

## **How to Emboss Vegetable Tanned Leather**

### **By Candie Cooper**

#### **Materials:**

Sizzix Jewelry Studio Machine  
Vegetable Tanned Leather Sheet from Sizzix  
3D Embossing folder from Sizzix in desired pattern  
Leather Dye (optional)  
Leather hole punch  
Snap kit  
Sponge  
Rubber Gloves  
Scraps of Leather  
Flower Shaped Sizzix Movers and Shapers Die  
Mallet  
Snap Setter

#### **Embossing Folder Tips:**

Before we begin I would like to clarify that there are a few different types of embossing folders. Sizzix offers three types of embossing folders that you can use for different uses.

The most common embossing folder that you will see is used for paper and scrapbooking. Although you will find an array of designs in this group the texture will not be deep enough in the folder to work on thicker material like leather.

Sizzix also sells deco embossing folders. These folders are used for embossing metal blanks. Deco Embossing folders do require different shuttles for your Sizzix machine to make them work correctly.

The third type that Sizzix offers is a 3D embossing folder. These are the folders we will be using for our leather project. When embossing leather you will want something that has a deep enough cut to leave the texture on the leather.

#### **How-To:**

To get started you will need to prep your leather. Trying to emboss your leather without softening it won't allow the design to be impressed deep enough into the leather.

Use a little bit of water to dampen the leather. Try to get the water evenly on your leather so that there are no spots. You will let the leather sit for a minute or so until it is nice and soft and ready to accept the embossing.

Once you have the leather embossed with your desired design you have the option to add color. Using leather dye you can brush the color over the top of your design. This will bring out the

texture that you added as the paint sits in the depressed areas. During the process of adding dye you will want to use rubber gloves to protect your hands from being stained as well.

After you have embossed your leather you will need to add a closure to the bracelet. For this project we will be using a snap. Using your leather punch you will need to punch a hole that is the size of your snap or just slightly smaller. Make sure not to punch a larger size hole as the snap will move around or fall out and not allow the bracelet to sit correctly.

Before setting the snap I added a flower for added interest. Using scraps of leather and the Sizzix Flower Shaped Movers and Shapers Die I cut out the flowers I liked and put them together. Using the same size punch as I did for the bracelet, I punched holes through the middle of the flower pieces.

A snap setter is the best way to put your snap in place. Stacking your bracelet leather with the flower pieces you cut out place the snap through your stack and set it. Once the snap has been set you are ready to wear your newly finished bracelet.

**Sources:**

Sizzix – [www.sizzix.com](http://www.sizzix.com)