

Look Sharp

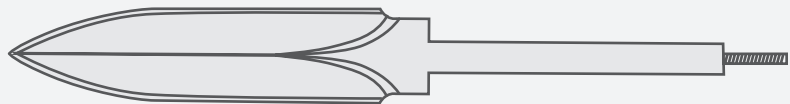
Stacked Leather Dagger Kit



MAN CRATES
PROJECTS

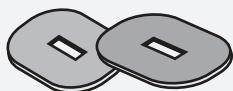
COMPONENTS

Everything provided to make your own stacked leather dagger



A8 Dagger Blade

x 1



G10 Washers

x 2



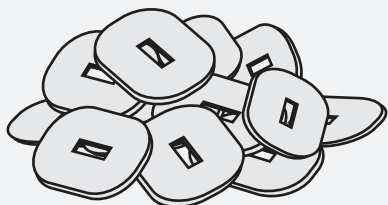
Nickel Guard

x 1



Screw Rivets

x 9



Leather Washers

x 30



Gel Superglue

x 1



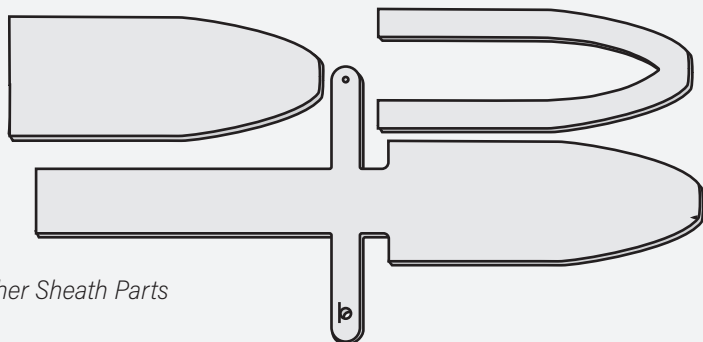
Button Stud

x 1



Nickel Pommel

x 1



Leather Sheath Parts

x 3

The Blade

This custom dagger blade is made from quality AUS-8 stainless steel, composed of carbon, chromium, vanadium, and super-sharpium. Okay, we made that last one up, but everything else is real and contributes to the blade's exceptional hardness, durability, and edge retention.

This blade clocks in at 58-59 HRC on the Rockwell hardness scale and will be a reliable companion on your next big adventure.

The Handle

They say, "Beauty is in the eye of the blade holder," and you can customize this handle to perfectly fit your grip. The stacked leather washers create a comfortable, durable, and classic look between the steel guard, pommel, and G10 washers. It's easy to assemble, yet extremely robust.

The Sheath

Legally, you need a visible way to carry your fixed blade. You'll be assembling a nifty veg-tanned leather sheath from pre-cut pieces, glue, and a few screw rivets.

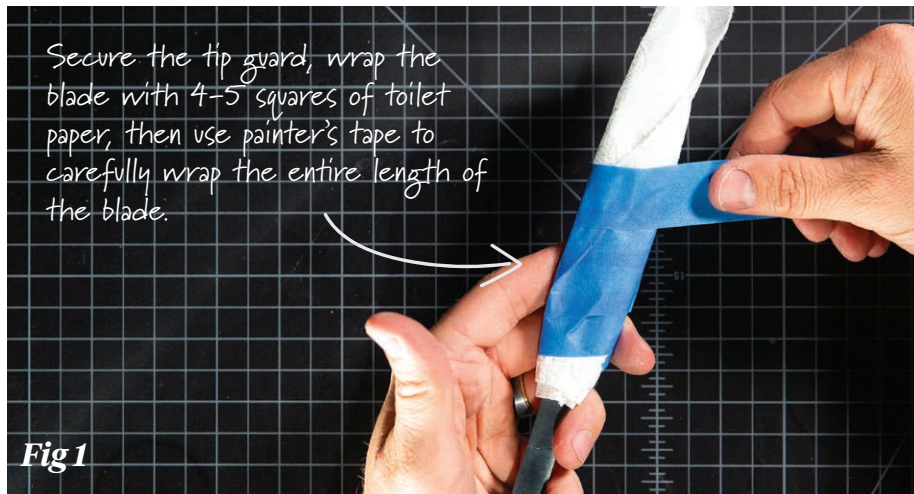


**This project takes on average
8 hours to complete**

You'll also need: a vise, a rasp and file set, a drill with 1/4" bit, a screwdriver, painter's tape, a utility knife, a ruler, and sandpaper (200-800). You may choose to use leather dye, beeswax, or lacquer for finishing as well.

ASSEMBLY

Attaching the handle onto the knife tang



- 1** Safety first. Securely wrap the sharp part of your knife to keep the blade unblemished and your fingers connected during the assembly and shaping stages (Fig 1).
- 2** Practice assembling the knife by inserting the guard and a G10 washer over the tang, followed by the round leather washers, the remaining G10 washer, and finally the nickel pommel (Fig 2). The pressure from the pommel will compress the leather, so add leather washers accordingly.



Pro Tip:

Shaping the assembled handle will be harder than expected. If you know the general shape of your desired handle, you can use a utility blade to trim the individual washers before assembling.

- 3** Disassemble, then use glue to cement the guard and washer in place (Fig 3). Next, add leather washers without gluing in between (Fig 4).
- 4** Hand-tighten the pommel until snug. If your grip isn't what it used to be, some pliers should do the trick.



SHAPING

Forming the handle



Fig 5

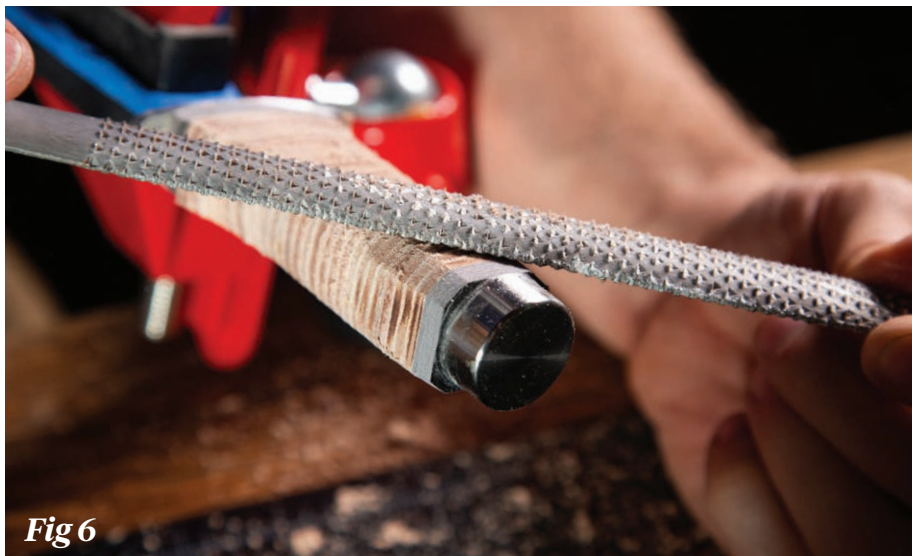


Fig 6

Pro Tip:

You can use a rasp and file set to shape the handle. You can also use power tools like a belt sander, grinding wheel, or rotary tool if you're in a hurry or are afraid to be alone with your thoughts.

- 1 Let's get shaping! Start around the guard and pommel and work toward a smooth, seamless transition from the metal to G10 washer to leather. (Fig 5, 6).
- 2 Continue shaping the rest of the handle beginning with coarse tools like a rasp and progressing toward finer tools like a file.
- 3 Round the edges with a file to achieve desired shape (Fig 7). Make sure you've removed any deep scratches with the coarse tools before moving onto the finer ones. Any small scratches can be sanded out in the next step.



Fig 7



Fig 8

- 4** Use sandpaper to smooth the leather, pommel, and guard (Fig 8, 9). Use up to 220 grit on the leather and up to 800 grit on the guard and pommel for a polished finish.



Stretch the sandpaper between your hands and drag it back and forth across the handle.

Fig 9

FINISHING

Final touches to make it unique

We recommend waterproofing the handle with beeswax or lacquer. If you intend to stain or dye the leather, do so before adding finish. Leather dyes are optimal, but wood stain can work in a pinch.

- 1** **Lacquer Finish:** Apply several coats as if it were wood. Paint or rub generous coats, then allow it to dry according to manufacturer's instructions.
- 2** Sand between coats with a very fine grade above 220. The leather is porous and will absorb a lot of lacquer. Apply liberally (Fig 10).
- 3** Finish by rubbing the handle vigorously with a leftover leather washer. This is called "burnishing" and will bring out a smooth polish (Fig 11).



Fig 10

Beeswax is the more traditional and durable waterproofing method. It's also the simplest to apply. You'll need a hair dryer or heat gun and a small chunk of beeswax.

- 1** **Beeswax Finish:** Use heat to warm the wax until soft, then rub it into the leather of the handle. Then, use the heat source to melt any excess wax left on the surface into the handle. The leather should soak up a lot of wax.
- 2** Once the wax has saturated the handle, use a fine grade sandpaper to remove any wax. After, apply a room temperature coat of wax by hand.
- 3** Finish by rubbing the handle vigorously with a leftover leather washer. This is called "burnishing" and will bring out a smooth polish (Fig 11).



Fig 11

THE SHEATH

Assembling the sheath



Fig 12

Pro Tip:

The vegetable tanned leather looks light in color, but will darken and develop a beautiful patina as it ages. If you'd like to stain or dye your sheath, you should do so before assembly.

- 1** Fix the button stud rivet into the hole on the front panel of the sheath (Fig 12). Use a screwdriver to screw the back into the stud with the knob on the smooth side of the leather.
- 2** Apply a layer of glue to the welt and press it onto the rough side of the front panel (Fig 13). Squeeze the two pieces together for a few minutes until the glue has set (Fig 14).



Fig 13



- 3** Next, find the belt loop on the back panel and fold it over so the rough side is facing outward. Ensure the loop created is large enough for your belt to slide through, then glue it in place.
- 4** Once dry, use a 1/4" drill bit to create a hole where you just glued (Fig 15), then add a screw rivet for extra security (Fig 16).
- 5** Apply a layer of glue to the welt and press it onto the back panel of the sheath (Fig 17) and apply pressure until dry.
- 6** Time to add more rivets. Measure in 1/4" from the edge of the sheath (Fig 18), then evenly space where you will drill eight holes (four on each side). Using your 1/4" bit, drill where you've marked (Fig 19).

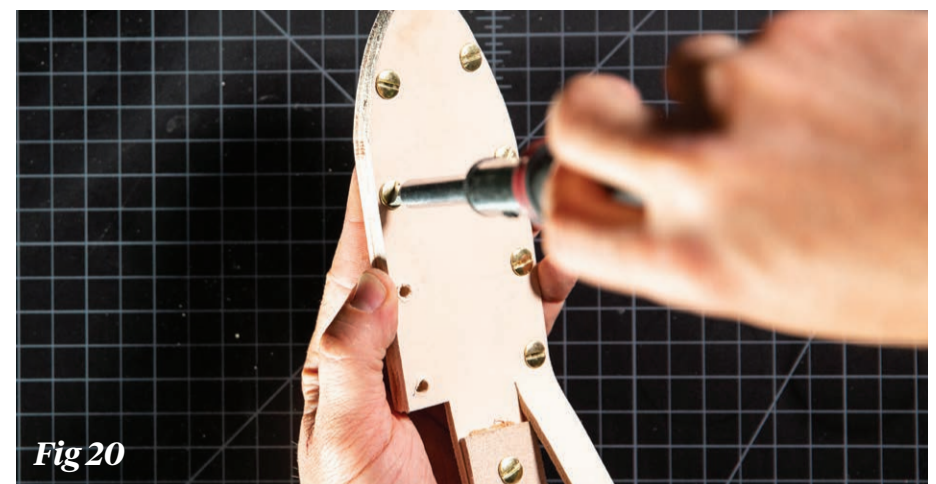


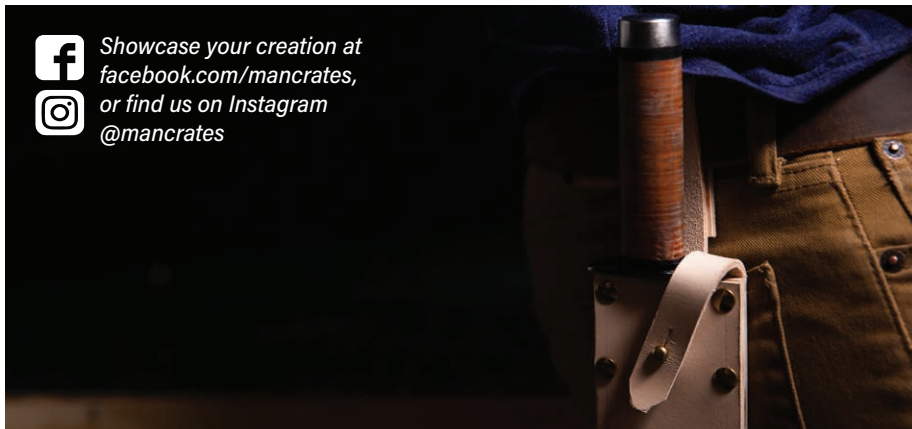


Fig 21



Fig 22

- 7 Insert the remaining screw rivets into these holes to reinforce the sheath (Fig 20).
- 8 Sand the side edges of the sheath with 150 grit to remove any excess glue and ensure all sides are flush (Fig 21).
- 8 Lightly wet the side edges of the sheath, then use a hard smooth metal (like a pipe or spoon bottom) and rub vigorously along the edges to burnish. (Fig 22)



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