Biarritz Bracelet Project Sheet
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Making the Leather

Classic leatherworking consists of 4 basic steps:

Cutting

Coloring

Gluing

Finishing

If this is the first experience with leather, you'll find it's very inexpensive to purchase the basic supplies. Once you get hooked though, there are many ways to embellish your leather designs.

It's very important to protect yourself and your work area from the dye and glue. Most leatherworkers use a large piece of marble so they can clean up a spill easily. Wear an apron or old clothes and don't forget to wear disposable rubber gloves when using glue or dye.

Use the thinnest leather available which is 1.5mm. Cut a piece with a sharp pair of sewing scissors that's smaller than your cutting board.

1. **Cut the leather**
    a. Even up the edges of the leather by using the ruled cutting mat and metal ruler to measure and the craft knife to make the leather edges even.
    b. Cut 16 leather rectangles 1" x ½" First 1" strips, then cut down to ½".

2. **Dye or paint the leather**
    a. Protect your work surface with newspaper or pages from an old magazine.
    b. Wear rubber gloves and protect clothing.
    c. Dip the dauber into the leather dye and use a scrap leather piece to take some of the dye off the dauber
    d. Apply to the top and sides of the leather.
    e. Apply a patina if desired or any other special effects such as distress marks etc.

Cutting Tools/ Supplies

Thin leather
Xacto knife
Metal ruler
Cutting mat

Coloring Tools/Supplies
Dye
Dauber
Work surface protection
Leather balm
HD paper towel

Glue Tools/Supplies
Leather Contact Cement
Disposable Rubber Gloves
Brush for applying the glue
Wallpaper seam roller

f. Apply a small amount of Leather Balm using the heavy duty paper towel. The balm can prevent glue from getting stuck on the edges.

g. Another option is to use leather paint. You can also experiment with any acrylic paint.

h. Paint the top of the leather and not the edges.

3. Glue
    a. Wear rubber gloves.
    b. Apply a thin layer of contact cement to the wrong side of 2 leather rectangles and wait for a minute or less for it to get tacky.
    c. Put the two pieces together
    d. Roll with the seam roller

4. Finish the edges
    a. Use the craft knife to trim the corners off.
    b. Using either a grinder or a flex shaft with an abrasive wheel, lightly sand all the edges
    c. Using course sandpaper, knock off any loose edges
    d. Touch up the edges with the dye or paint them.
    e. Apply beeswax to the edges
    f. Run the smoother tool around the edges
    g. Rub the sheep's wool around the edges and then the top and bottom

5. Assembly
    a. Using a #57 drill, drill 3 holes on each long side of the leather rectangles.
    b. Connect each rectangle with a Byzantine section using the 3mm jump rings. There should be a mail section on all long sides of the rectangles.
    c. Attach the toggle clasp to the center connector on each end of the bracelet.

6. Options for increasing bracelet size
    a. Add the necessary additional number of rings to the bar end of the toggle clasp
    b.   Add one addition rectangle and one additional mail section to the end.

Finishing Tools/ Supplies
Leather glue
Grinder or flex shaft
Course sandpaper
Beeswax
Dye and dauber
Smoother tool
Sheep's wool