

Tooling a Quilt Pattern

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The quilt pattern is a typical pattern that can be used to cover any of variety of items and with any size. It also works very well if you want to put something in the center of piece, but have the quilt all around it. Photo 1 shows the completed coaster used to demonstrate the pattern.



Photo 1 Quilted Pattern Coaster

Materials Required: Vegtan leather

Tools Required: Wing dividers, straight edge, stylus, swivel knife, beveler, seeder, border stamp (camouflage tool works) and mallet.

I'm starting with a 4"x4" piece of vegtan leather that has been cased. I then mark a 1/4" border line around the outside of the square. The quarter inch border leaves space if I want to stitch the square onto something else. I then use a swivel knife to cut the border line (Photo 2).



Photo 2 Leather cased with border cut

The next step is to lay out and mark the lines for the "quilt squares/diamonds." I've used a 1/2" spacing for the lines and drawn them parallel to the diagonals. You can use whatever spacing and orientation you want. The key thing is to keep the spacing consistent and the lines parallel to each other. Wing dividers and a straight edge are helpful for this. Also be sure to stay inside the border. Having already cut the border will help remind you of this. The end result is shown in Photo 3.



Photo 3 Quilt Lines marked



Photo 4 Quilt Lines cut and border beveled

Next use the swivel knife to cut the quilt pattern lines. Be sure to keep your swivel knife cuts inside the border! You can either cut the quilt lines along their entire length or only between the crossing points or intersections. I use the second option as shown in Photo 4. I prefer this approach since it is more forgiving of your swivel knife skill and the later placement of the seeder stamps. Cutting each of the lines completely requires that the seeder be placed exactly on the cut intersection of the lines.

After cutting the quilt lines, bevel along the inside of the cut border as in Photo 4

Now it's time to put the seeder stamp (standing in for a button) in each of those intersections. Use the lines that are still there to help place the seeder as close to the center as possible. Take your time doing this. Once that is done, bevel both sides of the quilt lines (representing the stitching between the quilt sections). Again take your time and keep your beveling smooth and consistent. Photo 5 shows the end result of these two steps.



Photo 5 Seeder added to the intersections and quilt lines double beveled

The final step in tooling this pattern is to add a decorative border stamp! The final result is shown above in Photo 1.

Even though the tooling/stamping is done, you should still clean and burnish the edges and add color if desired!

