

STEPS FOR MAKING A BELT

1. Skive belt blank to thickness wanted.
 - A. Make sure skiver opening is wider than thickness of belt blank before starting.
 - B. Also belt blank can be coated with Lexol on flesh side for easier skiving.
2. Skive the last 4" of one end of the belt blank very thin (about 1/16") for the making of a keeper later.
3. At the other end, cut tongue with tool from tool room. (mark a center line dot to line up tool)
4. Measure back 5 1/2" from tip of tongue (6 1/2" if using 2 keepers) & punch a small locator hole in center of belt blank. This is the middle of 5 holes for the buckle latch.
5. With the buckle to be used, measure down the belt blank from locator hole with a tape measure, to the inside end of the buckle the actual waist size, & mark on the belt blank.
6. With the buckle still on the belt blank, mark the location of the buckle bar on the belt blank (this is the bar the buckle latch is mounted).
7. Set aside buckle, & measure 3" (4" if using 2 keepers) up belt blank from buckle bar mark towards locator hole & mark across belt blank
8. From buckle bar mark, measure 2 3/4" (3 3/4" if using 2 keepers) + 1" (for shrinkage) toward other end of belt blank & cut off. Retain this short end to make the keeper (s).
9. Now soak belt blank with either water or water & Lexol real good & wiping excess before sealing in a zip lock plastic bag to store the refrigerator for 24 hours to case it.
10. After 24 hours or so, remove from plastic bag & either hang up belt blank or lay on side on flat surface to dry for 2 or 3 hours or till face side of leather looks almost natural, but still feels cool to the touch from the moisture.
11. The belt blank is now ready to trace a pattern on or start tooling with a stamping pattern.
12. When finished working for the day, but not done tooling, spray the back or flesh side of the belt lightly with water or water & Lexol, to keep up moisture content **lost** while tooling, then seal in zip lock plastic bag & store in the refrigerator till **needed**.
13. When finished tooling, dry belt good for 24 hours, then bevel top & bottom edges of belt with a #1 or a #2 beveller edge cutter.

14. Once again, layout belt with the buckle & measure from locator hole to the inside front edge of the buckle, the exact waist size & mark. Then mark across the leather where the belt bar is
15. Measure 3" (4" for 2 keepers) up the belt towards the locator hole from the buckle bar mark. Now measure 2 3/4" (3 3/4" for two keepers) towards the end of the belt & cut off. Probably a good idea now is to cut a little off each corner end of the belt for a finished look.
16. Now skive the end of the belt from the marked 5 3/4" (or 7 3/4" for 2 keepers) almost in half thickness, so that belt will be almost the same thickness when folded around buckle bar.
17. Remark buckle bar mark, & punch an oblong hole centered on buckle bar mark for buckle latch to ride in.
18. At other end of belt, punch proper size hole through locator hole to receive buckle latch. From this hole measure 3/4" between holes & punch two above & two below locator hole.
19. Now you can make your keeper, by dampening it & putting on a design, but leave it plenty long, as we cut it to fit later.
20. Belt & keeper is now ready for coloring or staining. Mask off back or flesh if you don't want that stained, but make sure you stain the front & edges well, then let dry overnight.
21. Either using Tagemette gum or Atom wax, using a slicker tool, slicker the back side of the belt & keeper to a smooth hard finish. Then do the edges the same, on the edger motor
22. Buff the belt then give two coats of Super Sheen or Leather Sheen, letting dry well between coats.
23. Fit & cut the keeper around the belt & either sew the ends together, or when cutting, taper cut & glue.
24. The buckle can now be installed with either glove snaps or #20 dot snaps.