



I Did it My Way Making a Scabbard

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I needed a scabbard for a sword I was commissioned to make. I started with a select piece of 1"x4" clear spruce 6' long.

First thing I did was layer 3 pieces of painters tape on the sword. Both to protect it, but also add some width to the blade so that it wasn't a tight fit.



I cut it in $\frac{1}{2}$ and traced the outline of the sword on the wood.





Then measure the thickness of the sword and divide by 2 so you know how deep to cut into the wood.



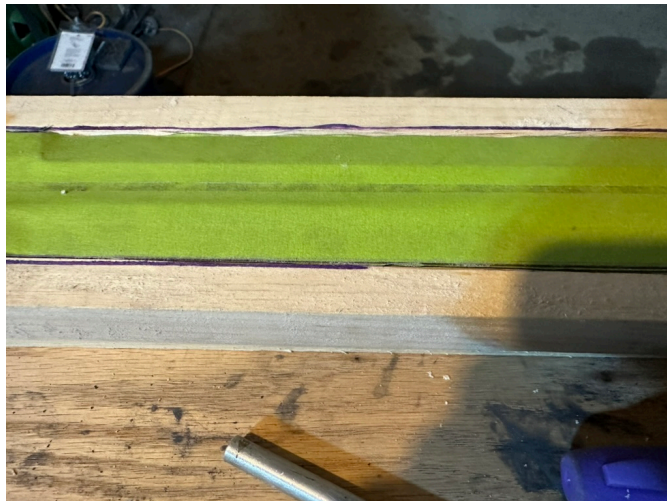
I then used my 2x72 grinder with a 2" wheel to grind out the hollow.

Checking the depth often to make sure I didn't go too deep.

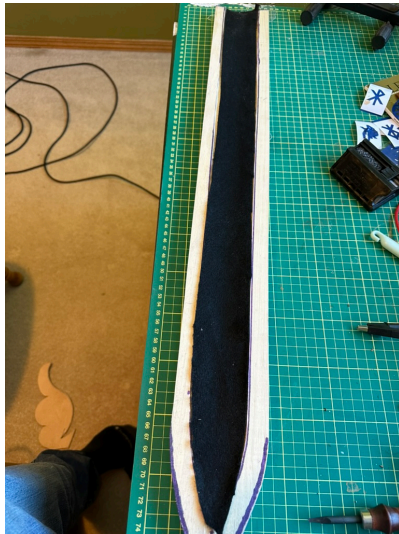
I then rotated the the grinder to create some depth on the edges because I was going to line the sheath with felt.



The nice thing was that the sword was just under 2" wide so the 2" belt was a perfect fit.



After completing both halves, I then used contact cement to glue in a felt liner. I did make this a tight fit because I knew that the felt would compress over time and final polishing and sharpening would also remove a few thousands of an inch.



After the felt setup, I then used wood glue to glue the two halves together and shaped by cutting and sanding so that the wood approx $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick. I used my calipers to continually check.



At this point, the scabbard was still very tight. In fact I thought it was too tight as it required a LOT of effort to sheath the sword and pull it. Turns out it was just about perfect once everything was done.

I used tape to determine the width of leather I would need by wrapping around the scabbard then measuring the length of the tape.



To determine the pattern for covering the tip I wrapped the whole thing in a couple layers of tape then cut the tape off to create the pattern.





The ridges were just leather lacing super glued to the wood at 3" intervals. The main strapping was 3", the gap between the strap sections will vary depending on the length and balance point of the sword.



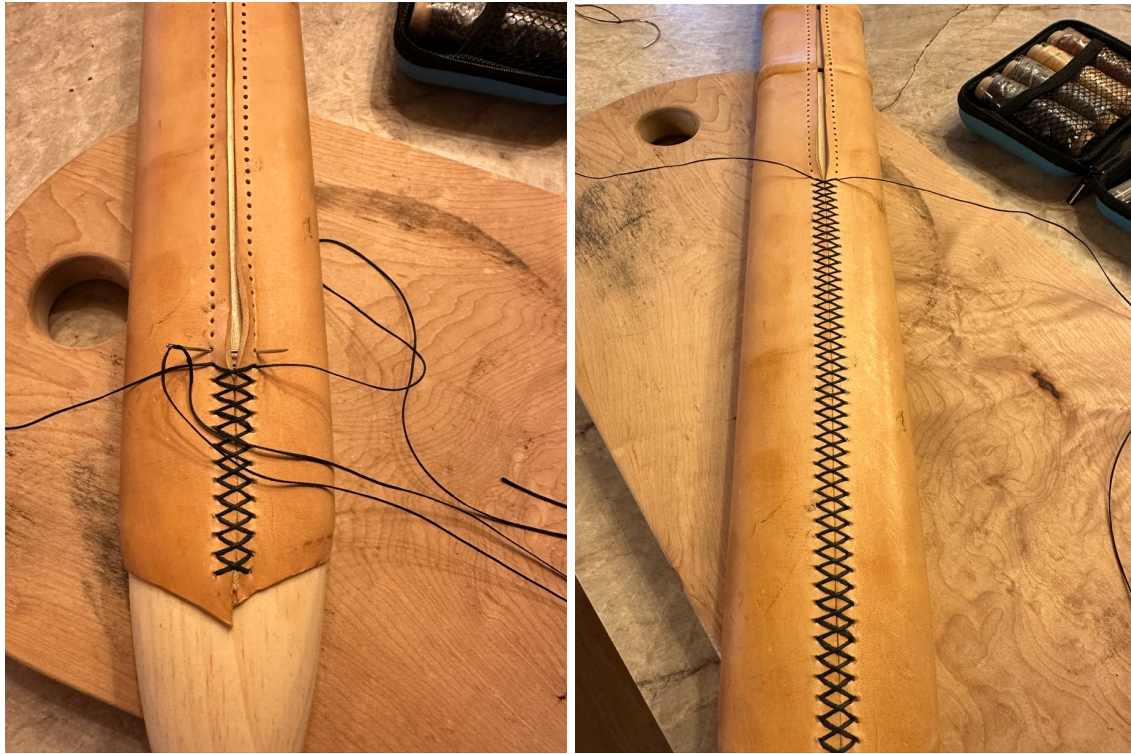
After measuring and cutting the main body, using the tape from earlier, I then heavily skived the end to almost 0 thickness so the point boot could slide over.

I marked centerlines on the leather and sheath and used contact cement to lay on the leather. I did dampen the outside before sticking the leather so that I could do some stretching over the ridges.





Now comes the long dark of stitching. I punched holes down each side. VERY careful measurements on where to start and ensuring I had the same hole count. Then applied more contact cement and rolled the rest of the leather up and on to the wood.



I did have to pull the leather tight, but it did end up being a very exact fit.

I then used epoxy to layer the inside of the tip to secure it to the wood frame.

The end result:

The strapping is $\frac{7}{8}$ " Strapping in a traditional wrap



Solar Storm Forge
1678653 Alberta Ltd
<https://www.solarstorm.ca>
1 780-953-0016
Bob@solarstorm.ca

