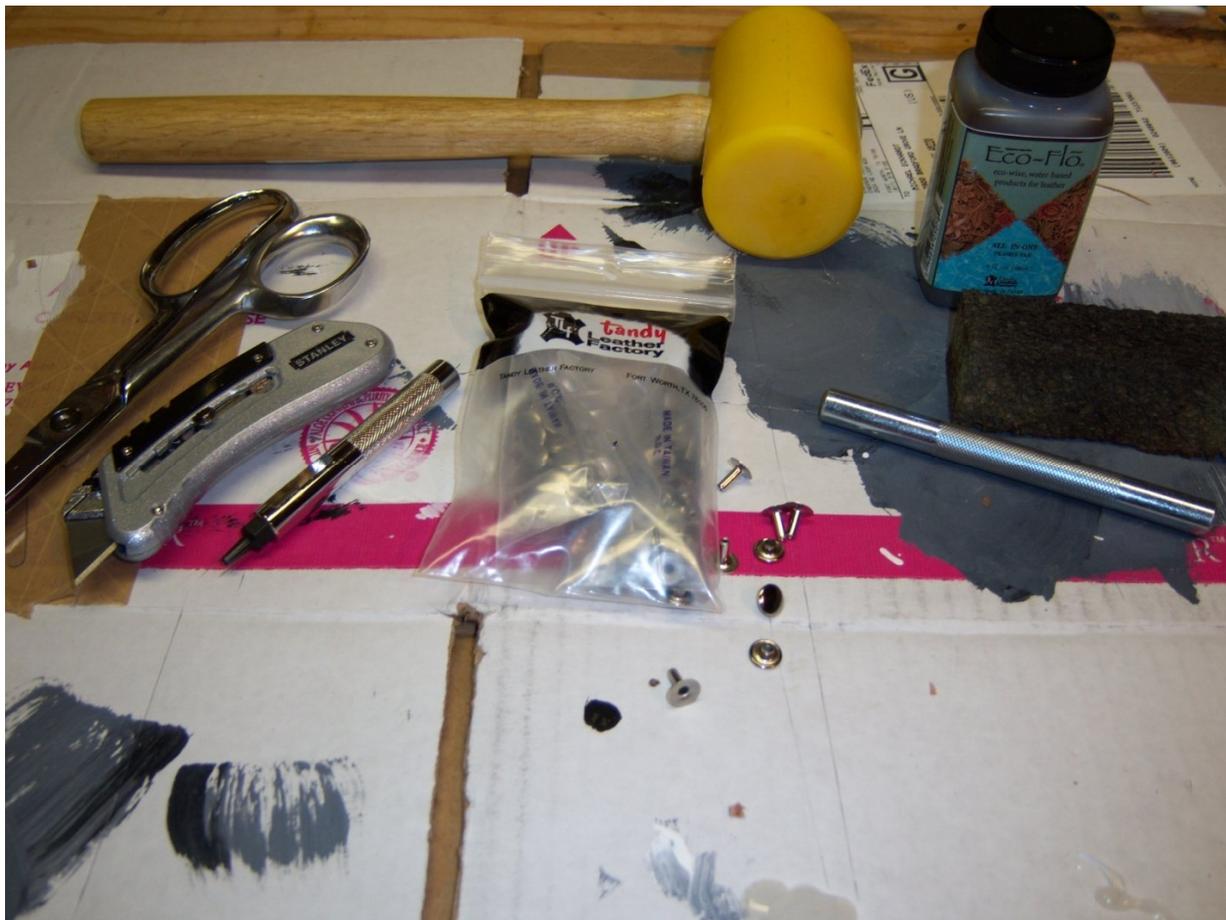


REBEL FLEET TROOPER BLASTER HOLSTER TUTORIAL

By Michael Eckhardt (jedimika)

Here's a tutorial for a simple holster for the Rebel Trooper blaster. It's easy and takes about 2 hours to do. Cost is around \$15-20 depending on if you get the leather on sale and what weight leather you decide to use. For my holsters I use an 8-oz veggie-tan leather. It's a stiff, heavy leather that will hold it's shape, and the holster will hold the blaster securely without the need for additional straps or snaps. We want to keep this as simple as possible.

Besides the leather to begin you'll need the following tools



Leather shears and/or a sharp utility knife, mallet, hole punch, rivets (medium), rivet setter, leather dye and some kind of applicator for the dye (I just use part of an old sponge)

The following items are optional



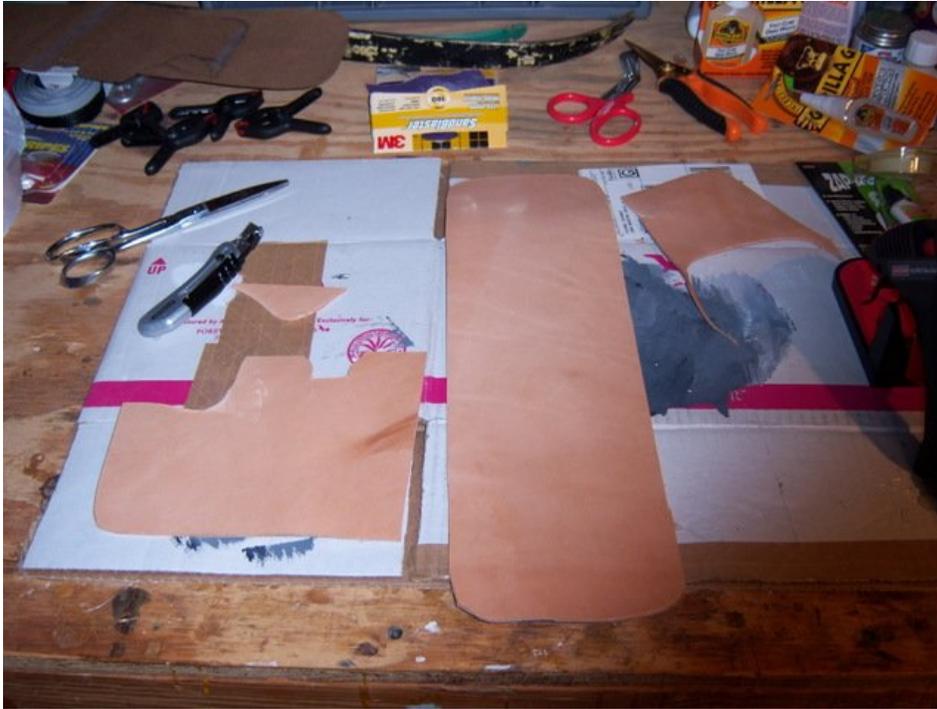
Edge slicker, edge beveller, suede piece, contact cement or leather weld, elixir of life (2 creams 2 sugars)

First you'll want to make a pattern for your holster. We're going to make a simple two piece holster. Lay out your blaster on some paper and trace around it. I just use plain brown wrapping paper I picked up at the dollar store. You're almost always better off tracing your own pattern to your personal prop as you'll get the best fit that way. Play around with it and try some different shapes.

Next you'll lay your pattern on your leather and trace it out. The leather will have a smooth side and a rough side. You typically want the smooth side showing although some people like their holster rough side out because it will look more weathered that way.



After you've traced your pattern cut it out with either some leather shears or a utility knife. Regular scissors just won't...ah...cut it...for heavy leather. You'll break your scissors. If you use a utility knife go slow making shallow cuts, going a little deeper each time. I use a combination of both. And save those scraps of leather. You can use them to test dyes/colors and practice tooling/carving leather. You can also finish the edges with an edge beveller and edge slicker to make it look more professional.



Next put down a drop cloth and get ready to dye your leather. We'll be using Tandy's all-in-one "prairie brown". You'll put some dye on a moist sponge or other applicator and using quick long strokes apply the dye. And make sure you're wearing (disposable) gloves. Leather is nothing but tanned animal skin after all, so the dye will go into YOUR skin just as easy and you don't want people at work wondering why your fingers are brown! Ewww! You don't have to apply dye to the non-showing side but I usually do just because I'm OCD like that. However, do make sure to get your edges well as those WILL show.





Now we're just going to attach the front part to the back part (it will make more sense in the pictures). You can hand stitch it (which I've done before) but we're just going to keep it easy and use rivets. You'll punch holes through the leather with well...a leather punch...and pound some rivets in to hold it all together. Simple.



That looks pretty good. We could leave it like that as the rivets are pretty smooth and flush to the leather but why risk scraping up our blaster? Let's take a small piece of suede we have sitting around, cut it to fit and use some contact cement or leather weld (a leather

glue) to bind it to the leather. Now our holster will have a luxurious and practical lining.



Now we're almost done. Just fold the front part over, pound in some more rivets, fold the top part back to make a belt loop and pound yet more rivets in and you're finished.



Wow, that looks good enough to sign our names to. And doesn't that blaster look nice and comfy in its new home?



Now sit back with your coffee and compliment yourself on a job well done.