

Wolf Head Manual

Difficulty: medium

Tools needed: basic

Recommended materials

- > 2,5 mm (6 oz) veg. tanned leather
- > 5 cm (2 inch) wide and 17 cm (7 inch) long 2,5 mm (6 oz) veg tanned leather strap
- > Fur from sheep
- > 2 screw rivets

Tools: edge trimmer, cutting knife, burnisher, hole punch, leather stamps, bone folder, clamps, sewing material, diamond shaped chisel, awl, wing divider, glue, screw rivets

Video Tutorial:

<https://youtu.be/Ks-ugYbpD-k>

Note:

- > Black lines show you where to cut.
- > **Red dots** with numbers show where to punch holes with a hole punch. The diameter is written in mm on the dots.
- > **Red dotted** lines show where to punch stitching holes with diamond shaped chisel. Keep a minimum of 3 mm distance from the edges.
- > Hole areas in **green** show where other pieces are **estimated**, in white it is written which piece fits here.
- > The grey line shows where to leather carve and put on ornaments, use pictures as reference.
- > The **blue** areas show you roughly where to thin out the leather on the **flesh side**.
- > On every piece is written the name and from what material it should be.

General Note: For the main head piece the top side of the leather will be the inside of the wolf head. Also the Jaw where the bone goes up and where it will be attached this is the inside.

A lot of the shaping of the final look will be done by cutting the fur, so smaller mistakes can be easy hidden.

Manual

Step 1

Printing and cutting out on paper. I highly recommend a rough cardboard or paper model first. Change the printout in scale if needed.

Note: You can print a large formats document such as a poster, banner or this pattern by splitting the page over several sheets (tile / poster function). This calculates how many sheets of paper are needed. You can adjust the size of the original to fit the paper size and specify how much the parts overlap. After that you want to cut away the edges and tape them together.

Step 2

Draw all the lines on the leather and cut out.

Note: Always check if your pieces fit together. Make sure the edges line up where is most important and the rough shapes fits to.

Note: I recommend only cutting out one side of the teeth the upper or lower line and cut the others after gluing and folding, so the teeth cuts are on point.

Step 3

- Moisten the leather and put on all ornaments on the grey lines.
- Bevel and polish all the edges that will stand for them self.
- Thin out the **blue areas** on the flesh side, be careful not to cut through.
- Punch the holes on the **red** dots.

Step 4

Moisten the teeth pieces, bend and glue them and cut them into the very same shape.

Step 5

Apply dye, a black base coat is recommended. On the flesh side you also want to dye the ears. Put on paint, resist, antique gel and another coat of resist.

Step 6

Assemble the pieces.

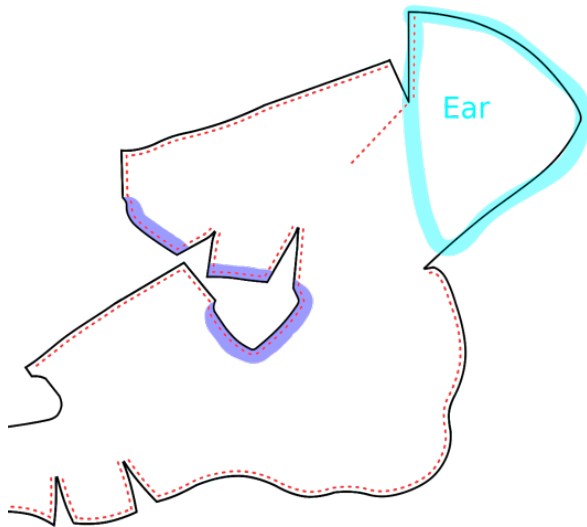
Step 7

Now the clock will start to tick. The hardening is mainly needed for the big head piece.

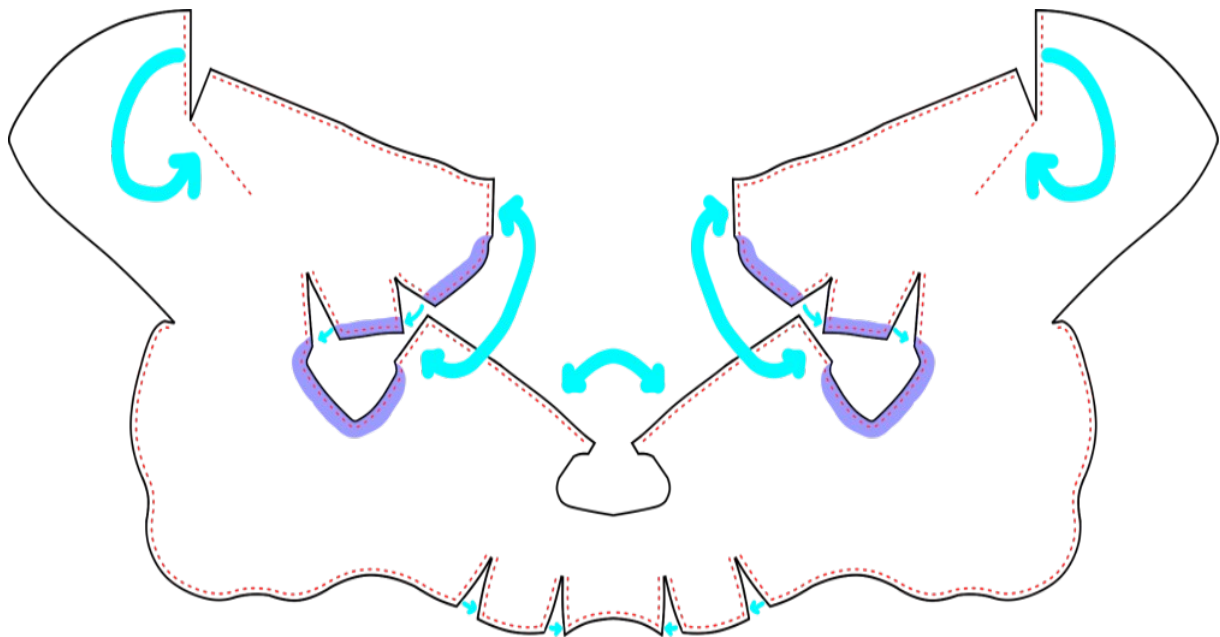
Water hardening: Harden the leather within about 50°C (122° F) hot water for about 25-30 minutes. The Leather will need about 14 hours to dry, use this time to shape it into its final form.

When taking the leather out of the water it will take about 5 hours before you can even start doing anything. When the leather is not super soft anymore (after the 5 hours) you want to put contact cement on the flesh side of the big head piece and the fur. Note that you want to leave out the ears (on the head piece the very top left and

right most areas). You do not need to cut out the fur in advance but you want to mark where the head piece will be placed. Glue flesh side on flesh side together and cut out the fur along the edges with a sharp knife. Glue the ears out of fur on the TOP SIDE of the leather wolf head and fold over the edge.



Use an awl to cut the sowing holes also through the fur and sow the edges together. Use this schema to see which edges need to be sown together. Pre shave the area between the eyes.



The still moist leather has to be shaped into its final form. Here you especially want to roll in the top of the eyes and shape the mouth and cheeks. Do not forget the sow on the ears, you way have to shave free the spot first.

Step 7

Shave free the area of the nose on the head. Form the nose like seen on the picture and place it on the wolf head. Clamp it in place and use an awl to punch the sowing holes through the sowing holes on the nose. Then sow the nose in place.



Step 8

Shave the fur. Take your time here since this is the major step on shaping the head. Use pictures as reference and maybe think about that emotion the head should show, like more aggressive or normal?

Generally spoken you always want to shave the fur short in the area around the mouth, and between the nose and eyes, also the outside of the ears and around the eyes. Going further away from the nose more to the cheeks you want to let the hair stay longer.

You also can use the shaving to shape the eyebrows.

I also shaved a lot away in later steps when I notice a spot I missed.

Step 9

Shape the upper teeth along the inside and clamp it in place and mark on the teeth where to put on glue and glue on the teeth.

Use an awl to punch the sewing holes through the teeth along the pre punched holes on the head and sew it.

Step 10 Jaw

Shape the jaw along the wolf head. Dye the leather of the jaw fur piece. Put the jaw fur for a test along the jaw and if everything fits put contact cement on both pieces and glue it on.

Use the 5 cm (2 inch) wide and 17 cm (7 inch) long 2,5 mm (6 oz) veg tanned leather strap as a stabilizer on the jaw.

Put the jaw side on the fitting position on the jaw and shave away all the excess fur and glue on the jaw side and sew it on.

Punch sewing holes along the edge of the fur along the teeth and sew them on.

Punch the two round holes.

Step 11

Use acrylic paint and paint the fur around the teeth, around the nose and eyes black to give the fur a bit more dirty and imperfect look. Use a brush and your fingers to distribute the dye more.

Step 12

Position the jaw on the wolf head, clamp it and mark where to punch the holes to attach it, punch them and put in screw rivets.

You also can put some fabric in the empty eye holes and LEDs behind it.

Enjoy!
I would love to hear your feedback!