

Decorating & Assembling Leather

We can make a wide variety of items from leather. In some cases it is also desirable to “decorate” the leather. There are a number of ways to decorate leather. Leather can be stamped, carved and tooled, branded, stained and dyed and more. In this lesson, we will explore some of the methods other than stamping or carving and tooling for decorating leather.

What other methods are there for decorating leather?

Stamping and carving/tooling are some of the most common ways of decorating leather. There are a number of other methods that can be used to decorate leather as well. The use of decorative conchos is one method. Another is the use of decorative riveting. Stitching/lacing can also be used to decorate leather. A variety of stains and dyes can be used to decorate plain as well as stamped and/or carved/tooled leather. Leather can also be braided for decorative effect. What other ways can you think of to decorate leather items?

Leathercraft projects are often made from multiple pieces of leather and/or other materials and must be assembled or put together in order to be completed.

What methods are there for assembling leathercraft projects?

Just as there are a variety of methods for decorating leather, there are a variety of methods for assembling leathercraft projects. Pieces of leather or other material can be stitched together, using either a waxed cotton thread or leather lacing. For some projects, glue is used to assemble all or part of the project. In some case, rivets or conchos are used to both decorate and attach pieces. Some projects require putting leather piece together in a manner that can be adjustable or detachable. In those cases, the use of a variety of buckles or screws are used for assembly.

Think of different types of leathercraft projects that may need to be assembled and decide what kind of assembly method you would use on that project. Are there projects that use more than one assembly method? If so, what kind of projects are they, what are the different assembly methods that may be used and why?

Your Decorating & Assembly Assignment

You will need multiple small projects and one assembly project to complete this assignment.

Complete at least three small projects that use three different decoration methods (your choice of method for each project).

Complete at least one project that requires assembly.