Leather Gauntlets

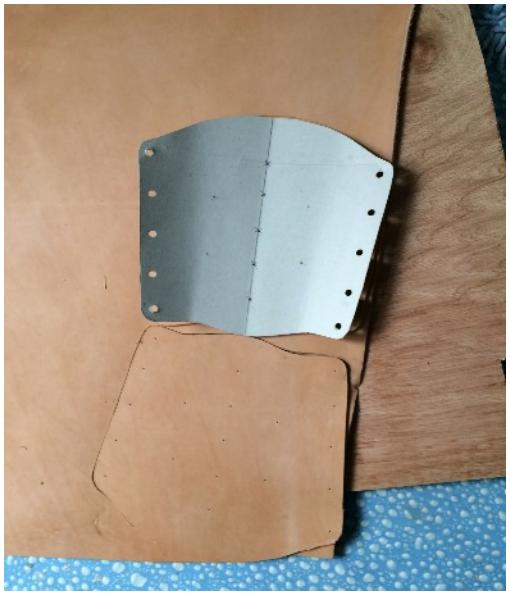
Initially, this set of gauntlets was for a sub zero cosplay outfit. However the shape can have any design or colour scheme applied to them for a personal preference.

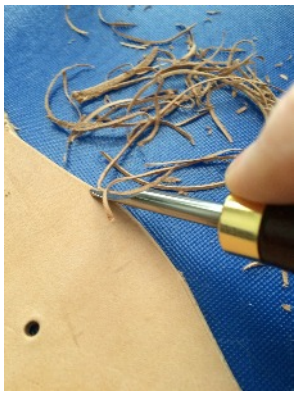
To start any leather work you must have a template of the items you wish to make.

I happened to find a cereal packet which fit the bill just nicely.

I then cut it out and fitted it to my choice of leather, which happened to be a 7 - 9 oz piece I happened to have.

It is always a good idea to use a bradawl to score around a template and to mark positions of holes.





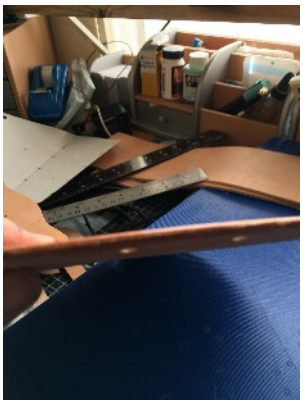
Now is a good time to bevel the edges of the leather on both sides and use the slicker on the bevelled edging.

Wetting the edge of leather prior to using a slicker helps to burnish the material and neaten the edge.

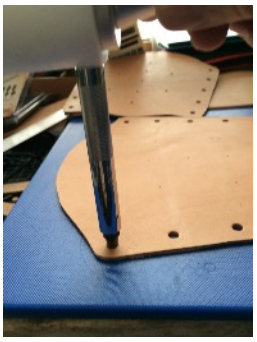
Wooden slicker.

From this..

To this..



Using punch to set the holes for eyelets.



Setting out holes for spike rivets.

(This example)

This is what we get so far.

At this point you can apply leather dye or acrylic paint. Then after 24 hours put a leather finish on it such as Eco-Flo super shene (Tandy product) until it dries thoroughly another further coat may be applied but after this too is completely dry. Buff to a shine with a lint free cloth.

PS do not forget to coat the edges of the gauntlets with your choice of dye or paint and allow to dry.

Here I have used Eco-Flo Cova Color by Tandy to coat my gauntlets.

Then after 24 hours put a leather finish on it such as Eco-Flo super shene (Tandy product) until it dries thoroughly.

A further coat may be applied but wait until this too is completely dry.

Finally, buff to a shine with a lint free cloth.

Brass eyelets fitted for fastening with a lace.

Usually fitted using a crimping tool.

On the fleshy side the eyelets have a rough crimped edge so to render these safe from scratching the arm I decided to face them with a thinner leather.

I used the template to “acquire” the holes and a small margin that would cover the eyelet. Marking the line of the cover piece allows a more precise positioning.

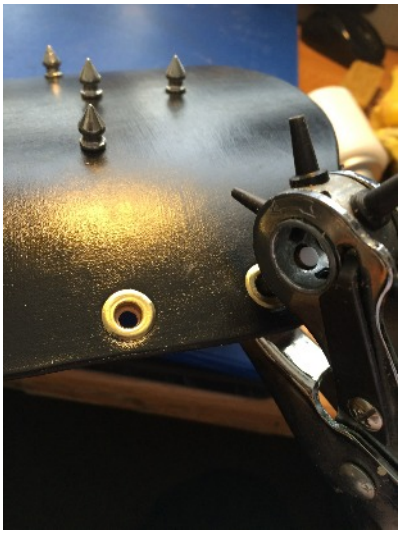
Using a water based contact adhesive to both pieces and waiting for it to become tacky placed pieces together.

I also used a piece of dowelling to roll over the glued parts for a much firmer grip and to reduce any bumps in the material.

We can now fit the spike rivets to the main gauntlet body. There is a special punch that accommodates the spiked portion. There are two types of spike rivets one which is a long point and the pictured which is a shorter version.

The punches are not interchangeable.

The posts of the rivets are not as ragged as the eyelets as we can see here therefore do not need to be covered.

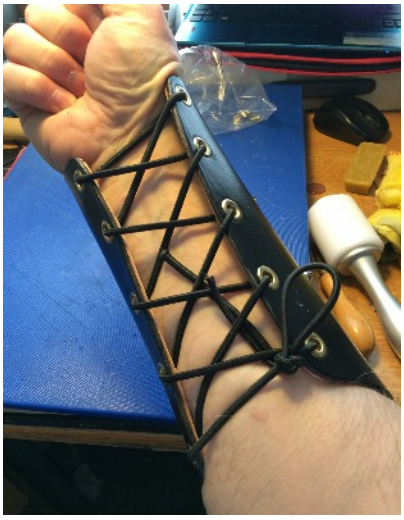


After riveting the material should be dry enough to finish the holes for lacing.

Here we see the hole making process using a rotary punch. Hole size is as large as the eyelet will allow or your choice to make slightly smaller.

Lacing the gauntlet. I chose a rounded cord type of elastic which was 1 metre in length.

This can be adjusted for the arm that is wearing it and the flexion in the elastic can be set for ease of fitting.



Final adjustment and fitting.

By this stage it was a little tight around the wrist.

After adjusting fit is perfect.

The final pair

Little note when gluing use a silicon mat as any glue comes straight off with just a little rub.