



- Kraken cultist mask -

The Kraken cultist mask is designed to match any horror, fantasy or sci-fi cultist character. In this file you will find some of the possible ideas, but the limit is only in your head.

Note: Except for the “Construction process” the instructions are the same for all of our patterns, so take a look to the whole file and patterns before buying tools or consumables to avoid spending money on stuff you may don’t need for specific pieces.



- Consumables -

Vegetable tanned leather

The example was made using 2mm thick, which is enough to keep the shape, and still easy to work with, and it can be used for almost every piece of the pattern.



Goat or softer leather (optional in many cases)

You will need straps of softer leather like goat leather or rawhide leather in case you want to cover the edges. Some pieces will need soft leather to be done.

Hardware

Here depends on the style you want to get. You can use pyramid rivets to attach the reinforcement straps (you will need a special tool for that). This way you can choose to avoid the stitching if you want. You can use normal rivets too and avoid the stitching as well. Or you can use decorative pyramids, but in this case you'll have to sew the straps since this kind of pyramids are not designed to put pieces of leather together. In addition, if you want to use decorative pyramids or something like that that it's not riveted, you'll have to change the riveting holes in order to fit what you're using.

The rivets cap size depends of what you like, but we always use 7mm diameter. For the post, be sure that is at least 2mm longer than the thickness of all the layers of leather you want to put together (example: if you want to attach two layers of 2mm thick leather, you should use at least 6mm rivets posts. Although 5mm will do the job, and 7 or 8mm will too, but try to keep them between these sizes).

You will need some eyelets too. You don't have to use them but they will give a more professional looking to the piece. The size of the eyelets depends on the size of the holes you make.

You can use any style of buckle you like, but know that the straps are designed to fit on 18mm buckles the small buckles, and 32mm the large ones. So if you want to use different size of buckles you will have to change the straps width.

Some leather or cotton cord

Leather cord looks nice, but we strongly recommend something softer like cotton, since it is so much easier to tie and to wear.

Sewing thread

We recommend waxed nylon thread which is specially designed to handsew this kind of leather. It exist in many color options, choose the one you think it matches better your dye color.



Glue

You don't need it for the majority of the process (only if you want to make the leather edging) but it will save you a lot of time and work. A cheap contact glue or double sided tape will do the job. Since it is only to keep the pieces together while you work, you don't really need a strong bond.

Dye and finishing

You can buy your leather already dyed, but we recommend to dye by yourself specially if you want to make some engravings. Choose the color you want, but we strongly recommend penetrating dyes.

You will need some varnish or finishing product. Ask on your leather shop, they will help you to choose the better option according to the dye you bought.

- Tools -

Cutter

There are more professional tools to cut leather, but a sturdy sharpened cutter will do the job perfectly.

Beveler

A beveler is used to round the exposed edges to give a more finished and professional look to the leather pieces. It's not needed to make something you can use, but we strongly recommend it.

Punch holes

You will need at least two or three different sizes of punch holes, for rivets, stitching and eyelets. Eitherway, for the stitching holes we recommend to use an stitching awl, a diamond shaped one is preferred to get a more professional looking stitching, but a round one will do the job.

You should use an oval punch hole for the buckles, but they tend to be expensive and you can make this kind of holes making two round holes and cutting the space between them. We recommend the oval punch holes if you can because it saves time and effort and the finished product looks more professional, but it's definitely a tool that you can live without.

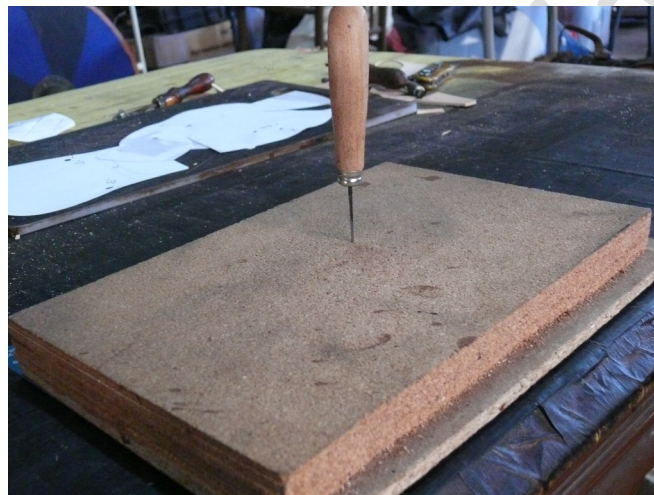


Strap cutter

As it happens with the oval punch holes, you don't need it, but it saves a lot of time and effort when you have to cut a lot of straps.

Cork surface/table

You may think you don't really need it, but it saves A LOT effort and time, and it is very cheap to make. Just glue some layers of cork together, about 5cm tall, and glue them to a hard surface like a wooden table or something like that. You will thank to have it when the time to make holes for stitching comes.



Brushes

You will need a couple of brushes in order to apply the dye and the finishing product. A cloth or kitchen paper to remove the excess, specially varnish, it is recommended.

Blunt needles

This type of needle is used when sewing leather by hand. Normally we use them in pairs, but you can do the same with only one. Using them in pairs will save you work and time.

Riveting tools

You will need a set of riveting tools. It consists in a rivets setter and an anvil. Make sure that you rivets setter matches the rivet caps you chose for your pieces.



You will also need an eyelets setter. Be sure that the setter fits your eyelets and know that the eyelets are not meant to be used on more than one layer of leather. And don't forget to use the washers on your eyelets.

You'll need a hammer too to use this tools unless you have a leather press.

Overstitch wheel

This tool is needed to mark the stitches if you decide to make the leather edging on your piece. You can use a compass too, but an overstitch wheel is a faster option.

- Construction process -

Cut the parts

As you can see on the pattern, there is two lines (black and pink), make sure that you cut only the black one. The pink one is only a guide in case you want to make the leather edging. You can mark this line with a compass or something like that. Once you have cut the pieces, use the beveler on all the exposed edges.





It is not necessary, but I recommend shaping the leather before you start assembling the mask. Apply texture to pieces 2, 3, 4 and 5 by drawing random lines before assembling the mask.

As you can see, the tentacles have not been shaped yet. This is due to the painting method which will be explained in the next section.

Dyeing the pieces

In this case, the mask was spray painted once it was assembled and molded. Except for piece number 6, which was painted separately for convenience. This process is due to the fact that if you spray paint first and then wet the leather to shape it, you will ruin the paint. If you use already dyed leather or some other method, you will have to adapt this process to your needs.

Once the mask was painted with copper spray, black ink was applied with an airbrush to highlight the shapes and shadows.





Putting it all together

Start by riveting the 7 pieces number 2 starting from the top down to make access easier. Remember to leave the last two holes (marked 2/6) unriveted so you can assemble piece number 6 once it is painted.

The next step is to assemble pieces 3, 4 and 5 on each side. After this you should have something like the following images,





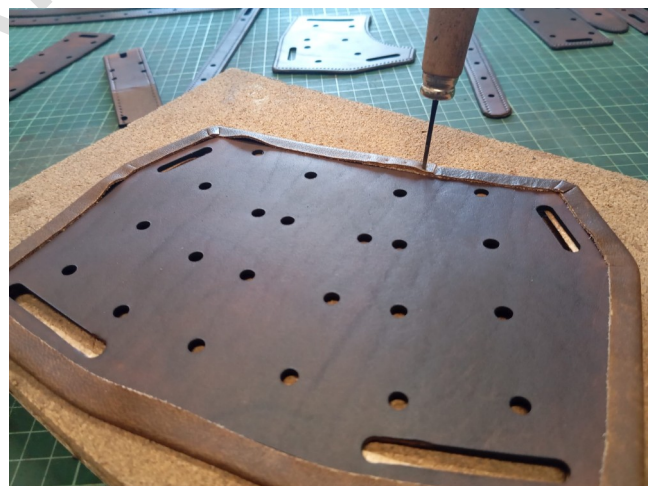
At this point, the mask is ready to mold the tentacles. Simply dip the tentacles into a bucket of water and use your fingers to shape them. A heat gun is not necessary but it helps a lot as long as you don't overdo it and burn the leather. Dry the tentacles a bit with the heat gun as you feel they are shaped the way you want them to be so they don't move around too much, although you will have plenty of time to modify their shape. You should have something like that:



Now the mask is ready to be painted and to attach the straps.

Final touches

Take a strap of softer leather of about 20-25mm wide (depending on the leather thickness). Stick to it a double side tape to make a “leather tape”. You can do this step with contact glue, but is faster if you use double side tape. Then stick your “leather tape” to the edge of the leather piece following the guide line. You can use a hammer and an anvil to flatten the leather edging. Then use a stitching wheel to mark the stitches and make the holes with an awl.



Weathering

Take a soft sanding material. I use a sanding sponge, but it depends on your taste. I encourage you to make some tests before doing it on the final piece.



- Construction techniques -

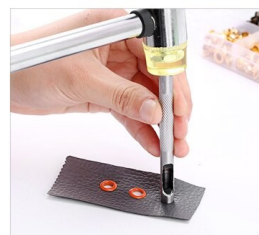
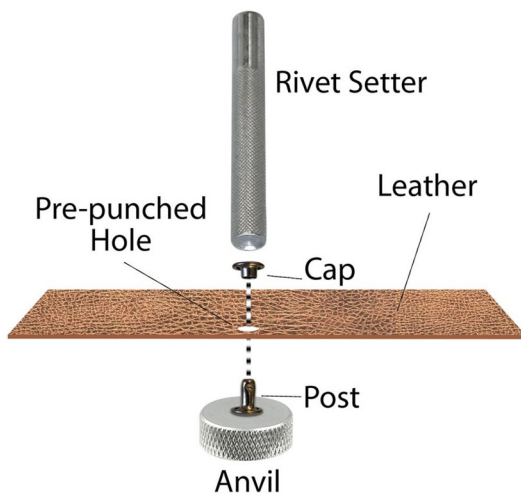
Making the holes

As you can see on the pattern, the holes are marked with a color code depending on its size and purpose. The sizes on the pattern are: 3'4mm for the rivets, 5mm for the eyelets, 20x5mm for the oval holes and 1'25mm for the stitching holes. Know that these sizes are only a guide, just make sure that your holes matches your hardware.

- Stitching hole
- Riveting hole
- Eyelet hole
- Buckle hole

Setting rivets and eyelets

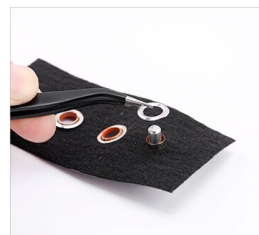
There is no long explanation needed on this step. Just make sure that you use a hard surface as an anvil (not wooden or anything deformable). Sometimes an anvil comes with the rivet setter, but if you have a little anvil like a jeweler's anvil it will serve you for a lot of things.



1. Making a hole with Punch on the surface of object



2. Put an eyelet through the hole of front of the object and put the washer on the back of eyelet.



3. Put in the gasket



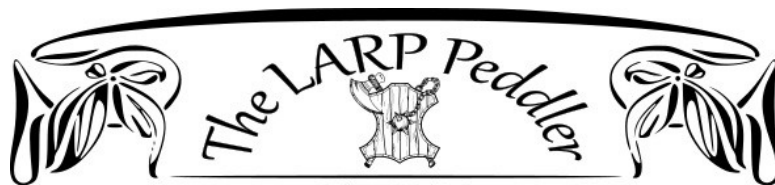
4. Put the install rod on washer, then hammer the eyelet and washer together.

For setting eyelets the process is similar, but you will need specific tools for your eyelets. You can use eyelets pliers if they fit to your eyelets size.

Stitching techniques

For the stitching holes an awl is recommended. You can use a round shaped awl if you are not confident enough. If you decide to use a diamond shaped awl, you should know that there is a specific way to use it. You have to try to make the holes in diagonal as you can see on the picture. You can try on leather leftovers before you try on the final piece.





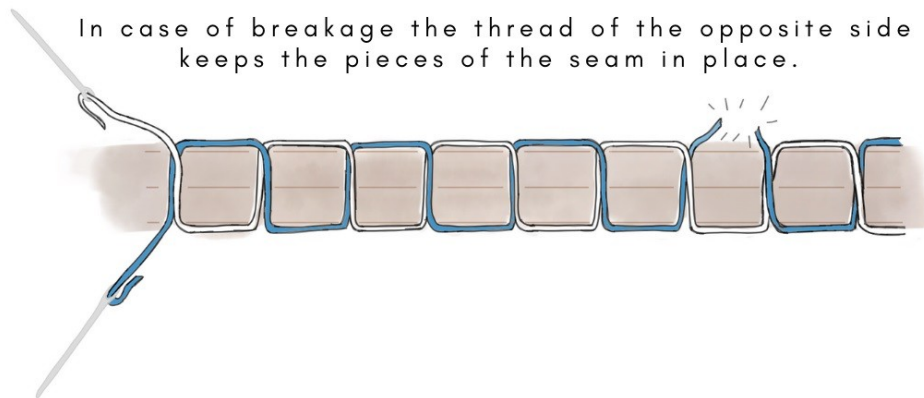
PATTERNS

Construction advise: You can just mark the holes on the upper layer of leather, then attach it to the lower layer with the rivets or using double sided tape, and then proceed to make the holes on both layers at once. There will be parts where the only guide for the correct place will be the stitching holes marked on the pattern. In these cases you can make two or three holes on both layers, glue them together using toothpicks or something like that to hold them on it's exact position, and then proceed to make the rest of the holes. This way you will save a lot of work and you will be sure that the holes are on the same place on both layers.

Regardless the tool you use, the saddle stitching process is the same. It can be done with one needle or with a pair of them. We recommend to use two needles, but if you are using only one, just left a piece of thread about 10cm long, sew it along the way with half stiches and go back to the beggining with the same process. Tie the thread ends together when you're done and use a lighter to bond the threads together (this only works with synthetic thread, with natural thread you can use a drop of superglue on the knot).

SADDLE STITCH

In case of breakage the thread of the opposite side keeps the pieces of the seam in place.





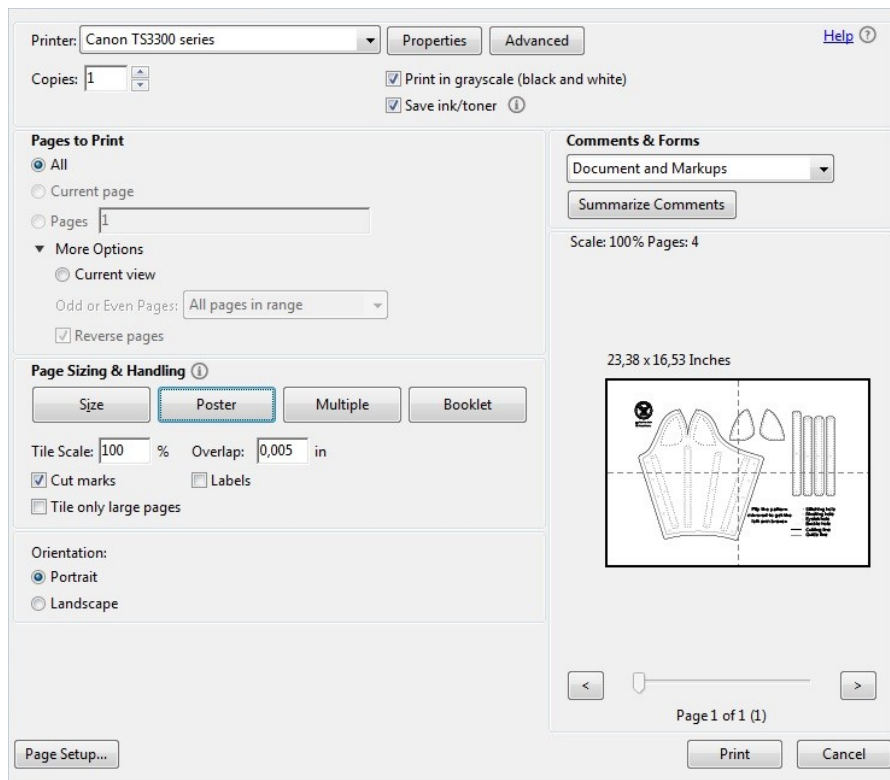
Cross stitching





- Printing the patterns -

The pattern is already on scale and ready to print on a DIN-A4 printer. Open the .pdf file on Adobe reader (version 9 or above, or some program that gives you a poster print option for tiling to smaller sheets). On the printing window, select *Poster*. Set scale 100%, overlap to be 0'5 inches (12mm) and be sure *Cutting marks* are ticked.



You don't need to print the pattern in full color, but remind that there is a color guide for holes and lines.

****This file is only for amateur use. The reselling of this pattern or the items built using this pattern is forbidden****

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