DIY Leather Journal with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1
DIY Leather Journal
(upbeat instrumental music) - Hi everybody, it's Faith from Creativebug coming at you live like we do every Tuesday and Thursday. And today I have a project that is very exciting and a little bit messy. We're going to be working with leather. Now leather is one of those very daunting materials. Your best bet on working with leather is to find a leather person and then you get to be the the kind of person who says, oh yeah I talked to my leather guy. But they're very handy. (laughs) And we have our leather person right around the corner. If you're ordering online I suggest you order from Tandy Leather. Also, Joanne has some pre-cut leather made for Cricut machines, which is actually a really nice quality leather. We don't wanna go too thick for this one though, that will be for projects more like my traveler's journal, which I have a class on and hopefully Liana will post a link to that. - [Liana] On it. - She says she's on it. So that this leather, if you think about it kind of like paper, it's a lot stiffer, it's not so floppy. And so we're not going to be using this kind of leather. We're going to be using this kind of leather. And this is maybe about a two ounce. And we're going to be wrapping this around our book. And it's not as thin as say, pants leather. If you're a vintage shopper, you might be familiar with leather pants. It's a bit thicker than that, but maybe not as thick as a bag. So your best best for leather is find your leather guy. This is actually a scrap. I went and I said, excuse me sir, I'm going to make a journal that wraps around. What would you suggest I use. And he said, why don't you try this out? And I did, and it was exactly what I wanted it to be. So we're going to cut a piece that is six and a quarter inches tall, because I measured that's the most I can get out of this piece. Leather is also kind of an expensive craft material. So you're going to want to maximize it as much as possible. And also when you're cutting with your X-ACTO blade, you shouldn't always use, it's not generally good practice to use a metal blade and a plastic ruler, because you can nick your plastic ruler. However, we're gonna bend the rules a little bit because I think we need to have a see-through ruler and if it is something that is just about six inches, it really helps you find that angle that's going to best maximize what you have. So I'm tilting it just about here. This is six and a half. So this is exactly what I want, six and a quarter. And I'm going to cut this side flat. I have a fresh blade, I just put this in. And we're going to press down and move your hands if you have to all the way. And you may have to cut more than once. But if you have a sharp blade, once should be sufficient. Now I'm going to, because I like to always cut on the same side, I'm a bit particular about that, 'cause I know that this hand works better than this one does. I wish I was ambidextrous, but I am not. So I'm lining this up along our line, and I'm going to line the mat up. We're going to get as over as we can. And once again, keep it pressed down. And you're not just using the tip of the blade, you're using the flat of the blade. So you're going to want to keep this hand as low as possible. Let's see, so nice. And one side is going to be flat. And the other side we're going to leave raw. 'Cause I think that makes a really neat effect. So we need this to be, our text block will be four inches wide. So we need this to be twice the text block plus half the text block. So if it's four inches wide, that'll make it eight, nine, 10. Plus an overhang. So I'm going to cut it, let's see. Cut it at a right angle first. Also don't forget, we are live. So feel free to ask questions or say hello. And if I don't answer them on air, I always look at the comments afterwards. It's basically my favorite thing to do. It's a nice comedown from the frenzy of the shoot itself. - [Liana] Just one question so far. - [Faith] One question so far. - [Liana] Corri Joe just wanted to confirm what's the piercing tool called. Is it

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an awl? - We will be using a piercing tool. And it is an awl, though this is also known as a pin tool. This is 99 cents. You get it in the clay section. So it's super cheap, 99 cents. You can use a nicer one. If you use one that has a big taper, you're going to be a little bit more cautious when using it. So this, the hole will stay consistent throughout. But if you have one that tapers if you push it a little further, the hole gets bigger and that might get a little sloppy. Before we finish cutting our leather, I'm going to fold our text block. And this is a single signature. If you're interested in a leather journal that has more than one signature, you can check out my travel journal class. But for only one signature, you'll need about five sheets of paper, we're using Strathmore multimedia paper. I took it from a pad, I ripped it out and cut it down to size. This is eight inches wide, it's six inches tall. And I'm just folding it in half. And boning it down with our bone folder. So we're gonna call this our text block. And now we can lay it out. And you'll want the front edge to overlap by about an eighth of an inch, and then this is going to fold around. And I wanna keep this edge. It's kind of a decorative element. So in order to do that, I have to move it over. And if we wanna be exact with our measurements, we can. And just chop this off halfway, at two inches over, but I think that we are adventurous enough to make this work. Okay. So you can see we have this how we like it. I'm gonna use a pen just to mark this about where I want to cut it. And you can use either the lines on your mat or the lines on your ruler, just make sure you are consistent with that. Or you can use both, like this one. Don't throw this out. This can be used for some really cool, fun little things like a key cover, or a headphones holder. So now we have our leather wrap. We have our text block, And let's see. Super cute. Okay, great. Now we're going to move onto the punching. We'll make ourselves a punching template using a piece of scrap paper that is exactly the size of the paper in your block. We're going to fold this in half. And I'm gonna introduce you to my favorite tool of all time. A centering ruler. It's so special. So one side it has just one through six inches, and the other side it has where you find the middle and it goes out. I don't know where I got it from, I don't know how I lived without it. But you can find these most scrapbooking places or I've seen a bunch of them on Amazon. They're just magnificent. And because this is an exact measurement, six inches, it's not at all necessary, but it just makes me feel so safe. So we're going to mark five eighths of an inch down from each side. I think a quarter of an inch is too short and a half an inch is too long. So we're gonna be persnickety and feel free to make a little upside down T shape, or an X. Sometimes if you're being very minute in particular, just a dot, is it to the left side of the dot, is it to the center of the dot? So when you make your little X, you get to be as particular as you want. Then we're going to mark the center. And then we're going to mark halfway between each of these points. We're doing five point sews. This is where you can, if you want to use your centering ruler, you can use your centering ruler. If I had to make like a goody bag for the new-to-book-binding person, I would include a centering ruler. And a pin tool, cause it would only cost me 99 cents. - [Liana] I don't know how I ever lived without a centering ruler. - [Faith] Right? Liana says she doesn't know how she lived without a centering ruler. I don't know how she did either. - [Liana] I was very lopsided. - [Faith] So it's a lopsided life. Just thinking about it made me squiggle my marks, I got so upset. (Liana laughs) - [Liana] Sorry. - Now we're going to punch our signature. And we also have, I think you can put a link to, Courtney has a class where she sews with this technique for her zine making class. So this is, we're going to punch now, each of these. And you're going to be doing it essentially at a 45 degree angle. We don't wanna punch down, we don't wanna punch out. We wanna get right there in the middle of it. And usually when I do it, I hold it exactly up and down and I poke from the right side, 'cause I'm a righty. But so that you can see it a little bit better, let's go in this way. And we're getting right in the middle there. Push it through, and make sure to hold it tightly in your

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hand. If you don't know how these kinds of hand skills, get yourself some binder clips and do one at the top and the bottom. Also make sure your fingers are not resting on the edge, because you will spear yourself. Fun fact, if you've taken any of my book binding classes before, I always like to remind people that if you do get blood on your book, which is a fairly common occurrence, in the wild world of book binding, the best thing to remove it with is your own saliva. It has to do with proteins. Don't use your saliva to remove someone else's blood, 'cause that could get gross. Okay, once these five have been punched, twiddle it if you have to. We set this to the side, and we punch our leather. Now we're going to be using a leather punch for this, and you can see where I tried to do this on my cutting mat, and there's actually now there's leather embedded in the cutting mat. Don't tell Courtney, she's gonna be so mad at me. So, don't do it on your punching mat. For the love of Courtney, do it on a piece of book board. And we're going to be positioning this remember, it's a little bit taller on the top and the bottom so we're going to be positioning it in the middle. And give it just under a quarter inch on the left-hand side. That way when you fold it, and it creeps back, you'll be covering it, you'll be covering your naked edges. Okay, now that once we have this in place, we slip our book board underneath, oh and before we get to the fun punching adventure, I should mention, we are in the middle of a giveaway. And this giveaway is how many dollars worth of-- - [Liana] It is $150 worth. - It is $150 package of exceptional prizes from Scotch brand. Tape and 3M, which is post-it notes, and if you ever thought, I wish I had every kind of tape available, this is your chance to get every kind of tape available. We also have a tape class if you think, what am I gonna do with all this tape? Well enter anyway, and then win, and then watch Courtney's tape class to find out what you can do with this tape. To enter to win, like this video, comment on this video, and go to the link that Liana has posted on our blog page to enter the giveaway. And also in the giveaway package we include six month Creativebug subscription, which is a great deal. 'Cause then you get to spend so much time with us. Thank you for listening, back to the punching. (Liana chuckles) So now we have our leather punch. This is I believe one 32nds of an inch, it's teeny weeny. But you have to whack a whole bunch, cover your ears if you have small children watching, like Theo, my nephew, hi Theo. I hope you're being a good boy. Going potty on the potty. Sometimes he watches me in the bathroom. Cover your ears, Theo, and I'm gonna whack it about 10 times just to make sure it goes all the way through. (loud bangs) And we have to pick it up, oh thank goodness, it's gone through. Sometimes it doesn't if you only whack it eight times. And we're just going in the middle of exactly where we punched for our signature. (loud bangs) It also looks like it's making a more dramatic hole than it is. (loud bangs) And I'm checking after each one just in case. 'Cause I cannot even tell you what a pain in the neck it is to find it afterwards. That's one of the tricky things about working with leather. (loud bangs) We're almost there. It's so good. And if you have, you can see that I punched it just off of center. Go where you've punched it previously with your pin tool instead of where the marking is, because that'll help it line up much better with your signature. (loud bangs) There we have it. Oh, so make sure you check on the right side to see that everything has popped out. And if it hasn't, get your pin tool and open that up. There we go. So weird. Okay. Now we will begin our sewing. So these should line up exactly. And if you want to test it, get your pin tool and run it through the center. And then find the center of your leather and there we go. Very nice, perfect, okay. Now we're going to use some waxed linen thread, or cordage, and we're going to do it about three times the height of your text block. This will give us some extra in case we muck it up. And thread it, and you'll use a book binder's needle or if you had a panic emergency and can't find your book binding needles, a firmer embroidery needle. A tapestry needle is a little bit too big. And you'll go in the center, leave a two inch tail and go out. And this is kinda like training wheels. I

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always try to line up with the holes. Line up with the holes. Leather's pretty wiggly. It's definitely not the easiest material to work with. But if you take your time and you make sure everything is lined up, you'll be just fine. So we know that this hole is straight, so you can go back through, and also if you need an edited version of how to do the sewing, definitely check out Courtney's seam class, it's fantastic. So we're gonna do this one last time. So you're going out, up, up, and then we travel back down. Go out, and this is a good time to snug everything up. You never wanna pull left or right. You have a very good chance of tearing your paper. So make sure you pull straight out. We're gonna pull this straight out. Everything is nice and taut. We're going, well that's not nice and taut at all. Made a liar of me. Now it is taut and we go back in through the hole. Careful not to split your thread. Skip this guy. We're going out this one. See, that's the one where we didn't get all the leather out, and now it's hard to tell where it is. You can always line up the other holes. And if all the other holes are lined up, then that last little jerk's gonna be lined up. This is high-stakes crafting. - [Woman] We're all watching. - I've never made a mistake. It's not gonna happen today. Okay, except for with this hole. Okay, okay, okay. We have it lined up, thank you for your support, Terin. The floppiness of the leather is definitely tamed by the firmness of the paper, that's why we're using the Strathmore mixed media paper and not just a Textmate paper. You can use watercolor paper or you can use Bristol board, even that may be a little bit on the thick side. Okay we have our top hole, Oh see, this has gone through the leather, but not the paper. So I'm just gonna back it up and start again. This is when it gets intense. And that fifth hole. - [Woman] Gene Peterson said she forgot to breathe while she was watching you work through that. - [Faith] Gene said she forgot to breathe. Well, may this be a reminder to everyone to breathe and a reminder to me, 'cause I am getting a little sweaty, I have to be honest. It's also the studio lights. So we'll get through this, I promise. I won't lead you astray. - [Woman] We all believe in you. - [Faith] Thank you so much. Okay, so we've gone back out through that, so this is what it should look like on the inside. This is what it should look like on the outside, only one more hole. And make sure everything is doing what it's supposed to do. We're going back in this hole, taking care not to split our thread. You know who has the really tricky job, the camera person. Nice job, Terin. And we're gonna go up on the other side of this string. Oh my gosh, we've honestly finished it with the stressful stuff. Whew. And we're gonna make a double knot. And we're going to cut it off. That's what I forgot, scissors. With half an inch tail. So we're almost finished. - [Liana] Gotcha. - [Faith] Oh, thank you, Liana, see now I can get closer. Everyone's so helpful around this place. - [Liana] We've got scissors coming out of our ears here. - [Faith] (laughs) We have a lot of scissors. So this, we're as close as we've ever been to being finished with this, this gives us a view of how it's going to look when it's finished. And now we're going to add our strap. And I think that's what really elevates this look. And this is a 16th of an inch leather strap. I made the horrible joke of saying that this comes from a unicorn hide. Natural, glitter leather. But I think it looks just fantastic. And to give you a preview, here is what the final version will look like. So we're going to thread through, we're going to cut three slots, we're going to thread the leather through, let's do it. I'd like to do this right in the center. And we'll make the cuts about the size of the leather strap. Now if you, you're probably going to want to cut to the final cut once you've threaded it through so you can get a feel for how long you wanna wrap it. You can wrap it all the way if you want. It's just gonna look a little silly in the coffee shop when you sit down to jot in your journal and you're just unwrapping and unwrapping. But you know, that's up to you. It's your prerogative. We're also going to trim down the end. So we're cutting out a wedge that'll make it a lot easier when we thread it through. And here we are centering this on our mat. And we're using our ruler. Here's the center. I do wish I had cut it a little bit off-center so that I could enjoy that sexy

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centering part. We're going to make our first slot, we're gonna make a half an inch, and then, so half an inch away from the edge. Then another half an inch, then another half an inch. And this part is not high-stakes sweaty, but it takes some negotiation, some pleading. Some prayer to the craft Gods. And if you wanted to do this from the other side as well, you could. So as you can see or not see, those cuts are basically invisible. And now we're gonna have to go on a wild goose chase to find them. Oh, but look. There we go, you can see them from the right side. What kind of tool are you using Faith, is that a dental tool? Yes, it's a dental tool. Dental tools are so useful for book making. I have a whole bunch of them in my toolbox. And they're also useful for dentistry. Okay, so we're going to go down through this slot, up through here, and back down through here. And I'm using my dental tool to encourage the leather to go through. Dental tools are also great to have on hand for clay making. I think you can even get them in the clay section. But they pretend like they're clay tools and then I always see them and I'm like, you guys are liars. You're just on vacation from the dentist office and pretending. I know the truth about you. Okay, so if we find our hole before we start jamming it in it'll make it a lot easier. Also it seems a little slender. We can push this through a bit. Leather's so interesting. If you've never worked with it, I recommend it. It might horrify you. 'Cause you get covered with little pieces of leather and you're like, ah this used to be skin! Or you'll be really enchanted by it, entranced, because it's very versatile and very beautiful, and interesting and fancy, and if you've only worked with paper, adding leather to it can really elevate the work. I almost panicked for a second, I thought I did it in the wrong side. We have another slot to slip it through. Good planning, Faith from 30 seconds ago. My last one. We're gonna thread it through. We're almost there. And we're gonna pull this through about a half an inch. And I'm actually not going to glue it down. You can if you want, use some superglue or some PVA or some methylcellulose. Look at that, I love this. So let's, do we wanna wrap it... See, now that I made the joke about not wrapping it too many times, that's all I wanna do is wrap it too many times. To the left and then to the right. Should we do it one more? Yeah, let's do it one more time. Ooh, I'm feeling indulgent. So I'm gonna cut it here. Thank you again, Liana for the scissors. - [Liana] You're welcome. - [Faith] And we're just gonna tuck it in like that. And here we have a beautiful, single signature five-stitch pamphlet bound leather journal. How 'bout that? - [Liana] It's gorgeous. - [Faith] Thank you so much. I hope it looks as beautiful on camera it does in my face. - [Man] It's gorgeous. - Everyone in the studio says it's gorgeous. Thank you so much everyone in the studio, you're very supportive of me. Here we have it. And as a preview or if this has wet your appetite for more leather work, here is the travel journal, which features removable signatures and we did a little bit of edge finishing and it has some elastic straps. So if you're excited about leather, take a look at that. Also don't forget we have a giveaway. Like, share and subscribe. Or you can even like, share and subscribe if you don't wanna win the Scotch tape and then just give the Scotch tape to somebody else. You can say I have an amazing gift for you. It's all the Scotch tape you could ever want. And then you'll have a friend for life. Thank you so much for joining us. We always love spending the afternoon with you and we'll see you on Thursday. (upbeat instrumental music)

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