

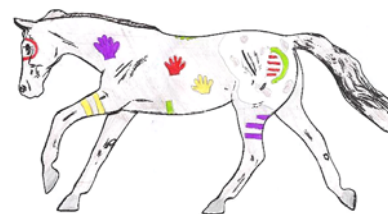
Article cont....

Different types of Leather:

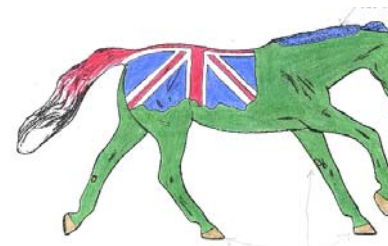
1. **Tooling Leather** – this is a very thick, stiff piece of leather predominantly used for Western saddles. It is thick enough to tool, carve and stamp designs onto as a real life Western saddle would have. I've only ever been able to find this in natural colour so you will also need some leather dye – unless of course you're making a natural coloured saddle!
2. **Suede** – Suede is mostly used in tack making for covering seats as it is available in many different colours. It is not suitable for making saddles themselves as it is slightly stretchy. However it is extremely supple so can also be used for making clothes for your rider dolls.
3. **Chamois** – Chamois is beautifully soft feeling and also very supple. Use it for lining Western saddles to prevent the underside of the saddle scratching your model. It also looks a great deal like sheepskin which is used on the real thing.
4. **Cowhide** – Cowhide is a thicker leather which can be used for English saddles and is just stiff enough to be a good choice for attempting a Western saddle without having to buy leather dye too.
5. **Lambskin** – This is a far softer leather than cowhide and is again brilliant for English saddles.
6. **Skiver** – This is a paper thin leather which is perfect for making Stablemate scale items. I also use it for doing padded knee-rolls on saddles as it so flexible. Other uses include covering the shoulders of Western saddles as well as making real leather boots for rider dolls.
7. **Leather Lace** – Strips of leather generally in black or brown, I probably get through more of this than any other type of leather. It is a must – you will use it not only for bridles but saddles as well (stirrup leathers, girth straps, breastcollars etc). When using this, always skive off the ends (if not all) of the strap you're using before adding a buckle, this will prevent your piece of tack from looking too bulky for your model horses' head. The most common sizes are 1/8" and 1/16". The thinner type you will need for bridle straps, the thicker for making harness, breast collars, saddle straps or thicker nose and browbands on bridles.



Dream Pony Competition Revisited



JUST SOME OF THE IMAGINATIVE DESIGNS THAT WE RECEIVED



Thank you again for all your entries! ©