

Pattern Making
Small Notebook
<http://www.jlsleather.com/diy>

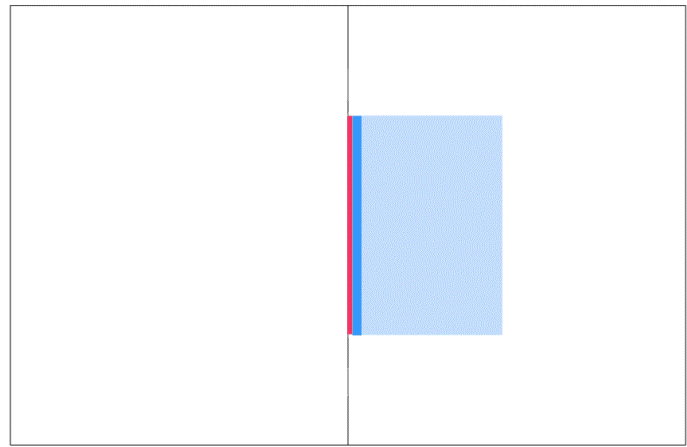
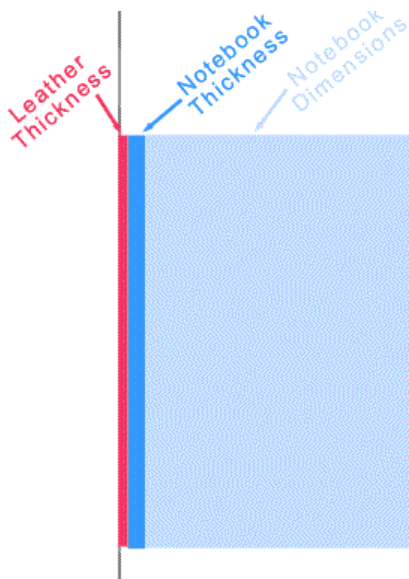
Decide what you want to encase – in this example it's a “field notes” pocket notebook, widely available.

Decide the thickness of leather you want to use, and the basic construction. Here, I want to use about 4 oz leather due to the small size (and I want it to work in a pocket), and I want a vertical fold, and ‘soft’ folds (not 90° sharp fold).

Decide the rough size paper you'll need for the pattern. Here, the item is 5 ½” x 3 ½”, and I want a front, back, and inside pockets from one piece, making the paper size at least 16” x 6” (11”x17” works then).

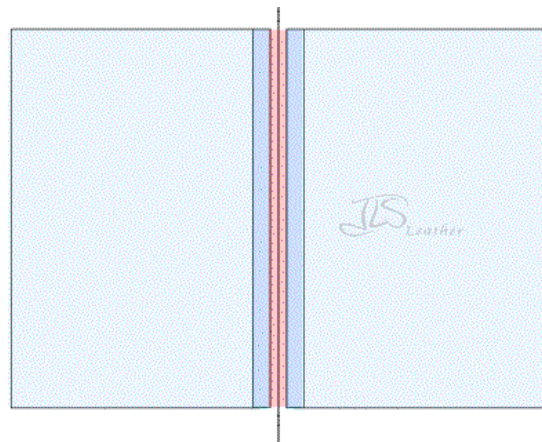
Draw a vertical line on your paper for the fold line.

Since we want this example to be the about the same dimensions on each side, the line will centered on the paper.

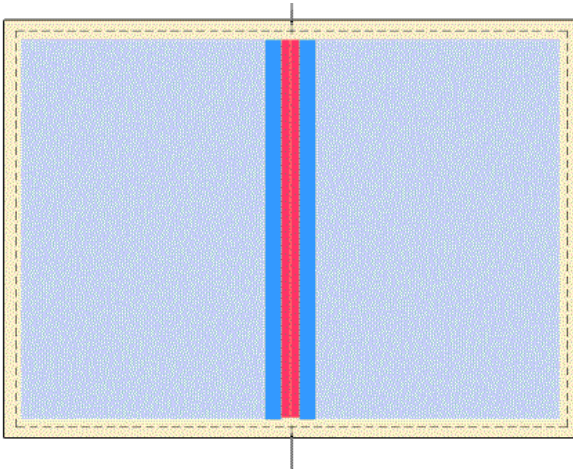


From the fold line, draw the item you want the case to hold.

Include the thickness of the notebook and the leather.



Copy this to the other side of the fold line.

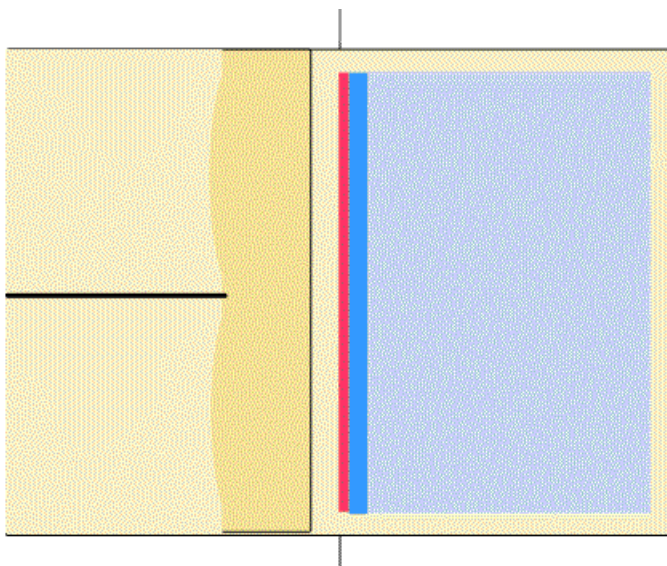
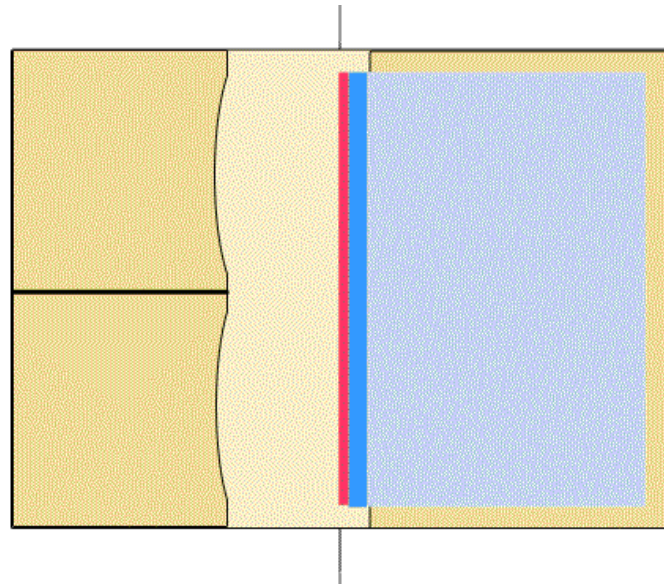


Add the stitch line, and the outside line of the final project.

Here I used 1/8" for each line, since this will be stitched (add 1/4" if lacing).

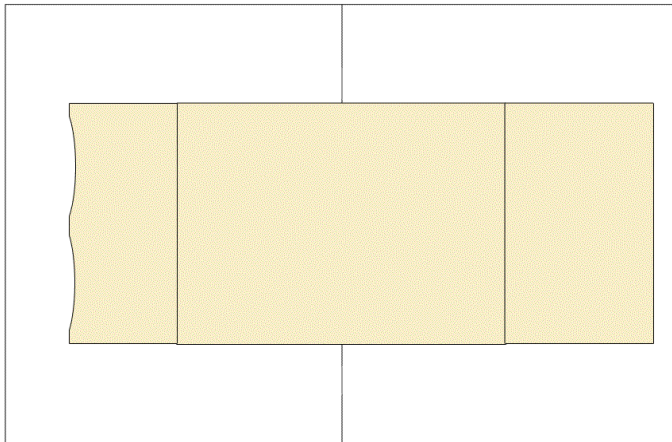
Calculate pockets, if any. I want this one to hold the notebook on the right, and two small pockets on the left large enough to hold a few business cards and the digital key card for the entry door on the left.

Left handed people might reverse this.



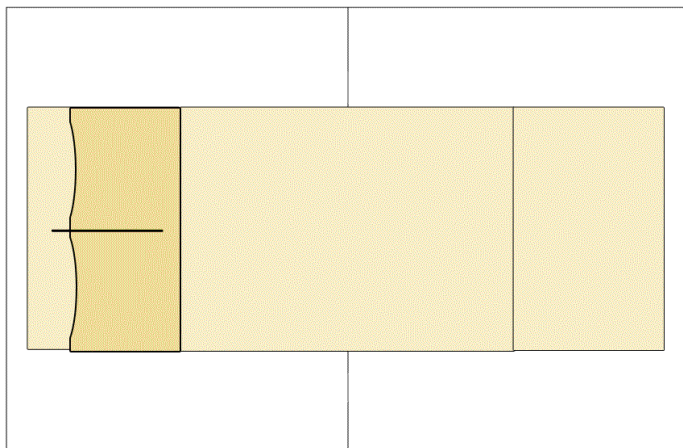
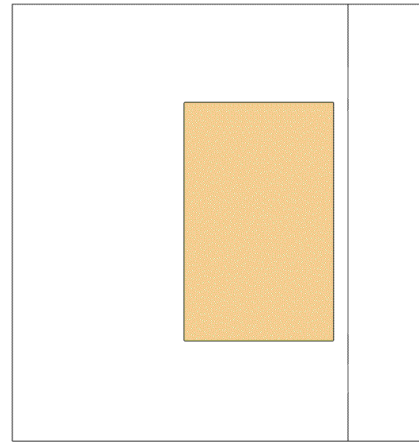
Since I want the left side "split" into two pockets, but I don't want to stitch through the outside of the cover (where it would show on the front) I'll add another pocket under the two small ones (tan here).

The dual pocket will stitch to the larger pocket behind them.



“Unfolding” the pockets will give you one piece, a bit like this, (or 3 pieces, if you prefer):

And also one piece like this.



Flip the main body over so you’re looking at the grain side of the leather, and stitch the smaller pockets down the center.

Generally, I stitch just over the top edge, and stop $\frac{3}{8}$ ” (ish) from the bottom of the pockets.

Flip back to flesh side, fold pocket ends and sew around edges.

