Video Tutorial

Leather Pouch

Skills Canada Alberta is a provincial non-profit organization that actively promotes careers in skilled trades and technologies to Alberta youth. We do this through unique hands on programming, which includes in-the classroom resources and the Provincial Skills Canada Competition.

What's Included

- 10 leather pouch kits
- Scratch Awl
- Mallet
- Stitching Chisel
- Leather Punch
- Rivet Anvil
- Rivet Setter
- Template

What You Will Need

- Marker Pen
- Ruler
- Tape
- Scissors

Tag us in your projects! **#ABisSkilled**

@skillsalberta   Skills Canada Alberta   @skillsalberta
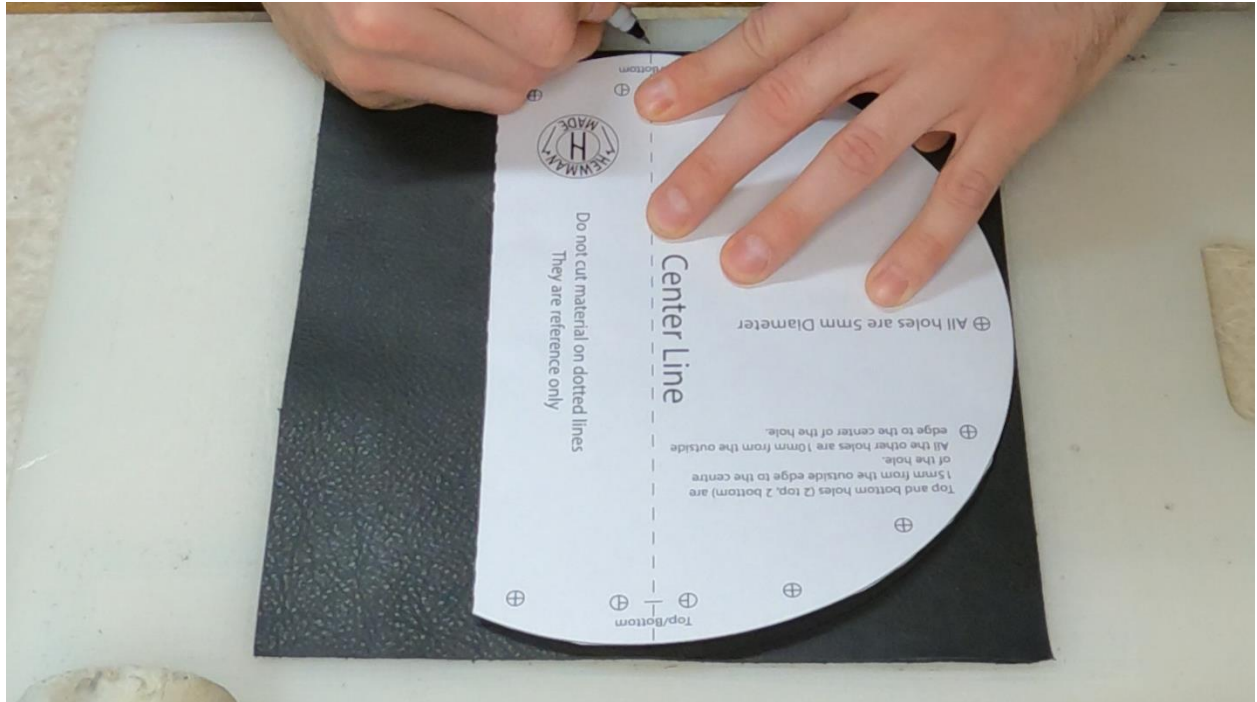
Leather Pouch

What's Included

- Project Kit – 7 pieces (1:13)
- Awl
- Mallet
- Pricking Fork/Stitching chisel
- Round punch kit
- Rivet anvil and setter
- Template

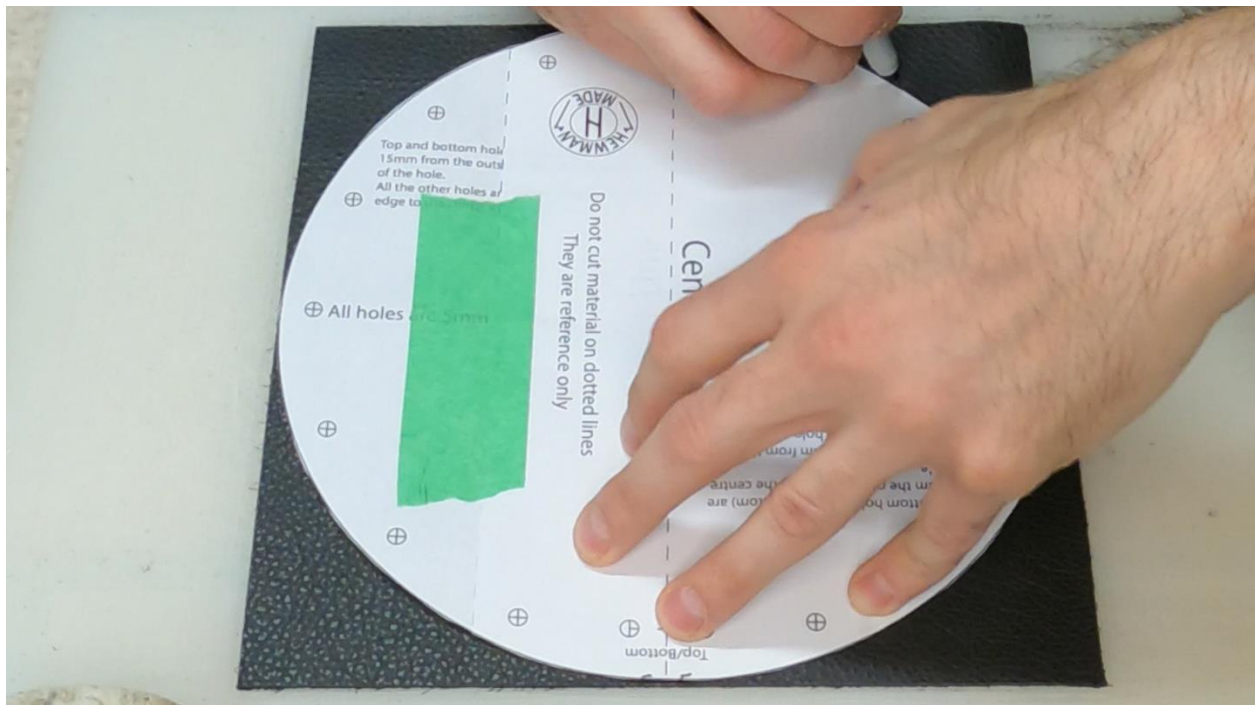What You Will Need (0:33)

- Tape
- Fine tip sharpie or Pen
- Ruler
- Scissor or razor knife
- Soft surface for punching holes
- Hard work surface

Step 1: Template <mark>(1:41)</mark>

Cut out the template and mark the circle on your piece of leather with a pen

You can cut out 2 templates, tape them together to make a full circle if desired

DO NOT throw away the template, it is still needed

Step 2: Cut out the Pouch (2:20)

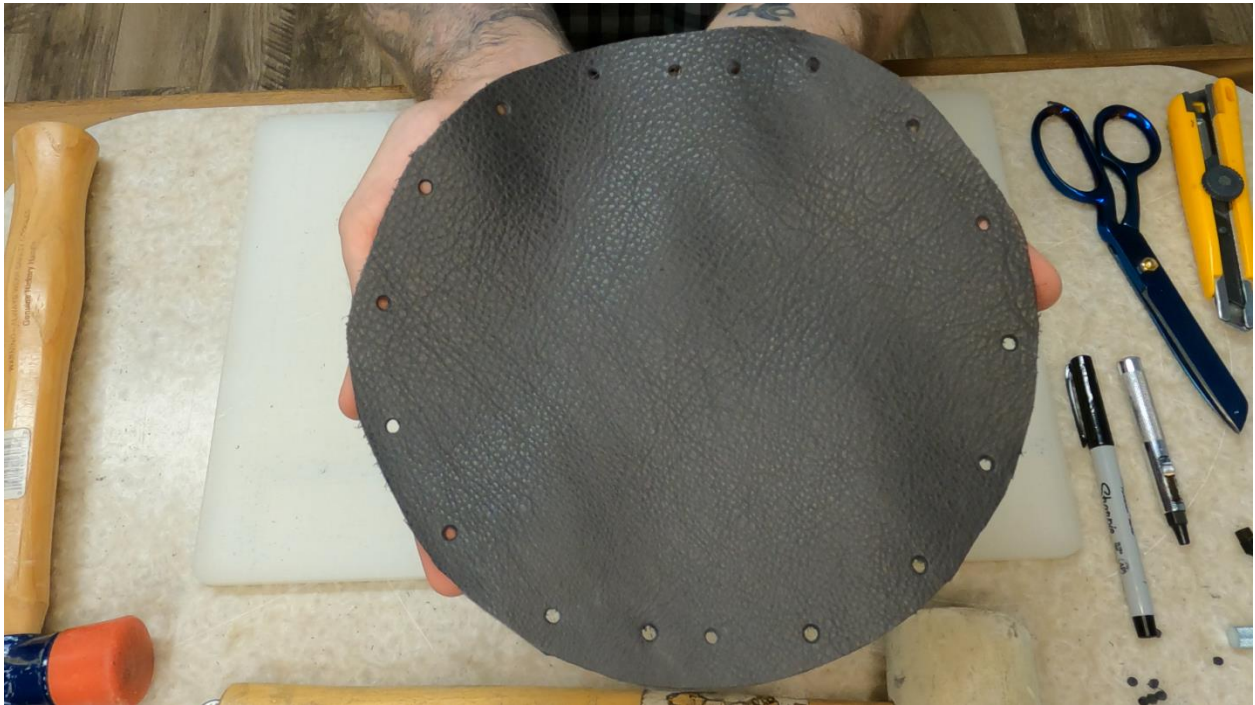Using your scissors or a razor knife, cut out the circle

Step 3: Punching holes for the Drawstring (2:45)

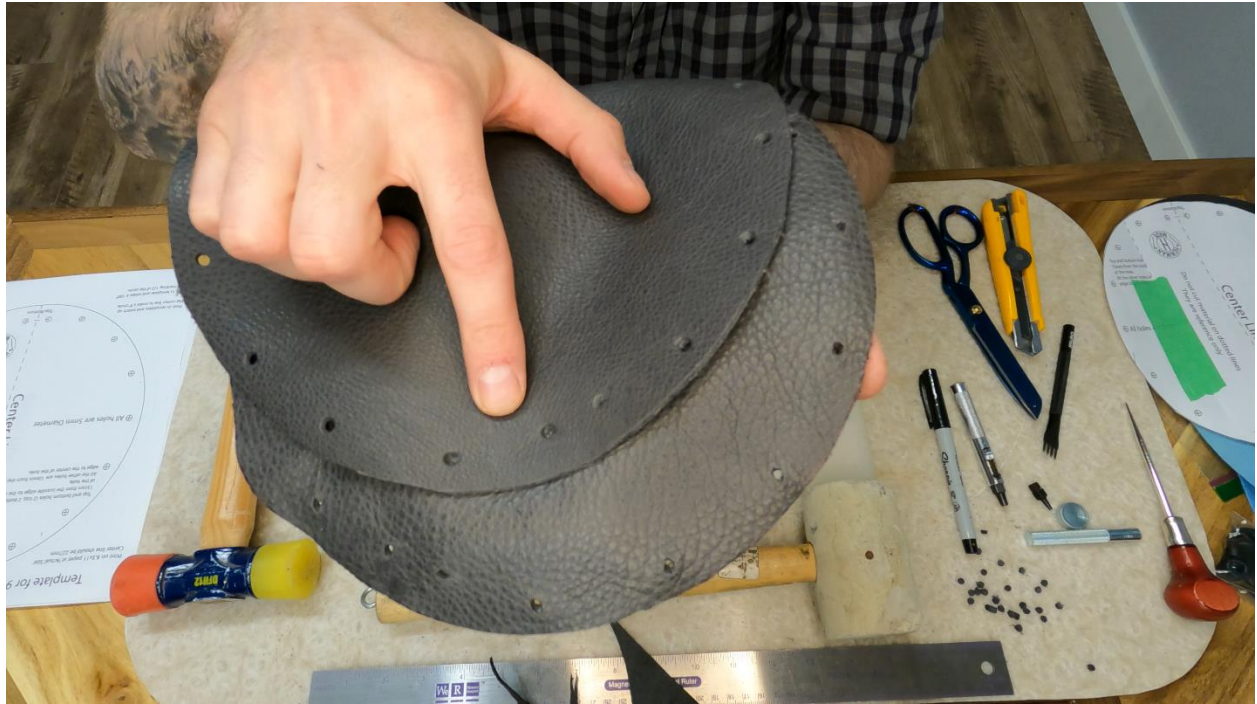Put the template back on your circle of leather and mark the center of the 18 holes with an awl

Using the 5mm round punch and a mallet on a proper surface. Punch out the 18 holes

You can also use an awl to make the holes. Push the awl all the way through the leather to stretch open the holes.
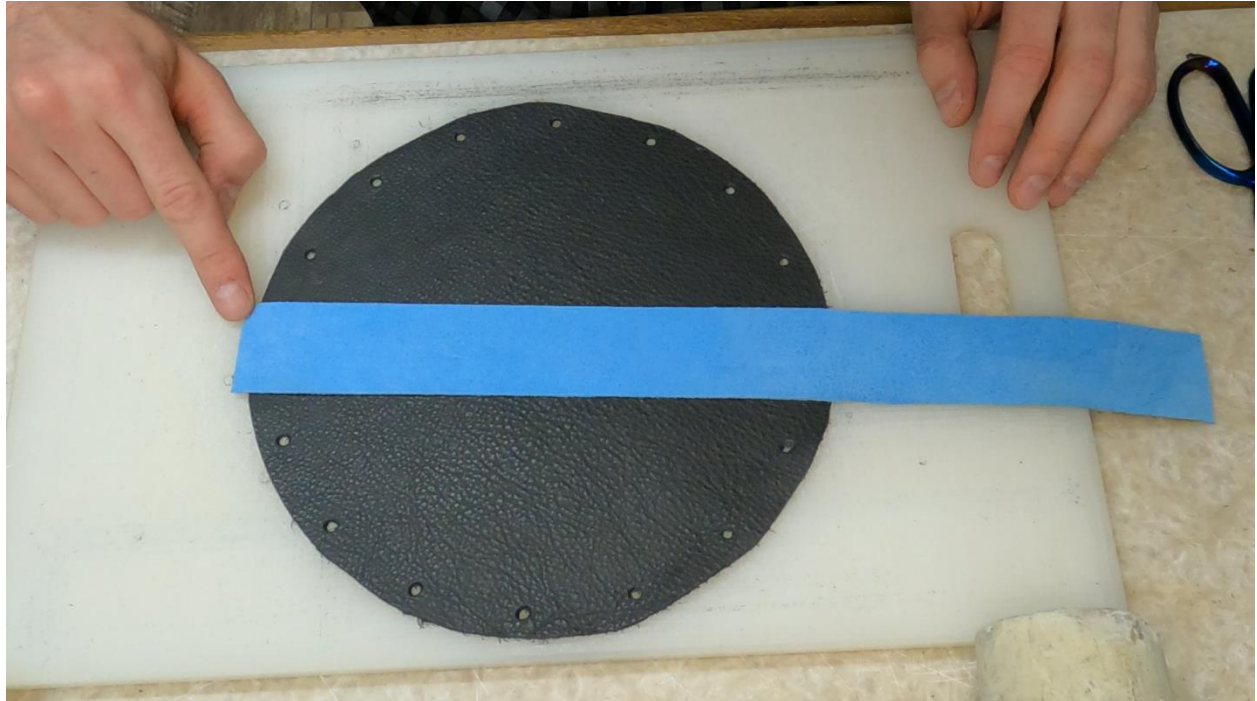

Note: The punch will make cleaner holes that the drawstring will slide through easier
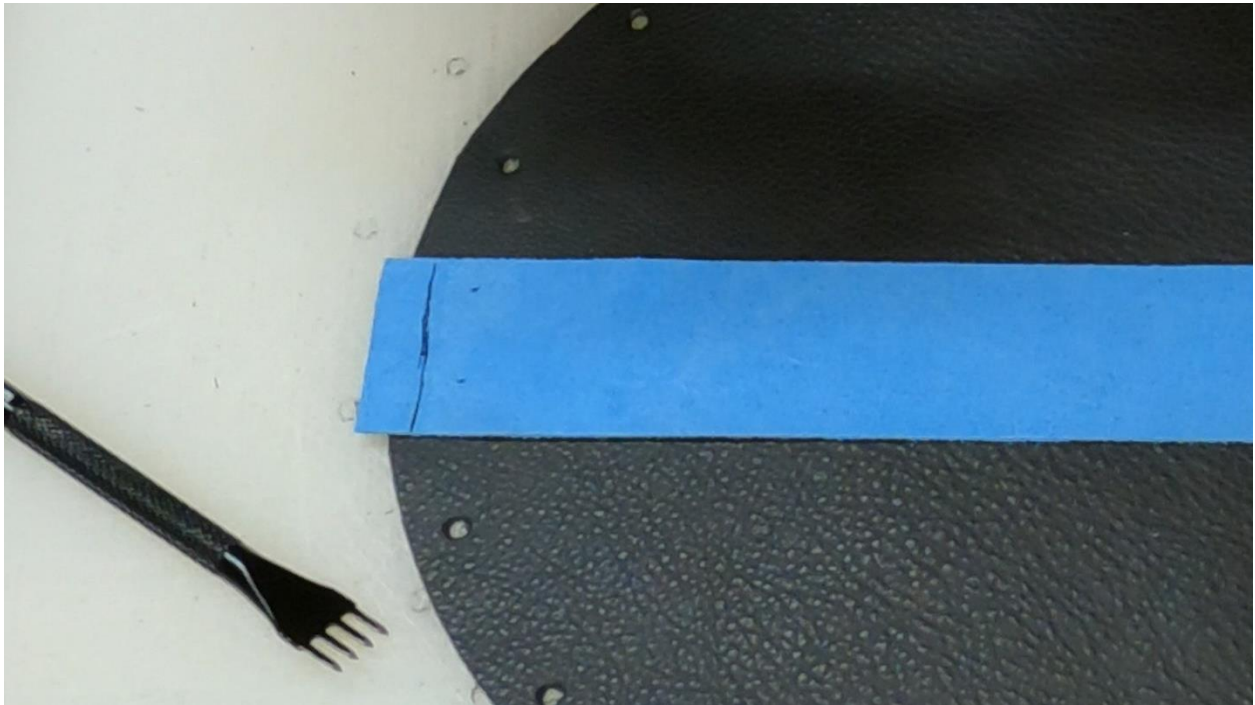
Step 4: Strap Layout <mark>(4:27)</mark>

Mark the center line of the pouch and lay the strap across the center line leaving a small amount overhanging on one side and the rest of the strap overhanging on the other.
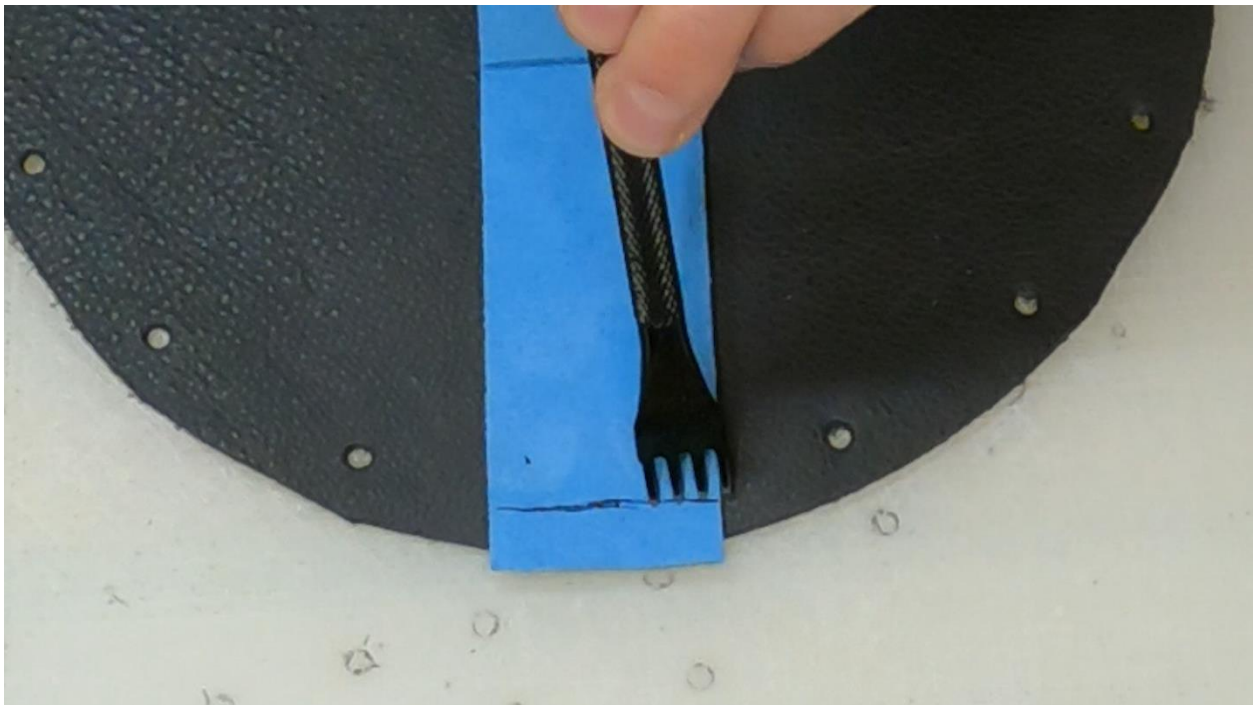

Mark where the holes are underneath the strap and draw a stitching line with your ruler halfway between the outside of the pouch and the drawstring holes
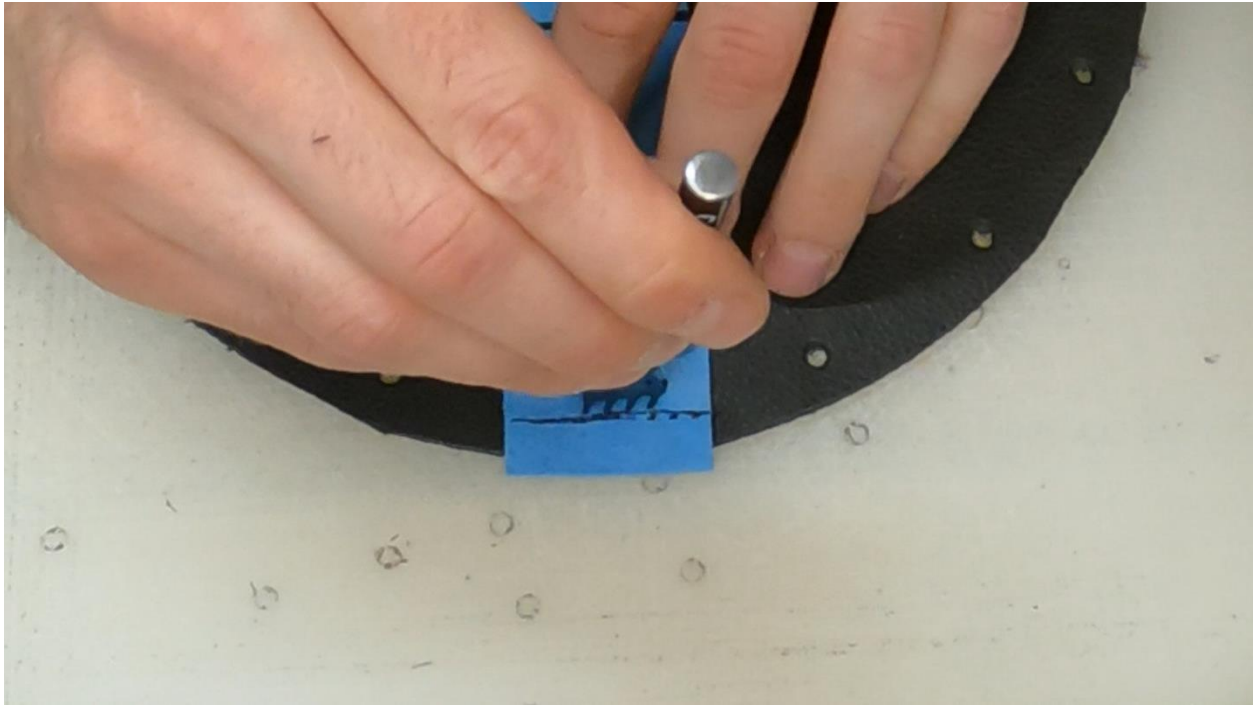
Step 5: Punch Stitching Holes – Pricking fork <mark>(5:25)</mark>
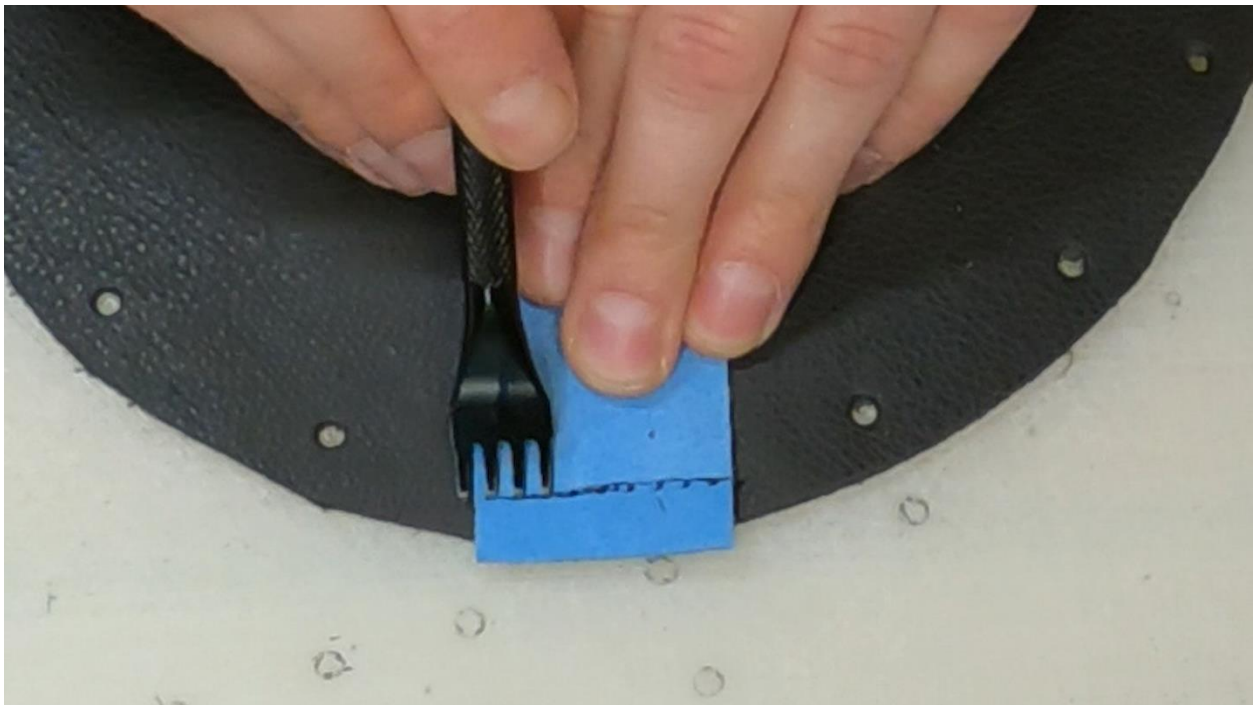
Using the pricking fork, put one tine on the grey leather and the rest on the coloured leather. Punch through both layers using a mallet

Continue down the line always putting the one tine in the last hole that was punched to maintain the same spacing.

When you near the end of the line you might need to put 2-3 tines into previous holes so there is only 1 hole in the grey leather.
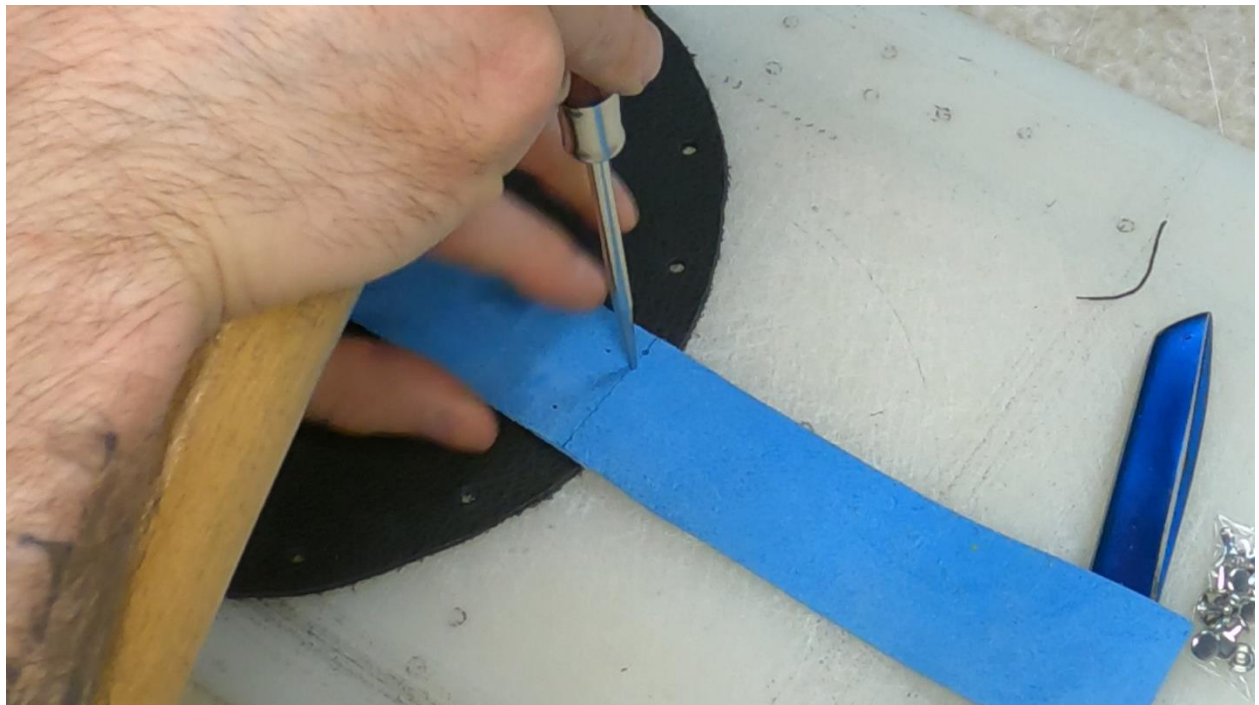
Step 5b: Punch stitching holes – awl <mark>(6:15)</mark>

Holes can also be punched with an awl. Mark a stitching line with a pen (as noted above), then using a ruler measure out and mark your hole spacing (Every 4-5mm).

Make sure to put 1 hole on the grey leather on either side
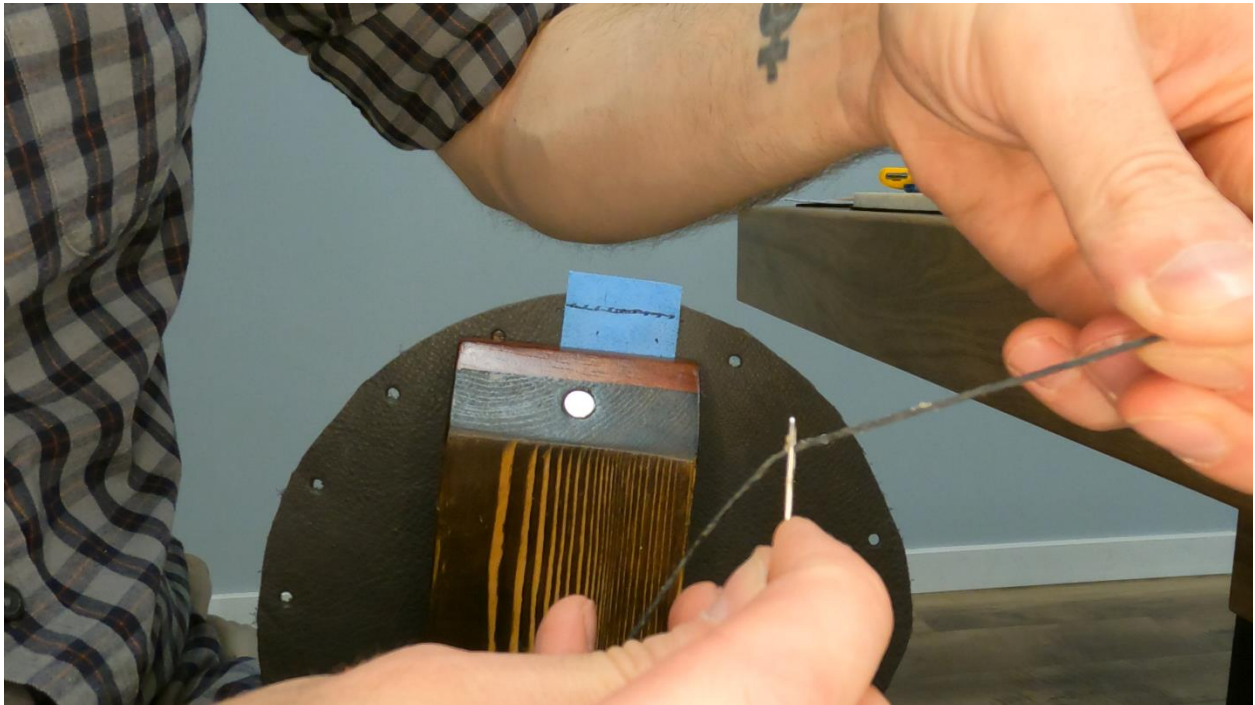
Using the awl and a mallet, punch through both pieces of leather to make the stitching holes.
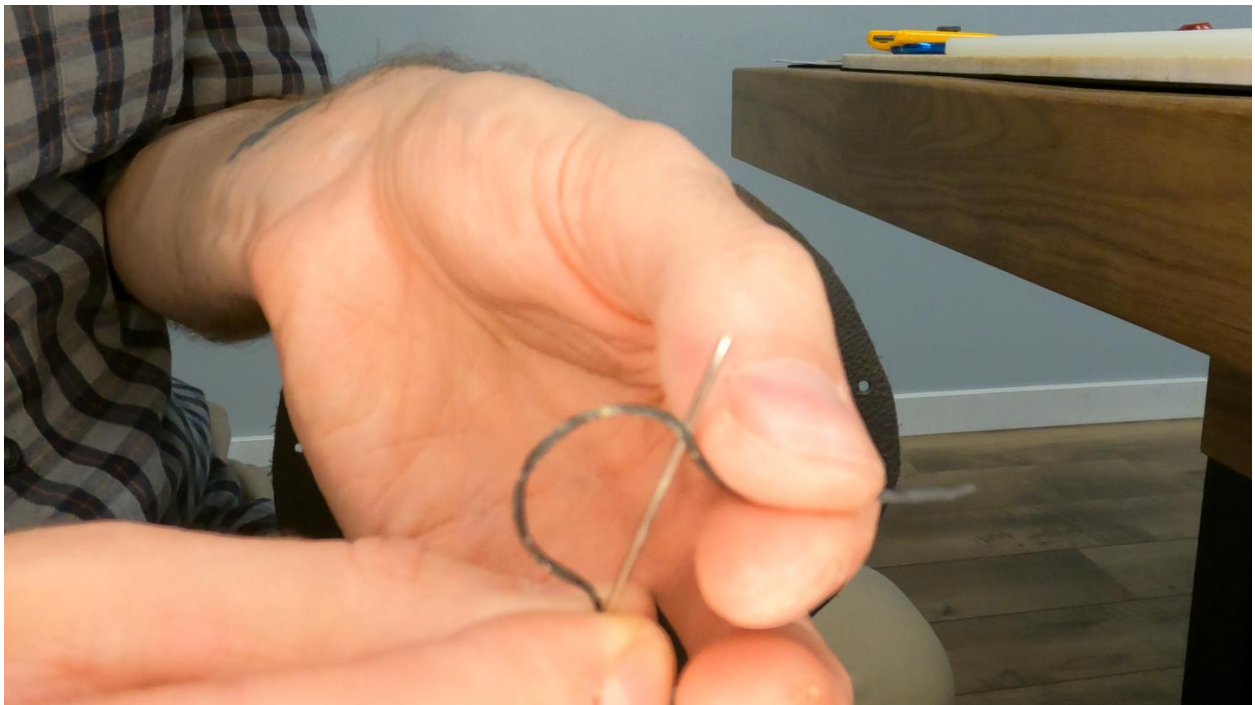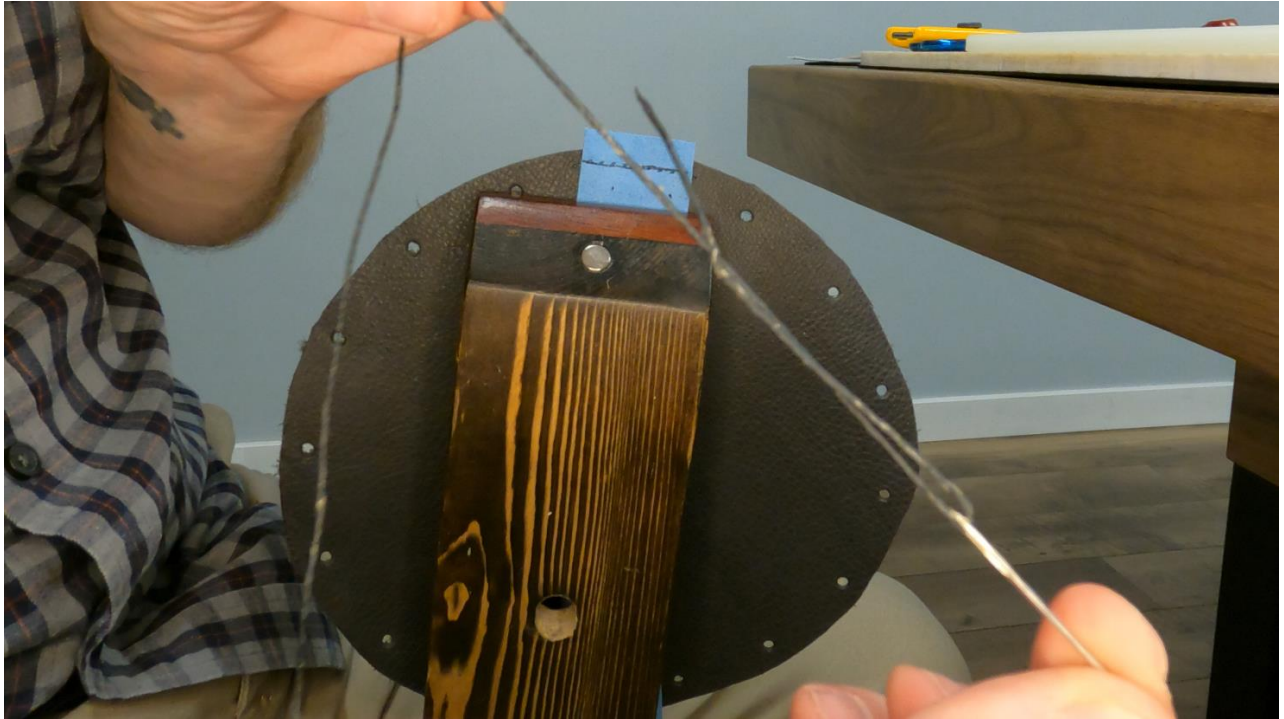
Step 6: Threading the needle <mark>(6:50)</mark>

Cut off 16"-20" of thread from the bundle and push one end through the eye of the needle
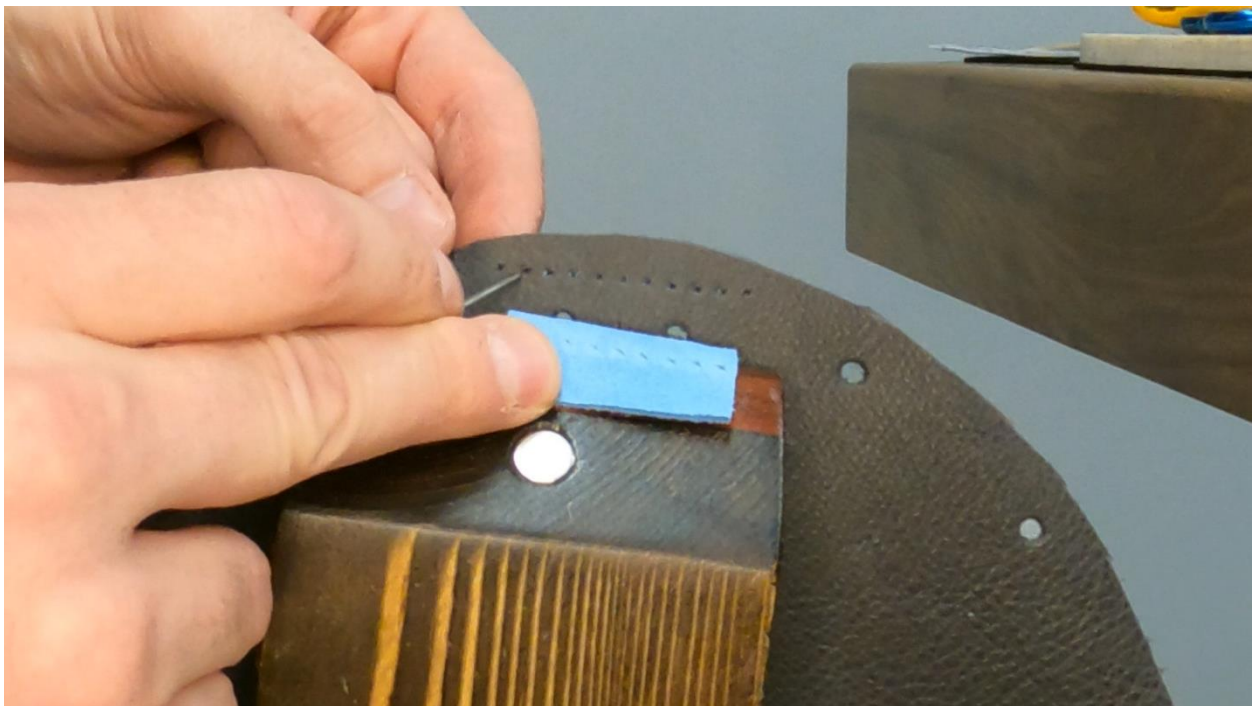

Take the thread you pushed through, poke the needle through the middle of the thread, then pull the thread down to lock it in place.
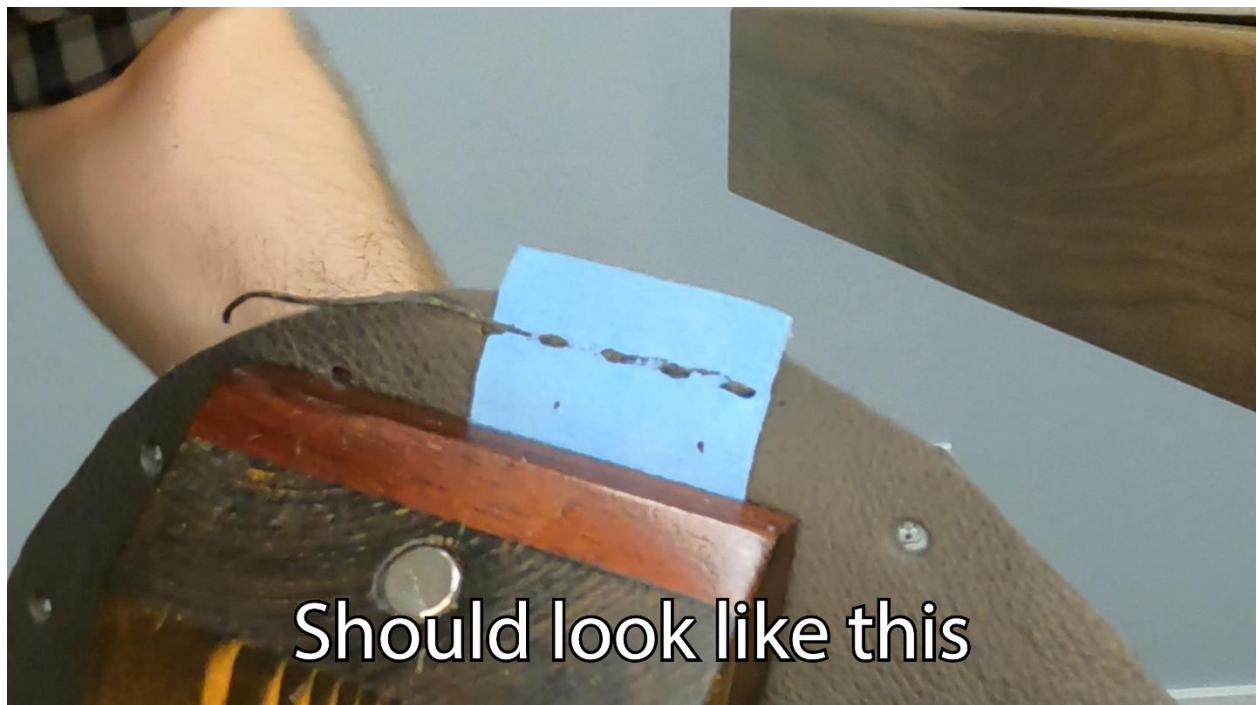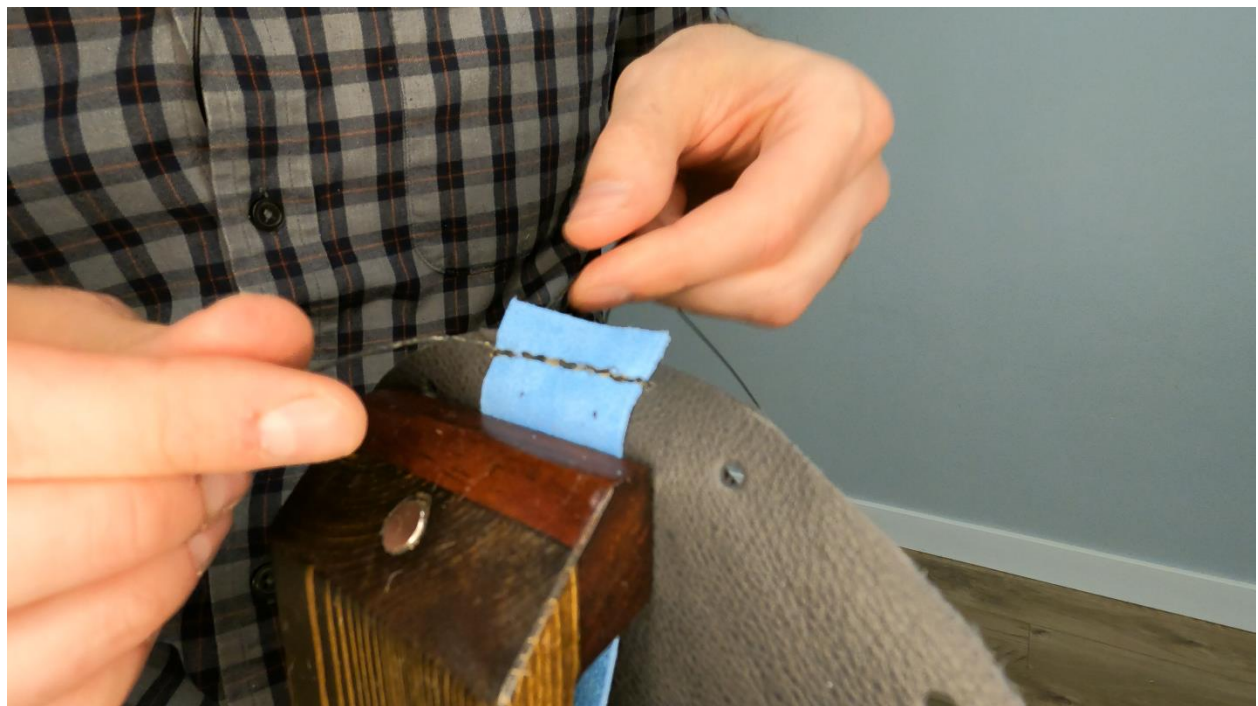
Step 7: Sewing a Running Stitch <mark>(7:25)</mark>

Push the needle through the 2nd hole in the grey leather, between the grey and coloured leather

Loop it back to the first hole in the grey leather, then stitch from front to back through both layers of leather, weaving your way down until you get to the end

Should look like this

Stitch your way back to the starting point to complete the stitch line.

Loop the thread through one of the neighbouring stitches

Push the needle through the grey leather so it comes out between the grey and coloured leather where the tail of thread is

Tie a simple square knot and cut off the excess thread – leaving appx 1cm
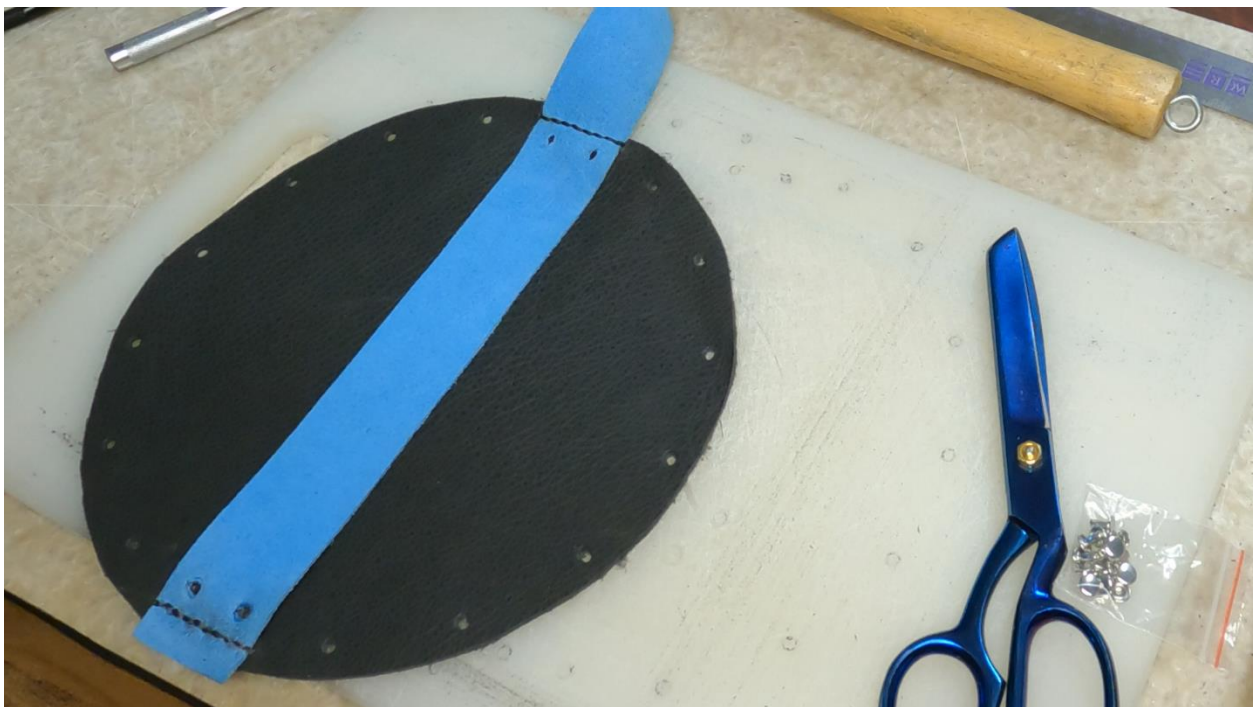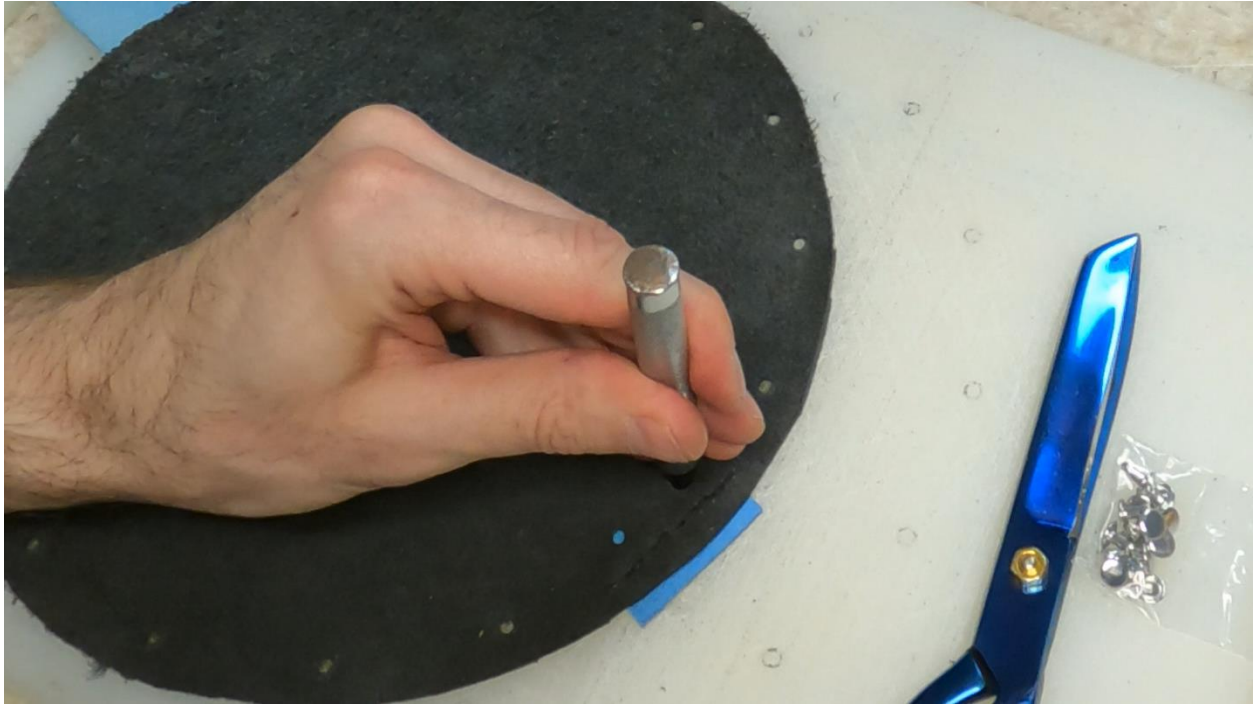
Set the stitches by giving them a light hit with a mallet

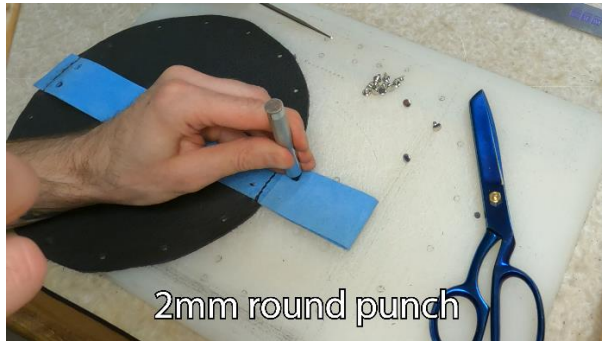Do the same steps for the other side of the strap

Step 8: Punching holes in strap <mark>(9:42)</mark>

Flip the pouch over so the inside is facing up. Using the 5mm round punch or awl and the mallet, punch through the existing holes in the top and bottom of the pouch to make holes 4 holes in the coloured leather

Step 9: Punching Holes for Rivets (10:00)

Fold over the long piece of coloured leather to make a loop. Using the 2mm round punch or awl, mark out and punch through both layers of leather.
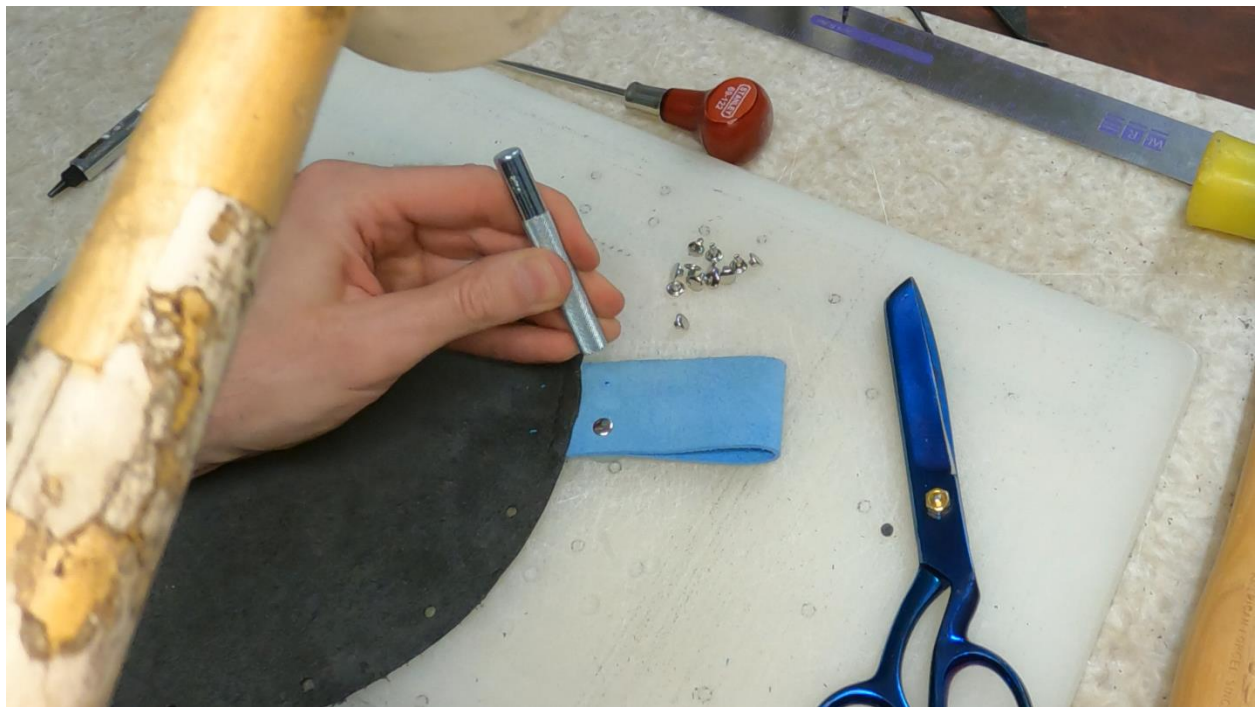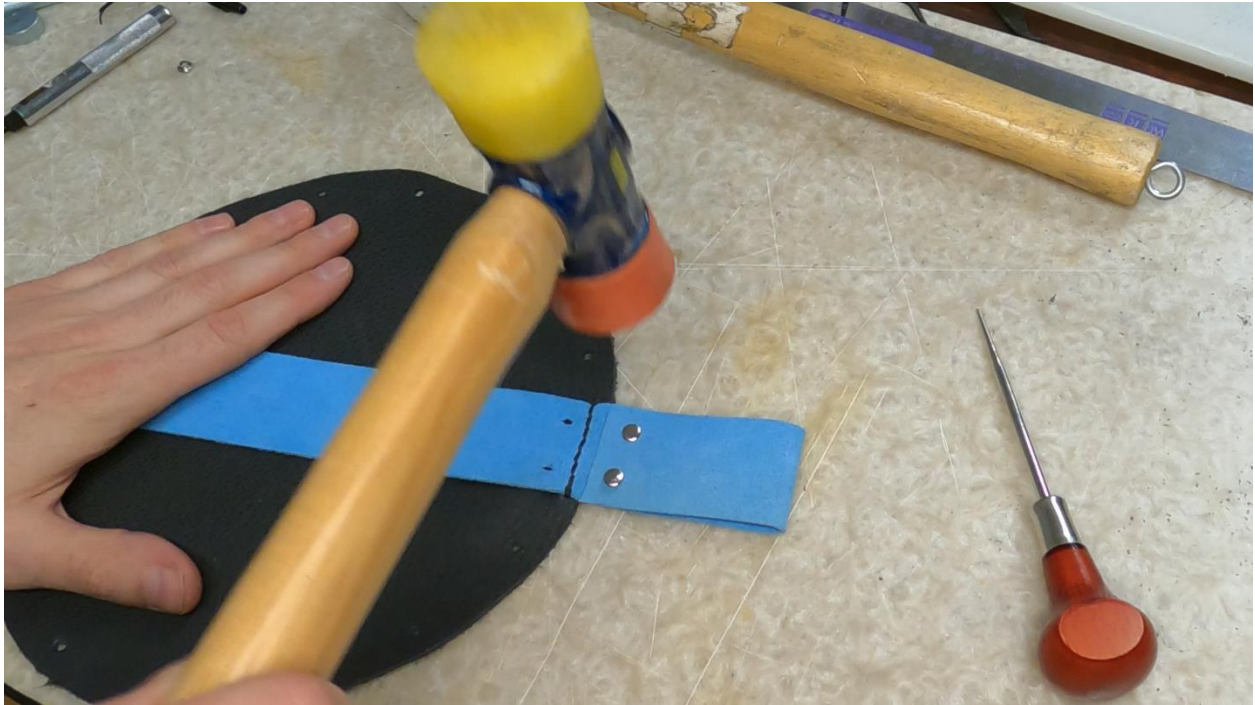

Step 10: Setting Rivets (10:45)

Push the post side of the rivet through the hole you just punched. Push the cap onto the post, it should click in place.

Place the rivet anvil underneath the rivet, concave side up. Using the rivet setter, concave side against the rivet, hit the setter with the mallet to set the rivet. It can take 3-4 solid hits.

If you don't have a rivet anvil and setter, you can use a hard surface and a semi-hard rubber mallet to set the rivet. The finish will not be as clean, but it will work.
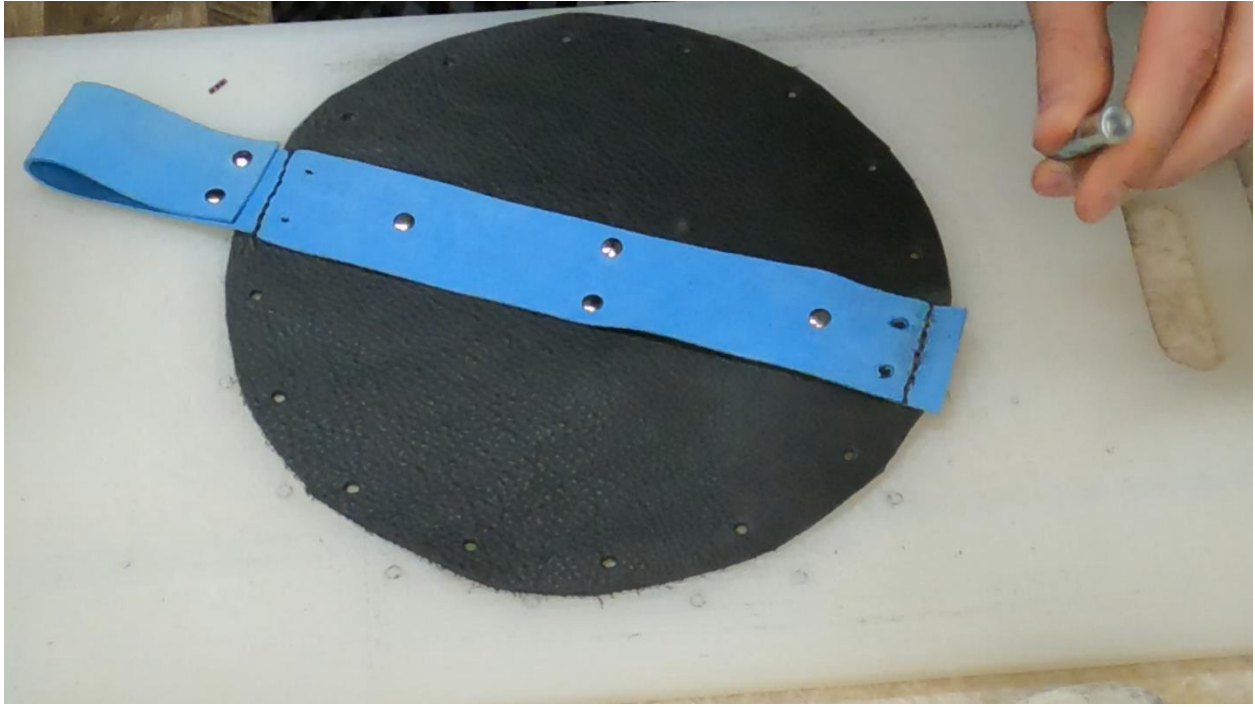

Left is set with anvil and setter, right is set with just a mallet

Layout where you want the rest of your rivets, punch holes and set in place.

Note: It's best practice to only punch and set one rivet at a time in case one doesn't set properly, and you need to replace it.
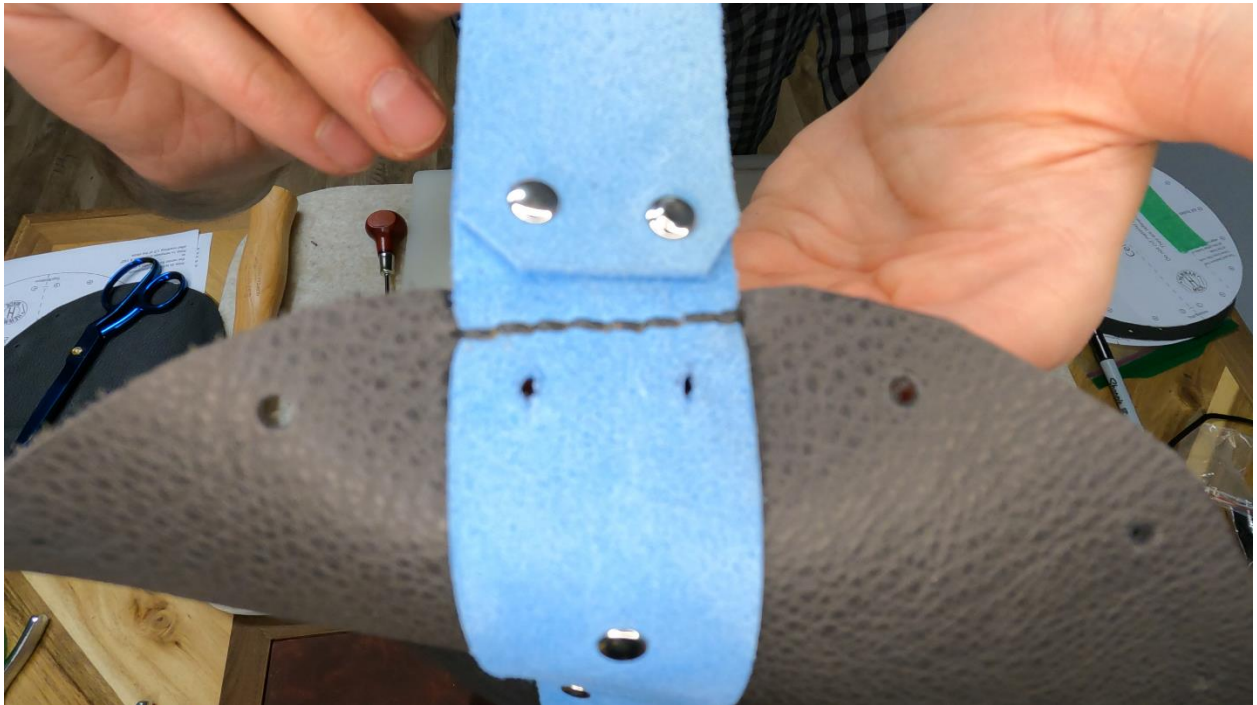

Step 11: Finishing Steps <mark>(12:15)</mark>

Using your scissors or razor knife, cut off the excess material at the front of your pouch.
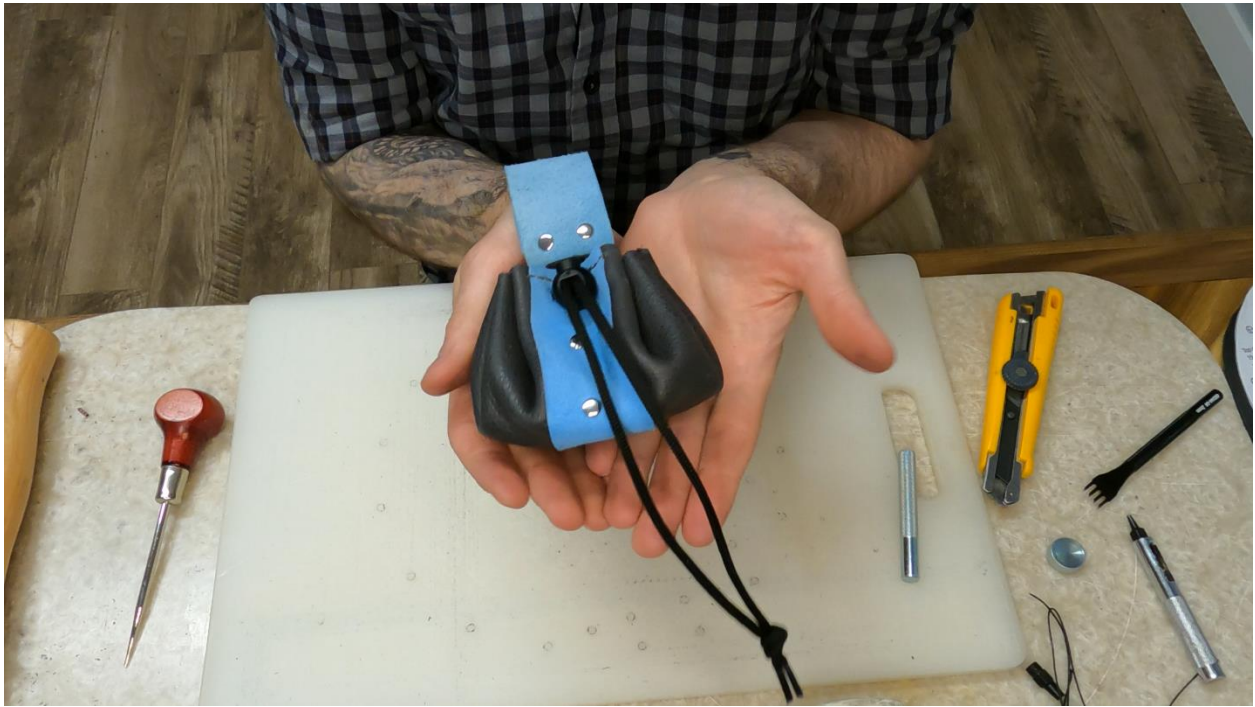
Trim your strap to give it a finished look if desired

Install the drawstring

Install the cord stopper and tie a knot at the end of the string

Look! Now you have a leather pouch!

There are many variations you can do depending on how you want to use the coloured strap. Be creative and make it your own!