



Leodis Leather Build Along

No. 2

Coin & Card Wallets

Copyright © Leodis Leather 2014

All rights reserved

No part of this document or the accompanying video may be given, lent, sold or otherwise distributed in any way either physically or electronically for any purpose without the permission of Leodis Leather.

If you did not obtain this document from Leodis Leather directly or from the Leodis Leather Etsy Shop then this is not a genuine copy.

You are free to sell any items you may make from this pattern however you may not use the name Leodis Leather in any promotional material associated with those sales.

Printing Instructions

This document is laid out on A4 paper.

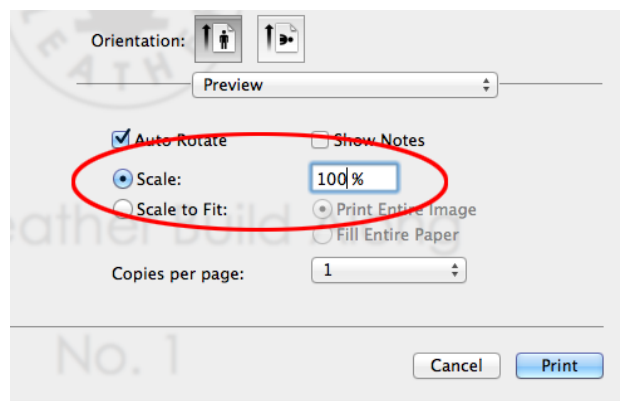
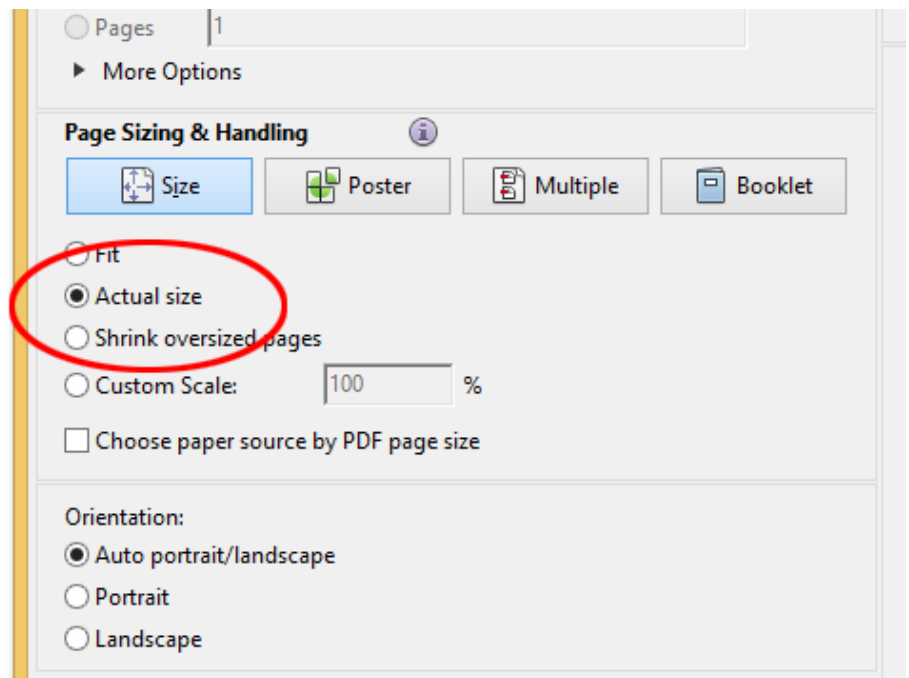
This pattern is **actual size**, so whichever size paper you have if you print this document **without scaling applied** then the pattern will be the correct size for you to use.

Please check the 1 inch measurement with a ruler after printing in order to ensure that no scaling has occurred.

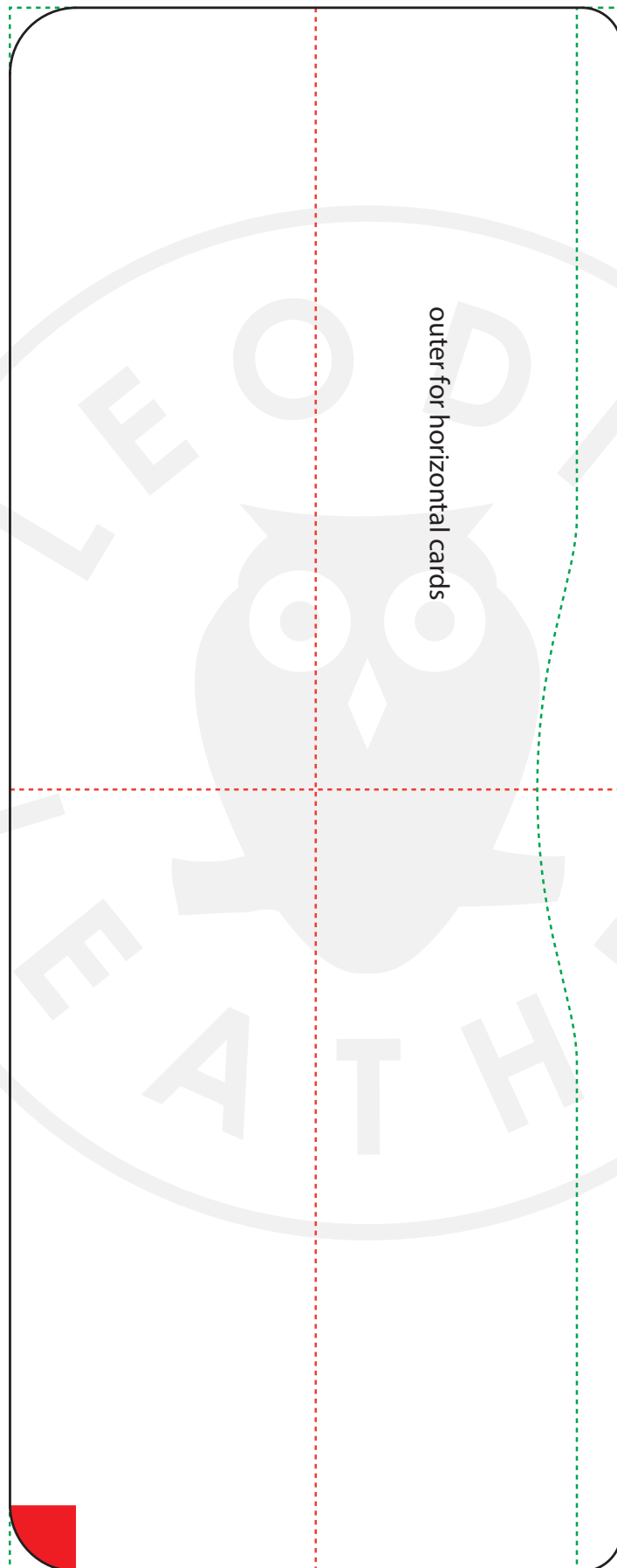
Please see below examples of the settings for Adobe Reader on a PC or Preview on a Mac. If you use other software just make sure that no scaling options are applied, or set the scale to 100%.

To use the pattern you can stick it to some thick cardboard (e.g. 1mm mount board) and then cut around to make a reusable pattern.

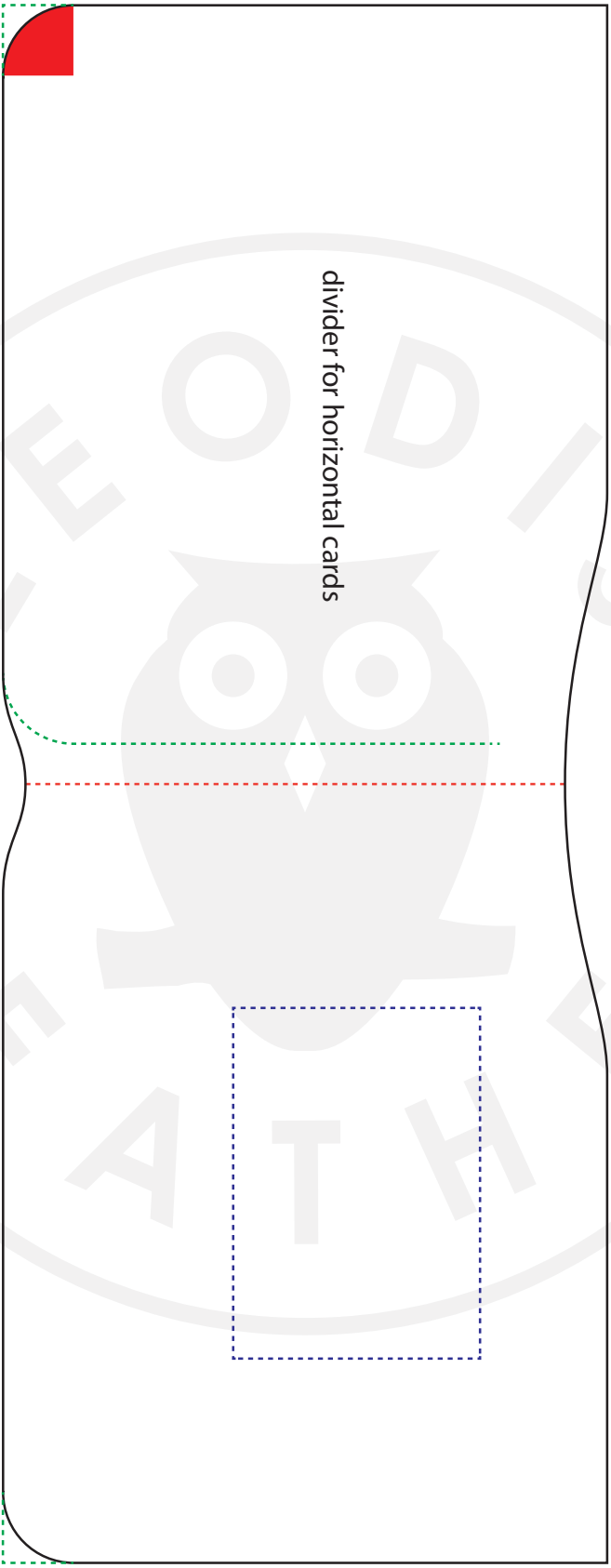
If you only wish to use the pattern once you can place the paper over the leather than then prick through with a scratch awl. For any straight sections make a prick mark at either end and then connect the lines with a scratch awl. For any curves make a mark every few mm.



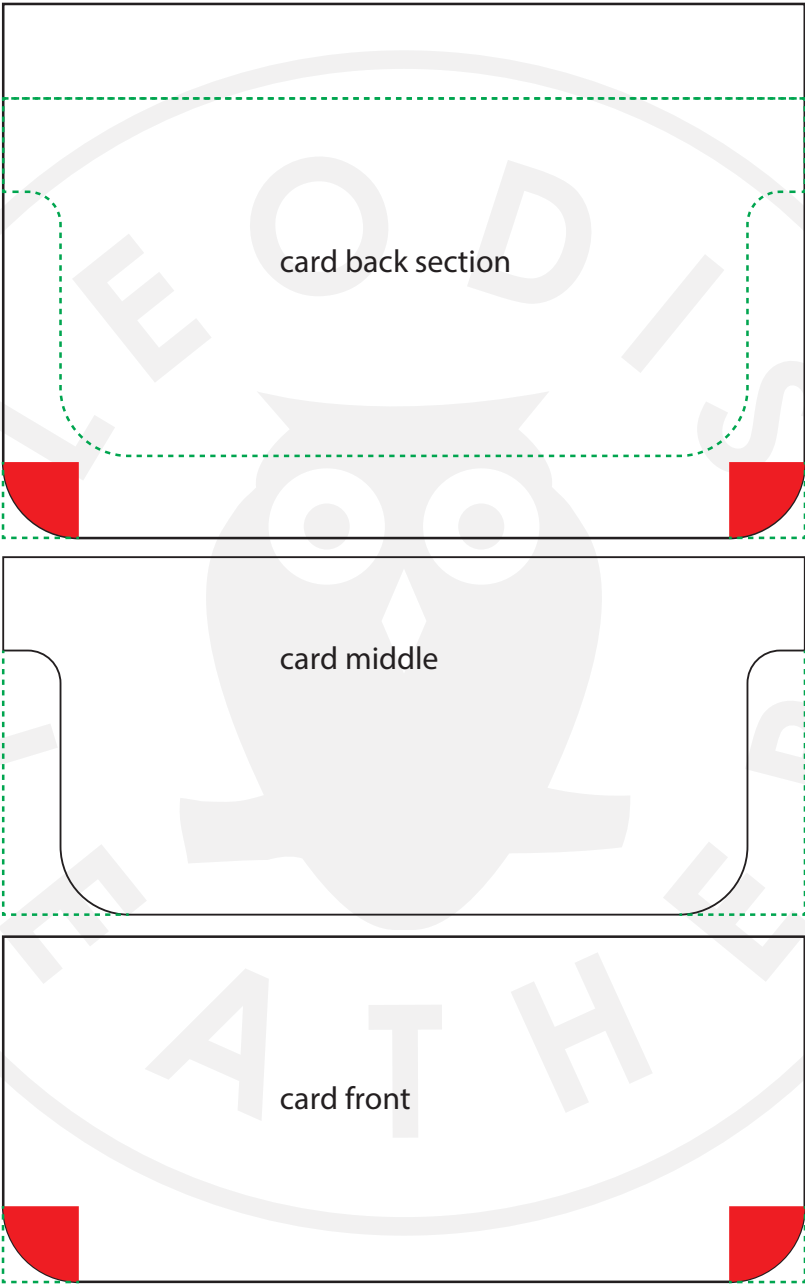
Pattern

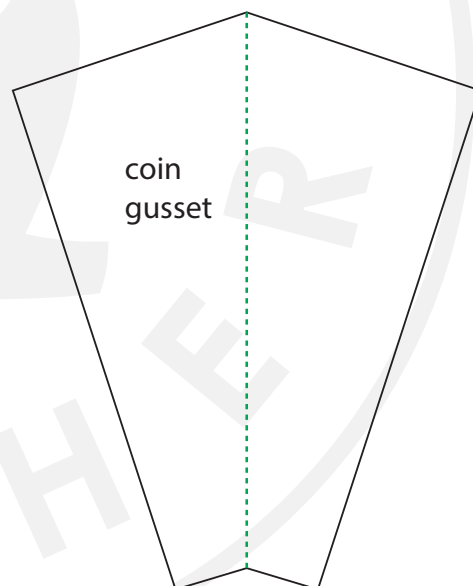
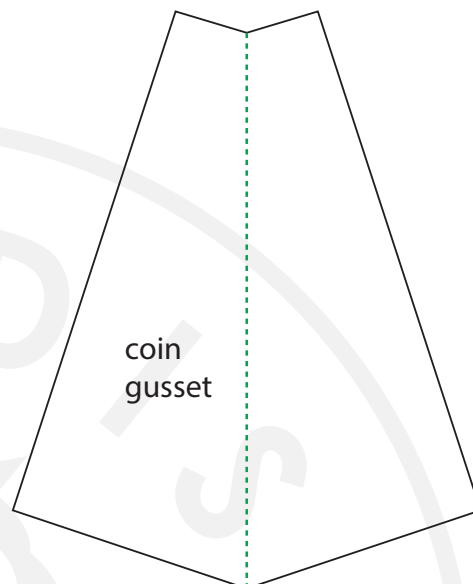
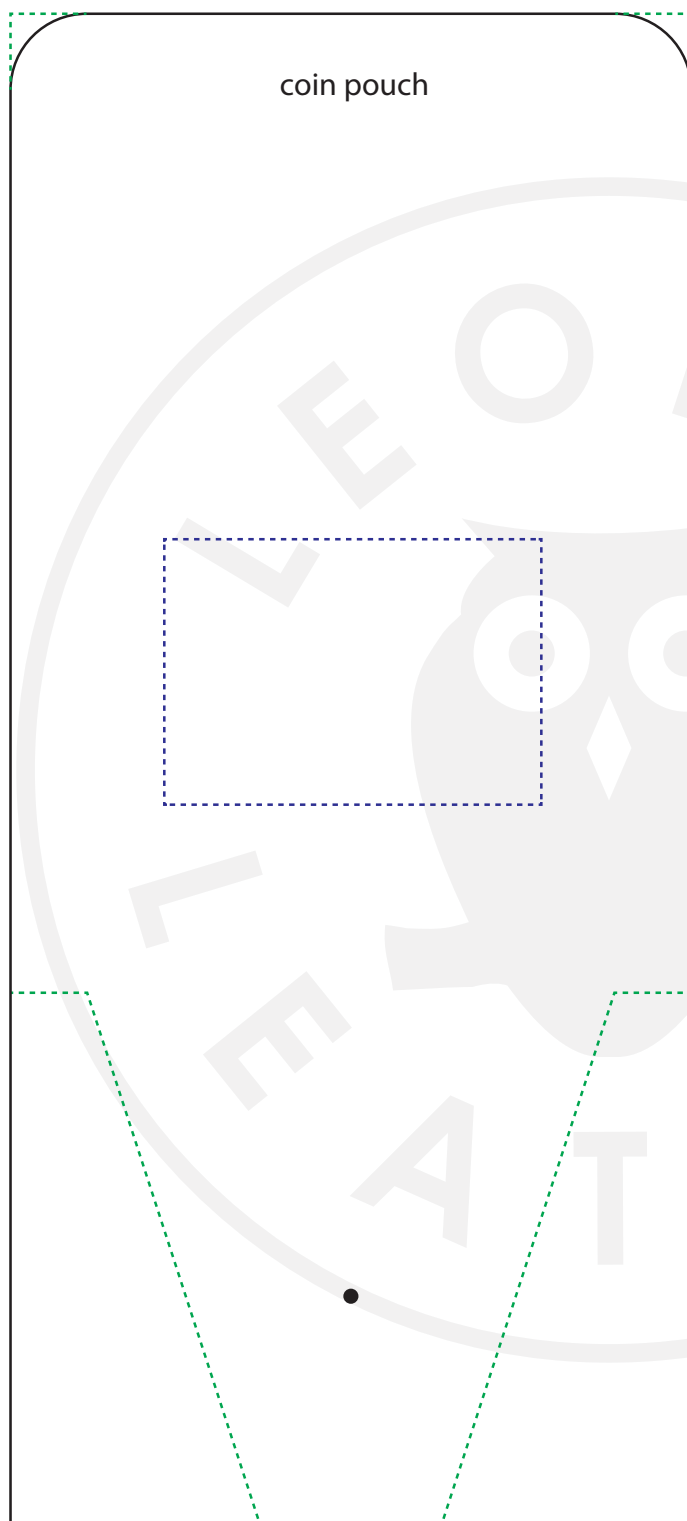


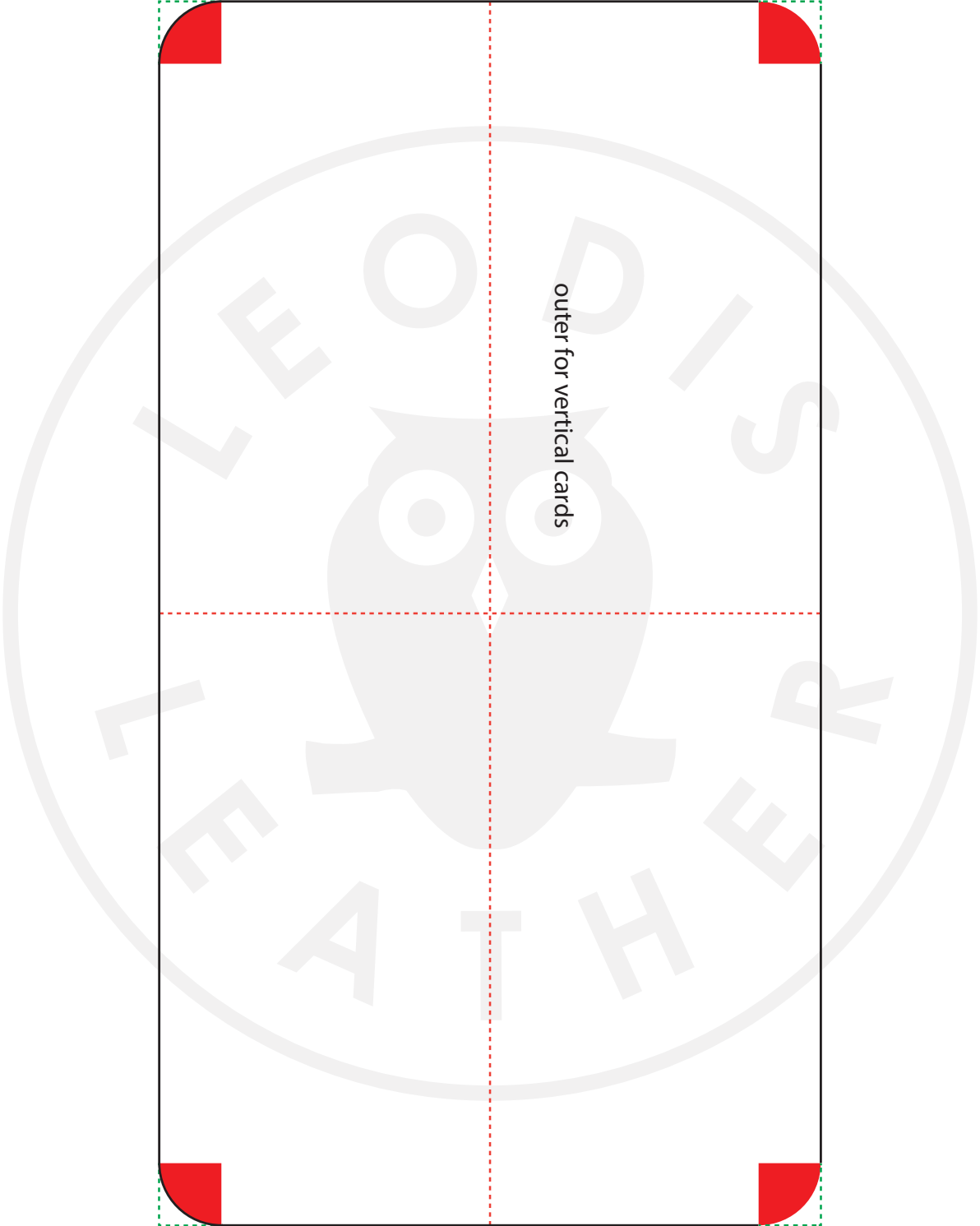
- The black lines show the outline of each pattern piece
- The red dotted lines indicate the centres of the large pieces
- The green dotted lines indicate roughly where other pieces will overlay, fold lines or the corners to help with cutting
- The blue dotted rectangle shows you where the coin pouch is sewn to the divider
- The corners marked in red should be cut out once pieces are joined as shown in the video

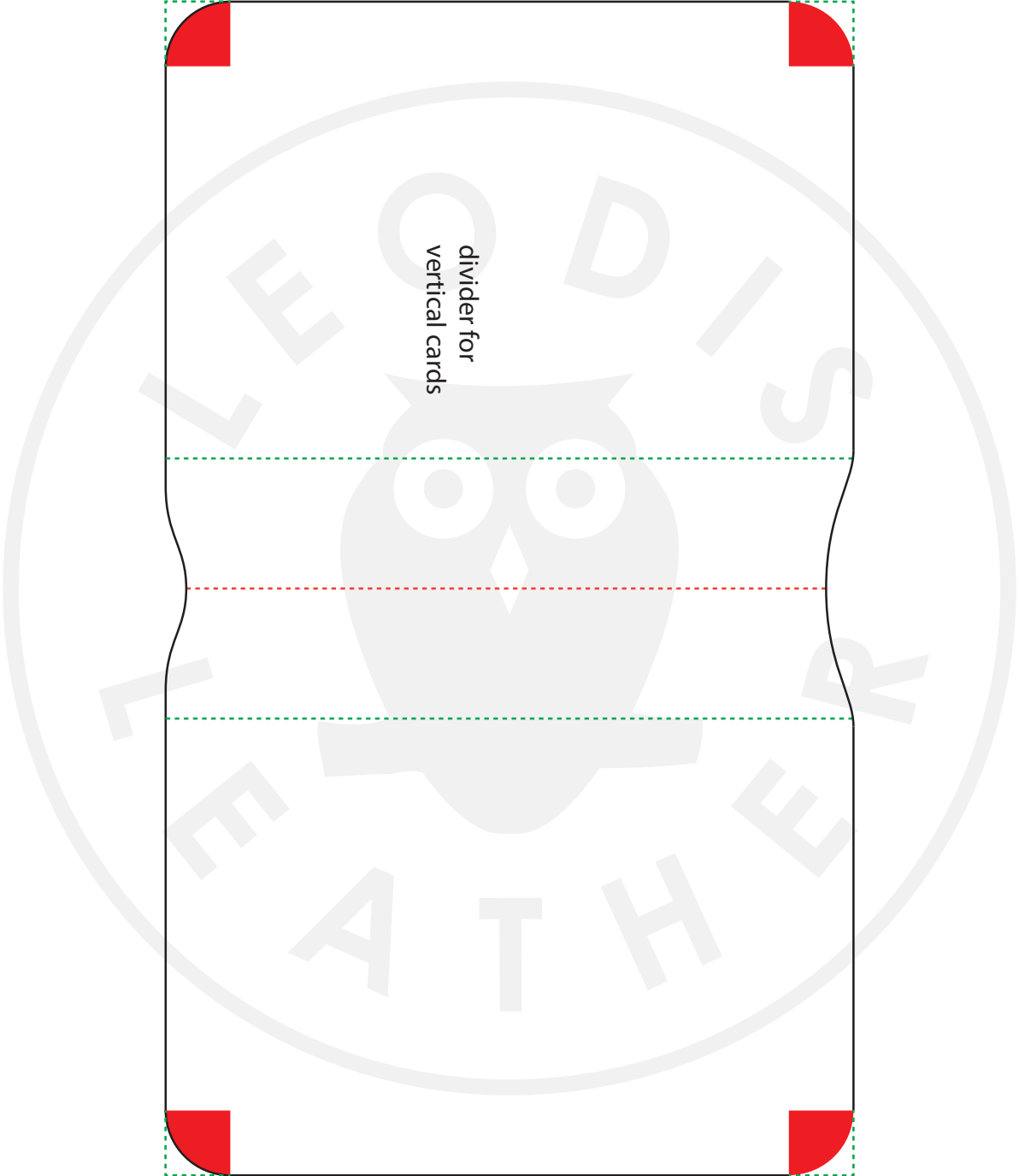


divider for horizontal cards









divider for
vertical cards

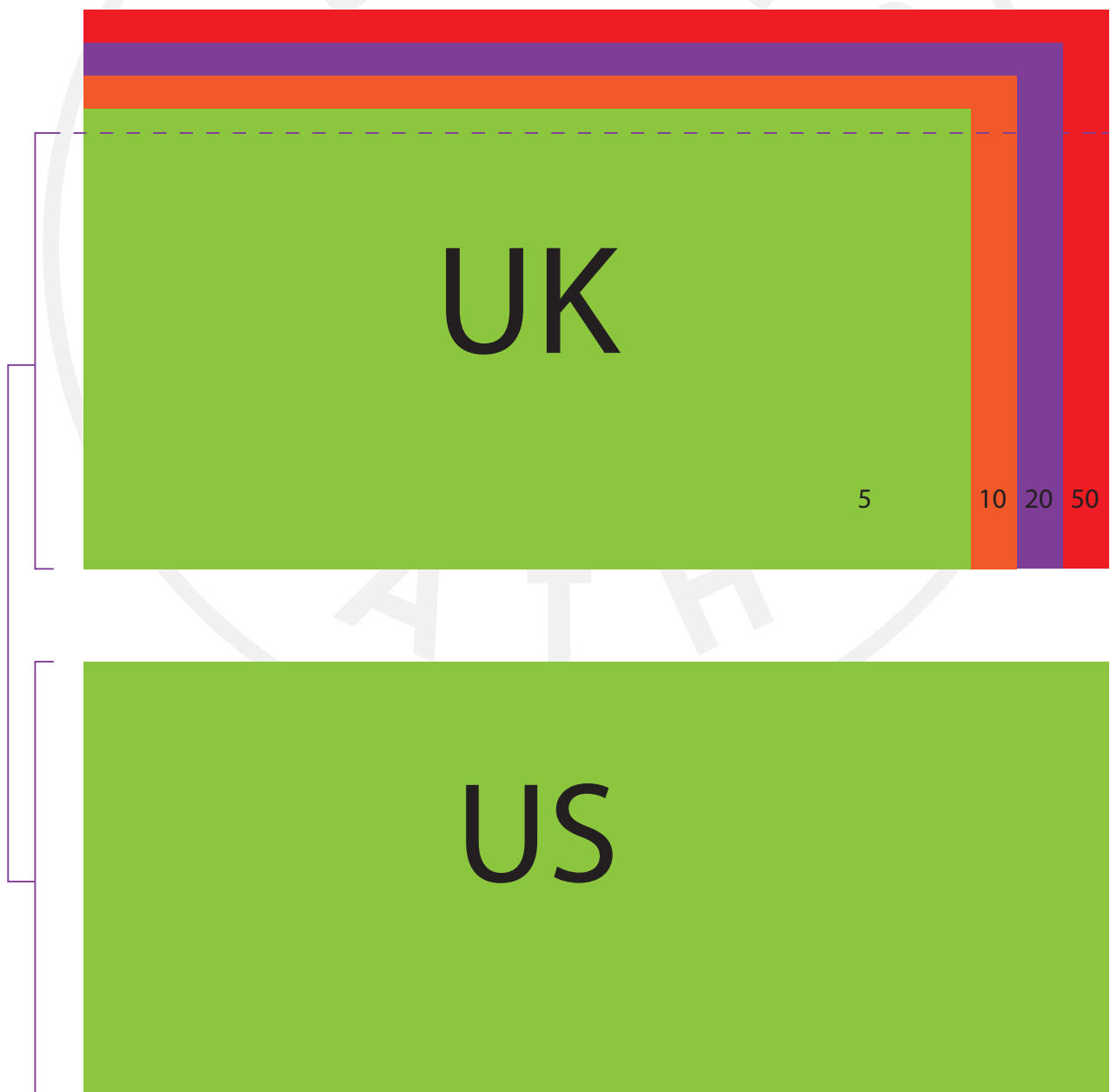
Note Size Reference

In these pages we can see the relative sizes of US Dollar, British Pound and Euro bank notes (these are exact sizes which you can cut out and use as guides). It is important to make sure that any wallet you make can comfortably accept any currency that might need to go in it!

Remember if you sell your work you can't be sure where the wallet will end up and also if you go away on business or holidays you might need to put currency in your wallet different to that which you use at home.

The widths of most wallets are not a concern but the height certainly is. For example wallets designed for US currency only may not fit other bank notes as you can see.

America is unusual in that all notes are the same size. Most countries use differently sized notes for easier distinction and to help blind people (as Chris Rock said of Stevie Wonder "...got all the money in the World and he don't know if he got 100s or 1s. It's just a stack to Stevie!" - it's a joke but it makes a good point).

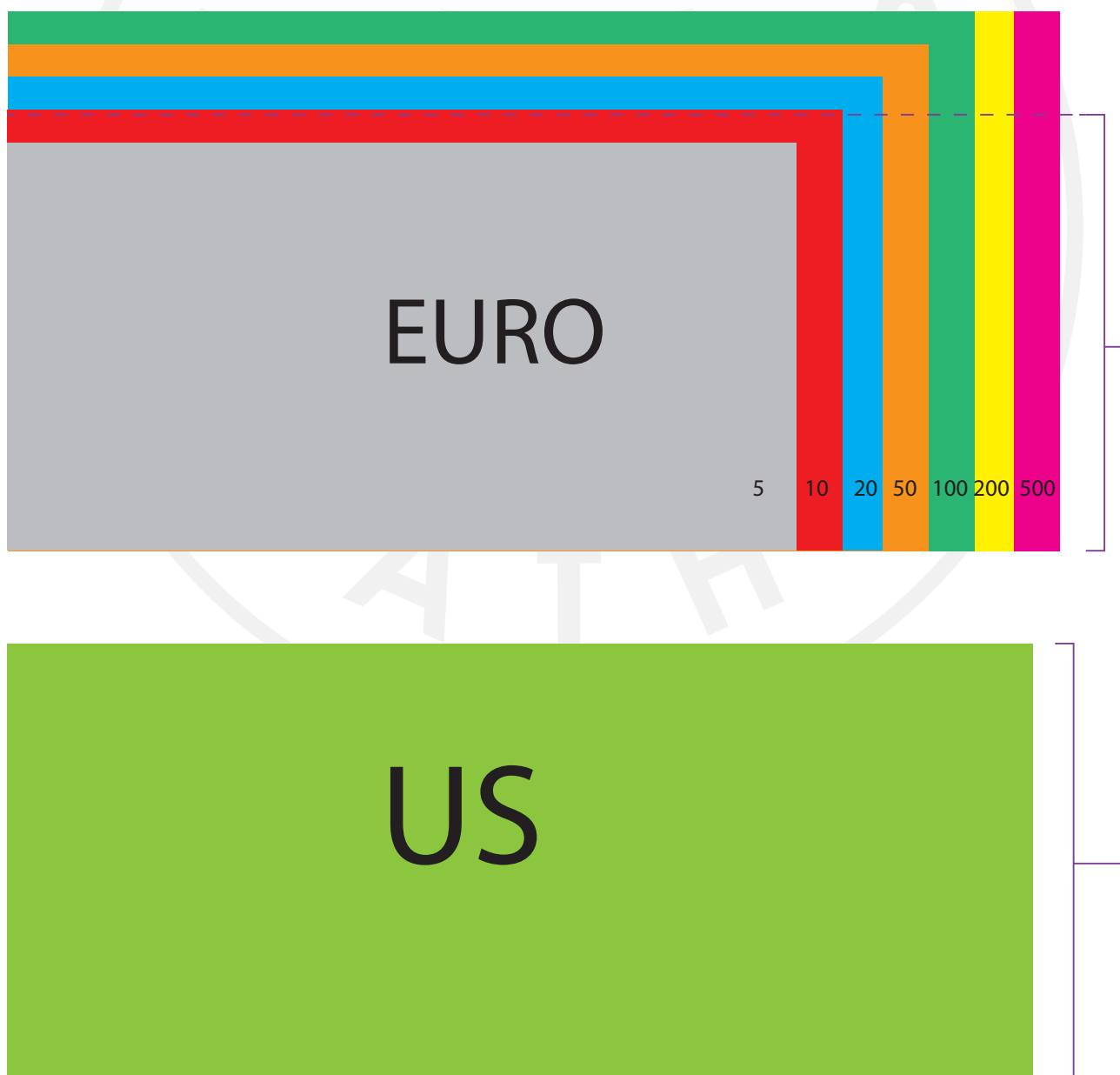


It is worth considering that not all bank notes are in daily use, for example in the UK nobody really uses £50 notes unless they're very wealthy (not in Yorkshire anyway!) and I can't even remember the last time I saw one let alone had one. Similarly I doubt that many people are walking around with the higher denomination Euro notes in their pocket.

Having said that as a UK based craftsman I feel it's important to make wallets which will take all UK currency as it wouldn't be fair to sell a customer an expensive, hand made wallet and then tell them they could only use certain notes in it!

The wallets contained in this pattern pack will take up to a UK £50 note in height, that is taller than the US bill and any Euro note so comfortably covers all notes shown on these pages. They will all take up to the 500 Euro note shown in width also.

If you are in a country not covered here you can of course look up the sizes of bank notes on Wikipedia. As long as the biggest note you need to accommodate is not greater than 85mm high or 160mm wide no adjustment is necessary. To be honest I doubt that many would be too big.



Leather

A variety of different leathers can be used for wallets, however you should be very careful about the thickness used! There are some projects where the thickness of the leather is not all that critical, for example a bag or a notebook cover. With a wallet however there are many parts which need to be kept as compact as possible so that the wallet isn't too bulky or uncomfortable in the pocket.

Commercially made wallets have their interior leather parts thinned to around 0.7mm, the exterior part may be a little thicker. Here are two key points that it took me a while to figure out that will save you time - firstly you can't easily buy leather than thin (not in the UK at least) and secondly you can't reliably split leather down to that thickness without expensive, industrial machinery. I don't have that machinery and if you're reading this it's unlikely that you do either!

So what leather should you use? Well, there are lots of nice leathers available which are around 1mm thick such as:

- light weight tooling leather
- buffalo calf or other calf skins
- kangaroo

These leathers are sturdy enough to work well for a wallet and thin enough not to cause problems. There are other thin leathers which you can get such as goatskin or pigskin but these are too floppy and soft to work well. You may discover other leathers which work well also. If in doubt ask for a sample from your supplier before ordering a whole piece and finding out that it's no use, or ask what they would recommend.

I would advise against using leather above 1.2mm for a wallet such as this and ideally you should stick to 0.8 - 1mm (2 - 2.5oz). Your finished wallet may feel a little chunkier than one bought from a shop but should not be impractically so.

It's worth noting that other types of wallets (e.g. small card wallets, biker style wallets) may require other leather, this guidance is specifically for the type of bi-fold wallets shown in this pattern and the accompanying video.

Please don't be tempted to use something that's 1.5mm thick and think 'it's half a millimetre, what possible harm can that do'. Try to think of this in terms of percentages; if you use 1.5mm leather instead of 1mm that's a 50% increase. So 50% more leather in the wallet, 50% more weight and 50% more bulk.

In the video you can see these three wallets being made:

- The natural coloured one from 2 - 3 oz (0.8 - 1.2mm) veg tan tooling side
- The light brown one is 0.9 - 1.1mm veg tan polished buffalo calf
- The dark brown one is 0.8 - 1mm Horween ChromExcel

Remember there is nothing to stop you using a variety of leathers in the same wallet, for example a different leather for the outside than the interior. Also don't be afraid to experiment with mixing colours!

Chrome Tan or Veg Tan

The patterns in this book are for wallets with 'solid' edges, that is where the layers of leather are cut flush and left solid.

If you wish to take your wallet making further I would suggest learning how to bind the edges as this is ultimately much neater and more professional. However, since you have downloaded this pattern pack to help you I am assuming that you're not at that stage yet since it's quite a difficult thing to learn.

Because you will have a cut edge it's necessary to think about burnishing that edge.

If you use a chrome tanned leather (which many thin leathers are) you will not be able to burnish the edge since chrome tan does not burnish like veg tan. In this case you would need to either apply an edge paint (which doesn't look nice in my opinion) or leave the edge cut and untreated for a more rugged look.

If you use a veg tanned leather which I would recommend then as long as you're careful you should be able to trim and burnish the edge nicely as normal.

Hardware

If you wish to have the coin pouch and/or a small closure strap you will need one or two glove snaps and the appropriate setting tools.

Tools

There aren't too many tools needed for wallet making really, you will probably have most of these if you're at the stage where you're ready to attempt this:

- basic marking and cutting tools
- scratch awl
- hole punch
- small edge beveller
- cobbler's hammer (really useful for this sort of project)
- bone folder
- wing divider
- stitching stuff (marking tools, needles, thread etc.)
- stitching pony (you will really struggle without one!)

In the video I am using a Seiwa 3mm pricking iron (8.5 stitches per inch) from Goods Japan with 0.8mm Tiger Thread.

Suppliers

For help finding suppliers in the UK please see my website for an up to date list of recommended suppliers:

<http://www.ianatkinson.net/leather/links.htm>

Construction

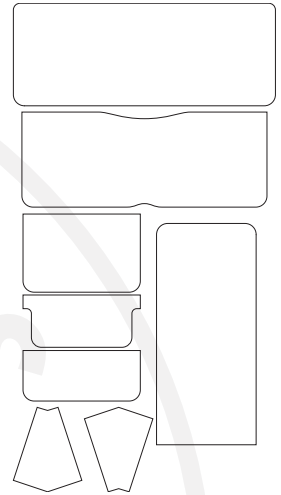
For help with building this pattern please see the accompanying video, this can be viewed on the Leodis Leather YouTube channel which is indexed here:

<http://www.ianatkinson.net/leather/videos.htm>

Here is an outline of the steps taken for the coin wallet. Towards the end of the video you will see how to make a wallet just for cards also (both horizontal and vertical) using the same techniques.

i. Preparation

1. If you are not using pre-dyed leather, first prepare your piece of leather. It will be much easier all round if you cut a piece from your hide big enough for all pieces and then dye, buff and seal the entire piece rather than trying to do this with each component (around 10" x 18" will be enough if you lay out the pieces as shown to the right).
2. Mark out the pattern pieces and cut them out carefully. Do not cut out the corners marked in red on the pattern as these will be cut out once some pieces have been glued together! Be sure to cut out the three credit card pieces vertically with two cuts (they are aligned on the page for you), this will ensure that they are exactly the same width. Punch the hole for the coin pouch and mark the fold lines on the gussets.
3. Cut the corners off which aren't marked as red on the pattern
4. If you wish to bevel and/or burnish any exposed edges now is the time to do so. This will not be possible on all thin leathers so try with a test piece if you are unsure. If you do want to do this you should prepare:
 - the top edge of the outer
 - the top edge of the divider
 - the cutaway in the bottom of the divider
 - the top edges of the card parts
 - the flap portion of the coin pocket and the mouth above the stud base
5. Dampen the gussets and fold them in half. Tap down the fold with a cobbler's hammer and then place them under an upturned anvil or a heavy book to dry.



ii. Card Section

1. Position the middle card piece on the back card piece in the correct place and draw a line underneath. Use this line as a glueing guide and glue down the bottom edge and the tabs.
2. Stitch the middle card piece to the back card piece along the bottom edge 4mm up.
3. Stick the top card piece to the back card piece ensuring that it butts up to the tabs of the middle piece. Once dry trim the bottom edge of the assembled section flush if it is slightly out of line.
4. Round the bottom right corner of the card section and then trim or sand the edge, bevel and burnish it. Mark a stitch line down the right hand side and around the corner 4mm exactly from the edge using wing dividers.
5. Stick the card section to the divider, round the bottom left corner and then continue

the stitch guide around and up the left hand side.

6. Plan out the stitches ensuring that they straddle the points where the different parts meet. Do the straight sections down either side first, then one corner, and then along the bottom. If the stitches do not line up exactly 'hide' this in the remaining corner.
7. When you are happy with the stitch marks punch all the way through the right hand side, around the corner and a small way along the bottom.
8. Stitch down the right hand side until you reach the corner, make sure you have enough thread to do the whole card section (about 4x the seam length).
9. Place the divider on the back section and lay both pieces over a cork block or scrap of thick leather. Locate the first hole in the stitching run that will sit on the bottom edge and punch with a diamond awl right through the wallet outer.
10. Continue stitching down until you reach the hole immediately before the one you punched through. For the next stitch, bring the back needle through the hole (so it comes out on top of the card section) but do nothing with the other needle.
11. Glue the divider and card section to the wallet outer.
12. Once dry, punch right through the remaining holes in all sections.
13. Pass the front needle through the half completed stitch, this should emerge on the outside of the wallet in the hole that you punched with the awl. You can then continue stitching as normal to the end of the run.
14. Trim the bottom left hand corner. You should now have the wallet divider and wallet outer stitched together along with the completed card section. Run a bone folder down the inside of all the card pockets to break any glue lines and then test fit your credit cards. **If the cards do not fit you will need to adjust the pattern and start again, there is no point in finishing the wallet as it will never work nicely.**

iii. Coin section

1. Place the gusset flush with the top of the coin pouch and fold it over so you can see where the bottom of the pouch will sit. Dampen this line and tap it lightly with a cobbler's hammer to encourage a fold.
2. Trim the gussets so that they fit into the pouch and are straight on the top and bottom.
3. Glue the gussets to the middle part of the coin pouch (what will be the back) and stitch down both sides.
4. Punch out the hole for the stud and set the stud base. If you are using very thin leather you should set this over a washer as demonstrated in the video.
5. Stitch the coin pouch to the wallet divider along the rectangle indicated on both pattern pieces. To ensure this lines up make a small hole on each corner of the rectangle in both pieces and then glue them together, placing needles through the holes when mating the pieces.
6. Punch holes down the front part of the pocket where it will be joined to the gusset.
7. Glue the front of the pocket to the gussets.
8. With an awl carefully prick through the holes that you made earlier and through the gussets being careful not to pierce any other part of the wallet (you can put a scrap piece of leather behind to help).
9. Stitch the left and right sides closed, this completes the stitching on the coin pouch.
10. Dampen the fold for the coin pocket lightly if required and fold it into position carefully aligning each side. Press down over the stud base with your thumb and then set the stud cap where you have made the mark in the leather.

iv. Closing the wallet

1. Glue the right hand side of the wallet closed, you will need to fold the wallet to 90 degrees to do this so prop it against something while it dries.

2. Mark the stitch line around the edge and stitch the wallet closed.
3. Once dry, with the bone folder again break any glue inside the notes section.
4. Finally trim or sand the outside edges, bevel and burnish them.
5. Fold the wallet neatly in half and then squash the centre with your hand to encourage the leather to fold in the correct place.
6. Apply a final light coat of finishing polish if desired.

v. Alternate Styles

1. For making a wallet with card pockets on both sides we follow all the instructions to ii.14 so that we have all the parts joined together. Then we construct another card section and repeat all the instructions simply reversing which corners we trim and which side we stitch down first. By the time the second card section is stitched the wallet will be structurally complete and you can move straight on to edge finishing.
2. For making the vertical card wallet we go about this in much the same way as the other wallet with cards on both sides we are just rotating the card pockets through 90 degrees. Please make sure you are using the different card and divider pieces for the tall version as indicated in the pattern pages!

