



## Saddlery tools

<http://www.bowstock.co.uk/tools.html>

has a good list describing basic tools

- Items in **bold italic** are the basic tool set

### MARKING

**Clicker pointed awl**

Wing/compass **divider**

**Steel rule** – 6", **12"** and 3ft marked in both metric and imperial

Metal safety rule

Metal tape measure

Fabric tape measure – for curves, but can stretch

Set square

Silver gel pen

### CUTTING

Round knife

Single head knife

Clicker knife (with replaceable curved and straight blades)

**Stanley knife**

Paring knife – for skiving/thinning edges

Snips – for thread

Strap cutter – adjustable width for cutting leather strips, eg for belts

Plough gauge – for cutting heavier leather, 3mm+

Wooden board – end grain preferable

Cutting mat

Litho or marble stone – for skiving

Round and oval hole punches

Wad punches – for larger sized holes

Revolving hole punch 1 to 5mm holes

Chisel punch – for creating shaped ends, eg belts

Crew punch – for creating hole for buckle tongue – various sizes, common are sizes 37/38/39

### STITCHING

**Pricking wheel** – common 7 stitches to the inch, some have interchangeable wheels

Stitch marker/pricking iron – most common is 7 stitches to the inch in 2-tooth, 1/2", 1" and 1.5" widths (other sizes available from 1/4 to inch to 5 to inch)

Race/stitch groover – cuts a groove for embedding stitches and aids bending leather

Wooden mallet for stitch marking, round punches

### Tacks

Tack hammer – for tacks and aids bending leather

Diamond awl blades – from 1"-3" length for

saddle stitching, 1.75" for 7 stitches to inch

**Stabbing awl** – sharp round end for thin leather

Oval or sewing awl handles – for awl blades

**Harness needles** – blunt for saddle stitching, **size 3** for 3/18, size 4 for 3/25

Glovers needles – sharp for stitching soft leather, size 3 standard

### Beeswax

Pliers – for pulling needles through if stiff

Saddlers clams – to hold work in place

Stitching pony – as above, smaller version

### FINISHING

Edge tool – from 1 (narrow) to 6 (wide)

Skirt shave – from 1/4" wide

Creasing tool – to add traditional line along edge

Loop irons or sticks – for shaping loops/keepers

Broken glass – for shaving edges

Sanding block – for smoothing edges Gum tragacanth for burnishing edges

**Gum tragacanth** – for lubricating edge for burnishing (saliva can be alternative!)

Wool dauber – for gum and dye

**Horn/bone folders** for creasing, moulding and burnishing

**Waxed canvas cloth** – for burnishing

Fiebings spirit dye – for dyeing leather

Fiebings edge stain – for dyeing leather edges

Edge Kote – acrylic paint for edges

Resolene – for sealing dyed edges

### SHARPENING

Oilstone

Strop – for sharpening knives and awls

Carborundum powder – for strop

Tallow – for strop

### GLUE

PVA – wood glue can go crispy when dry (pros use Sheppy M200 glue)

Neoprene contact adhesive



## **Thread**

Linen thread traditionally used in saddlery for hand-stitching.  
Common brands include Barbour's and Somac. Also Wenzel in smaller qty.  
Useful sizes are 3/25 and 3/18 for 7 stitches to the inch.  
Usual colours are white, black, brown and yellow on 50g reel or 250g COP.  
Can get red, blue, beige and green from Le Prevo.  
Waxed linen thread in many colours avail from US on eBay.

## **Leather**

Different type of tanning – common is veg tan and chrome tan  
Can be dyed through or natural on back and edges.  
Veg tan (recommended) can be burnished on edges, chrome tan cannot and has to be painted with edge dye.  
Russet leather:  
    basic tanned leather without any colouring  
    good for moulding and tooling  
    can be dyed  
    wide range of substance (thickness) from 1.1mm-4mm (3mm good for tools)  
    can change colour (darken) when exposed to sun or if handled  
Leather from different parts of animal:  
    shoulder is softer, cheaper and more flexible, can have obvious creases in leather  
    butt is taken from back of animal, stronger, less flexible, smoother, more expensive  
Bridle leather traditionally used in saddlery, quite expensive, smooth, waxy surface, usually 3.5/4mm thick





**SABEL**  
SADDLERY

**BESPOKE** | **HORSE**  
**LEATHER** | *for* **HUMAN**  
**DESIGN** | **HOME**

## Suppliers

JT Batchelor Ltd	9-10 Culford Mews, London N1 4DZ	0207 254 2962 <a href="http://www.jtbatchelor.co.uk">www.jtbatchelor.co.uk</a> Mon-Fri 10am-6pm	Shoulder & russet leather, buckles and fittings (Indian), economy saddlery tools, leather dyes, gum trag, magnesium embossing plates, thong
Abbey England Ltd	Haig Road, Parkgate Industrial Estate, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 8DX	01565 650343 <a href="http://www.abbeyengland.com">www.abbeyengland.com</a>	Bridle leather, fittings (UK), thread, gum trag, tallow, carb powder, professional & economy saddlery tools – TRADE ONLY
StudioTone Ltd	Unit 6-8, Crown Close Business Centre, Crown Close, Bow London, E3 2JQ	0208 980 4242 <a href="http://www.studiotone.co.uk">www.studiotone.co.uk</a>	Embossing plates
Metropolitan Leather Co Ltd	Unit 1b, Cottingham Way, Thrapston, Northants NN14 4PL	01832 732216 <a href="http://www.metropolitanleather.com">www.metropolitanleather.com</a>	Assorted leathers, can dye leather to specification
Walter Reginald	Unit 6, 100 The Highway, London E1W 2BX	0207 481 2233 <a href="http://www.walterreginald.com">www.walterreginald.com</a>	Leather, including nappa, exotics
S&K Fittings	Unit GB, Leroy House, 436 Essex Road, London N1 3QP	020 7354 4435 <a href="http://www.skfittings.co.uk">www.skfittings.co.uk</a> Mon-Thurs 7-4pm Fri 7-2pm	Huge range of fittings: studs, rings, loops, dees, buckles, elastic, thong, webbing, press studs, zips, some tools
The Joseph Dixon Tool Co Ltd	Unit 2 Charles Street, Town Wharf Business Park, Walsall WS2 9LZ	01922 622051 <a href="http://www.josephdixon.co.uk">www.josephdixon.co.uk</a>	Press knives, professional saddlery tools, brass logo stamps
MAS Press Knife & Die Co Ltd	1a Beatrice Road, Leicester LE3 9FH	0116 262 9125 <a href="http://www.pressknivesandpressdies.co.uk">www.pressknivesandpressdies.co.uk</a>	Press knives, punches
Le Prevo	Dept W1, No1 Charlotte Square, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4XF	0191 232 4179 <a href="http://www.leprevo.co.uk">www.leprevo.co.uk</a> Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30pm	Tools, thread, embossing plates (magnesium)





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Tandy Leather Factory	Unit 2, Crofton Oak, N Portway Close, Round Spinney Industrial Estate, Northampton NN3 8RD	0800 0856765 <a href="http://www.tandy-leather.eu">www.tandy-leather.eu</a>	Tools, thong, leather, dyes, fittings. American company, can be expensive.
Cumbria School of Saddlery	Redhills, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 0DT	01768 899919 <a href="http://www.saddlerycourses.com">www.saddlerycourses.com</a>	Clams, loop sticks, strops, tools, training courses
Saddlery Training Centre	3H Stanley Court, Glenmore Business Park, Telford Road, Churchfields, Salisbury Wiltshire SP2 7GH	01722 341144 <a href="http://www.saddlerytraining.com">www.saddlerytraining.com</a>	Professional training, some basic courses occasionally
Valerie Michaels and Neil McGregor	37 Silver Street, Tetbury, Gloucestershire GL8 8DL	01666 502179 <a href="http://www.leathercourses.co.uk">www.leathercourses.co.uk</a>	Training courses, some tools and leather if attend course
Variety of courses here:		<a href="http://www.theleatherconnection.com/id31.htm">www.theleatherconnection.com/id31.htm</a>	

