

Desktop **L**eathers

Hand dyed Hides and Skivers

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Leather and Skiver Inlay fitting instructions

1. Remove old leather top by soaking with lukewarm water.
2. Scrape and clean exposed wood surface.
3. Fill all cracks and dents with wood filler.
4. Sand down lightly to provide a smooth flat surface.
5. Use Solvite wallpaper paste and apply a thin film of paste to exposed wood surface, enabling you to adjust leather until correct position is found.
6. Lay leather firmly into edges, and trim off excess with a "Stanley" knife.
7. Allow to dry (2/3 hours).
8. Fill in any gaps around the edge with dark wax polish.
9. Polish dry with a clean dry cloth.

Tips

- Knifing round the edge of the top before starting to lay the leather will give a score mark that will help guide the knife later.
- A blunt knife, or sharpened piece of wood is useful for getting the leather right into the edges.
- Make sure that the wooden top is clean and flat, and that there are no pieces of grit or wood chips etc. on the back of the leather as any lumps will show through.

- Cutting the corners of the leather diagonally across before laying will help you to position the leather accurately.

For Writing Boxes

- Use waterproof PVA to glue a thin piece of cotton or Remay over the hinge points to reinforce where the leather bends. Allow to dry, and then smoothing off the crisp edges with sandpaper.
- Open up the slots for the tape/handle loops, before gluing down the skiver with wallpaper paste or slightly diluting PVA.
- Push loops of ribbon through from the top. Sometimes the ribbon goes right through the flap and is wedged from behind.
- Finally, when the ben is shut, colour the strip of visible white backing, material with diluted acrylic artist's paint or something similar.