

Alright, get ready, load that rifle, here we go!

As a beginning, I wanted to suggest leather options.

First is the sole. I use a thicker oak tanned cow hide from Tandy, and they sell it in strips sometimes by the pound. Its pretty cheap bought like that and you dont need much for the sole. Its about 3/16" thick.

The sides may be made from something a little more plyible. I used oil tanned leather, and when they run it on sale, you can get a piece to make several pairs of shoe packs, with a bunch left over. The sides can also be made of the split cow hide, or suede as well to save on cost, however the leather is not period correct. If you take the advise above, make sure to make your shoe packs with the rough side of the leather OUT! Shiny side in. You do NOT want to be sliding around on slick soles, which is what will happen if shiny-slick side is on the outside. :)

Your first step after you obtain the proper leather, is to trace out the sole. Make sure you trace your foot with wearing whatever you will be wearing inside your SP's (shoe packs). In other words, if you want to wear sox, wear sox when you trace your foot. Because im making winter SP's, I wore two sets of wool stockings to trace my foot.

Also keep in mind to trace your foot with the pencil pointing straight up and down. You can also round out the lumpy edges such as the toe area, or any protruding bones. If you want thicker soles, you can double up the sole. However, this will cause punching holes with the awl to be more difficult.

First picture shows my traced my foot. The inner most line is my actual foot, the next line is with both pairs of stockings on, and the outer line is marking 1/4" outside the outline of my socked foot. The outside line will be the cut line.

Notice the lines at my toes, and heel, marking the centers of both sides of the foot. The toe next to your big toe, is the center of the front, and just guess at the center of the heel.

Cut out the sole. Remark the two center lines from your toe and heel. You will need them for measuring and sewing later.

Next step is to trace out the sides. If your making summer SP's, your sides will be much shorter (about 5" or so tall, or how high they go up on your leg) than my wool liners, as my winter SP's will go up part way on my calf. I will show how to measure for summer (shorter) SP's. Regardless of if your making winter or non-winter SP's, your sole piece will be used to determine the length of the sides. Basically your making sure theres enough leather to reach from the middle of the front of your foot, to the middle of your heel.

And, the only reason im tracing on paper, is so I can keep a pattern for myself, and I can just trace them out on the next pair of SP's I make. You can trace on the actual leather if you want.

Next pictures show measuring with a string or thread, from the front to the rear. Note; leave a little extra to make sure its not too close, as I have left about 1.5" extra ashown at the heel.

Next picture shows the thong used to measure the length of the sides, transferred onto a paper grocery bag. The length of the sides is determined by the thong length, and the height is 5.5". Notice the picture shows me measuring the inside of my left foot. The outside of the foot will likely be a little shorter, so just make sure you keep them separated when for when we begin sewing. The height of the sides may vary, especially if your helping a little guy make SP's. So this rectangle cut out and transposed onto your leather, will be one side. You measure the other side of your foot the same way, making sure to leave extra at the heel.

Thats it for #1 lesson. Get your soles cut out, and sides measured and cut out, and wait for lesson #2. After completing these steps, all that is needed to complete one shoe is a small flap that goes around the top of the ankle area, and the thong used to tie it tight against your foot. We will go over that later.

Last picture is of my finished shoe pack, so you get an idea what you might be making. :)

Next lesson coming soon.

If you have ANY questions, please ask. If I have not explained everything properly, or could more clearly, I would like to know.

Simeon







