

Leather Selection:

I recommend using leather that's about 5-6 Oz (2.0-2.4mm), and soft in temper. This pattern is almost all butt stitching and the 'squish' factor of a softer temper leather will help to make any misalignments or slight errors in cutting blend in and disappear. The leather I used when making the cow in the pictures was a Kodiak side, 5-6oz, oil tanned, in caramel/brown purchased from Tandy. They still carry this product if you want to make an exact copy. You'll need about 2 or 3 sqft, but this is an excellent project for using up scraps.

Preparing the pattern:

This pattern is designed to be printed on US letter size paper (11 x 8 ½ inches), at 100% scaling. You also need to make sure you have the 'Auto Landscape/Portrait' setting enabled.

I'd highly recommend sticking your pattern onto some firm cardstock, posterboard, picture frame matting or other stiff material to use for marking your pieces. A cardboard cereal box or something similar is perfect for this and will hold up to multiple uses.

Assembly Instructions

1. Cut out all the pieces
 - a. Use something heavy to place on top of the pieces while marking for cutting and go slowly. I like to also mark where my stitching holes will be before cutting the pieces out, but do whatever works for you.
 - b. If you see "Cut 1, FLIP, Cut 2" on a pattern piece, cut 1 of this piece, flip the pattern over and then cut the second piece.
2. Punch your stitching holes, being careful to ensure your holes are in the correct places
 - a. I recommend using a diamond awl or diamond punch for this, but a small round punch will work too.



1.

- a. Take the 'Nose Front' piece and butt stitch the wider top edge (7 holes) to the narrow edge of the 'Forehead' piece. With the same thread, butt stitch one end of the 'Nose Underside' piece to the edge of the 'Forehead' piece making sure the curve is going in the right direction:



- b. Now butt stitch the other end of the 'Nose Underside' piece to the other side of the 'Forehead' piece:



- c. Then butt stitch all around the perimeter of the 'Nose Front' piece to the 'Nose Underside' piece. You might have to manipulate the leather a little line everything up:



- d. Now take the 'Neck' piece and stitch the narrow edge (6 holes) to the center 6 holes of the 'Nose Underside' piece. Be careful to line this up properly – you should have 10 unstitched holes on either side of the 'Nose Underside' piece once you're done:



2. Butt stitch the 'Leg' pieces to the 'Belly' pieces:



3. Butt stitch the 'Patch' pieces to the 'Main Body' pieces:



4. Butt stitch the narrow ends of the 'Spine' and 'Rear' (5 holes each) together:



5. Now butt stitch the now-joined 'Spine' and 'Rear' pieces to the 'Main Body' pieces:



6. Butt stitch the 'Belly' pieces to the main body assembly, starting at the rear piece, joining the legs to the main body as you go. Work up the other side of the leg piece, along the 'Belly' piece and down the next leg piece. Finally, go up the remaining leg seam. This is an awkward one to stitch, take your time and try to keep everything in line:



7. Saddle stitch the 'Feet' pieces to the tube you've formed by stitching the legs to the main body pieces.



8. Butt stitch the open portion of the main body piece and attach the ear in a position you like. To attach the ear, fold it so that the holes line up then pass your thread through the holes as part of your normal butt stitch:



9. Butt stitch the head assembly you made earlier to the rest of the body, making sure to line everything up correctly:



10. Attach the tail by using the holes in the centre of the seam between the spine piece and the rear piece:



11. Now stuff the body with the filling of your choice. If your plan is use it as a doorstop or similar, then use sand in small, sturdy bags to add weight. Once you've stuffed it, butt stitch the belly seam closed – curved needles really help here. If you're using a fibre filling like polyester, you might want to place a small piece of fabric over top of your filling while stitching to avoid catching it with your needle points.
12. You're done! Congratulations!