

LACING TECHNIQUES

Lacing puts the finishing touch to handmade leather articles. How you lace, your technique and proficiency, has a great deal of importance in the overall appearance of a finished product. With the following instructions, plus a little practice, you will soon be doing a professional job of lacing.

There are two rules to remember when lacing, no matter what technique you are using. 1.) You should load no more than 2 yards of lace in your lacing needle at a time as lace can fray and wear from being pulled through the holes. 2.) When lacing, always lace with the front or outside of the project facing you!

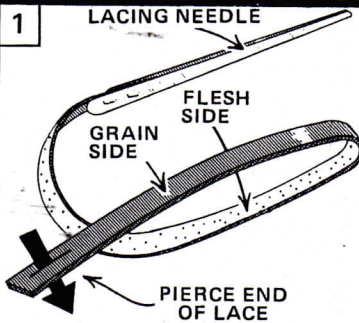
THE WHIPSTITCH

RECOMMENDED USAGE:

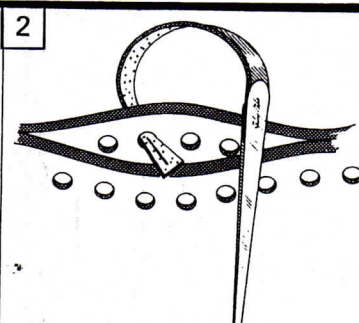
Small projects with little stress on seams or as decorative edging.

Use 3/32" holes and 3/32" lace.

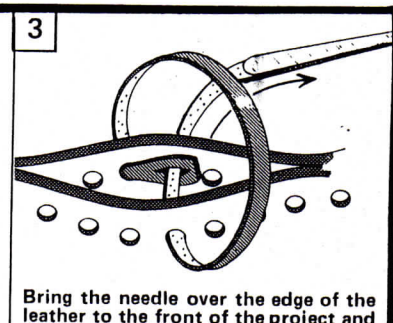
The Whip Stitch uses 3½ times the length of lace to the length of your project. For example; if your project measures 2 ft. around the laced part, you will need 3½ times that amount of lace, or 7 ft. of lace.



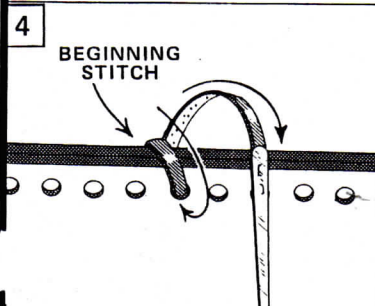
Thread the needle and then pierce the opposite end of the lace with a sharp knife leaving a slit of 1/8".



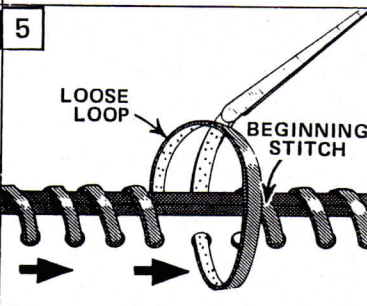
Begin lacing in between the two layers of leather. Leave about 1/4" at the end where you slit the lace.



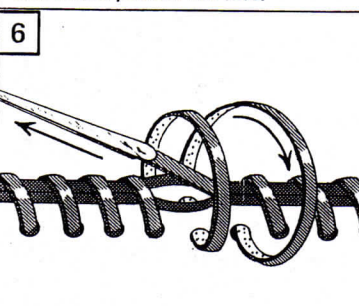
Bring the needle over the edge of the leather to the front of the project and through next hole over from beginning hole, then thread it through the slit in the end of the lace and through the opposite hole, as shown.



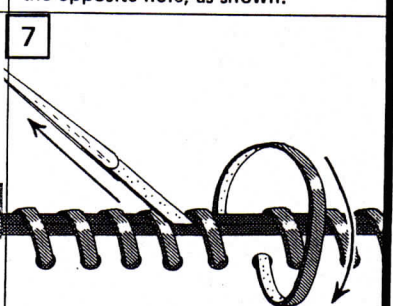
Pull stitch up tight. Continue lacing in a spiral, tightening the lace as you go.



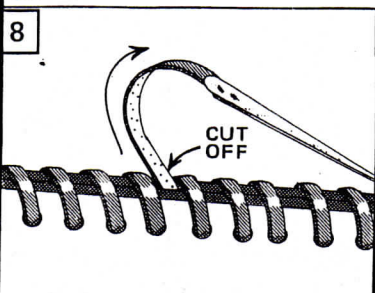
Lace around the project leaving a loose loop in the next to the last hole. There will be one unlaced hole between your very first and your last stitch, as shown.



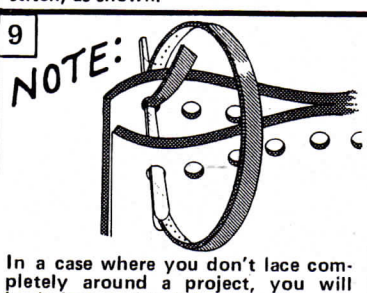
Spread the two leather layers and lace through the last hole, up between the leathers and through the 1st loose loop as shown.



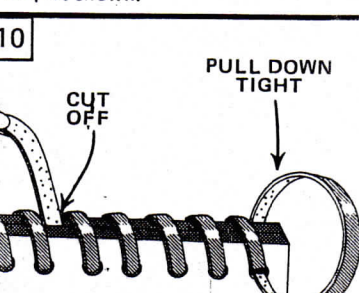
Pull the first loop tight, over the end of the lace, as shown.



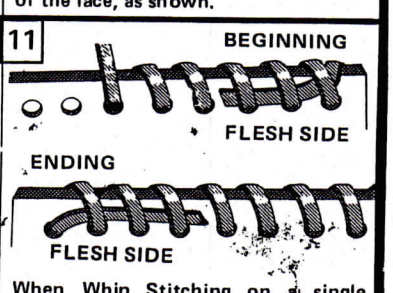
Pull the end of the lace tight to take slack out of the last loop. Cut off the end of the lace with a sharp knife and tap all lacing flat with a smooth-faced mallet.



NOTE: In a case where you don't lace completely around a project, you will begin lacing a bit differently. You will still begin between the leathers, but you will begin in the first hole and also take the next stitch in the first hole (twice through the first hole in the back leather only).



When tying off, go through last hole in front twice, only the second time bring the lace up between the leathers and back a few stitches.



When Whip Stitching on a single thickness of leather, be sure to catch the beginning tail of lace under the next few stitches on the back of the leather. End by running the needle back under the last few stitches on the back of the leather.