
Leathercraft Tutorial

Making Christmas Balls



REQUIREMENTS

Skills

- ☐ Dyeing leather
- ☐ Edge burnishing
- ☐ Saddle stitching
- ☐ Baseball stitching (optional)

Tools

- ☐ 1mm hole punch
- ☐ Scissors or X-Acto knife
- ☐ 2 leather stitching needles + 2 curved ones (optional but will help a lot)
- ☐ Hammer or mallet
- ☐ Brush for the paint

Bill Of Materials

- ☐ 4/5oz veg tanned leather (1.6/2mm)
- ☐ 1 key-ring
- ☐ Leather paint
- ☐ Leather finishing product
- ☐ Thread
- ☐ Beeswax
- ☐ 1 swivel rivet per ball
- ☐ Cord/chain for the loop of the ball
- ☐ Masking tape



WALKTHROUGH

The initial steps to make each balls are identical, thus we will use one of the options (namely option 7) as an example but the process will be the same for the other balls.

Since each ball is stitched and assembled differently the stitching procedure for each ball will be explained separately.

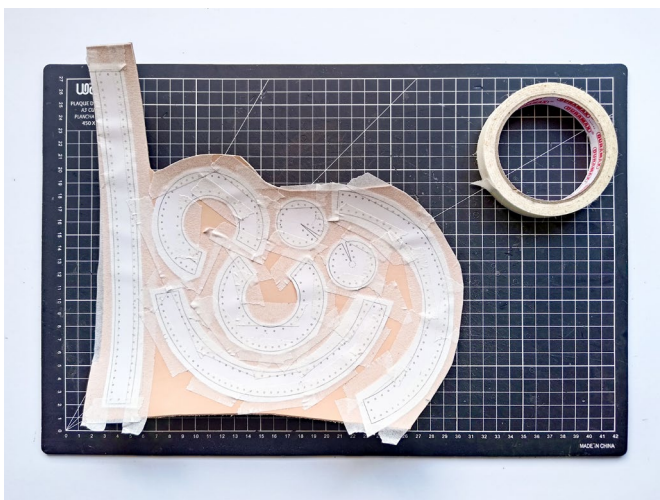
1 Printing and cutting-out the pattern

Print out the pattern corresponding to the option that you will be working on.

You can check if it was printed properly by measuring the reference found at the bottom of each page.

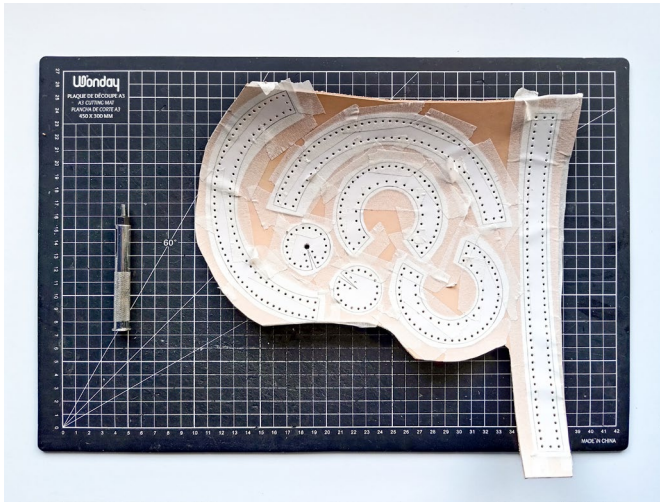


2 Securing the pieces of the pattern to the leather



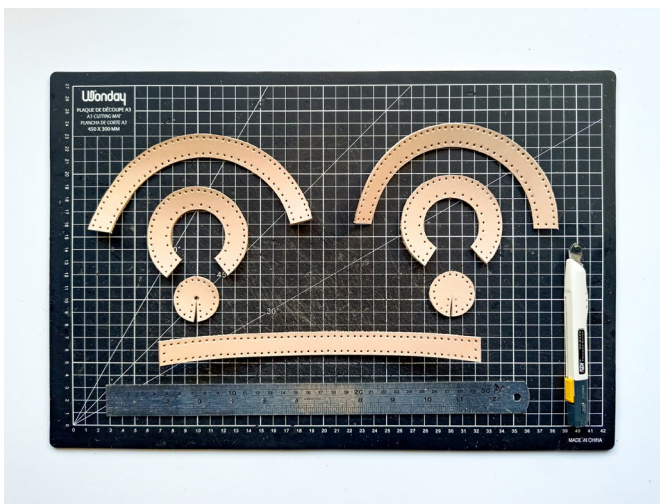
Roughly cut around the shape(s) of the pattern and use masking tape to secure it to your piece of leather.

3 Punching the stitching holes



Use a hole punch to punch the stitching holes for all the pieces, as well as the hole that will accommodate the swivel rivet.

4 Cutting-out the pieces of the project



Using a pair of scissors or an X-Acto knife, cut-out all the pieces of the ornament.

5 Painting the leather



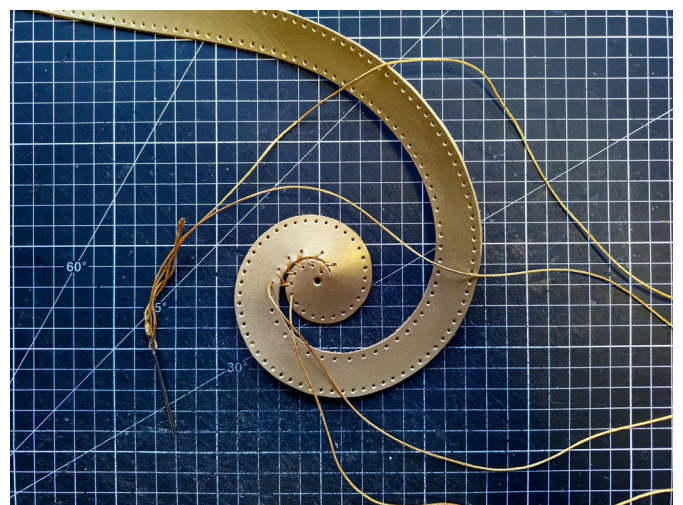
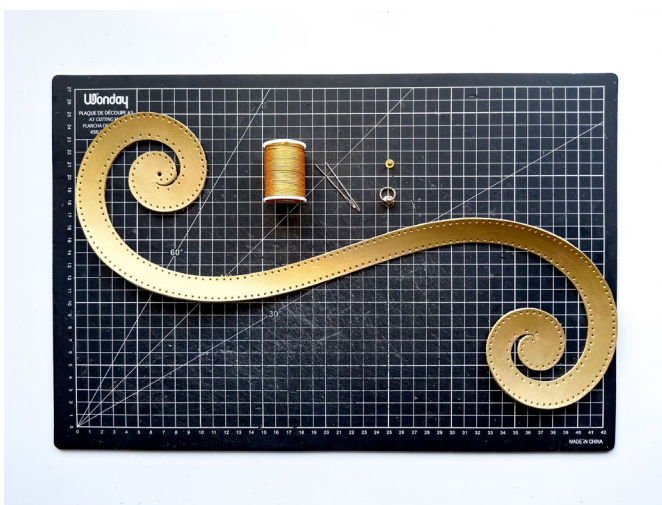
I wanted the surface of the balls to be reflective to evoke some of that holiday spirit pazazz. To that effect I used a combination of angelus metallic leather paints to paint the surface of each ornament.

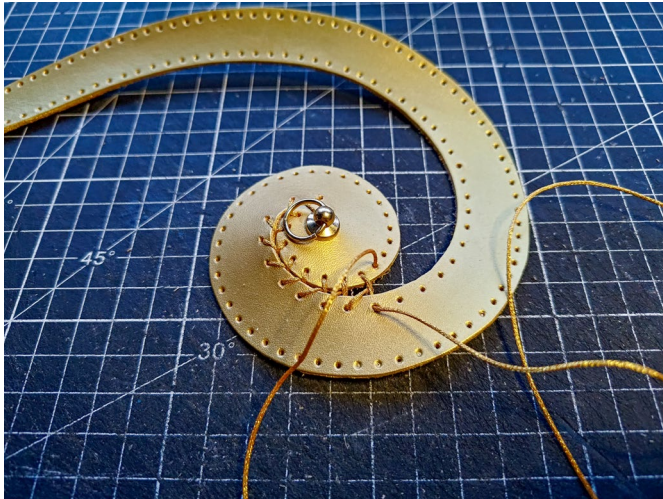
6 Assembly and stitching procedures for each ball

Option 1 Single Spiral

Start stitching from the top swirl – where the swivel rivet will be located.

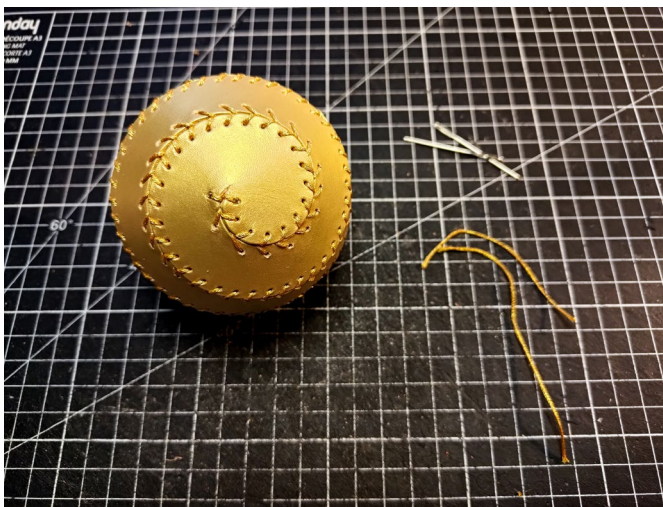
I used a baseball stitch to allow for some variation between the balls but a cross-stitch would do just fine.





After you get a few stitches in, screw-on the swivel rivet.

i You could add it right from the start but I preferred to wait in order to position it on top of the thread in case the base of the rivet overlapped with the first stitch.



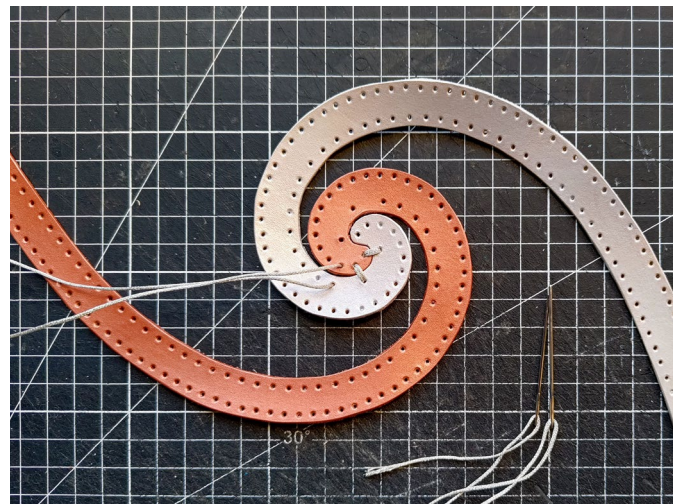
Stitch all along the spiral until you reach the end of the bottom swirl.

Option 2 Double Spiral

Start stitching the two bottom swirls together – the swirl of each spiral that **does not** possess half a hole to accommodate the swivel rivet.

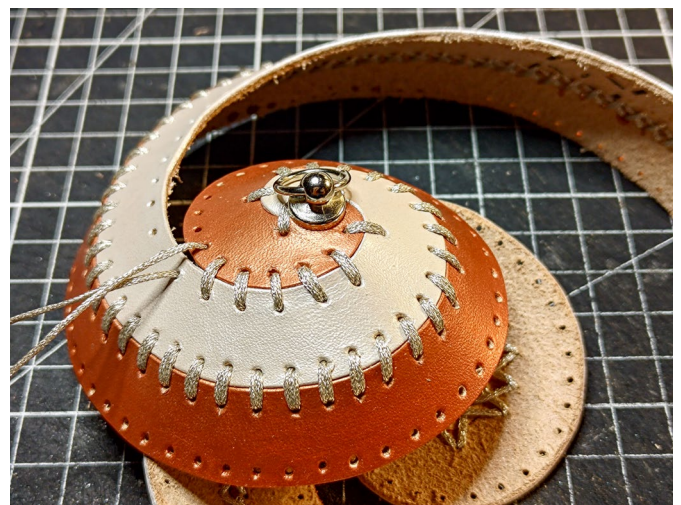
It does not matter which side of the two spirals you choose to stitch along.

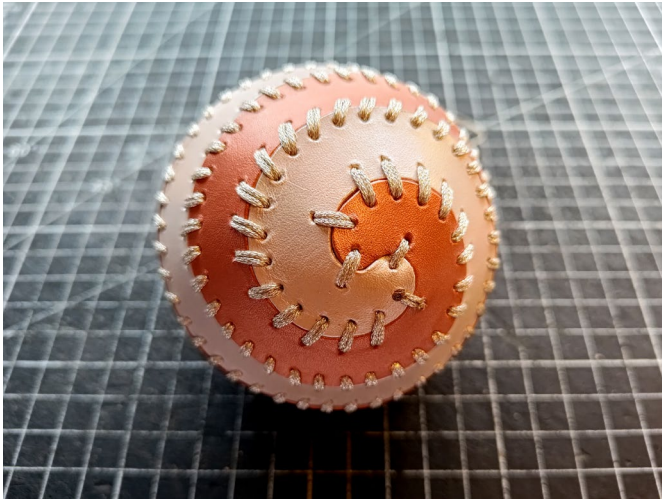
A cross-stitch is used here.



Eventually you will reach the opposite swirls of the two spirals. Once you reach the tip, continue stitching along the opposite edges for a few stitches in order to secure the top.

Then screw-on the swivel rivet.



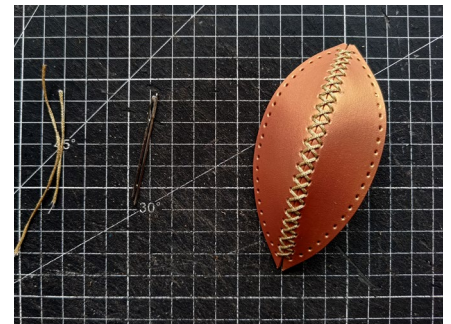
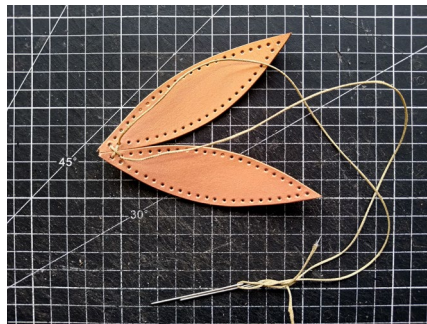
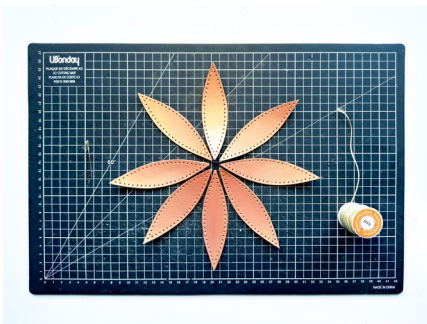


Continue stitching along the edges until you reach your starting point!

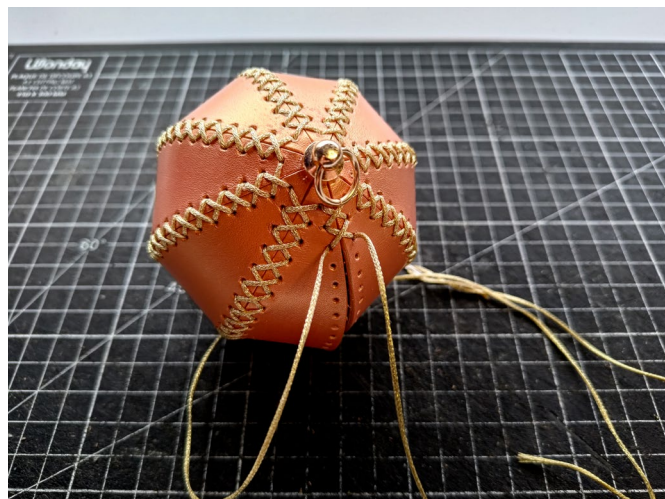
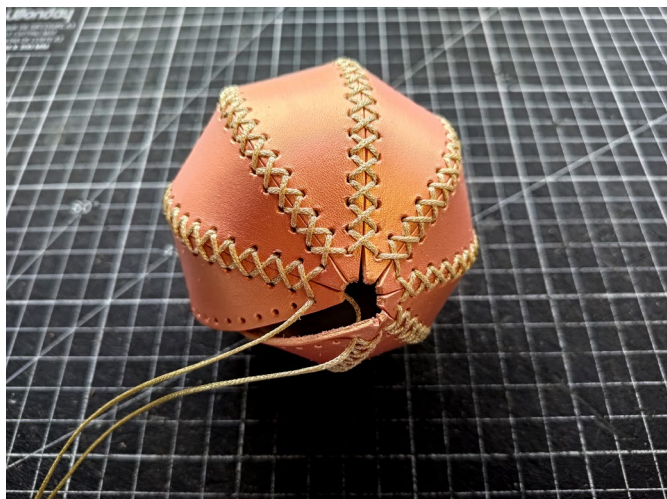
Option 3 Vertical slices

Start by stitching two of the 8 sides of the sphere together along their edge using a cross-stitch.

i Pay attention to the orientation of the sides as the top side has a cut corner to accommodate for the swivel rivet.



Once you reach the last two edges, put in a few stitches to secure the top and screw-on the swivel rivet.



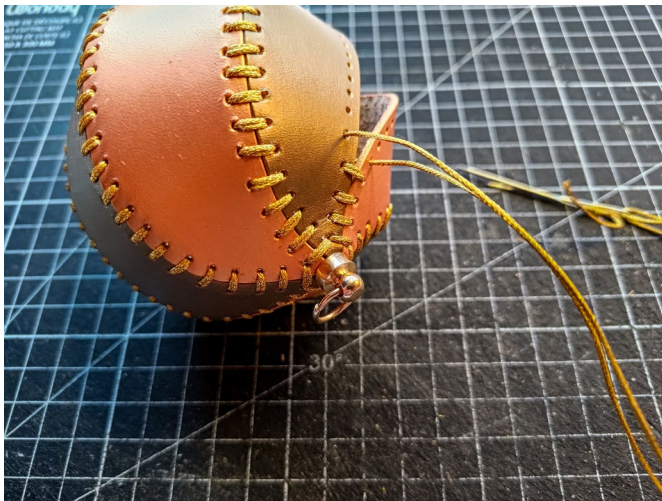
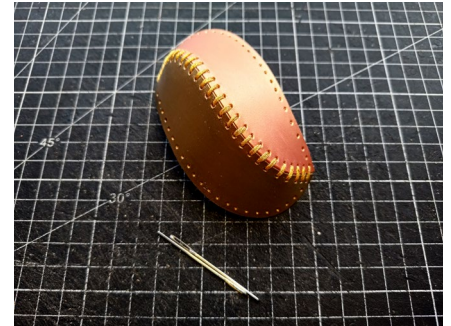
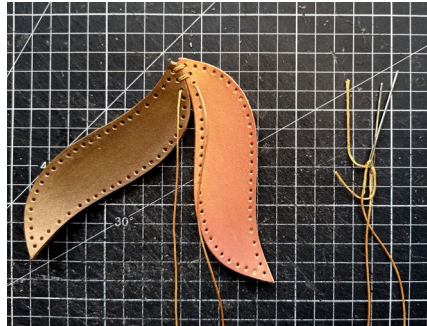
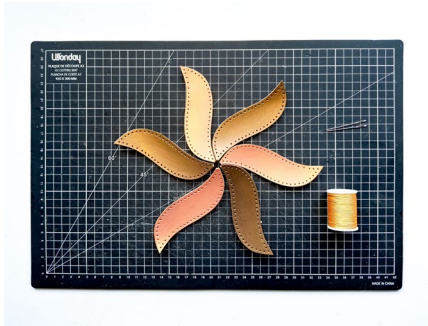
i Use a little washer if the hole formed by the tip of all the slices is a bit too wide compared the the base of the screw.



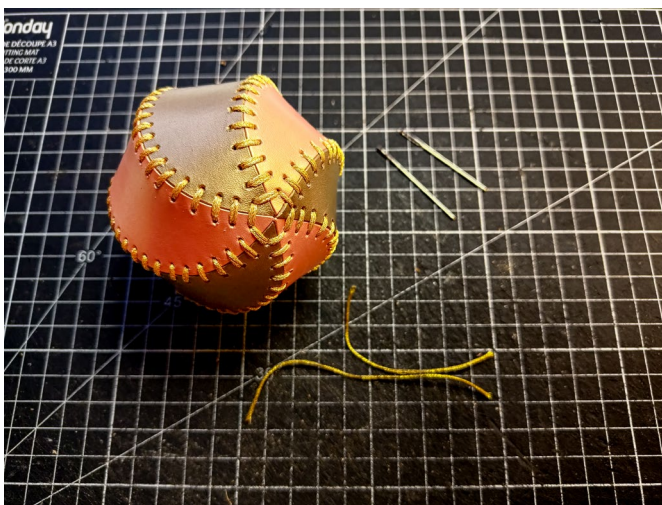
Stitch along the last edge to close the sphere. I wanted to avoid that pomegranate look so I glued all the tips edges together.

Option 4 Twisted vertical slices

Start by stitching two of the 8 sides of the sphere together along their edge using a cross-stitch.



Once you reach the last two edges, put in a few stitches to secure the top and screw-on the swivel rivet.



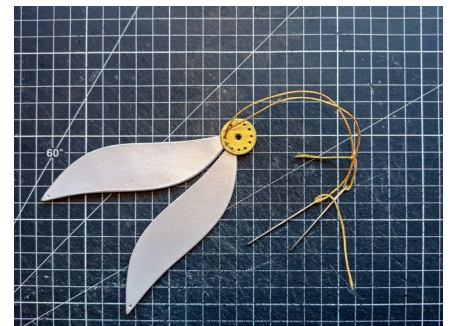
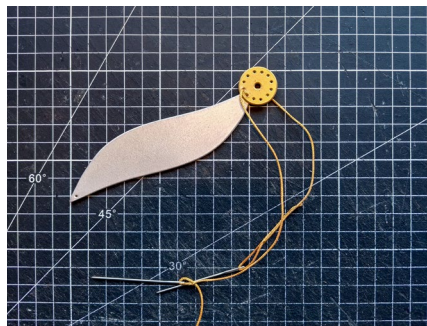
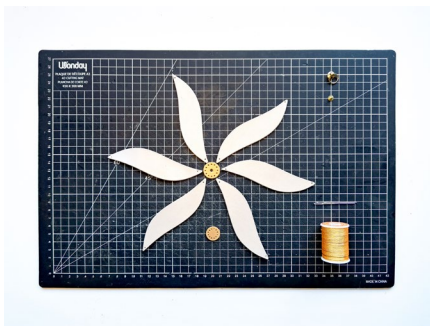
Stitch along the last edge to close the sphere.

Option 5 Floating twisted vertical slices

Start by stitching the 6 sides of the sphere to the top piece – it can be distinguished from the bottom because it has a hole to accommodate for the swivel rivet.

Each side is separated from the next by one stitching hole.

A saddle stitch is used here.



After all sides are stitched to the top, screw-on the swivel rivet.

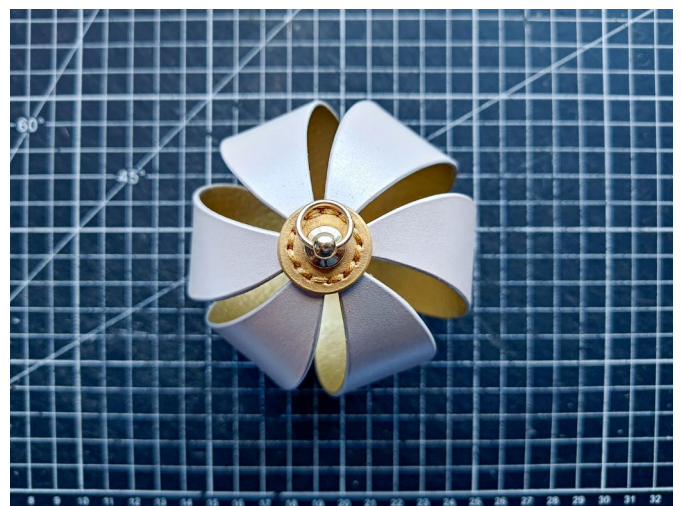
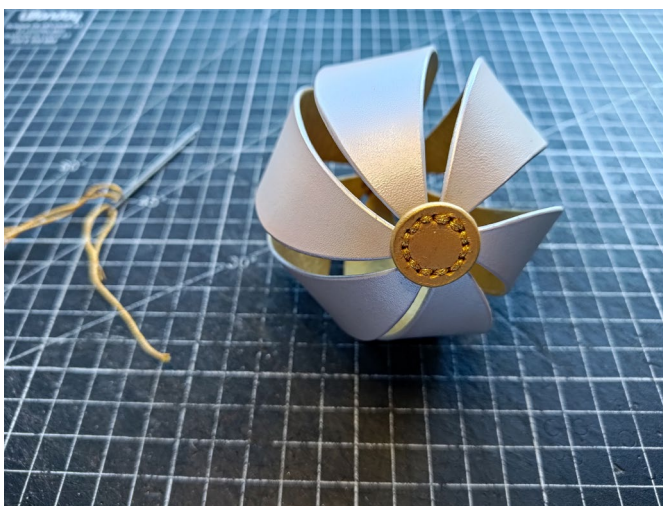
Before you tighten it fully, make sure that the 6 sides are evenly distributed around the top.



Stitch the opposite tips to the bottom piece.



Finally manually work the curve of each side in order to shape the ball as a sphere.

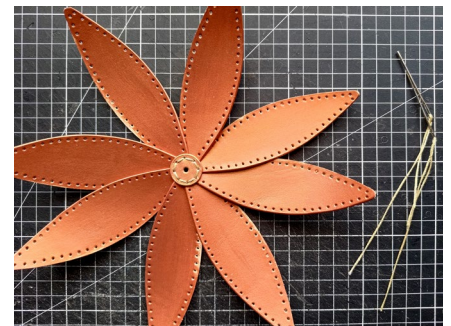
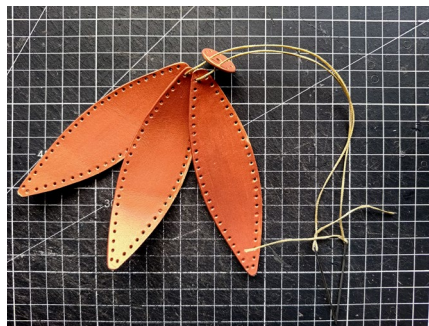
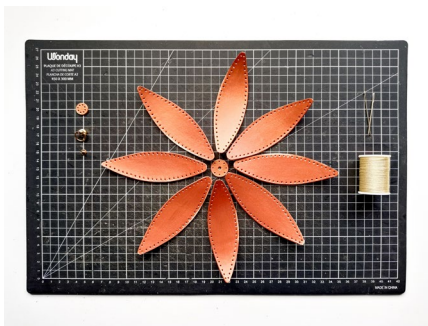


Option 6 Overlapping vertical slices

Start by stitching the 8 sides of the sphere to the top piece – it can be differentiated from the bottom because it has a hole to accommodate for the swivel rivet.

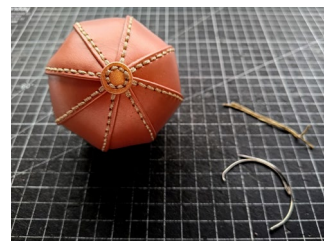
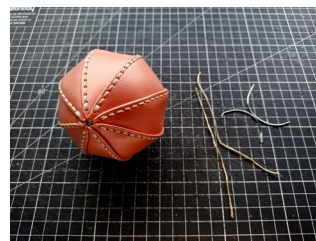
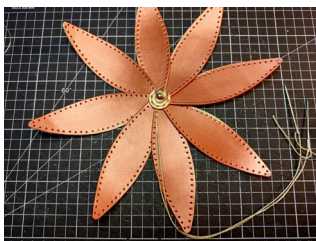
Each left edge of each sides overlaps the consecutive one.

A saddle stitch is used here.



Next, stitch each 8 pairs of overlapping edges together.

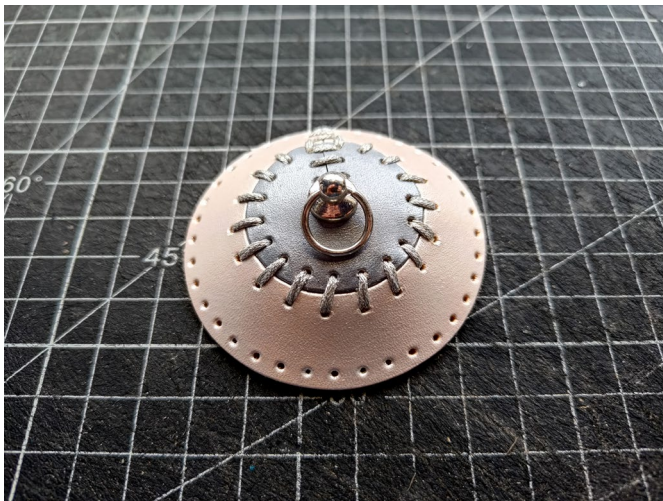
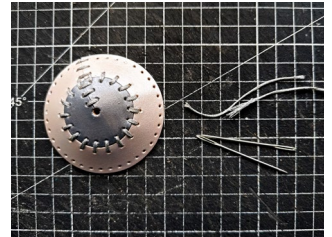
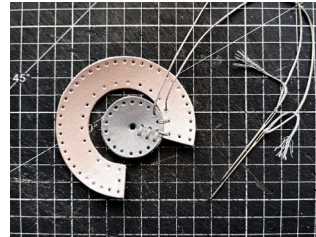
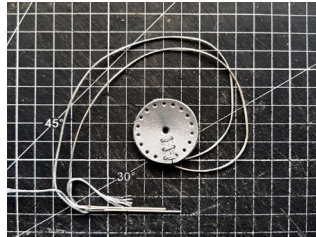
Finally stitch-on the bottom part using curved needles.



Option 7 Horizontal slices

Start by stitching from the top dome using a cross stitch – it can be differentiated from the bottom dome because it has a hole to accommodate for the swivel rivet.

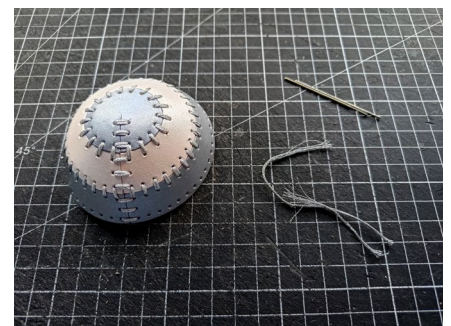
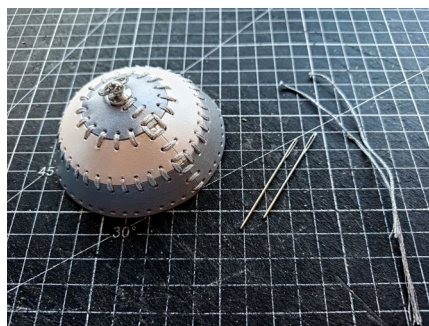
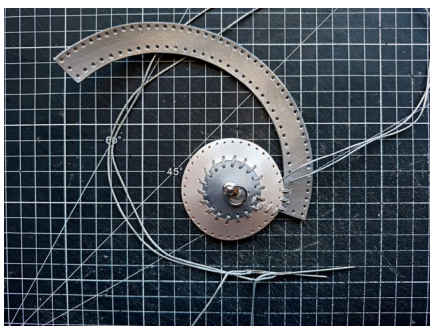
Stitch on the next strip as well.



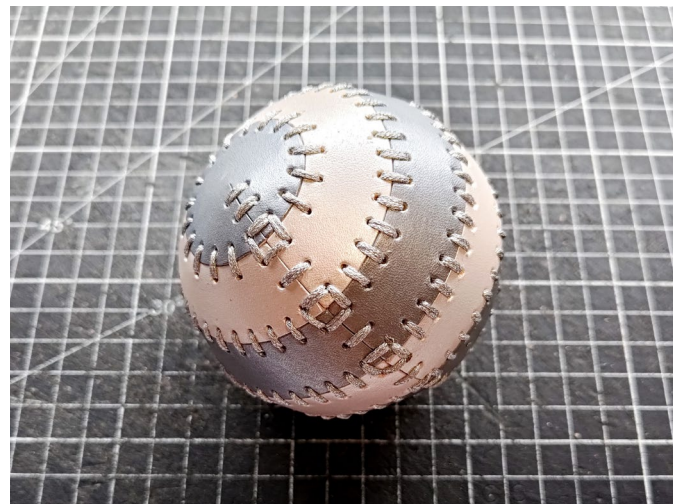
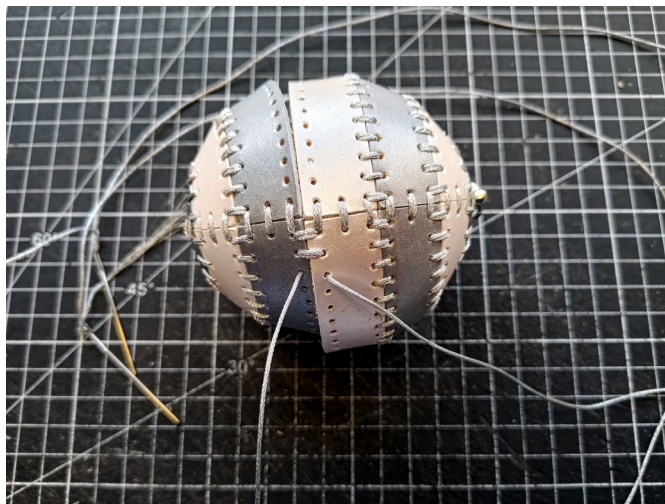
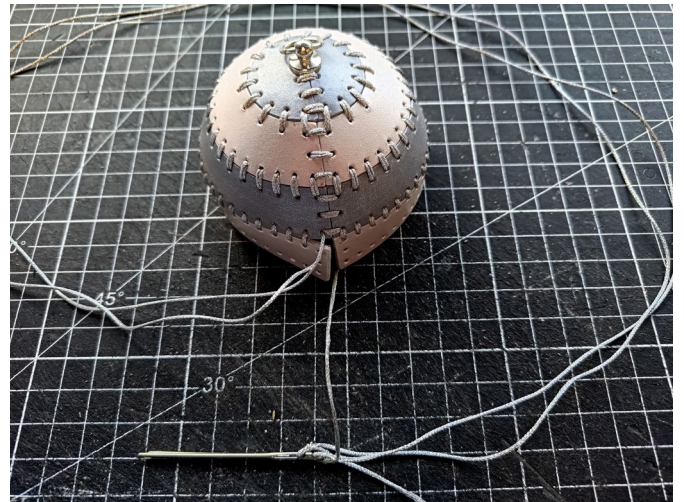
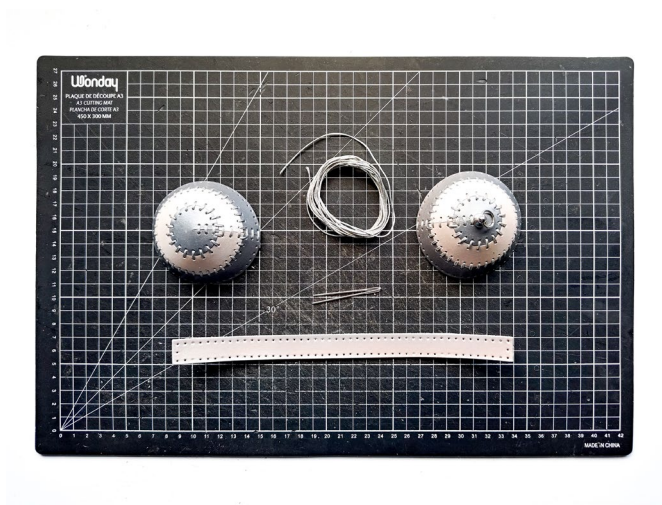
At that point you can screw-on the swivel rivet.

Stitch-on the next strip to complete the top half sphere.

Repeat the process to complete the bottom half sphere.



Finally join the two half sphere by stitching on the center strip.

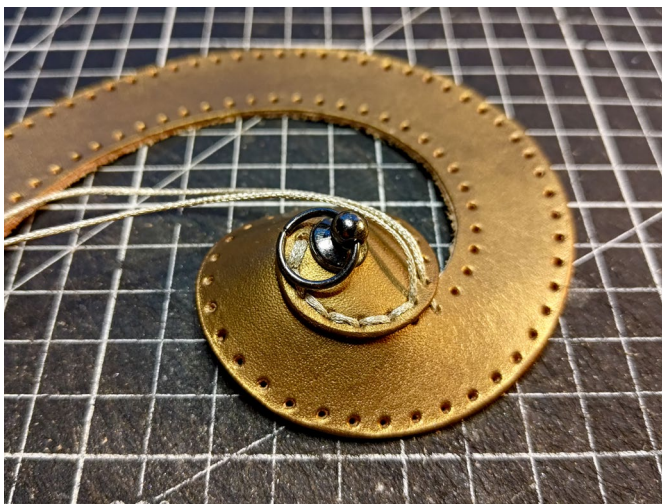
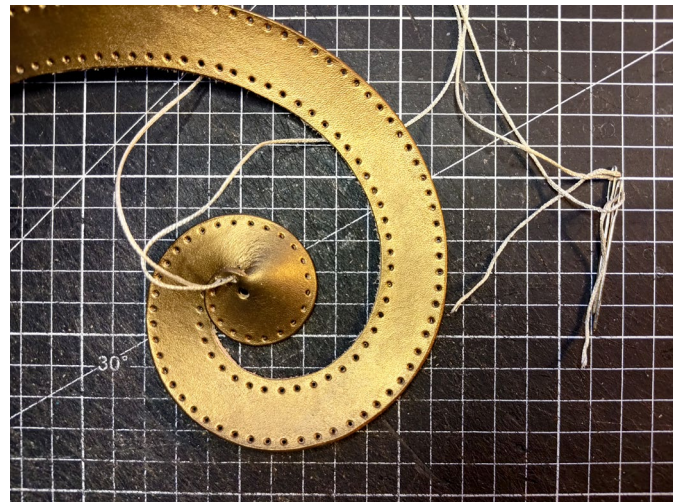
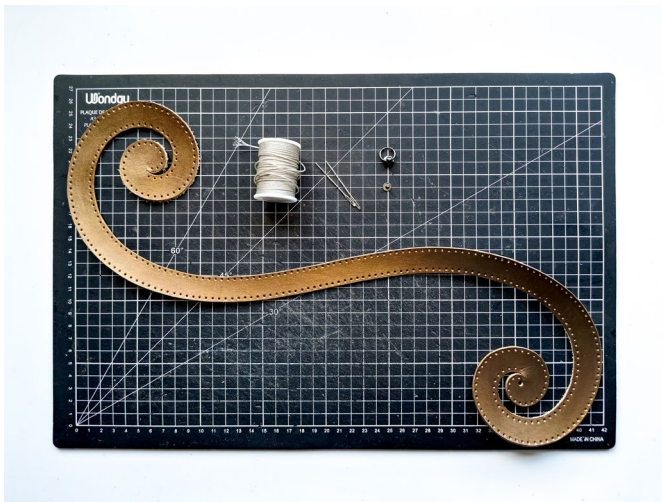


Option 8 Cone

The pattern of the cone is the same as the single spiral except that the edges are stitched overlapping instead of contiguous.

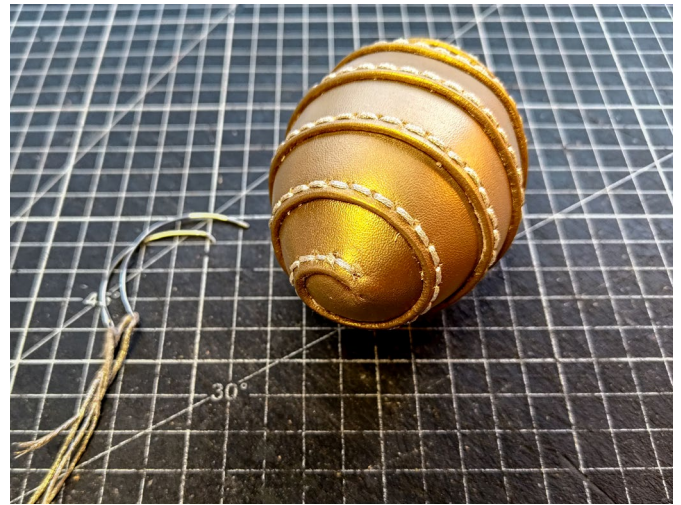
Start stitching from the top swirl – where the swivel rivet will be located.

A saddle-stitch is used here.



At that point you can screw-on the swivel rivet.

Stitch all along the spiral until you reach the end of the bottom swirl.



7 Adding the loop



Add the hanging loop by threading a cord or a thin chain as I am using here through the ring of the swivel rivet.

I hope you enjoyed following along this tutorial.

Please don't hesitate to contact me [alexis@nomadecrafts.com] if you have any question or feedback regarding this project.

Join our community on facebook to exchange tips and advice with other crafters: [facebook.com/groups/nomadecraftsclub]

If you share your creation on social media, tagging me would go a long way towards helping me: [facebook.com/nomadeCrafts], [instagram.com/nomadecrafts].

Thank you!

Happy crafting!



Alexis