



MAN CRATES
PROJECTS

TROUSER WOWZER

LEATHER BELT MAKING KIT





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The Leather

Congratulations! You're receiving a solid strip of full-grain buffalo leather for your pants-holding pleasure. This oil-tanned shoulder cut will make for a quality belt that will far outlast your pants. We've prepped your project by beveling the belt strip edges, skiving one end, and selecting a matching belt keeper. This belt is long enough to accommodate a 50" waist, but if you haven't worked your way there yet, you can trim it to fit your dainty figure.

The Hardware

We've provided a 5mm hole punch for leather puncturing and a small piece of poly board for countertop non-puncturing. These are the only specialty tools you'll need to fasten your belt buckle firmly in place. We've also used screw rivets so you can easily upgrade the classic heel bar for snazzier occasions.

* **Other things you'll need:** We've provided specialty tools, but this project also requires a sharp blade, screwdriver, and hammer or hammer-like heavy thing. These tools are handyman must-haves, so if you don't already own them, now's a great time to rectify that offense.

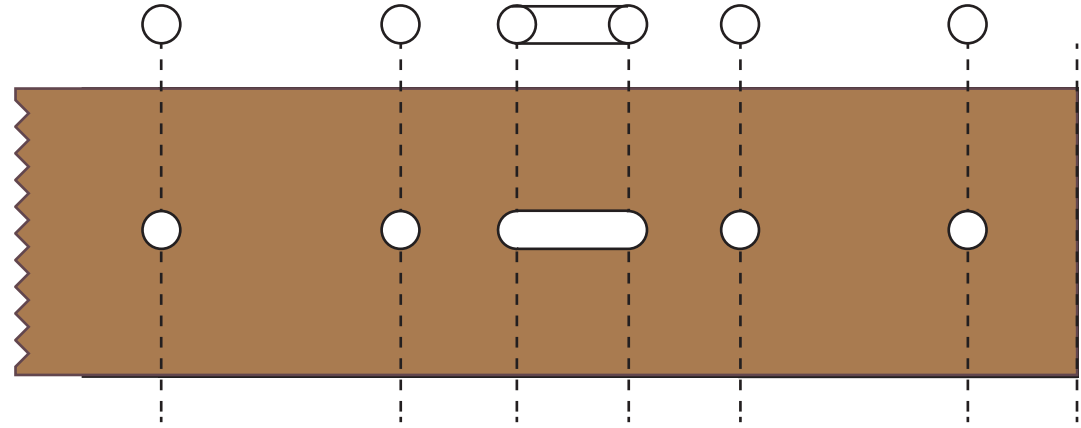
THE BUCKLE

Your first step will be attaching the buckle to the belt. We've shaved one end of the belt thinner than the other. This is called "skiving," and it's beneficial for when the leather is folded and doubled over itself. You're welcome.

On the following page, you'll find a handy diagram to make this job easier. You'll be punching four holes for your rivets and a longer, single channel to hold the prong of the buckle. Lay the skived end of your belt over the visual guide and mark the hole positions for the belt. Next, place the belt on the poly board and punch holes in the belt using the 5mm hole punch and hammer.

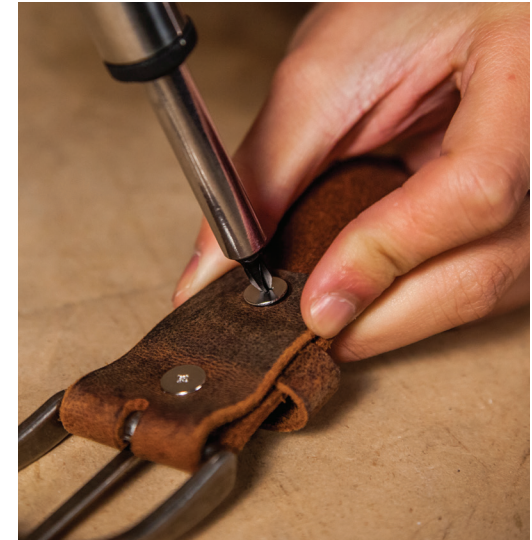
To create the channel, first punch holes at both ends of the channel as shown, then use your sharp blade to cut the leather connecting the holes together.

To attach the buckle, slip the prong through the long channel, then fold the belt over the heel bar and connect the nearest holes with a screw rivet.



Next, slide the belt keeper between the two strip layers, then seal it by connecting the second rivet.

PRO-TIP: Place the smooth-finished side of the leather grain up when cutting. It helps to cut alongside a straight edge, making several light passes on the same cut rather than trying to do it all in one hard stroke. Slow and steady, no need to be a hero here.



FINISHING

Most belts have five adjustment holes to account for your latitudinal fluxuations. If you expand or contract more than the average individual, punch all the holes you need, then maybe also consult a physician.

For hole positioning, there's no need to reinvent the wheel. Find your favorite belt, lay it atop the leather strip, and mark the ideal hole position for your new favorite belt.

Next, use a ruler to measure for the additional holes spaced one inch apart. The hole you use most often is traditionally in the center, but you're a freethinking human and can do whatever you please.



The final step is to cut your belt to proper length. Measure three to four inches from the last hole, and use a blade to cut the belt to proper length.

Finally, choose the shape of belt tail that best expresses your inner being. Cut to size, then strut your stuff all over town.

PRO TIP: A curvy cut is actually a ton of straight cuts. Mind blown? Use a ruler to cut off the corner, then keep cutting off the new corners until you have a smooth curve.



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