

LEATHER DUSSACK PATTERN AND DIRECTIONS

Parts list:

Leather - Oak Tanned (also called vegetable tanned, belt leather, or saddle leather) of 10-12 oz. weight (each oz. = 1/64th of an inch in case you care). This seems to be the best weight. 8-9 oz is the absolute minimum and I'd say that 14 oz. is the maximum. The "Light Weight Saddle Skirt" sold by Tandy Leatherfactory (Item #9047-05) is what I used.

23" long piece of 1/2" "Pex" tubing. This is a plastic water line sold at most "big box" home stores. It's a little more flexible than PVC and a little stiffer than Siloflex. Either of these can probably be substituted, I just prefer the Pex.

Glue: I use contact cement (use a good solvent based glue and do so in a well ventilated area, water based contact glue is more environmentally and user friendly but does not hold as well). A good quality leather cement can be used instead, but unless it's a contact type you will need to clamp the piece while it dries.

Waxed thread and leather needle for sewing.

Procedure:

Cut leather according to pattern (see appendix 1).

Mark an area 2" wide and split by the center line 24" long from the back (see figure 1). This area is where the Pex tubing will be inserted and will not be glued when forming the piece.

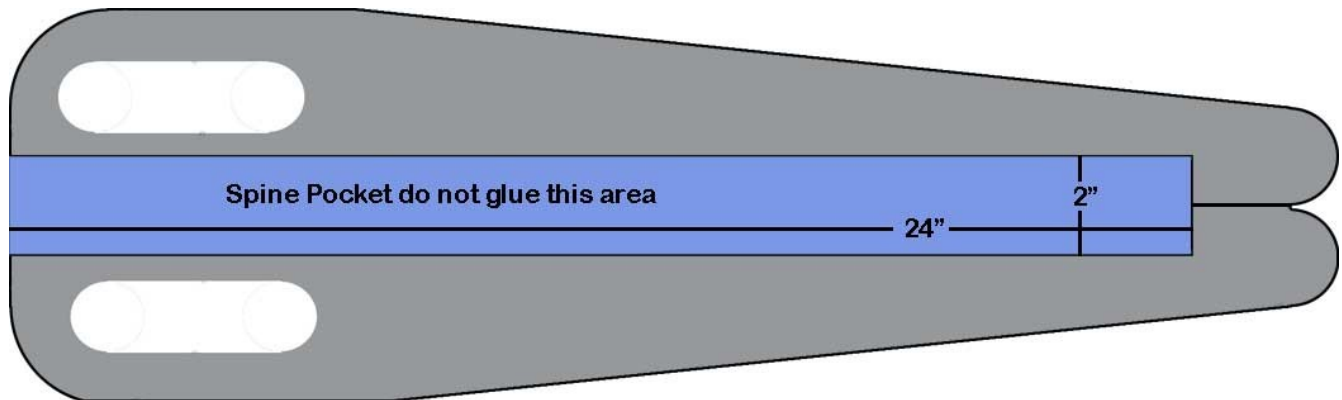


Figure 1

I suggest wetting and folding the leather in half along the center line, matching up the two sides and letting it sit overnight till dry. This will make gluing easier.

Apply glue to the inside surface of the leather (except the previously marked area), fold the leather in half along the center, line up the edges and press (or clamp as necessary). Allow to dry.

Mark stitching holes along the outside edge where the leather is glued together (not the spine where it is folded). I set mine every 1/4". Make the holes by whatever means you feel is best. I use a drill press with a 1/16th" bit. You can also use a leather awl, a hole punch, a stitching chisel or a hammer and nail. Use a simple saddle stitch (also called a running stitch) to sew the piece (see figure 2). Do not stitch the unglued opening of the spine pocket (this needs to be left open for now



Figure 2

Stitch the outside of the hand opening in the same manner.

Sand the "raw" edge of the piece to smooth and slightly round it.

Wet the leather along the spine pocket. The easiest way is to open the back and pour some water in, let it set for 10-15 seconds, and dump it out. Insert the plastic tube into the pocket (this may take a little force, if so just hold the leather and hit the tubing on a solid surface to push it in). The tube should go into the pocket approximately 1/2" beyond the opening.

Stitch the spine pocket closed, let dry and seal the leather with lacquer, wax or varnish.

Have fun and be safe.

APPENDIX 1

The full size pattern follows. It is in three segments, each on a separate page. Print all three pages, trim and tape them together to make one image and cut out. You now have the full size pattern.

