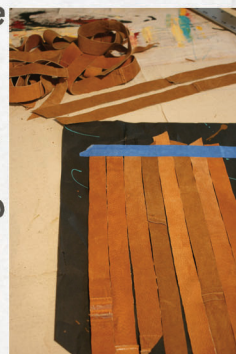


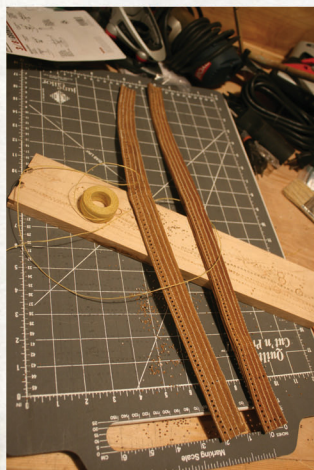
Woven Leather Bag

how-to^{by} michele beschen

Recycle old leather coats found in your closet or at the thrift store to create a woven handbag. First cut into one inch wide strips for weaving the body of your purse. Your one inch strips can be stitched together to give you the length you are needing. To start weave, lay out all vertical strips side by side. Tape down the top of your strips to a piece of cardboard or paper, so you can move it easily. Use a ruler or straight edge to guide each row as you weave in the horizontal strips. If you want your weave to be on the diagonal, you'll need to weave a bit larger piece so you can place your pattern on it diagonally. The bag we created was out of a piece the size of 20 x 26. Place your pattern on your woven piece so that the weave runs diagonally on the bag. Carefully cut using a rotary cutter. You'll need to cut another piece of solid leather to that same size for a liner. (Car Chamois work great for liners, too!) Use contact cement to attach to the backside of your woven piece. This will also help keep your weave together after you cut. Fold in half right sides together. Hand stitch the sides up about 1/8 from the edge. Push sides in to create a triangle point at the bottom about 3 inches wide. Stitch straight across and trim away triangle point. This will give your bag more of a boxy bottom rather than the look of a tote. Finish off the top edges with a saddle stitch. Secure any loose pieces at the top, if any, with contact cement. Add grommets to sides. Create handles using belts from jacket. Stitch to larger swivel clasp (found at home improvement stores) Add magnetic clasp to secure closed.



Take this idea and make it your own!



to score more creative goodness, visit www.couragetocreate.com & www.borganic.net

© 2006-2009 Simply Michele, Inc. All rights reserved.