

Card Briefcase



Materials:

For the body and straps: 3 to 5 oz leather, with firm temper. Mine is made with 5.5 oz and it works perfectly.
The strap keepers on the flap, the gusset, the handle wrap and the little straps for the D-rings and the pocket gusset are made with thin leather, something around 2 oz.
Thin sheepskin or lambskin for the flap lining.
I used chrome tanned leather for the body and 2 oz veg tan for the thin parts plus sheepskin liner.
Waxed thread around 0.8mm thick, that's more of your own choice, that is what I use.

Hardware:

2 x 1/2" buckles (center bar, if you use heel bar buckles don't forget to make the keepers).
2 x 3/8"D-rings
3 x 3/8" snap hooks
Rivets

Tools:

Scissors, knife (paper knife or rotary cutter would also work).
Stitching irons: my pattern is made for 5mm stitching irons (5 stitches per inch). If you are willing to use any other size please make sure that the hole count is the same where it has to be the same: the pocket seams, the vertical seams, the bottom and both front and back panels.
Needles - according to your thread size, a pair of saddle needles.
Mallet, rivet setter, hole puncher.

Instructions:

Print the pattern at actual size (100%). Use the reference on top of each page to make sure everything is printed correctly. Join the pages together. Cut out the pieces.

I always start with the pocket. Stitch the pocket gusset on the pocket front panel, attaching the buckles with the same seam. Stitch the pocket onto the body.

Glue the lining on the flap and stitch it. You may want to do that after you rivet the straps and the flap strap keepers if you want to hide the rivets on the inner side of the flap. I didn't do this because this thought occurred to me way too late :) I didn't place the holes on the lining to avoid confusion in this case. If they are needed they can be punched after glueing it to the body.

Also, if you so desire, you can make the lining a couple of inches longer so it goes all the way to the bottom of the rear compartment. In this case you don't need to stitch it in the bottom as it would be redundant. Remember, in this case, to skip the holes on the main body for the seam that is right behind the handle as you won't need it.

Rivet the straps. The handle is riveted with same rivets as the straps, below the latter.
Rivet the flap strap keepers.

Stitch the gussets and the compartment divider: central part of s gusset should go around the edge of the divider and be stitched on both sides so you will be sewing 3 layers of leather.
Stitch the D-ring little straps on the gussets (they are on the rear side og the gussets, behind the compartment divider).

Now you can stitch the gussets to the body.

Main part is assembled. Now make the handle wrap. As I don't know what thickness of leather you are using, you have to measure the width yourself to make sure it wraps nicely and snugly around your handle.

Make the "shoulder" strap and strap pad, stitch your snap hooks on the strap.

Any questions or comments, e-mail me: lissius@gmail.com.

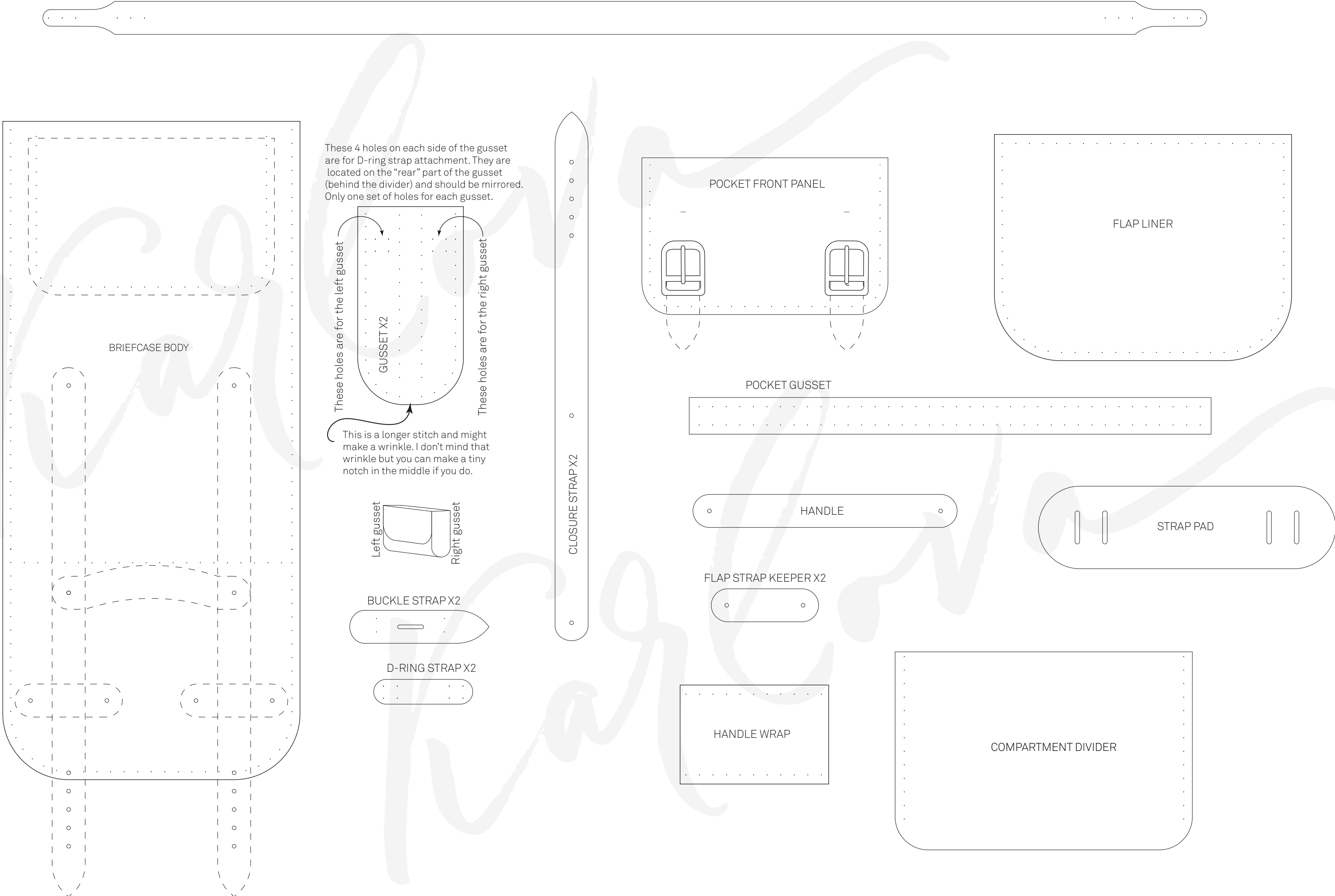
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The width of the strap ends depends on your snap hooks. Mine were tiny so 1/4" here. You can use any other way of snap attachment if you'd like.



I really tried to fit it all on A2 but it didn't.