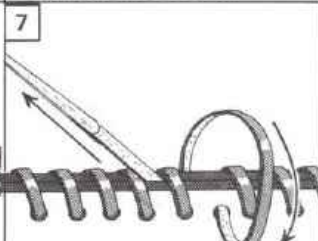
Pull stitch up tight. Continue lacing in a spiral, tightening the lace as you go.



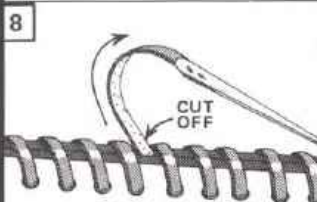
Lace around the project leaving a loose loop in the next to the last hole. There will be one unlaced hole between your very first and your last stitch, as shown.



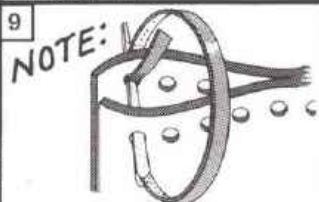
Spread the two leather layers and lace through the last hole, up between the leathers and through the 1st loose loop as shown.



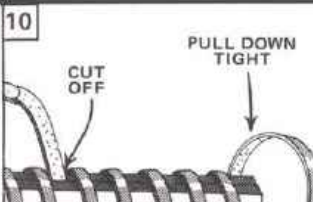
Pull the first loop tight, over the end of the lace, as shown.



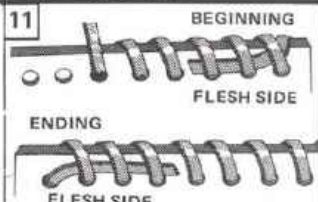
Pull the end of the lace tight to take slack out of the last loop. Cut off the end of the lace with a sharp knife and tap all lacing flat with a smooth-faced mallet.



In a case where you don't lace completely around a project, you will begin lacing a bit differently. You will still begin between the leathers, but you will begin in the first hole and also take the next stitch in the first hole (twice through the first hole in the back leather only).



When tying off, go through last hole in front twice, only the second time bring the lace up between the leathers and back a few stitches.



When Whip Stitching on a single thickness of leather, be sure to catch the beginning tail of lace under the next few stitches on the back of the leather. End by running the needle back under the last few stitches on the back of the leather.

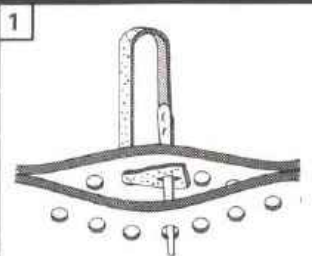
THE RUNNING STITCH

RECOMMENDED USAGE:

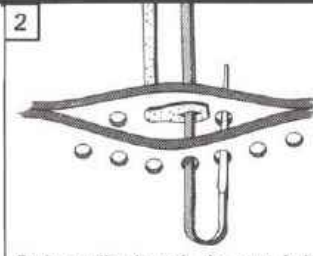
Small projects with little stress on seams.

Use 3/32" holes and 3/32" lace.

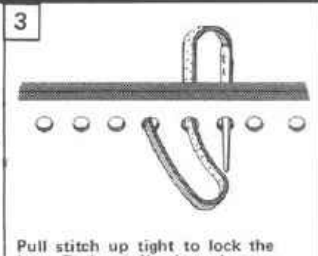
The Running Stitch uses 1½ times the length of lace to the length of your project. For example; if your project measures 2 ft. around the laced part, you will need 1½ times that amount of lace, or 3 ft. of lace.



Begin lacing just as you did for the Whip Stitch.



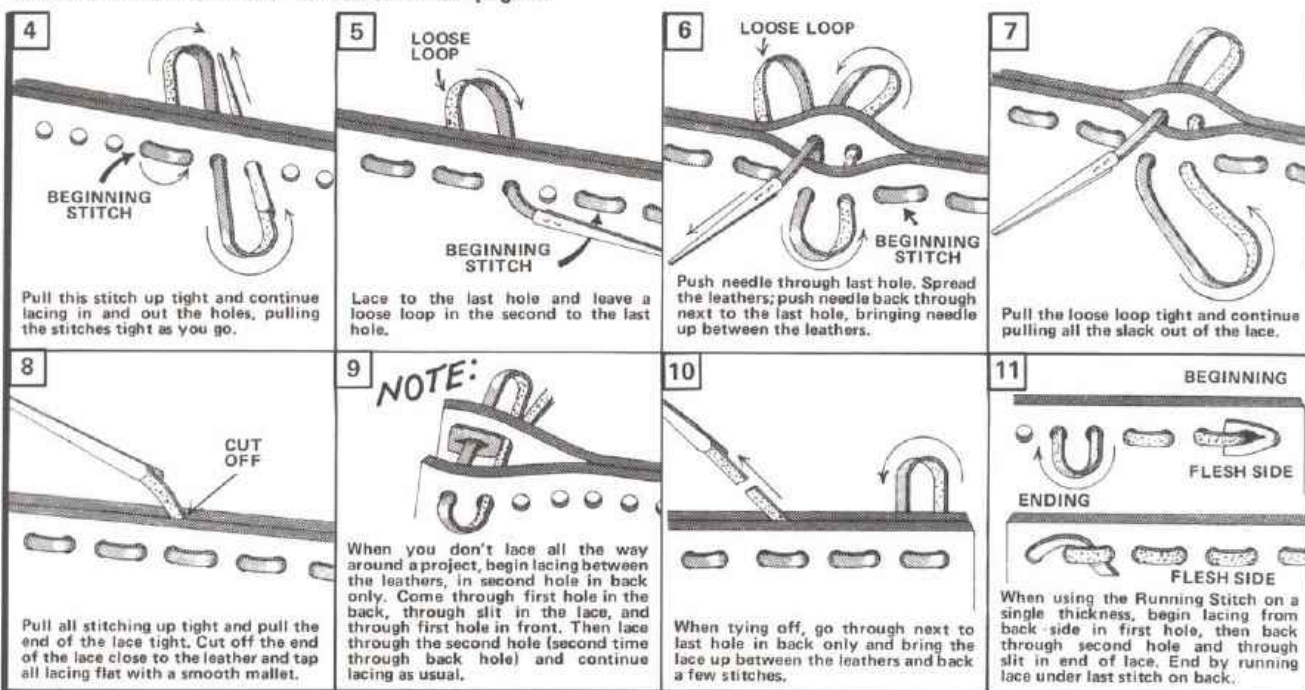
Push needle through the next hole from the back, through the slit and out through the opposite hole in front, as shown.



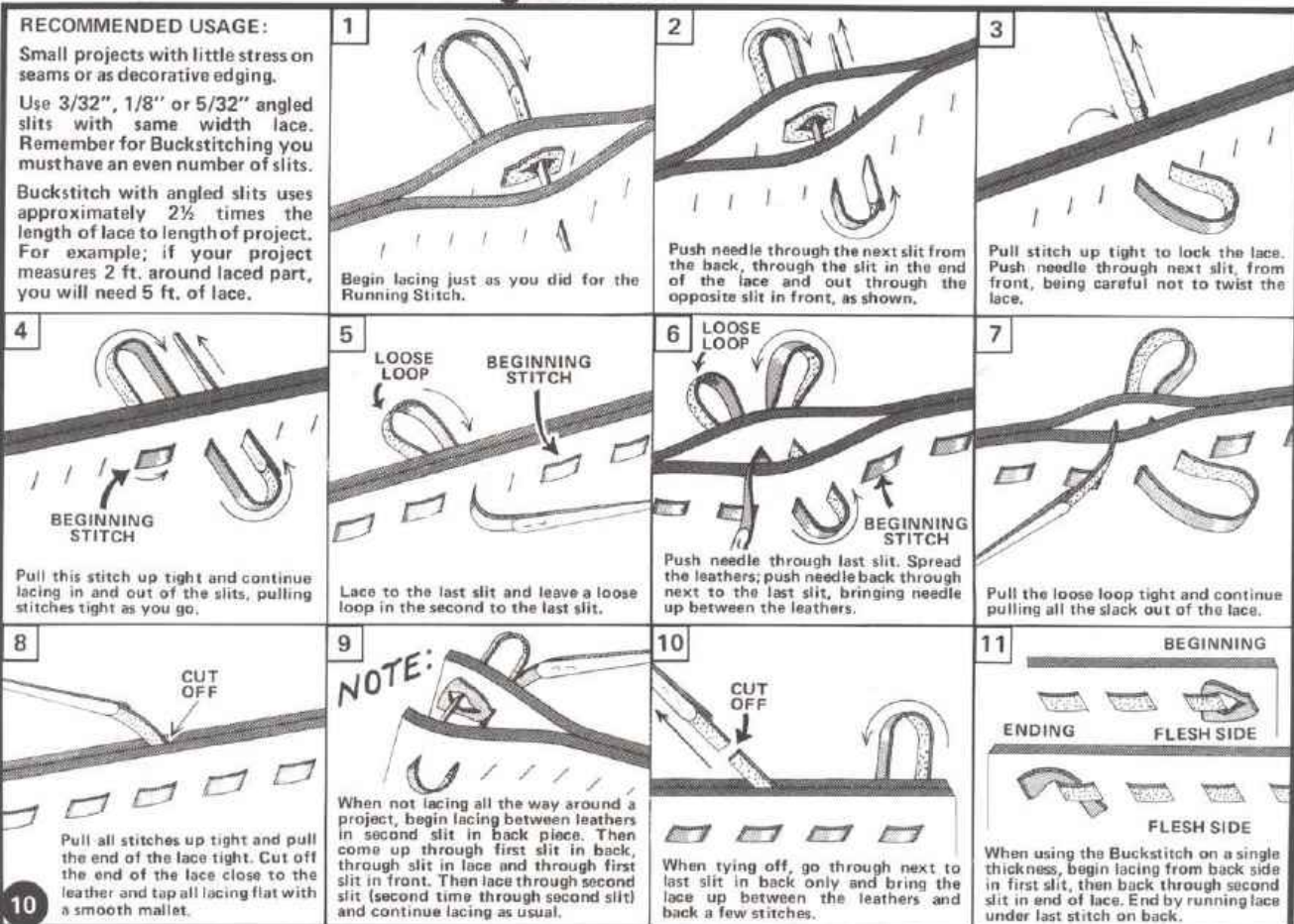
Pull stitch up tight to lock the lace. Push needle through next hole, being careful not to twist the lace.

Continued on page 10.

THE RUNNING STITCH— continued from page 9.



THE BUCKSTITCH — Angled Slits



THE BUCKSTITCH — Straight Slits

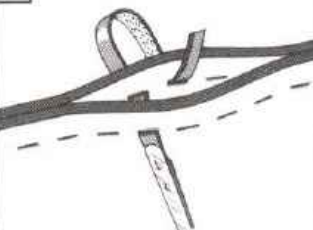
RECOMMENDED USAGE:

Small projects with little stress on seams or as decorative edging.

Use $3/32''$, $1/8''$ or $5/32''$ slits with same width lace. Remember for Buckstitching you must have an even number of slits.

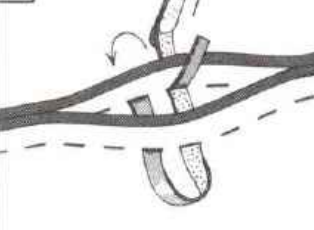
Buckstitch with straight slits uses approximately 2 times the length of project. For example; if your project measures 2 ft. around laced part, you will need 4 ft. of lace.

1



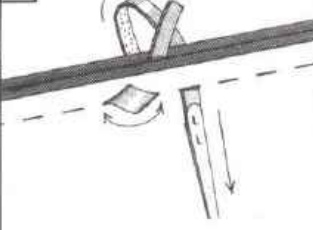
Begin lace as shown above. Note correct sides of lace.

2



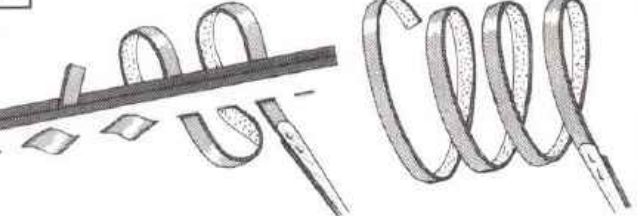
Pull first loop tight and lace back through first slits of both leathers.

3



Pull first stitch tight. Turn needle and go back through next slit as shown.

4



Continue lacing. Pull stitches tight as you go.

Think of this stitch as a spiral. This keeps the grain side of the lace out on both sides of the project.

5



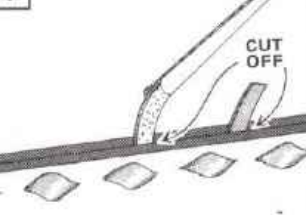
Lace to beginning stitch and leave a loop in next to last stitch. Lace through last slit. Lace back one slit (on back only) and push needle up between leathers.

6



Pull the loose loop tight and continue pulling all the slack out of the lace.

7



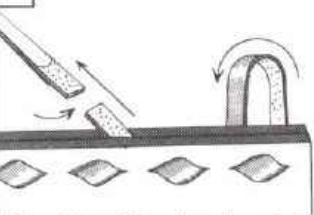
Pull all stitches tight. Cut off ends. Tap stitches flat with a mallet.

8



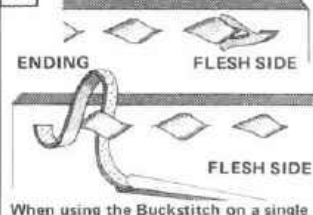
When not lacing all the way around a project, begin lacing between leathers in second slit in the back. Then come up through first slit in back, through slit in end of lace and through first slit in front. Then lace through second slit (second time through second slit) and continue lacing as usual.

9



When tying off, go through next to last slit in back only and bring the lace up between the leathers and back a few stitches.

10



When using the Buckstitch on a single thickness, begin lacing from back side in first slit, then back through second slit in end of lace. End by running lace under last stitch on back.

SINGLE LOOP LACING

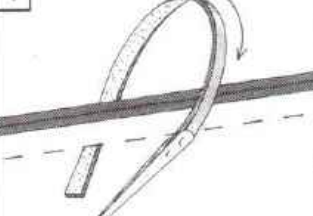
RECOMMENDED USAGE:

Lightweight leathers or single thickness projects where little lace is required to cover the "raw" edge.

Use $3/32''$ slits with $3/32''$ lace.

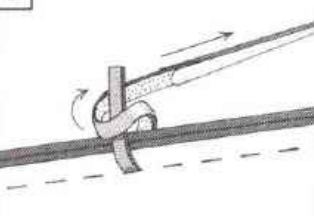
Single Loop Lacing uses $6\frac{1}{2}$ times more lace than the length of the project. For example; if your project measures 2 ft. around laced part, you will need 13 ft. of lace.

1



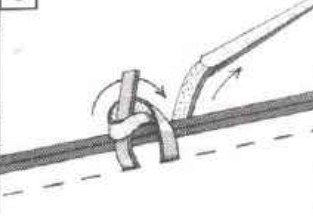
Begin at top of project, push lace through front side. Leave about $\frac{1}{2}''$ of end.

2



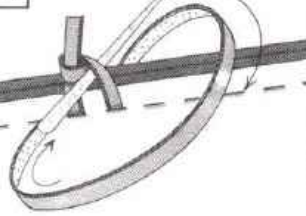
Fold end up and loop lace around as shown. Hold with fingers until 1st stitch is tightened.

3



Lace through 2nd slit. Be sure smooth side of lace faces you, as shown in drawings. Pull up snugly.

4



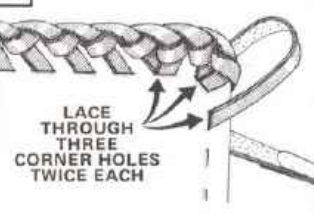
Push needle under lace as shown... with the flesh side up. Do not twist lace. Pull up snugly.

5



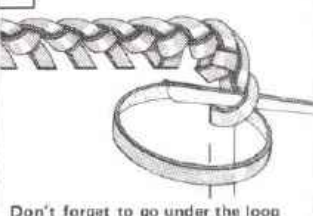
These first 2 stitches should not be tight, but snug as they must be adjusted when completing steps 8-16. Continue lacing in this fashion until you reach corner hole.

6



Continue lacing as before. When you reach a corner, lace through the three corner holes twice each, as shown.

7



Don't forget to go under the loop each time on the corners. Lace to the beginning.

Continued on page 12.

8

STYLUS END OF MODELER

Lace through last slit and under loop. Insert stylus end of modeling tool under end of lace.

9

LOOSE LOOP

Pull end of lace out of loop with end of modeler as shown. Maintain the loose loop.

10

MAINTAIN LOOP

Insert stylus between the leathers and hook over the end of the lace as shown above.

11

MAINTAIN LOOP

Carefully pull up stylus and gradually pull end of lace out of the hole; up between the leathers.

12

THROUGH LOOP

Push needle down through the loose loop, carefully, as shown.

13

Push needle through slit... up between the leathers. Be sure lacing does not twist.

14

Adjust the stitches by pushing and working the lacing together with fingers as shown.

15

Pull lacing up snug and adjust so that all of the stitches appear even.

16

Carefully cut off ends from the flesh side, as shown. Tap lacing flat with mallet or roll under a wooden dowel.

17

When you are not lacing completely around a project you will begin as in Step 9 of the Whipstitch on page 9. Then come under first stitch as shown and continue lacing.

18

When ending, go through last slit, under loop and then go through last slit in front only and come out between the leathers and back a few stitches.

19

BEGINNING
ENDING
FLESH SIDE
FLESH SIDE

When Single Loop Lacing on a single thickness of leather, be sure to catch the beginning tail of lace under the first few stitches on the back of the leather. End by running the needle back under the last few stitches on the back of the leather.

DOUBLE LOOP LACING

RECOMMENDED USAGE:

Medium size projects such as billfolds, purses, clutches, etc.

Use 3/32" or 1/8" lace with correspondingly sized slits.

Double Loop Lacing uses 7-8 times more lace than the length of the project. For example: if your project measures 2 ft. around laced part, you will need 14-16 ft. of lace.

1

3/4"

Beginning on front side of project, pull the needle and lace through the 1st slit. Leave about 3/4" of the lacing end and go on to the next slit.

2

BIGHT (CROSS)

Pull the stitch tight; lacing over the end you left free. This forms a cross or "bight".

3

HOLD END OF LACE DOWN WITH FINGER

Push the needle under the cross or bight. Hold the end of the lace down on the opposite side.

4

CONTINUE HOLDING DOWN END

5

Follow the same procedures as in steps 1 and 2 making a cross or bight. Once again go under the bight and pull the stitch snug.

6

END OF LACE CAN BE RELEASED

Lace through the next hole. The end of the lace can now be released as it is now locked in place.

7

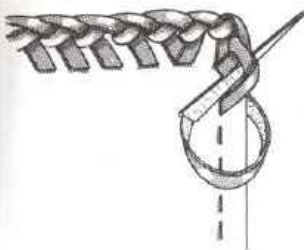
LACE THROUGH THREE CORNER HOLES TWICE EACH

When lacing a corner, stitch through the three corner holes twice each.

12

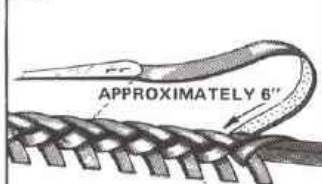
Pull the stitch under the bight snug but not tight. Lace through the next slit.

8



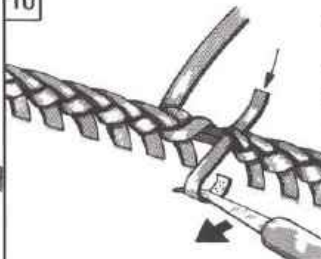
Be sure to go through bight on all corner stitches.

9



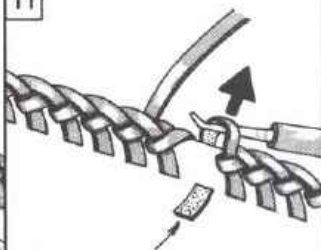
Lace until only 5" or 6" of lacing remains. You will now have to splice with a new length of lace. (See splicing instructions on page 8.)

10



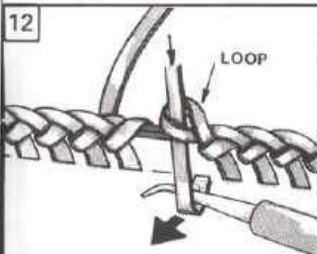
Continue lacing to starting point. Use modeling stylus to pull end of lace free of stitches.

11

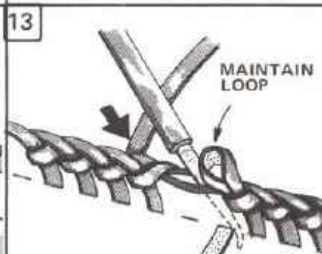


From back side pull the end of lace out of the slit.

12

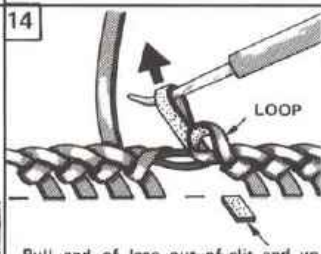


From front side, pull end of lace out of the loop.



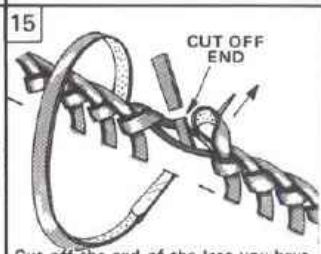
Push stylus down between the leathers and hook it over the end of the lace.

14



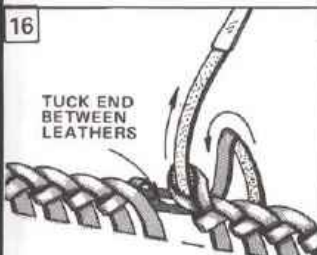
Pull end of lace out of slit and up between leathers. Two empty slits should appear on the front side; one on the back.

15

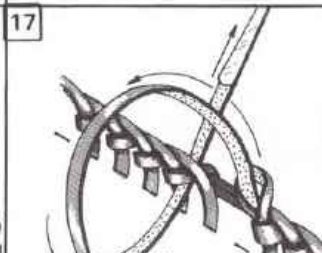


Cut off the end of the lace you have pulled out and tuck the end of the lace between the leathers. Lace through the next slit.

16

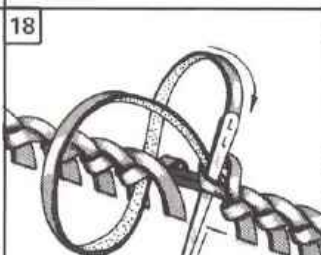


Pull stitch tight and lace up through loop from the back side. All slits on the back side should be filled.



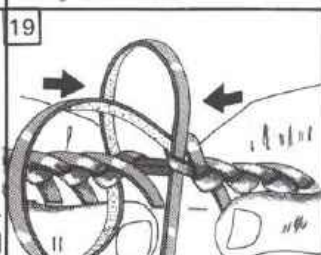
Lace under the bight. . . do not pull this stitch tight.

18



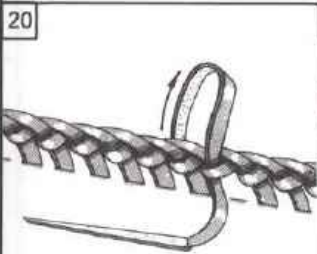
Carefully cross over as shown. . . and push needle down through the loop.

19

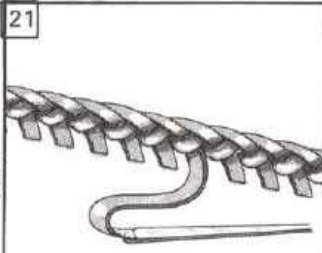


Pull needle through. Push laced edges together to adjust starting loops for easier completion.

20

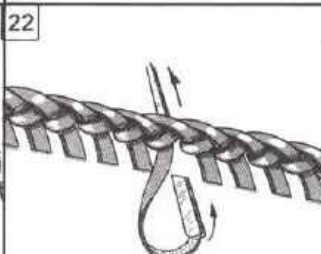


Pull any slack out of the first loop and adjust lacing with fingers to make all your stitches appear equal.



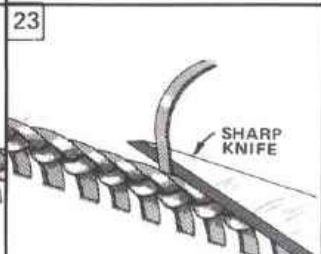
Pull the end of the lacing down tight. Make sure all stitches appear even and equally spaced.

22



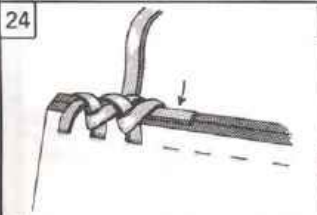
Push needle through the last slit as shown. Bring it up between the leathers and out between the lacing.

23

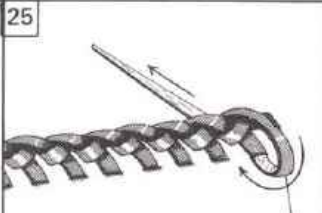


Carefully cut off the end of this lacing. Tap lacing flat with a mallet or roll flat with a wooden dowel.

24

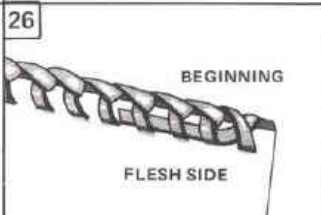


When you are not lacing completely around a project, you will begin lacing as in Step 1 through 3. In Step 4, instead of holding the end down on the back, lay it along the edge of the leather and just lace over it.



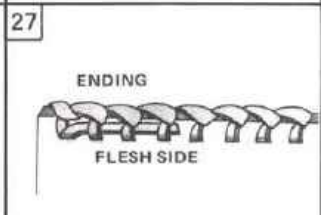
When ending, go through last slit, under bight and then go through the last slit again, through front only. Come out between the leathers and back a few stitches. Trim off.

26



When Double Loop Lacing on a single thickness of leather, you can begin just as you did in Step 24.

27



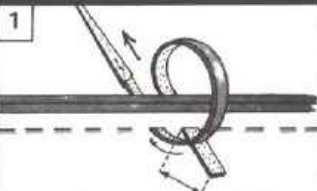
When ending, run the needle back under the last few stitches on the back of the leather.

TRIPLE LOOP LACING

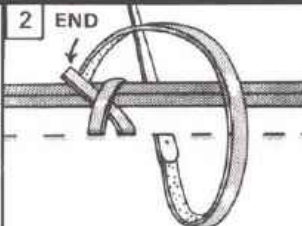
RECOMMENDED USAGE:

Heavier projects such as purses, briefcases and holsters, because it will cover thicker edges.

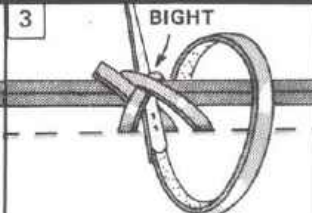
Triple Loop Lacing uses approximately 9 times more lace than the length of the project. For example: If your project measures two feet around laced part, you will need 18 feet of lace.



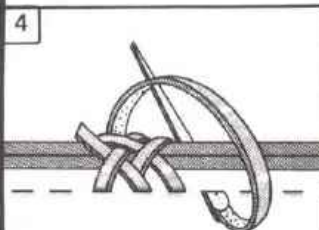
As with other types of stitches, the front side of the project should be facing you. Begin as shown. Lace through next hole left.



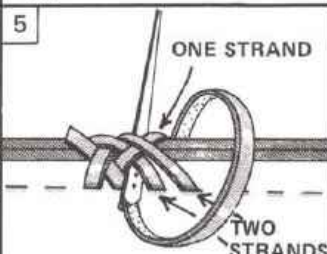
Pull stitch snug over end. Lace through first hole to right.



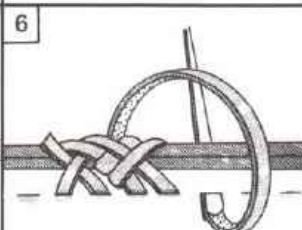
Pull stitch snug; lace under bight (cross) same as with double loop stitch.



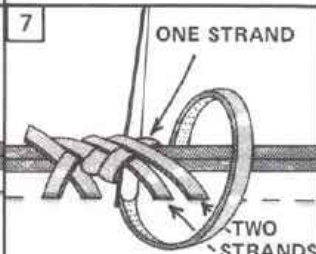
Pull snug; lace through next hole.



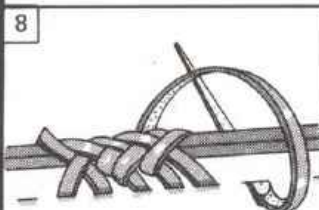
Lace under bight. However, lace goes under TWO strands on front; under ONE strand on back side.



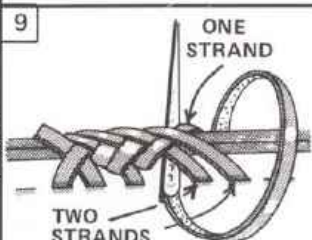
Pull snug; lace through next hole.



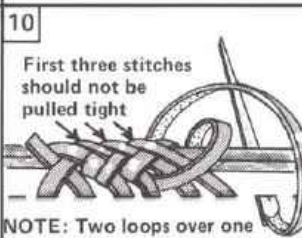
Lace under bight; under TWO strands on front, ONE strand on back.



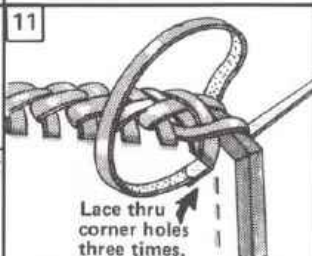
Pull up snug; lace through next hole.



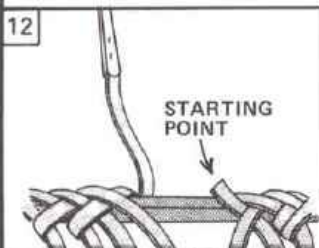
Continue lacing; under TWO strands on front, ONE at back.



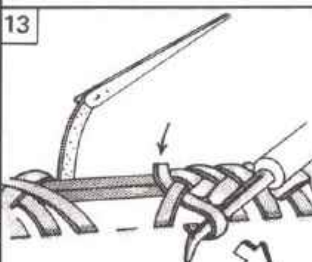
NOTE: Two loops over one strand appears only at beginning. Continue lacing. First 3 stitches pulled up snug—but not tight. Pull all remaining stitches tight.



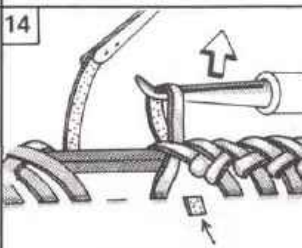
Be sure to go under two strands at front; one at back with each stitch at corners.



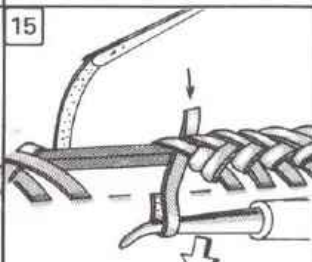
Splice often as required. Splice same as for double loop. Continue lacing to starting point.



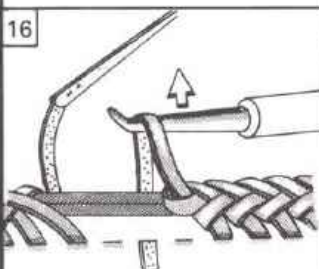
Begin removing end of lace as shown.



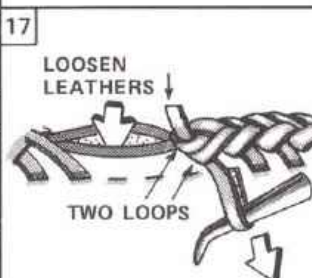
Pull end out of hole from back side.



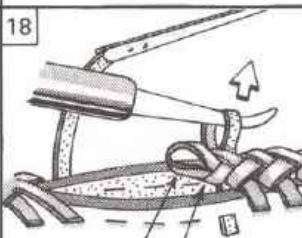
Pull end from under lacing at top.



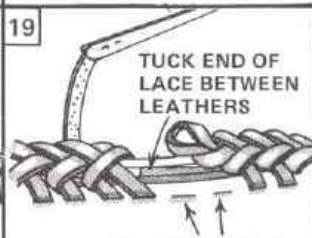
Pull end out of hole from back side.



Use stylus to loosen and spread leathers; breaking cement adhesion.



Pull end up BETWEEN leather. BE SURE to maintain the two loops.

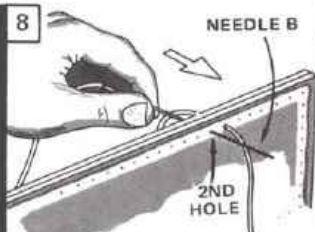


Trim some end; tuck between leathers. Lace to 2 open holes on front; one open hole on back.

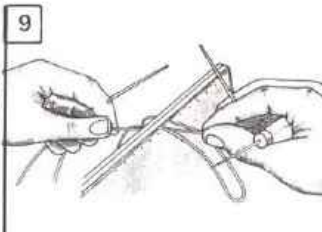
<p>20</p> <p>1ST LOOP</p> <p>Lace under bight and down through 1st loop.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>1ST LOOP 2ND LOOP</p> <p>Lace through next hole; filling open hole at back.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Lace UP through 1st loop.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Lace under bight; under ONE strand only at front.</p>
<p>24</p> <p>1ST LOOP 2ND LOOP</p> <p>Carefully push needle down through BOTH loops.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Push on lacing with fingers to adjust.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Go back to step 23 and begin pulling slack out of lace.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Continue pulling slack and tightening stitches.</p>
<p>28</p> <p>Pull slack down through both loops. Lacing should be adjusted to give an even appearance.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Lace through remaining hole and up between lacing at top.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Carefully cut off end. Tap lacing around project and rub or roll for evenness.</p>	

SADDLE STITCHING

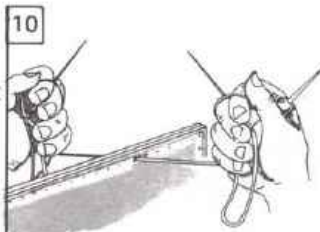
<p>RECOMMENDED USAGE:</p> <p>Saddle stitching is the best method for sewing two or more pieces of leather together.</p> <p>Use a Stitching awl to punch holes. You will also need two harness needles, stitching groover, over-stitch tool, unwaxed linen thread and beeswax or prewaxed thread.</p> <p>THREADING THE NEEDLE</p>		<p>1</p> <p>Use the stitching groover and gouge a channel around the edges of the leather. Gouge the leather on both sides. Keep tool tight against leather edges to insure a uniform gouge along the edge.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Moisten the gouged channels lightly with a damp sponge, and run the over-stitch tool all around the channel on the front side only. This marks position of awl holes to insure even stitches.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>CORRECT ANGLE</p> <p>Stab first hole with awl as shown above. Be sure to stab proper angle with the awl blade.</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Push one needle through hole and pull until equal amount of thread is on each side of leather.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>NEEDLE A NEEDLE B</p> <p>Punch second hole with awl. Hold needles as shown above.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>NEEDLE A NEEDLE B</p> <p>Push needle "A" through second hole from back side as shown. Always push back side needle through hole first.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>NEEDLE B NEEDLE A</p> <p>Push needle "B" through second hole from front of leather. Be careful not to pierce "A" with needle "B".</p>	



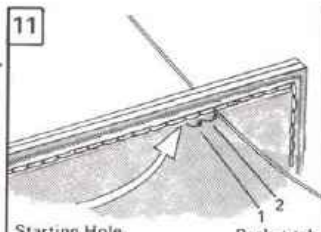
When putting needle "B" through always put it on the same side of thread "A". This will insure uniform appearing stitches.



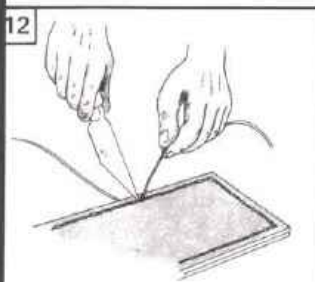
Pull both threads until all slack is taken up.



To tighten the stitch grip threads as shown and pull into gouged channel. Use equal tension with both hands. Continue stitching around project to starting hole.



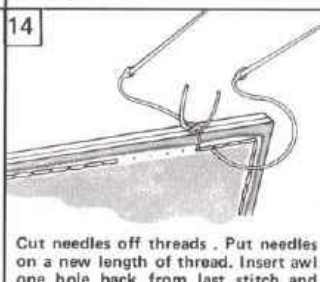
To complete stitching backstitch two holes from starting hole. Pull threads tight with each stitch.



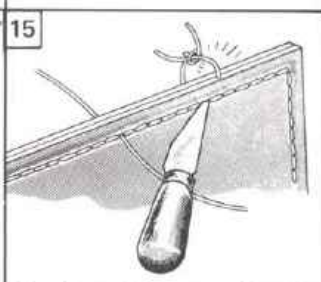
Cut threads off in stitching channel on both sides with a sharp knife.



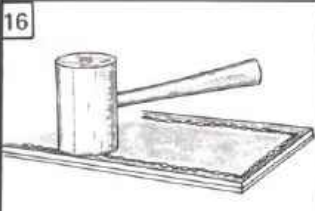
If you are sewing and use up a full length of thread and have not reached the starting hole, pull last stitch tight and tie threads together on top edge of leather as shown.



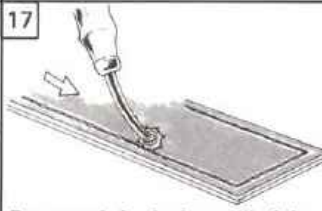
Cut needles off threads. Put needles on a new length of thread. Insert awl one hole back from last stitch and start new thread in this hole as explained in step 4. Continue stitching around project to starting hole.



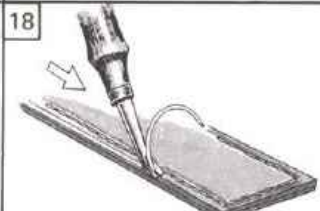
Complete stitching as explained in step 11, then cut off both sets of threads as explained in step 12.



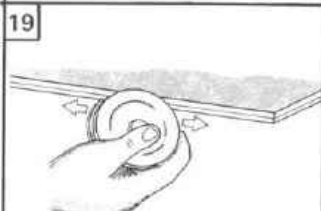
Lay project on work surface and tap over all stitching with a mallet. Be careful not to mar leather.



Run overstretch wheel over all of the stitches this actually helps the appearance of any slightly irregular stitches.



Round the edges of the leather on both sides with a bevel-edge baweler.



Moisten the edges of the leather and burnish with a circle edge slicker.

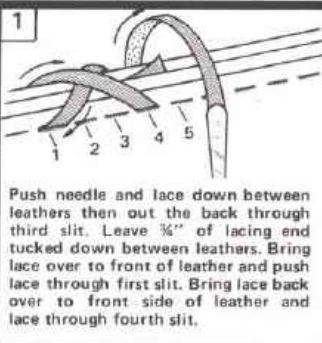
ROUND BRAID OR MEXICAN BASKETWEAVE

RECOMMENDED USAGE:

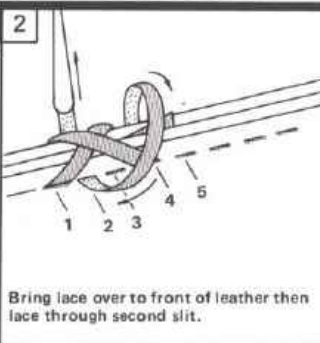
Use this stitch on any edge where a round braided effect is desired.

Use 1/8" or 3/16" lace with correspondingly sized slits or holes.

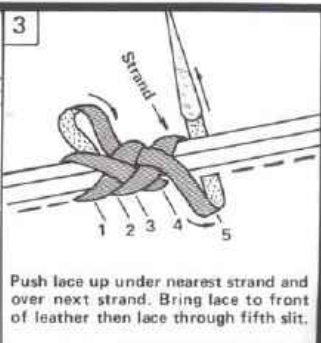
Round braid uses 9 times more lace than the length of the project. For example: if your project measures 2 ft. around laced part, you will need 18 ft. of lace.



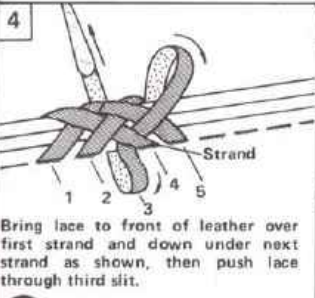
Push needle and lace down between leathers then out the back through third slit. Leave 3/4" of lacing end tucked down between leathers. Bring lace over to front of leather and push lace through first slit. Bring lace back over to front side of leather and lace through fourth slit.



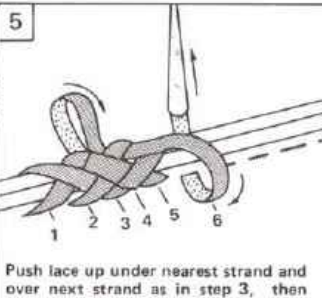
Bring lace over to front of leather then lace through second slit.



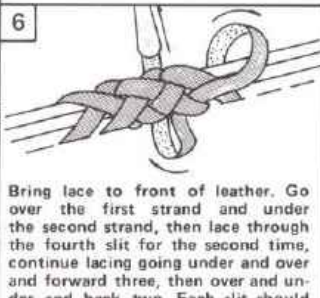
Push lace up under nearest strand and over next strand. Bring lace to front of leather then lace through fifth slit.



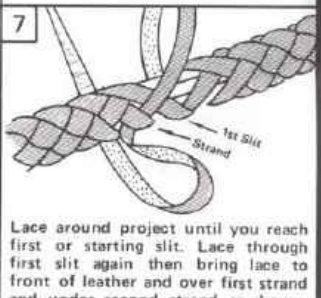
Bring lace to front of leather over first strand and down under next strand as shown, then push lace through third slit.



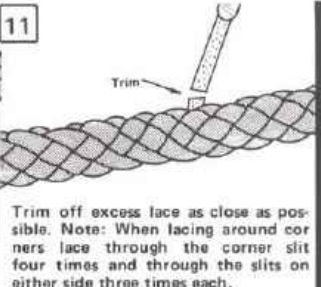
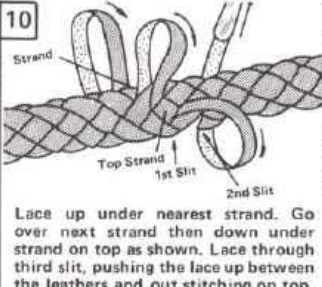
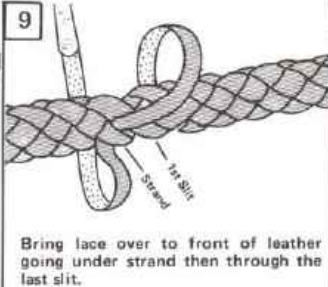
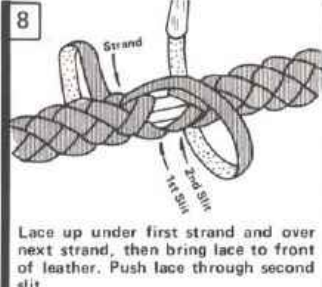
Push lace up under nearest strand and over next strand as in step 3, then lace through next open slit in line.



Bring lace to front of leather. Go over the first strand and under the second strand, then lace through the fourth slit for the second time, continue lacing going under and over and forward three, then over and under and back two. Each slit should be laced through twice.



Lace around project until you reach first or starting slit. Lace through first slit again then bring lace to front of leather and over first strand and under second strand as shown. Lace through next to last slit again.



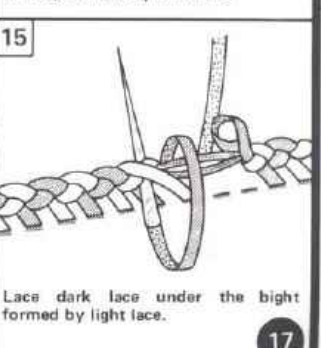
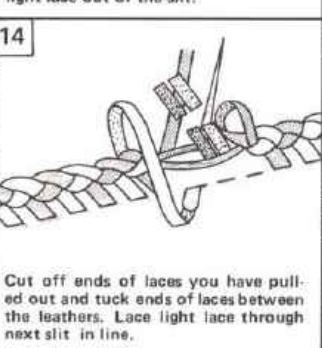
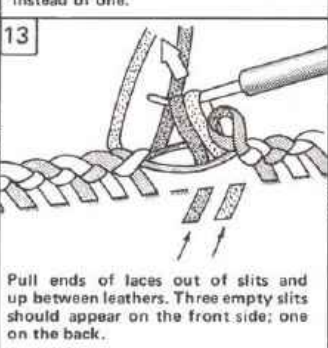
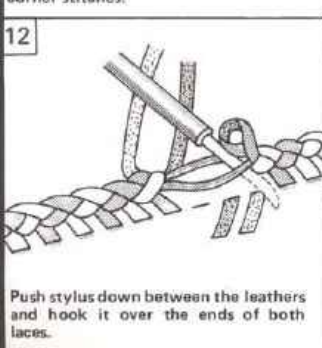
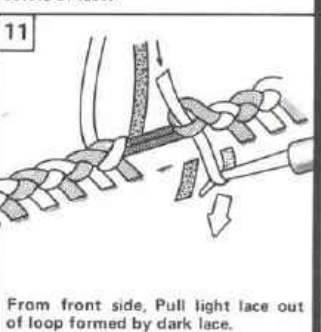
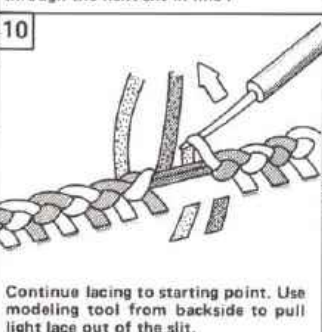
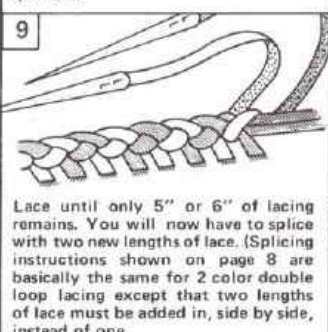
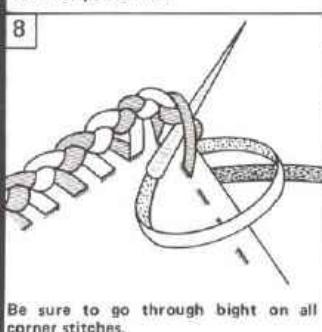
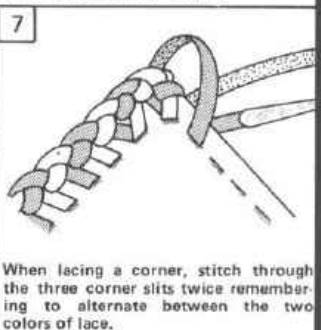
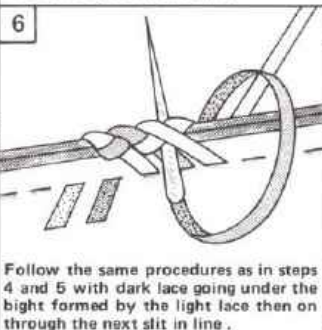
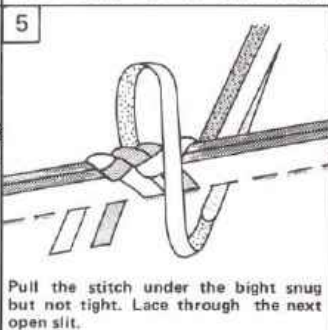
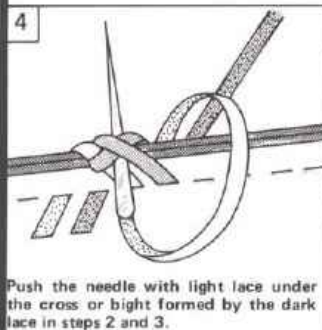
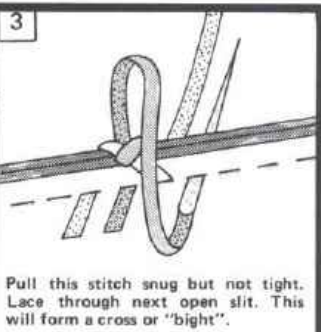
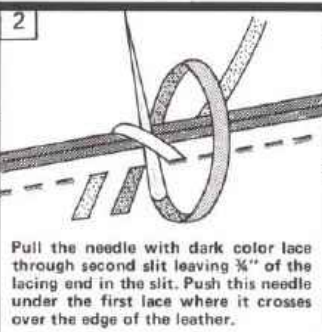
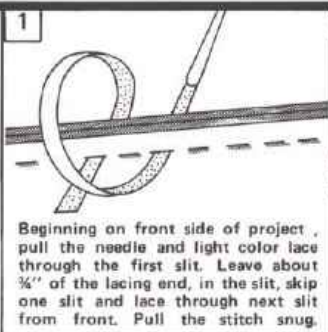
DOUBLE LOOP TWO TONE LACING

RECOMMENDED USAGE:

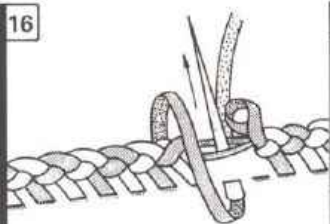
Medium size projects such as bill-folds, purses, clutches, etc.

Use 3/32" or 1/8" lace with correspondingly sized slits.

Two color double loop lace takes approximately 4' of one color lace and 4' of another color lace for each foot of project length laced. For example: if your project measures 2 ft. around laced part, you will need two 8ft. lengths of different colored lace.

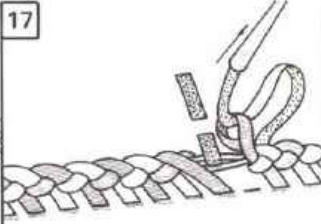


16



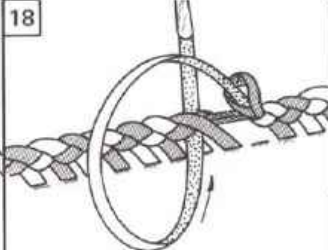
Lace dark lace through next slit in line. Go through hole in front leather only then bring lace up between leathers.

17



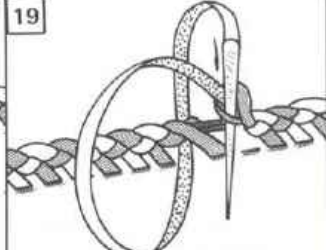
Cut off the end of the lace you have pulled out and tuck down between leathers. Pull light lace tight then lace up through loop, formed by dark lace, from the back side.

18



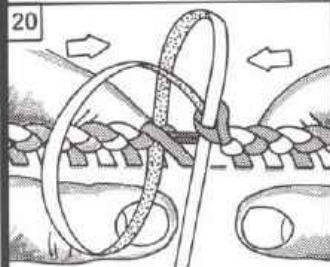
Lace under bight formed by dark lace. Do not pull this stitch tight.

19



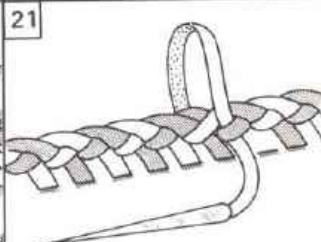
Carefully cross light lace over as shown and push needle down through loop formed by dark lace.

20



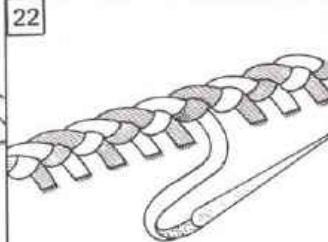
Pull needle through. Push laced areas together to adjust starting loop for easier completion.

21



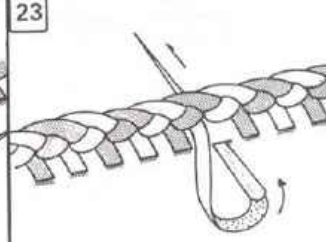
Pull any slack out of the first loop and adjust lacing with fingers to make all your stitches appear equal.

22



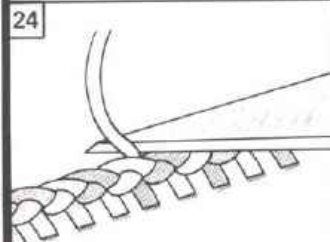
Pull end of light lace down tight. Make sure all your stitches appear equal.

23



Push needle through the last slit as shown. Bring it up between the leathers and out between the lacing.

24



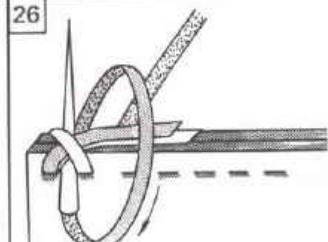
Carefully cut off the end of this lacing. Tap lacing flat with a mallet or roll flat with a wooden dowel.

25



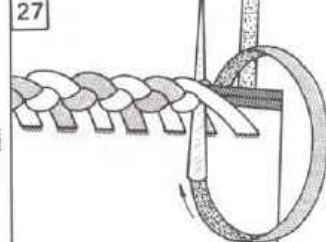
When you are not lacing completely around a project you will begin lacing by pulling both colors of lace through the first slit as shown. The light lace is shown on the inside in these instructions, the dark lace is shown on the outside. Leave $\frac{3}{4}$ " ends. Lay ends along the edge of the leather and lace over them starting with the light lace coming from the back and going into the second hole in line from the front.

26



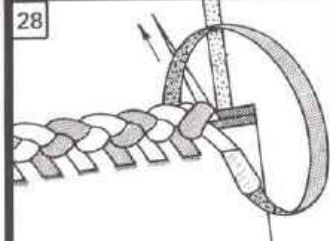
Pull the stitch tight, push the needle with dark lace through cross or bight formed in step 25. Continue lacing as shown in steps 3, 4, 5, and 6.

27



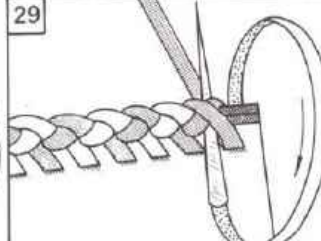
When ending, go through last slit with light lace as shown. Push needle and dark lace through bight formed by light lace.

28



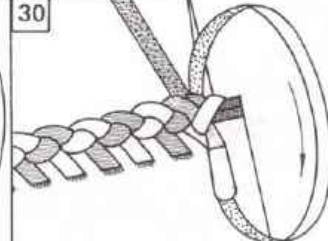
Push needle with dark lace through the last slit, through front only. Come up between the leathers and back a stitch.

29



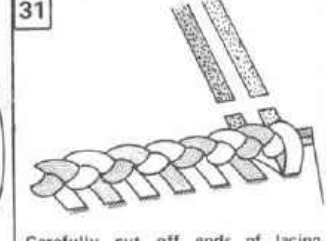
Push needle with light lace through bight formed by dark lace and pull the stitch snug.

30



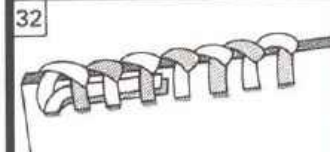
Push needle with light lace through last slit through front only. Come up between the leathers and back a stitch.

31



Carefully cut off ends of lacing. Note: Reverse the colors of the lace in steps 27 through 30 if you end with dark lace going through the last slit first.

32



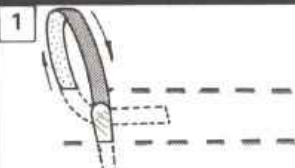
When two color double loop lacing on a single thickness of leather, begin as you did in step 25. When ending, run the two needles back under the last few stitches on the back of the leather.

APPLIQUE LACING

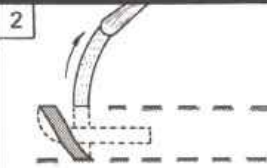
RECOMMENDED USAGE:

Decorative stitch on belts, purses, wallets, etc. Can also be used to overlay one piece of leather on another, such as a tooled initial patch on a purse.

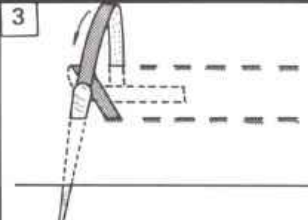
Use 3/32", 1/8" or 3/16" lace with correspondingly sized holes or slits.



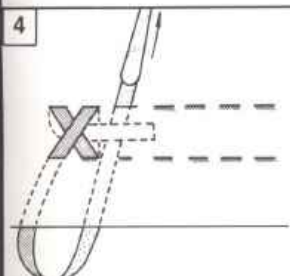
Beginning from backside of leather, pull needle and lace through first slit in top row. Leave about 3/4" of lacing end in slit, then push needle and lace through second slit on bottom row. Pull stitch snug but not tight.



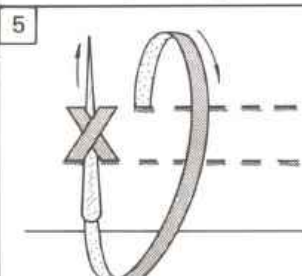
Lace up through second slit in top row, latching lacing end under stitch on back of leather.



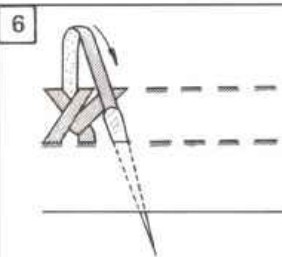
Cross over first stitch and lace through first slit on bottom row. This will form a cross or "bight".



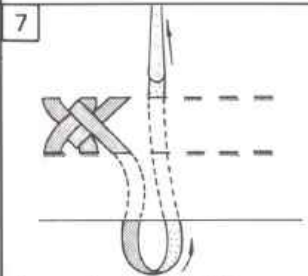
Lace through third slit on top again catching lacing end under stitch on back of leather.



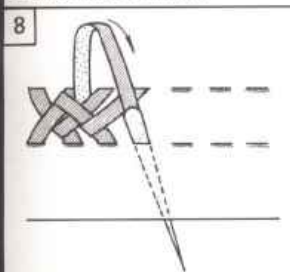
Push needle under cross or bight as shown.



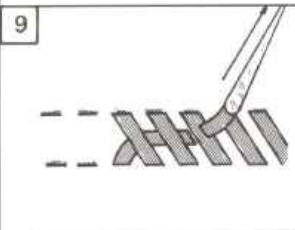
Pull stitch under bight snug but not tight. Lace through next slit in bottom row.



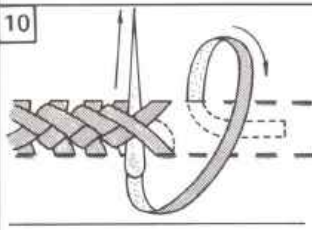
Lace up through next slit in top row, (second bight formed). Lace under second bight as in step 5.



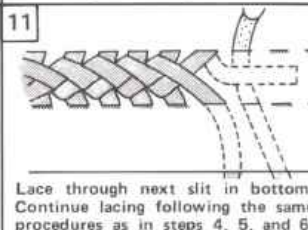
Lace through next slit in bottom. Continue lacing following the same procedures as in steps 4, 5, and 6.



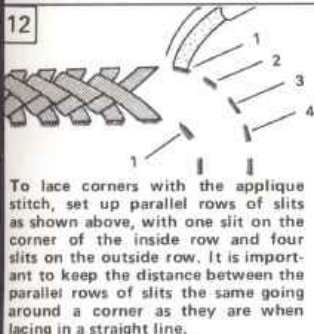
Lace until 5" or 6" of lacing remains. Lace under two stitches on the backside of leather and trim off excess. You are now ready to splice in a new length of lace.



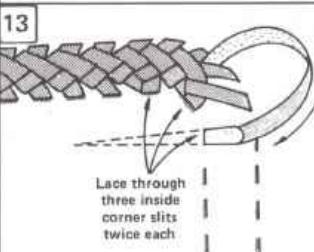
Insert newly threaded needle up through next slit in top row, leaving 3/4" of lacing end in slit. Push needle up through bight as shown and pull snug but not tight.



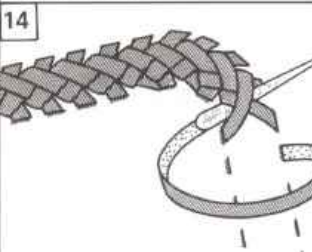
Lace through next slit in bottom. Continue lacing following the same procedures as in steps 4, 5, and 6. Moisten the gouged channels lightly with a damp sponge, and run the stitch tool around the channel on the front side only. This marks position of awl holes to insure even stitches.



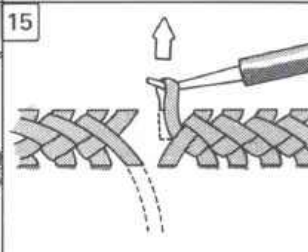
To lace corners with the applique stitch, set up parallel rows of slits as shown above, with one slit on the corner of the inside row and four slits on the outside row. It is important to keep the distance between the parallel rows of slits the same going around a corner as they are when lacing in a straight line.



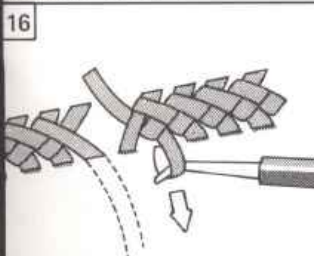
Lace through the three inside corner slits twice each and through the four outside corner slits once each, as shown.



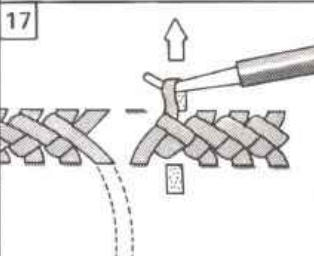
Be sure to go through bight on all corner stitches.



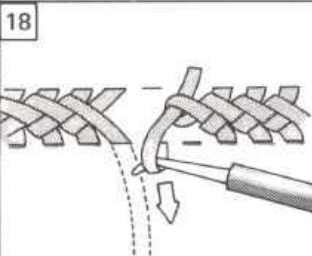
If you are lacing completely around a project, lace to starting point. Use modeling tool to pull end of lace free from first slit as shown.



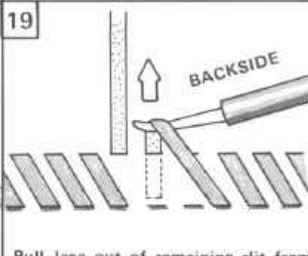
Pull end of lace out of loop.



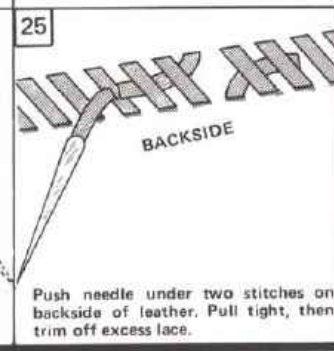
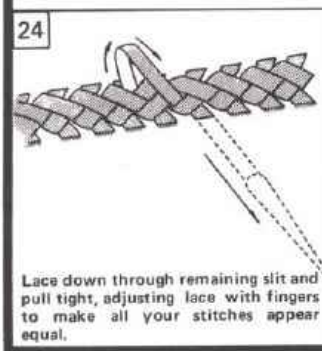
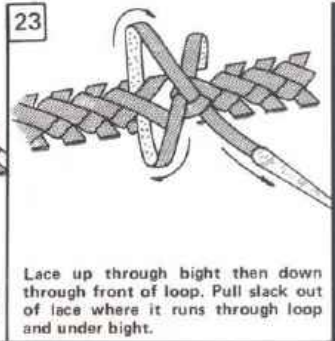
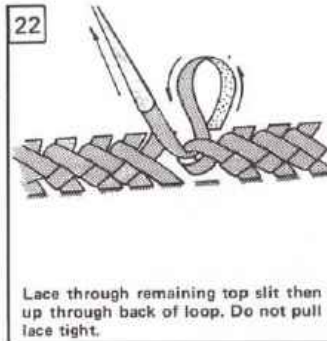
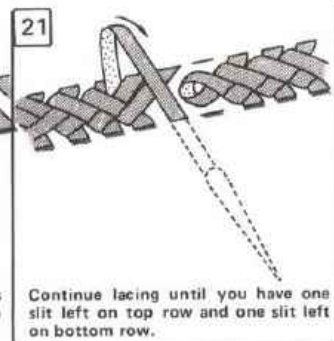
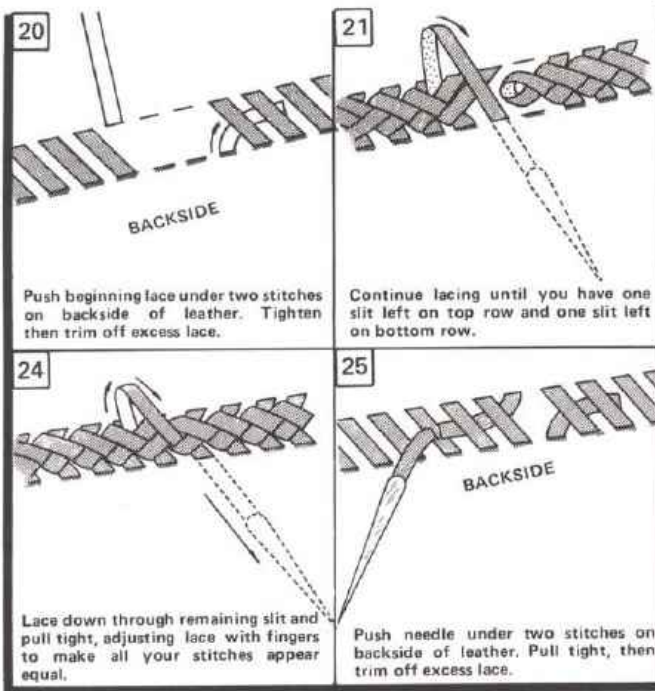
Pull end of lace out of second slit in bottom row and second slit in top.



Pull end of lace out of loop. Enlarge loop slightly with modeling tool.



Pull lace out of remaining slit from backside of leather which will leave four empty slits.



**The Art of
Hand
Sewing
Leather**
By Al Stohlman

#1944



**How to
Buckstitch**
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