

# Aztec Belt

## Manual

**Difficulty:** medium

**Tools needed:** basic

### **Recommended materials**

- > 2,5 mm (6 oz) veg. tanned leather
- > 3,5 mm (9 oz) veg. tanned leather
- > 1x 3,5 mm (9 oz) 8 cm (3,15 inch) wide strap veg. tanned leather min your regular belt length
- > 2x 1,5 mm (4 oz) 1 cm (0,4 inch) wide strap veg. tanned leather min your regular belt length
- > 1x buckle for 8 cm (3,15 inch) wide belt (if you want to use multiple smaller buckles you will have to adjust the pattern.
- > 1,5 mm (4 oz) thick, 5 mm (0,2 inch) wide lace
- > Fur

**Tools:** edge trimmer, cutting knife, burnisher, hole punch, leather carving tools, bone folder, clamps, sewing material, diamond shaped chisel, wing divider, glue, rivets

If you going for the bird skull in the same size scale the pattern to 50% size.

YouTube Tutorial:

<https://youtu.be/5CqkBxh2gY0>

### **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.
- > **Red squares** show where to punch 4 mm thick holes for edge weaving
- > **Lines** and **dots** in **green** show where stitching and punching holes are **estimated!** Mark them but do not punch them yet, they can differ depending on your molding.
- > The grey line shows where to leather carve and put on ornaments, use pictures as reference.
- > On every piece is written the name and from what material it should be.

# Manual

## Step 1

Printing and cutting out on paper. Check the size and change the printout in scale if needed.

## Step 2

Draw all the lines on the leather and cut out.

## 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.
- Punch the holes on the **red** dots.
- Create the decorations by weaving them, check the video for details.

## Step 4

Apply dye, paint, resist, antique gel and finish in that order.

## Step 5

Use the large belt strap as base.

- Mark your belt length, use a regular belt of yours as benchmark.
- Mark where which piece will be.
- Punch the holes for the lashed and use the rivets to hold them in place. Make sure you put them on both or only on the lower side.
- Glue the fur on, you want to make sure that the fur of the belt base have about 5 mm (0,2 inch) distance from the edge, so you want 7 cm (2,75 inch) wide fur straps.
- Glue on the 1 cm (0,4 inch) straps along the edge on the sides of the fur.
- Glue on the Closer and the Belt Tip.
- Punch the holes for the Closer and put rivets in.
- Punch sowing holes along both edges of the belt and sow it.

Take care of the edges:

- Cut away any excess leather
- Sand down the edges
- Bevel die edges
- Dye the edges
- Polish them
  
- Punch the holes for the buckle

Enjoy!

I would love to hear your feedback!

# Bird Skull Manual

**Difficulty:** medium to hard

**Tools needed:** basic

## **Recommended materials**

> 2,5 mm (6 oz) veg. tanned leather

For the accessorizes

> Leather straps 5 mm wide (for weaving)

> Feathers: 20x 10 – 15 cm, 20x 15 – 20 cm, 30x 20 – 25 cm  
(I used gold pheasant feathers)

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

## **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 dotted** 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 and put on ornaments, use pictures as reference.

> The **blue** areas show you roughly where to thin out the leather on the **flesh side**.

Video Tutorial

<https://youtu.be/px3ocRli6cM>

## **Manual – Bird Skull**

### **Step 1**

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

**Note:** The 'Accessory 1, left & right' is needed 4 times, twice with leather carving and twice as blank. Also the 'Accessory 2 middle' is needed once with leather carving and once as blank.

**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.

### Step 3

- 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.

### Step 4

Moisten the pieces and bring them into their rough shape.

### Step 5

Apply dye, paint, resist, antique gel and finish in that order.

### Step 6

Assemble the pieces.

### Step 7

Punch the sowing holes along the **red lines** and sow them.

**Tip:** Before punching the holes make sure the edges that are meant to be connected line up perfectly!

### Step 8

**Water hardening:** Harden the leather within about 50°C (max 60°C) hot water for about 5-10 minutes. The Leather will need up to 10 hours to dry, use this time to shape it into its final form.

**Shaping:** For a good outward bent, use a bone folder to stretch the leather from the inside out. To do so by grabbing an edge, put the leather on the table. Then press one side of the bone folder on the leather and pull it away from your hand towards your body, while pulling the leather up with your other hand. This way the leather gets stretched and give an outwards bend.

**Oven hardening:** If it is not hard enough put it in water for about 1 minute, let it set for about 30 minutes and put it into the oven for 30 min at 60°C. Make sure the shape you want is maintained. I recommend a test piece.

## Manual Accessory

Step 1 – 6 like the Skull

### Step 7

Punch the sowing holes along the **red dotted lines**.

### Step 8

Order the feathers left and right and arrange them in the layers where you want to put them on.

Use contact cement to glue on the feathers along the accessory pieces (the once with leather carving) like visible on the pictures. Try not to glue them directly on the sowing holes.

### Step 9

weave in the leather straps in between the feathers.

**Step 10**

Use contact cement to glue on the blank leather pieces of the accessories on the back side of the leather carved pieces to secure the feathers.

**Step 11**

Repunch the sowing holes and sow them.

**Step 12**

Try the accessories on the skull and mark where to fix them together, use contact cement and sowing to attach them onto each other.

**Step 13**

Use contact cement and rivets to fix the accessories on the skull.

**Tip:** I used only screw rivets to make the accessories detachable, since this way transportation and storing with the feathers is way easier.

Enjoy!

I would love to hear your feedback!



