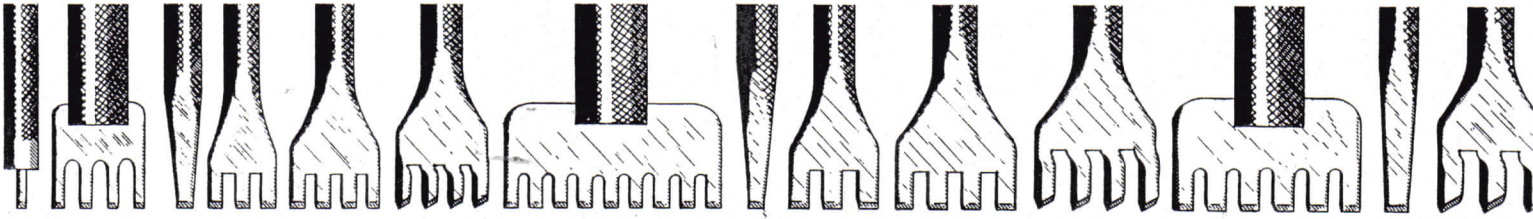


# PUNCHING LACING HOLES

Before you can begin lacing, you have to punch precisely spaced lacing holes or slits in the leather. There are

several ways to do this and many tools available to the leather crafter or hobbyist.

## THONGING CHISELS



Thonging Chisels are so called because they look like small chisels. They punch lacing slits instead of round holes. These chisels come in single-prong, three-prong, four-prong, six-prong and eight-prong punches and they punch slits ranging in size from 1/16" to 5/32" in width. They also come in angled chisels for slanted lacing slits. The 1/16"

chisels are used for punching saddle stitching slits, to be sewn with thread. The 3/32" chisels are for 3/32" lace, 1/8" for 1/8" lace and 5/32" for buckstitch or florentine lace. Of course, these rules are not hard and fast as stated in the introduction.

STRAIGHT		ANGLED	
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Wing Dividers Leather Guide Line</p> <p>To prepare for positioning lacing slits, scribe a light guide line 1/8" from the edges of the project to be laced, with a pair of wing dividers.</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Single-Prong Chisel Light Guide Line</p> <p>Begin by punching all corner slits with a single-prong chisel, at right angles to the corners. Hold the chisel in position on the leather, straight up and down, and strike sharply with a wooden mallet. Always punch on a rubber protecto board to prevent damage to the chisels.</p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Wing Dividers Leather Guide Line</p> <p>Prepare for positioning angled lacing slits the same way you did for straight slits. Scribe a light guide line around edges, 1/8" in, with wing dividers.</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>15° Vertical Guide Line</p> <p>Begin by punching all corner slits. Set the bottom of the single-prong chisel slightly to the left of the corner and at approximately a 15° angle to the vertical guide line. Punch corner slit. Turn leather clockwise and repeat on next corner. Continue in this manner, always turning leather clockwise, and punch all four corners. Always punch on a rubber protecto board to prevent damage to chisels.</p>
<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Same Distance</p> <p>After punching the corner slits, begin next slits with a multi-prong chisel. Space the first slit from the corner the same distance as between the prongs of the chisel. If you are using a 1/8" chisel, the first slit after the corner should be 1/8" from the corner slit.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>First Prong Enters Last Slit</p> <p>To properly align succeeding slits, place first prong in last slit punched and punch again. Continue punching to next corner. When punching through several layers of leather, be sure all edges are lined up and the chisel is held straight, otherwise you might punch through the edge of an inside piece, such as a pocket. (See next page.)</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Same Distance</p> <p>Begin next slits with the multi-prong angled chisel. Space the first slit from the corner the same distance as between the prongs of the chisel (always measure between the bottom of the slits). If you are using a 1/8" chisel, the first slit should be 1/8" from the corner slit.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>First Prong Enters Last Slit</p> <p>Properly align succeeding slits, as with straight slits. Place first prong in last slit punched and punch again. Continue punching to next corner. Be sure all edges are lined up and that the punch is held straight, to avoid punching through the edge of an inside piece such as a pocket. (See next page.)</p>
<p><b>5</b></p> <p>End Prongs Would Be Too Close To Corner Slit</p> <p>If slits do not come out evenly spaced at the next corner, adjust the spacing slightly by using the single-prong chisel as shown above.</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Use Single-Prong Chisel To Adjust Spacing</p> <p>When going around slightly rounded areas, this tip may be of help. Place third prong of multi-prong chisel over last slit. Turn chisel slightly so the last prong is on the guide line and tip the chisel so the last prong makes a faint impression and repeat the process until again on a straight area. Then punch the impressions with a single-prong chisel.</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Use Single-Prong Chisel To Adjust Spacing</p> <p>If slits do not come out evenly spaced at the next corner, adjust the spacing slightly by using the single-prong chisel as shown above.</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Faint Impressions</p> <p>When going around slightly rounded areas, this tip may be of help. Place third prong of multi-prong chisel over last slit. Turn chisel slightly so the last prong is on the guide line and tip the chisel so the last prong makes a faint impression and repeat the process until again on a straight area. Then punch the impressions with a single-prong chisel.</p>