

## **Information to help build or finish a sheath.**

### **Used with preformed leather sheaths**

Also, used with Sheath Making Leather in full sheath creation

This sheath is constructed from vegetable oil tanned leather and is ready to be shaped to your knife. The following steps will help you form this sheath. The sheath is very thirsty, so do not wet until necessary.

Compare the sheath to your knife and be sure they can be fitted together. Handle end should extend from top of sheath (pouch type) about 1 1/4" on smaller knives and 1 1/2" to 2" on larger knives.

Hands must be clean. Hold the sheath under cold water faucet and allow water to flow over and inside entire sheath. This takes about one minute. Pour out excess water. Push knife into sheath, being very careful not to cut through the leather as it is very soft at this time. Fit tip of knife down into sheath as far as possible without cutting through the bottom of sheath. Do not force knife tip through the end of the sheath and do not hold tip of sheath or force against any part of your body. Because one could cut through the leather and cut oneself. Knife should now be very tight in the wet sheath. If blade is carbon steel, then it should be protected with plastic wrap or floor wax (not buffed off) to prevent oxidation (rust) due to water exposure.

Now that the knife is securely inside the sheath, begin to form the sheath to fit the knife by rubbing with your fingers around the blade portion, guard and or finger grooves. Form around any shape that can be used to hold knife inside the sheath. The idea is to mold the leather to fit very tightly around the knife so that it will not fall out of the sheath when it is being worn on the belt.

It is helpful if another person can hold a hair dryer about one foot away from the sheath while it is being shaped. Mold the sheath until the natural color begins to return and some stiffening of the leather begins. Remove the knife from the sheath and store safely. Again mold the same area as before and go over the areas disturbed by removing the knife from the sheath. Be sure to keep the sewn edge straight and open belt loop slightly. When sheath looks like it is formed as you wish then hang in an area so that it will not be disturbed until completely dry and hard. a few hours in the sun or even hanging from an air vent over night should allow it to dry completely. Sheath will now be stiff and ready to dye with leather dye or simply to color and oil with neatsfoot oil. Apply four heavy coats of neatsfoot oil with a cotton ball. These four coats may be applied at one time. Again allow sheath to dry at least 6 hours. If color is too light just add more neatsfoot oil to darken. If waterproof seal is desired then add a heavy coat of mink oil or snow seal. Knife should be carried, but not stored inside of sheath.