

Alright, after the last lesson, you should have everything cut out to start sewing.

Some nuts and bolts stuff first.

I use linen thread that is 5 ply to get the strength I need, and because it is period correct thread for my persona in the 18th century. So if your trying to be as PC as possible, I recommend buying a heavy linen thread from Wilde weavery, their web address attached.

<http://wildeweavery.com/Default.htm>

Some options are using waxed thread, or the artificial sinew. You must not be able to break the thread by hand. If you can, its too weak for shoe wear, and you will be wasting your time sewing up your S-packs with a thread which will break easily.

Sewing. I will be teaching you a stitch called the "saddle stitch". Its really simple, and very strong and effective.

Starting with a piece of thread a few inches over double the length of the area your sewing, you thread a needle on each side of the thread.

Note: for ease of teaching, I will teach assuming your material is laying flat on the edge of a table, and you will be sticking a needle down through, or up through the material. Also I will be numbering the needles, so you can keep track and I can explain it easy.

#1) First step is to thread the needle #1 through the first hole (am only teaching the saddle stitch now, not specifically about s-p's) and pull it through until you have equal amount of thread for needles #1 and #2 on both top and bottom of the piece your sewing.

#2) Next is to thread needle #1 down through the next hole. So now you have both #1 and #2 needles on the bottom, and the SAME side of the material.

#3) Next is to take needle #2 and thread it UP through the same hole needle #1 just went DOWN through. Pull both threads tight to lock in the stitch, in between each hole.

#4) Next is to take needle #1 and thread it UP through the next hole.

#5) Next take needle #2 and thread it DOWN through the same hole.

This is double stitching your S-P's, and is double the strength. It is more time consuming, and harder, but worth the effort. The stitching follows the above steps over and over until you reach the last hole.

I recommend using two slightly different size (diameter) needles, as a thicker needle can go through a hole first, then the thinner needle will push through easier.

You will need to punch the holes in the leather with your awl, but don't punch more than 4 or 5 ahead. I have found when working with younger lads and lassies, that drilling the holes is easier for them. When your dealing with thick leather, its hard for the younger ones to punch holes. Plus its harder removing the awl from their thigh, when they squirm so much. :)

Sewing distance is about 1/4" away from the edge of your cutout.

First picture shows almost all the needed pieces. The only piece missing is the top outer flap, visible on the last picture of lesson #1, on my finished s-p. Notice one side flap is longer than the other side. This is normal. Also notice, my shoe packs shrunk! That's because I switched over to making my daughter a pair, and her feet are considerably smaller than mine. :)

Also remember the pictures only show me making the wool liners, and not the leather yet. I will not be using the saddle stitch on the liners, its not needed.

Second picture shows the first sewing, and proper alignment of the side flap and toe area. Remember the line you drew on the second toe, and heel? This is where those lines are important. Lay the bottom of the side 1/4" past the toe line, and start sewing at the line.

This third picture is showing a close up of the toe line. You cant see it, but I have the pencil pointing right at it, and you can see I have the 1/4" flap pulled back with my finger.

Forth picture shows the side flap following the contour of your foot cutout. Sew the side flap all the way to the heel line, and back stitch a few holes for strength. Then you can tie the stitching off.

Fifth and final picture shows the placement of the other side flap, and how the toe area aligns together. Remember to leave the 1/4" flap on both sides, as this will become the seam that sews up the middle and top of your foot up to the ankle.

An important step. You now have the basic design of your S-P's. You need to put your foot inside the sewn side flaps and make sure they fit snug. If they don't, re-stitch so they do.

So with the completion of this lesson, you should have both side flaps sewn to the bottom sole piece. Both pieces will follow the contour of your foot, and will look like a bath tub when standing upright.

In the next lesson, I will show how to sew the back heel, the front seam, and sew on your side flaps. And really, once you have sewn the sides to the heel, over half of your sewing is done!

Please don't hesitate to ask any questions.

God bless

Simeon









