

Manual Skull Bracer

Difficulty: medium

Tools needed: basic

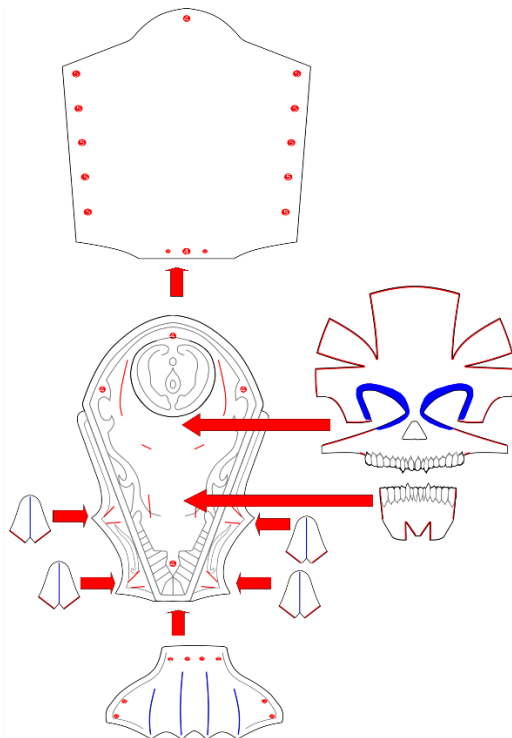
Recommended materials

- > 2,5 mm veg. tanned leather
- > Rivets with about 9 mm head diameter (for the 4 mm holes)
- > Rivets with about 3 mm head diameter (for the 2 mm holes)
- > Loops for 5 mm holes
- > Rubber band 2.5 cm wide
- > Leather string / rubber string
- > Dye, paint, resistances, etc.

> Tools: edge trimmer, cutting knife, burnisher, hole punch, leather carving tools, bone folder, sewing material

Note:

- > Black lines show you where to cut.
- > Black dots with numbers show where to punch holes with a hole punch. The diameter is written in mm on the dots.
- > **Red** lines show where to punch stitching holes with diamond hole punches. Keep a minimum of 2 mm distance from the edges.
- > The grey line shows where to leather carve.
- > The **blue** areas show you roughly where to thin out the leather on the **flesh side**. Some also show you additionally where the other leather pieces will overlap.



Here is a schematic on how to build the bracer.

Manual

Step 1

Print and cut out on paper. Check the size, change the printout in scale if needed. I recommend making a rough paper model.

Step 2

Draw the lines on the leather and cut out.

Step 3

Bevel and polish the edges. Tool the teeth (I recommend not using a swivel knife on the skull since the cuts will open when bend). Put on all ornaments. Punch the sowing holes and the bigger holes, besides the 4 mm holes on the 'lower bracer piece' yet.

Step 4

Apply dye. I used black as base for the 'skull', the side pieces left and right, and the 'front piece'. All other pieces I dyed brown. For the metallic effect I used a resist with 'Pearl Ex Powdered Pigments' in antique silver and sky blue. Apply a finish/resist on all pieces.

Step 5 (optional)

Moisten the leather of the skull pieces and shape them into rough form. Let it dry before you press on.

Step 6

Sow the skull itself, most of its edges are meant to fit on its own.

Step 7 (the bit harder part)

Moisten both skull pieces and shape them with the bone folder from the inside, use pictures of skulls a reference.

- Start with rounding the head.
- Next up the cheekbones.
- Roll in the edge of the eyes.
- Shape the eyebrows.
- Press in the area between the eyes and pull the nose out.
- Shape the lower jaw into its round form and roll in the lower edge.

Also moisten the other bracer pieces and bring them into shape.

Step 8 (optional)

Harden the leather by putting it in hot water (max 50°C) for 3-5 min. Let it try for about 6 h, ensure while this time pieces keeps their shape.

Step 9

Time to sow on both skull pieces on the 'upper bracer piece', where the area is marked. Notice the main skull piece goes under the big lash you've cut out along the black line. Moisten the big lash and make it fit perfect on the skull. After drying glue, sow it on the skull.

Sow on the 'horns' on the 'upper bracer piece'.



Sow the 'skull' on the 'upper bracer piece' at these positions.

Step 10

Put the 'upper bracer piece' on the 'lower bracer piece' and check through the 4 mm holes of the 'upper bracer piece' if the marks for the 4 mm holes along the centerline on the lower piece still fit. Mark them and punch them.

There are also two 4 mm hole on the sides of the upper piece. Through those mark the perfect position on the lower bracer piece and punch them as well.

Step 11

Put in the 5 mm loops.

Step 12

Use the 2.5 cm rubber band on the 'hand piece' to fit and holed onto your hand. Use glue and the 3 mm rivets to fix it.

Use the 2.5 cm rubber band also to fix the 'hand piece' on the 'lower bracer piece'. Check what distance fits you. Use glue and the 3 mm rivets to fix it.

Step 13

You can add some decorative straps on the 'lower bracer piece' (see picture at the end).

Use glue and rivets to fit the two big pieces together.

Step 15

Put a string through the loops.

Enjoy!

I would love to hear your feedback!

