



instructables

Make a Custom Leather Soccer Ball (Futbol for the Folks Not in the US)



by HideGear

So you want to make your own soccer ball (futbol) or maybe repair one you already have. Here's what you need:

1. A sacrificial soccer ball. It must have a bladder that holds air, as that's what you need out of it. (if anyone knows a source of bladders I'd love to know where to get them other than China where you have to order 1000 or so). My dog tore up this one on the outside but didn't pop the bladder.

5. Good sharp cutting implement: Rotary cutter, round knife, head knife, Exacto knife etc.

Supplies:

Leather 4-6 ounce something you like:

<https://maverickleathercompany.com/>

Thread:

<https://www.rmleathersupply.com/collections/thread..>

2. Leather. I used scrap from other projects (@hidegear on instagram) and set this brown 5 ounce (2mm) leather aside specifically for this build. I think any leather from 4-6 ounce would work (1.6mm-2.2mm). You don't want to use leather from the stretchy portions of the hide like the belly as it can cause your panels to skew a little. The leather I used was a softer chrome tan leather similar to Horween's Chromexcel. It looks beautiful but maybe not the best for a hard playing game. Choose something that works for you.

3 Good strong polyester thread. I prefer Ritza 25. I used Med Brown .8mm
<https://www.rmleathersupply.com/collections/thread..>
You will need two of the small spools.

4. My pattern. You'll need 12 Pentagons and 20 Hexagons total.

Wing Divider (optional but helpful):

<https://www.rmleathersupply.com/products/economy-S...>

Awl:

<https://www.rmleathersupply.com/products/kyoshin-e...>

Pricking Irons (I used 5spi or 5mm irons this is optional but helpful):

<https://www.rmleathersupply.com/collections/pricki...>

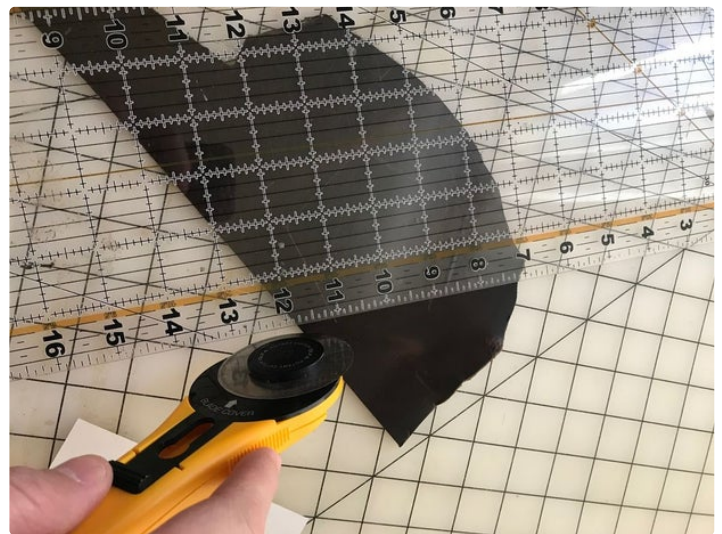
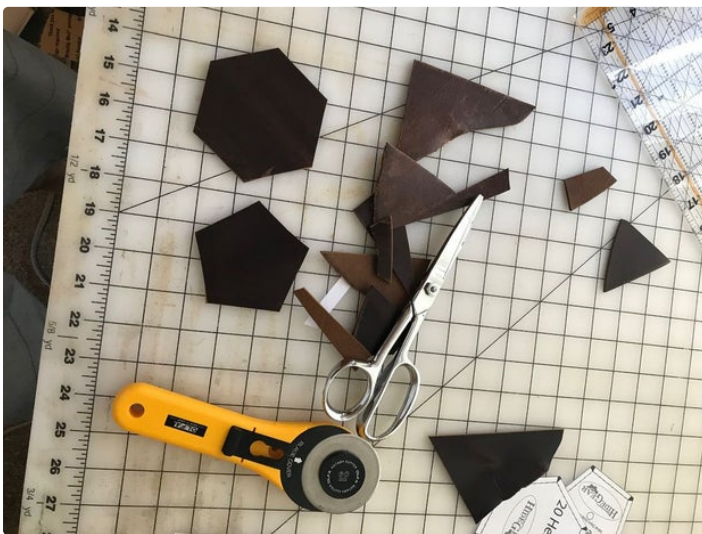
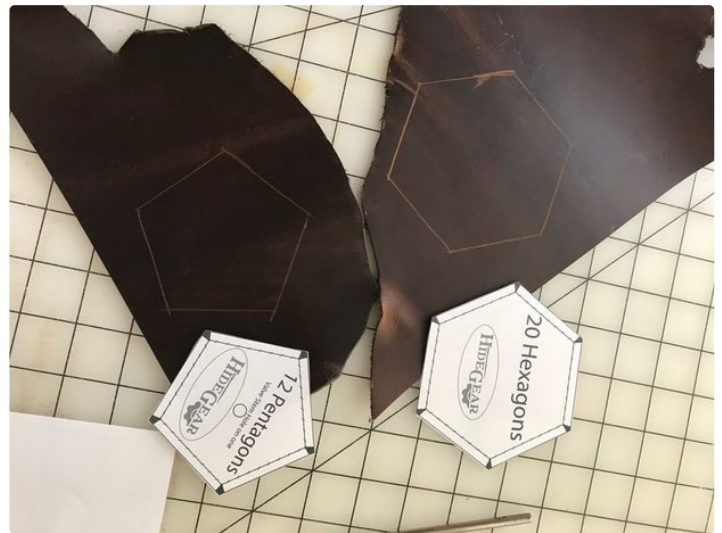
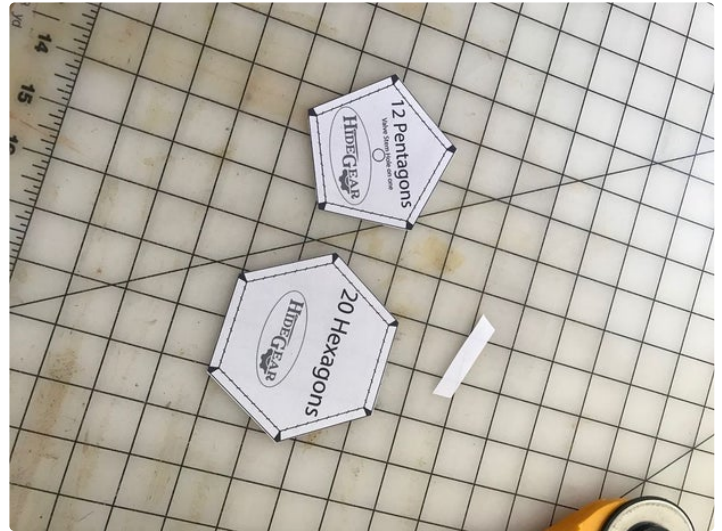
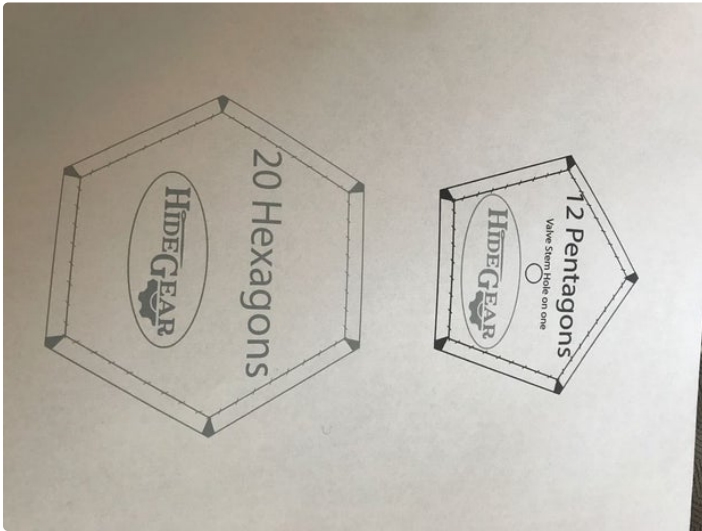


Step 1: Here's Your Pattern

1. Cut out the pattern, then proceed to use it to cut the 12 pentagons (with a hole in one for the valve) and 20 hexagons. It looks slick if you use the same color for all pentagons and a different color for all the hexagons.

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2. Use a sharp knife for the leather. I really like a rotary cutter.





<https://www.instructabl...>

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Step 2: Mark and Prick Stitch Lines

1. Mark stitch line and mark for stitching holes (using wing divider, then pricking irons and awl).
2. On the leather, trim off the little corners as marked in black on the pattern.
3. Optionally skive the edges. Skiving is using a knife to make the edges thinner and will be easier to stitch and turn the bag.







Step 3: Start Stitching

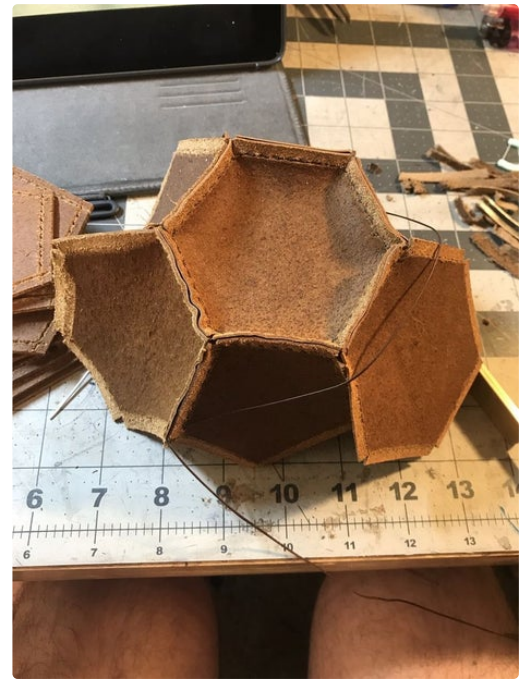
I used what's called the saddle stitch Here's a great video introduction:

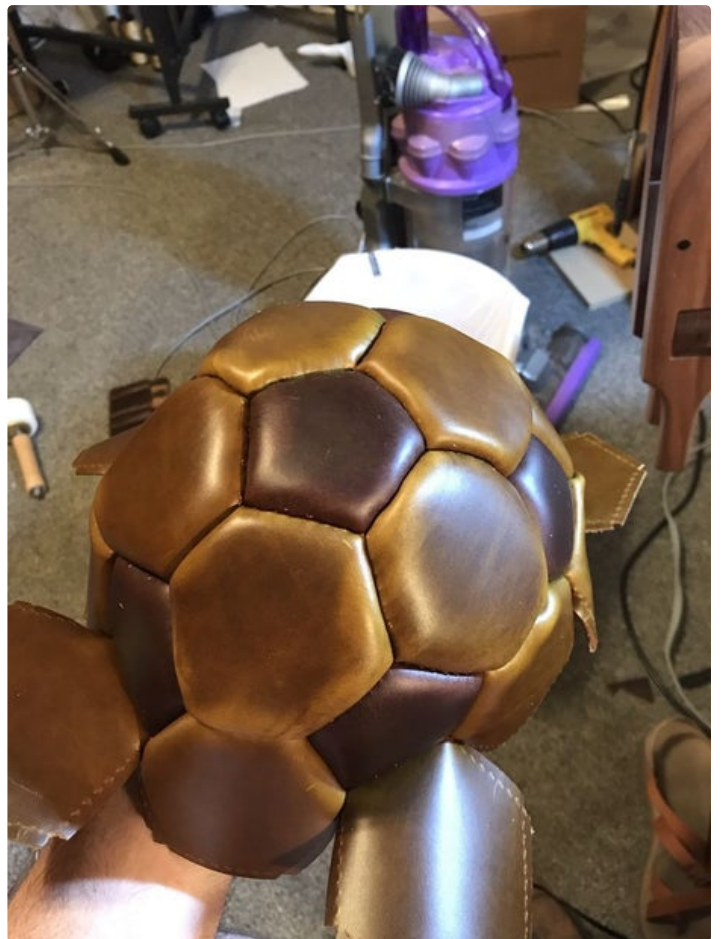
[//www.youtube.com/embed/MFDo-dtr9mk](https://www.youtube.com/embed/MFDo-dtr9mk)

To assemble, each pentagon has a hexagon on each side, sort of resembling a flower after you put the first one together. Remember-it's sewn inside out. Look up a picture of a soccer ball and follow the panel pattern; it's easy.

Leave an opening in a zigzag line big enough to flip the ball right side out that will have to be ladder stitched.

[//www.youtube.com/embed/Rk2eCUky-zY](https://www.youtube.com/embed/Rk2eCUky-zY)





Step 4: Well Now What?

Now that you've sewn together as much as you can and are still able to flip the ball right side out, it is time to flip it. Insert the bladder line up the valve with the one pentagon with a hole in it, insert the needle. Leave it inserted to keep the stem lined up.

think I should have around the outside of the valve stem to keep it from rotating if it ever gets underinflated so you may want to consider some sort of rubber cement on the one pentagon with the valve hole.

I didn't glue the bladder to the outer panels but I



Step 5: How to Close the Ball

Learn the Ladder Stitch, for a hidden seam:

This was the most difficult part of the construction. Stitch the entirety of the open seam up loosely and slowly start tightening up the seam that is open. Back stitch under a sewn area carefully to keep it from coming loose. A curved needle is helpful.

[//www.youtube.com/embed/K27hokg1gpk](https://www.youtube.com/embed/K27hokg1gpk)



Step 6: You're Done, Inflate and Enjoy

You've now made your own soccer ball, inflate it and give it a kick.





Nice idea! Minor point: I use Ritza thread. I have to assume you meant 0.8 mm, not 0.08 mm.



fixed it thanks so much for noticing the details.



De nada. (Leather workers stick together!)



You are correct I will get that fixed. Thanks so much.



What a good instruction and very well explained congratulations, excellent photos and videos



Thanks so much, the videos are not my own. Youtube has been an excellent resource for learning leathercraft so many talented makers out there to watch how to do the craft.



Eres un maestro y yo un principiante que siempre me gusta el trabajo del cuero que se practica desde el huerto del Edén que bueno aprender de ti FELICITACIONES Y GRACIAS Por compartir tus conocimientos



Estoy usando el traductor de Google, así que espero que esto tenga sentido. Muchas gracias por tu comentario, me encanta ayudar a los principiantes a entrar en este oficio, comunícate si necesitas ayuda o consejo, ya sea aquí o en mi página de Instagram (@hidegear). Este proyecto no es demasiado complicado para un principiante, espero que lo abordes. Será genial, envíame una foto si lo haces.



Really love it.

If you looking for Bladders may you give this a try:
<https://www.cawila.de/cawila-ballblase-fussball-gr-5.html>



Thank you so so much, I'm going to give that a shot, I'd love to make more, maybe some team colors, you may have made it possible without destroying other soccer balls !!!



201/5000

Greetings, I am 70 years old and when I was a child I used the old leather soccer balls, I remember that when it was played with rain they were very very heavy, and when you hit them with your head you could be K.O.



Awesome! Thanks to you I think I already have the perfect Xmas present for one of my nephews and we are just in May!! :)

P.S.: For some of us, neither socce... (Won't say it, can't say it!) nor football, it is Fútbol!!!! ;)



Sorry about the Americanness lol. I want to see what you make so please remember to come back and post it. Let me know if you run into any questions



That is really nice! Good job. I'm going to make one. Thank you for sharing.



Please post the results I'd love to see another one



That is really, really impressive :)



Thanks so much. It's actually not too difficult. I encourage you to try it



That's really cool! My brother loves football (soccer) so I may try to make him one eventually. I may need to practice my leather working skills a bit though.



This isn't a bad project for a beginner I promise. It's great because it can hide stitching that isn't perfect