SQUARES OF LEATHER

HOW TO SADDLE STITCH

Two needles. One piece of thread.

Online guide

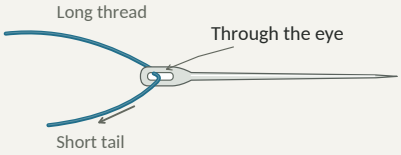
Preparation

Measure and cut: allow roughly **five times the length you'll stitch**.
Cut a little extra if you like; there's plenty in the kit.

Thread your needles

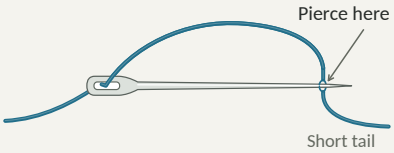
Repeat for both ends of one thread.

Through the eye



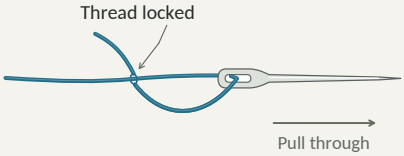
Pass the thread through the eye. Leave a tail about two needle lengths long.

Pierce the short tail



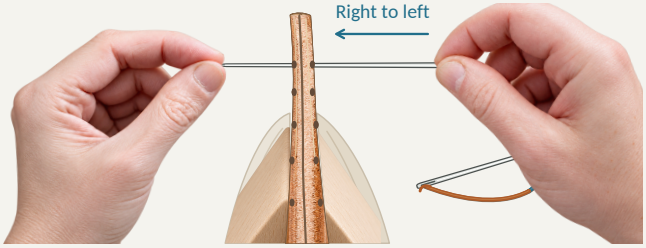
Bend the short tail back. Push the needle point through the middle of the thread, near its cut end.

Pull through to lock



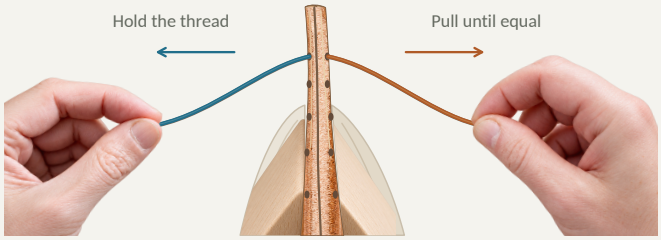
Slide the pierced tail along the needle and over the eye. Straighten gently to lock.

Pass through the first hole



Pass the right needle all the way through the first hole, from right to left, through every piece of leather.

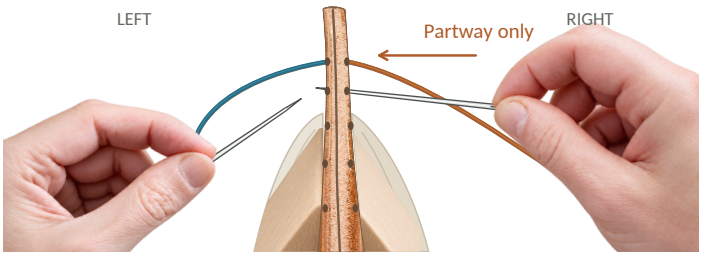
Pull until equal



Pull the thread out to either side, then adjust it until both ends are equal. You may need plenty of space for the long thread.

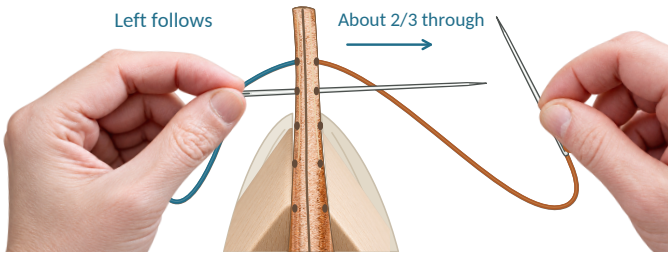
Start stitching

1 Check the next hole



Use the right needle to line up the next hole through every piece of leather. Check that you haven't missed a layer; only the point needs to emerge on the left.
Wiggle gently. Don't force it.

2 Follow with the left

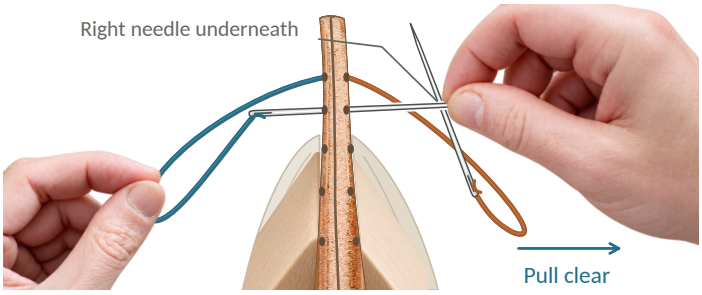


Withdraw the right needle as the left follows the same opening. Ease it through every layer until about two-thirds of the left needle is through.
The point is on the right; the eye stays on the left.

Two colours show the two ends of one thread.

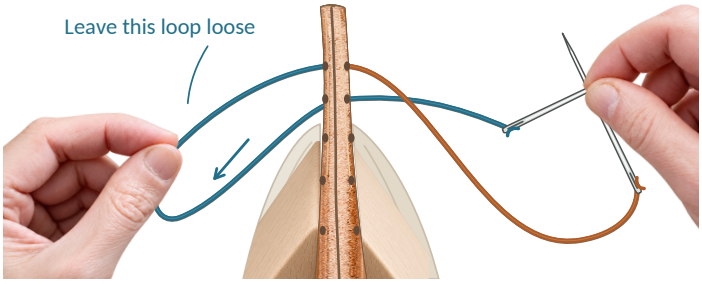
Continue with Step 3 on page 2.

3 Cross underneath



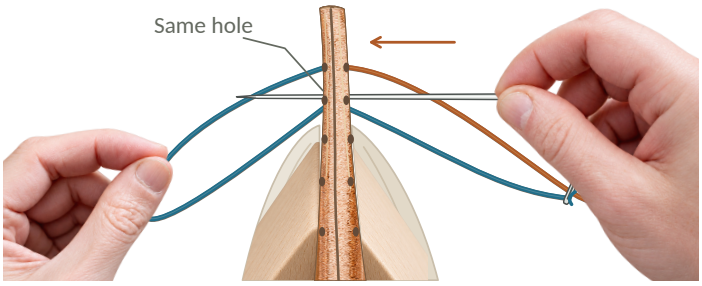
Cross the right needle underneath the emerging left needle. Pull the left needle clear, leaving slack on the left.

4 Make room



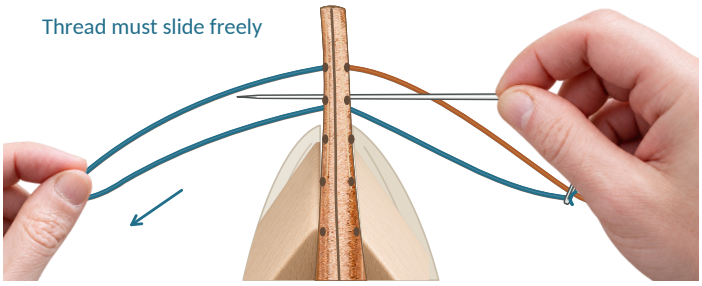
Draw the first thread gently towards you to make space behind it in the hole. Keep the left loop loose.

5 Return through



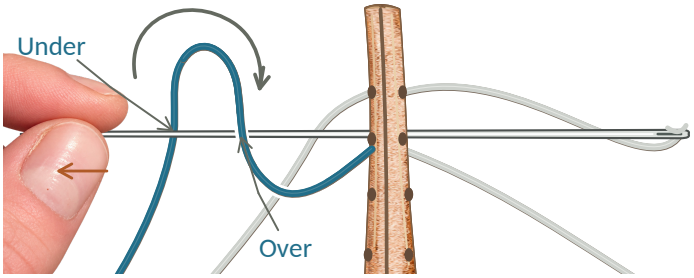
Send the right needle through the same hole, behind the first thread. Stop with its point showing on the left.

6 Check the thread



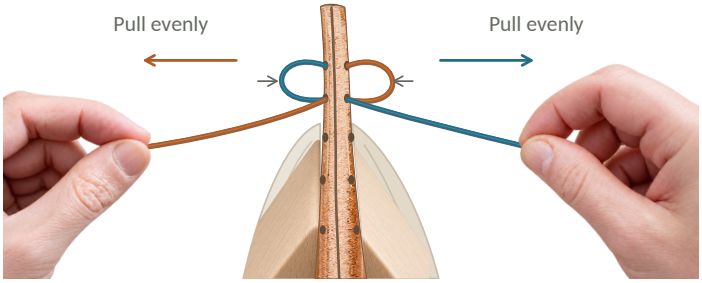
Gently tug the left thread. If it catches, withdraw the needle and try again beside the thread.

7 Make the loop



Lift the loose left thread over the emerging needle, then underneath. Keep the wrap open as you pull the needle through.

8 Tighten and repeat



Hold the thread and pull both sides evenly. Let the loose loops draw down until snug. Repeat from Step 1.

Helpful Tips

Ease the needle through one layer at a time. Don't force it through the whole stack.

At the end, backstitch two stitches, then trim on the least visible side.

Important

If the thread bunches or won't slide freely, you may have pierced an existing strand. Back the needle out and pass beside it. If it's already trapped, unpick or carefully cut out the affected stitches and restitch. You may need to start again. Nightmare!

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