



LEATHER EMBOSSING

Lucky for you, we have pre-made metal templates available at stores. Mem would have spent hours creating her own template and would've paid a visit to the local blacksmith for help cutting metal.

Ingredients:

A piece of leather
Metal embossing templates
Wood scraps
Nails
Rubber Mallet
1/4 inch thick piece of Styrofoam
Weights, such as heavy books or bricks
Rags
A bowl of water

Directions:

It's important to choose soft leather to emboss. These leathers are much easier to work with throughout the process. Next, choose a template. You'll be able to find pre-made metal templates at craft stores and on the Internet.

Lay your leather out on a flat surface. Place some rags into a bowl of water and wring them out. Make sure the rags are still damp, but not dripping. Lay the rags over the piece of leather and let sit for 15 minutes.

Take your chosen metal template and place it on a small scrap of wood. Nail the edges of the template to the wood so that it will not move around.

Remove the rags from your leather and decide where you want your embossed design to be. Lay that area over the template, with the front side of the leather facing down on the template, so that the back of the leather is facing upwards towards you.

Put a thin piece of Styrofoam on top of the leather. Apply your weights (either a few heavy books or a brick) and allow to sit for six hours. Do not move the books or the bricks during this time.

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LEATHER EMBOSSING (continued)

After six hours, remove the weights and the Styrofoam, taking care not to move the leather. You should be able to see the leather pressed into the template, with the edges fairly pronounced. If some of the edges are still undefined, tap them firmly with a rubber mallet. Remove the leather from the template and allow the leather to dry fully.

Ask a grown-up for help when using knives and other sharp objects, and when using candles. Be sure to use pot holders when handling warm wax.

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