

Lined Leather Suitcase • 1" scale

By Jean Scribner, Rowley, Massachusetts

Materials

- White Sobo Glue
- Smooth Jaw Needle-nose Pliers
- Scissors for fabric use
- 9" #24 Brass Wire
- 5" #20 Brass Wire
- Damp wash cloth to keep fingers clean of glue.

Fabric & Leather

- 9" X 4" Thin Leather
- 5-1/2" X 7" small patterned cotton fabric

Leather Alternatives

1. Old Used Women's Leather Gloves
 2. Dyed Leather Skivers
 3. Leather Look Fabric
- OR...
4. Seriously crinkle up a small brown lunch bag, rub surface vigorously with brown wax-type shoe polish for faux leather.

FIRST, measure and cut out three leather straps, each 1/8" X 8-9" long, set aside.

If using dyed skiver, soften the remaining leather by crumpling it up then briskly rolling the leather between your hands until the leather feels like chamois and is no longer stiff.

Measure carefully and, on the solid lines, cut out all pieces from the index card stock. Score all pieces on the dotted lines using the back side of an X-Acto blade or by bearing down with a ball point pen. Fold on these dotted lines and fold, then glue the tabs to the insides. You will now have the frames of the lid and base of the suitcase.

Cut one rectangle 3" X 2-1/2" from leather to cover the lid frame. Back, fuzzy side of the leather facing up; glue the outside flat side of the lid frame to the center of the pieces of leather. Do not trim yet.

Cut another rectangle, 3-7/8" X 3-1/2", of leather to cover the base frame of the suitcase. Back, fuzzy side of the leather facing up; glue the outside flat side of the lid frame to the center of the pieces of leather, leave no glue gaps where the leather rests on the flat side of the frame. Do not trim yet.

Use the leather layout as a guide/pattern. When both of the flat sides of the lid and base are glued down, you will fold up the long side edges of the base and lid. Glue in place.

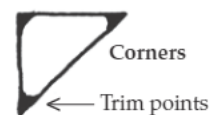
See layout. Cut off a small square of leather from one of the long ends of the base, leaving a small 1/8" flap of leather to fold over to the short ends of the frame. Save the cut off piece of leather. Glue attached flap in place, let the glue set for about one minute, then using your smooth jawed pliers squeeze down the 1/8" flaps to decrease the bulk on the frame. Repeat this step for the other long side of the base frame. Repeat again for the two long ends of the lid frame.

Glue and fold over to the inside, the remaining leather of the cropped long sides, to inside the frame. Repeat with the short ends neatly covering the 1/8" leather tabs.

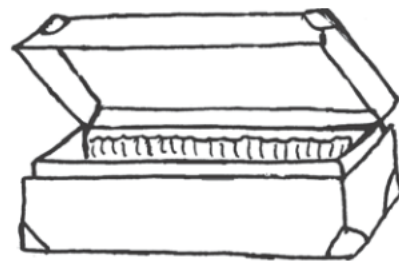
Taking a deep breath, look carefully at the covered long side of the base and lid to visually decide the best sides to end up facing one another when the suitcase is closed. Glue the fuzzy side of the hinge to the inside of the back side of the suitcase base. Use the smooth jawed pliers again to secure the glued hinge on the suitcase base. Let set.

Put glue on the rough side of the leather hinge where it extends the side of the suitcase base. Then, keeping the suitcase as closed as humanly possible (*I used a stylus which is thinner than my finger*) Glue the upper side of the hinge to the inside back of the suitcase lid. Take a deep breath while the glue on the entire hinge sets up.

Cut out the eight triangles of leather. Cut all the pointed ends of each of the triangles, changing the points to gentle curves. See illustration.



Each of these triangles of leather will cover the 8 corners of the suitcase on the base and the lid, leaving a wee bit overhanging to be glued down to the side edges of the suitcase.



In days of old, these corners would be replaced when the suitcase became worn on the corners. Glue in place. Let the suitcase "rest".

Straps

Cut off a 1" long piece of the #24 brass wire. Put one of the cut ends of the 1" long wire between the points of the small tip, smooth jaw pliers. You should just barely feel the tip of the wire on one end of the pliers' nose, the rest of the piece of wire should be sticking out of the other side of the pliers' nose point. Consider the wire under the nose to be the flat center of the buckle.

—Continued on next page

Lined Leather Suitcase

—Continued from page 41

Keeping a firm grip on the pliers to keep the jaw closed, take the exposed wire and wrap it tightly all the way around, 360o, the nose of the pliers, returning to where you began the wrapping – this will form a closed lower case “e”. Take the buckle out of the pliers by gently loosening your grip on the pliers – but do not let go, you want to keep the closed “e” shape. *See illustration.*



Buckle

Do not cut off the excess wire yet. Make two more buckles in the same manner, making sure they are the same size diameter as the 1st buckle. Do not cut off the excess wire off these buckles either.

Take one end of one of the three 1/8" wide leather strips, and weave the strap through each of the openings of the buckle. Like threading a needle, but be sure the strap is fuzzy side up and the circular part of the “e” is on the smooth side of the leather. Gently move the woven buckle to 3/4" from one cut end. Put a drop of glue on the flat center of the buckle, allowing the glue to touch the fuzzy leather of the strap on either side of the flat center “e”, the glue will secure the buckle to the strap. Repeat this procedure with the other two straps and buckles. Let set.

Cut three pieces 1" X 1/16" from some of the scraps of left-over leather. Glue one end of this tiny strip to the fuzzy side of the leather strap, fuzzy side to fuzzy side at about 3/16" down from the buckle loop, away from the short end of the strap - *see illustration, not to scale.*

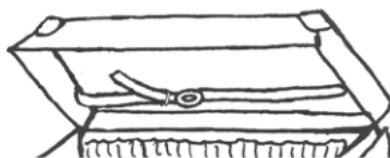


Wrap the 1/16" wide leather piece 360o around the strap, smooth side up, crossing where you started. Not yet but when the strap is buckled, these will be belt “keepers”.

Repeat this procedure with your other two straps with the buckles attached. When the keepers are attached to each 1/8" wide strip, fold the excess 7/8" of leather strip OVER the cut ends of the keeper, and glue in place. Cut off excess wire, keeping the “e” buckle intact. Let set.

Turn the suitcase upside down, for easier access to attach the 1st belt, next. Buckle ONE belt to fit inside the lid of the suitcase, see illustration. This would be the belt that would hold clothing, like a suit inside the lid while travelling.

Tighten belt as needed, leaving a longer belt end. Check the fit inside the lid of suitcase, and half way between the suitcase opening and the hinge. See illustration. Center the buckle. Put glue on the back smooth side of this new belt, and set in place. The suitcase lining will cover the back of the belt, that is glued to the lid, and only the front of the belt, with the buckle and keeper will show. Let set. Trim excess belt strap to a pleasing length.



Lining the Suitcase

Put a very thin line of glue, or Fray-Check, on the cut edges of all the fabric lining pieces to keep from fraying, let dry on waxed paper. Do not over glue, causing the glue to come through the fabric. Glue the bottom lining piece into the suitcase, from the bottom flat of the base, over the hinge and through the belt continuing to cover the flat side of the lid. Let set.

Glue the inside lid lining to cover the remaining area of the inside of the lid (behind the location for the placement of handle). Let set.

Glue the lower side insert lining to the index stock base insert. The fabric will completely cover one side of the index insert, and will fold over to cover the reverse side only partially. Let set.

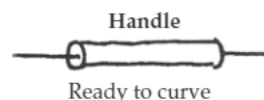
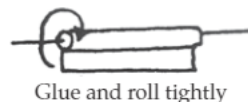
While waiting for the glue to set, fold over the pocket fabric along to top and bottom edge. I did not glue this hem, for fear of glue bleeding through. Use a needle and thread to gather along the bottom hem, gather to 1-7/8" long, back stitch TWICE to secure. Cut off remaining length of thread. Repeat gathering step to the top hem, measure then back stitch to secure. Set aside.

Place the covered insert piece into the bottom of the suitcase; it will go from the left back corner -> left side -> front side -> to the right back corner. Remove the insert and deeply crease the left front and right front corners of this

inset. Check it again, then glue into the suitcase. You will note that the insert sticks up from the base, to allow the lid to close over the upper edge of the insert.

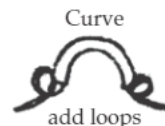
Handle

Use one of the pieces that you removed from the suitcase base when you made the flaps on the long side of the base. Use a 1-1/2" length of #20 wire, glue it to the end of the 7/8" side of the leather scrap, centering the scrap on the wire.



When the glue sets, use glue and tightly roll up the remaining scrap of leather to make a suitcase handle. *Illustration NOT to scale.* Let set.

Once well set, use the tip of your smooth jawed pliers to form tight loops of the wire at both ends of the leather roll. Cut off excess wire. *See illustrations.* Use the #20 wire again to make a small “D” shape to attach the handle loop, cut off the excess wire. *See illustrations.*



—Continued on next page

Lined Leather Suitcase

—Continued from page 42

Make a 2nd #20 wire "D", as before. Take a scrap from the other 3 pieces that you removed from the suitcase base when you made the flaps on the long side of the base. Cut two pieces 1/8" wide X 1/2" long. Thread one piece through one of the "D" wire shapes, glue fuzzy sides of the leather together leaving the smooth side of the leather



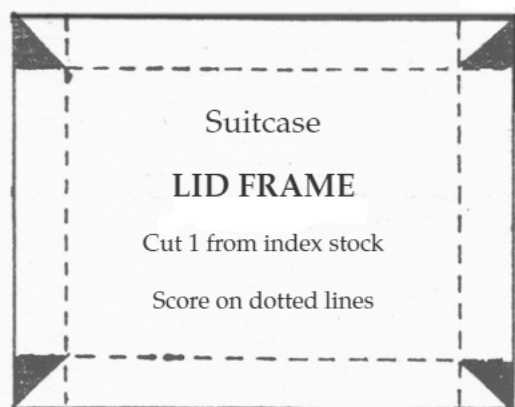
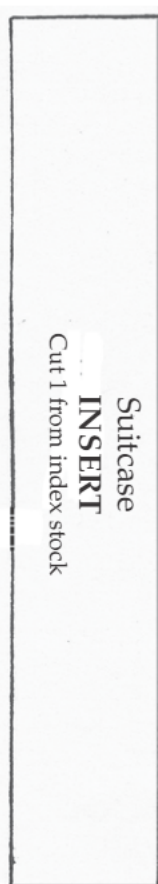
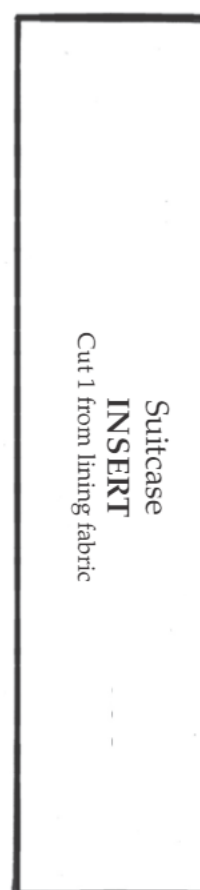
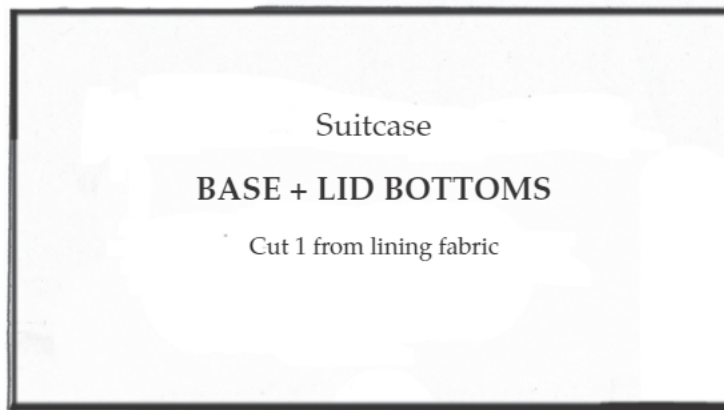
up and exposing the curve of the wire "D". Repeat with the 2nd "D" shape. Let set.

Bend to put a curve on the leather handle. By opening and closing the wire loops of the handles, attach the "D" wires. Close the wire loops of the handle. Set this handle unit in place on the open side of the suitcase base, centering it from side to side and placed about 3/16" down from the open edge of the suitcase. Place, then glue one side of the flaps on the leather attached to the "D". Repeat with the other end of the "D" and the handle.

The Outside Belts

The two belt buckles line up with the handle, and are set between the handle and the corners. Glue the belt behind the buckle, let set, then glue 360o around the suitcase from the front of the base -> back of the base -> over the hinged area -> over the top of the lid -> and down the front of the lid. Glue in place. Trim off excess belt strap to a pleasing and usable length.

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DOOR PRIZES

By Helen Sparks

A huge thank you to all of our generous Door Prize donors! Several of them donated more than one item. The drawing will be held on August 31, 2013. We won't spoil the surprise by listing the donations here, but watch for pictures to be posted in September.

Donna Arazan, Michigan City, MS

Emily (Emma) Blair, Plaistow, NH

Ninalu Bovensiepe, Porterville, CA

Karen Carter, Arlington, TX

Ruth Clay, Reading, MA

Jane Coffey, Ballston Lake, NY

Debbie Colombo, Holmes, NY

Romaine Eyler, Westminster, MD

Jan Feldhouse, Las Vegas, NV

Diane Fisher, Grants Pass, OR

By Sharon Miniatures
(Sharon Goldsmith), Henderson, NV

Cascade Miniatures of Oregon
(Luci Hanson) Grants Pass, OR

Catherine Hawkins, Rainbow City, AL

Meredith Hink, Holmen, WI

Carol Menze-Gaimond, Fresno, CA

Mini Moos
(NAME Club), Manitowoc, WI

Betty Moke, Lakewood, CA

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I.T. (Terry) Parkin
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Ron Seibert, Racine, WI

Eileen Shannon, BC, Canada

Desert Minis, Inc.
(Janet Smith) Las Cruces, NM

Helen Sparks, Maricopa, AZ

Sarita Speros, St. Augustine, FL

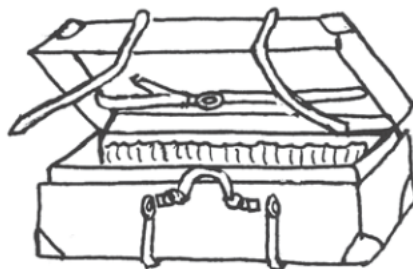
Darwin Spring, Sacramento, CA

Sharon Anderson, Rumsey, KY

NAME Region E-1

Lined Leather Suitcase

—Continued from page 43



You may randomly glue on color luggage decals to the outside of your suitcase. See page 73 for decals.

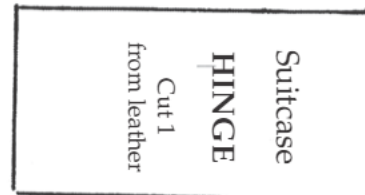
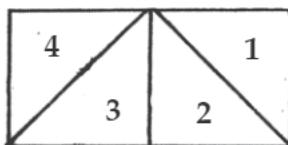
Kits Available from: Jean Scribner,
157 Glen Street, Rowley, MA 01969

1" scale leather suitcase kits
\$25.00 + 3.50 S&H

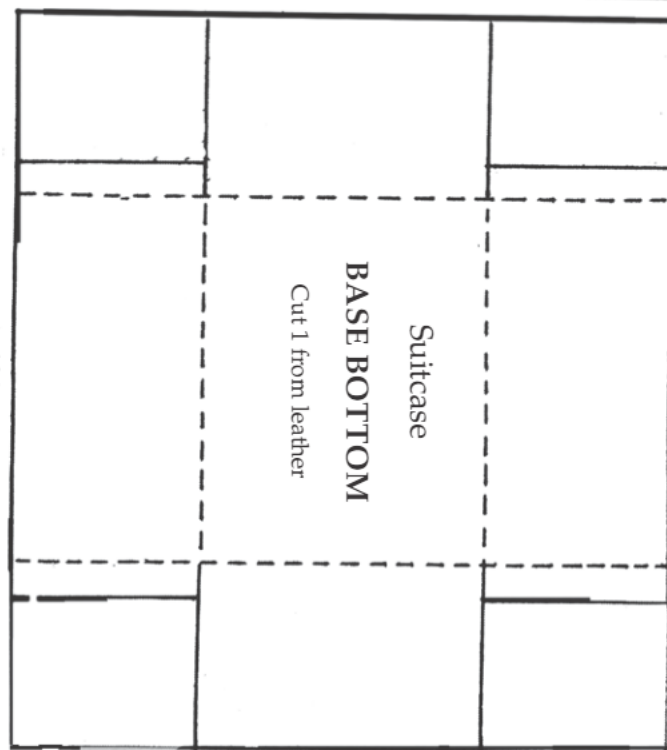
1/2" scale leather suitcase kits
\$16.00 + 3.00 S&H

Suitcase • LEATHER LAYOUT

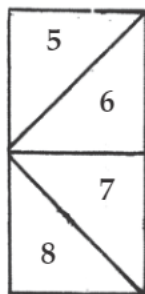
Suitcase
LID
CORNERS
(4) from leather



Place on fold
Cut 3 straps
9-7/8" long
from leather



Suitcase
LID
CORNERS



(4) from leather

