

Turnshoes – Basic tools and techniques (Summer '06)

Jon Murphy (Seamus ua'Murchada)

jon@armlann.com <http://www.armlann.com>

This handout is not designed as a stand-alone guide to building a pair of turnshoes. It is offered in addition to my class. There are lists of suggested supplies and readings and links to websites. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Leather

Soles – 10-11 ounce vegetable tanned

Uppers - < 4-5 ounce chrome tanned, buck tanned, or any soft leather (medieval duplicates are hard to find and very expensive)

Tools

Knives: Head knife, Xacto, Leather cutting shears, skiver
Holes: Rotary punch, Awls, Nippers
Thread: Waxed linen, Artificial Sinew
Needles: Glovers needles
Pliers: Needle nose, Lasting pliers
Lasts: Ebay.com, United Last (Canada), Hormas El Arbol (Mexico),
 Thornapple River Boots <http://www.thornappleriverboots.com>
Nails: Shoe tacks, Tack puller

Supplies

Siegel of California: <http://siegelofca.com/>
Hide House: <http://hidehouse.com/>
Leather Factory: <http://www.leatherfactory.com/>
Tandy Leather: <http://www.tandyleather.com/>
Weaver Leather: <http://weaverleather.com/>
Waxed linen thread: <http://www.royalwoodltd.com>

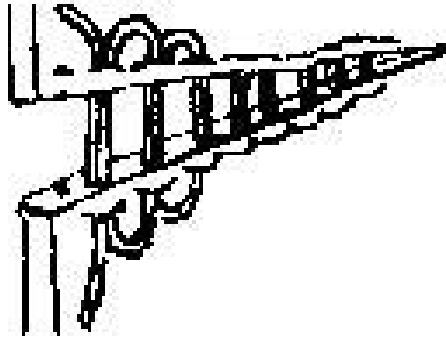
References

Shoes and Pattens (ISBN 0 85115 838 2)
Stepping Through Time (ISBN 90 801044 6 9)

Websites

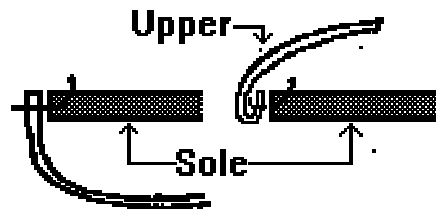
<http://www.personal.utulsa.edu/~marc-carlson/shoe/SHOEHOME.HTM>
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/medievalshoemaking/>
<http://thehcc.org/>
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/medieval-leather/>
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Authentic_SCA/
<http://talbotsfineaccessories.com/books/footwear.html>

Stitches



(<http://www.personal.utulsa.edu/~marc-carlson/shoe/STITCH2.HTM#SEAMS>)

The seam from above is used to stitch the uppers together and is known as a butt seam. A saddle stitch with two needles and one thread crisscross through half the thickness of the leather and make a seam that has no overlap and butts together and is invisible from the finished side.



(<http://www.personal.utulsa.edu/~marc-carlson/shoe/STITCH.HTM#BASIC>)

This is the path the thread follows through the sole when attaching the upper to the sole. The left side of the picture shows the path of the thread while the shoe is being assembled (before turning) and the right side shows the orientation of the leather and stitching after the shoe is turned right side out. The same crisscrossing single thread is used (saddle stitch).