

A Simple Pouch (Hedeby Pouch)



A simple pouch based on an excavated find from Viking Hedeby (in modern Denmark).

A simple pouch is something you need to carry small items such as money and personal items with your Viking costume.

This is a no-sew project, based on a simple Viking pouch excavated at Hedeby, which was a Viking trading settlement located in what is now Denmark.

You Will Need

- A square of fairly soft leather, at least 15cm x 15 cm (preferably vegetable tanned, not chrome-tanned if you want it to be accurate to period). Or a piece of hessian as a cheaper alternative
- At least 60cm of leather thong, 2mm wide
- A small wooden bead with a 2mm hole.
- A bowl or plate to fit the piece of leather
- an old newspaper or cutting mat
- A craft knife

Instructions

Start your simple pouch with a leather square.



Steps to make your pouch:

1. Lay your newspaper out on the table to prevent damage to the surface
2. Trace around the rim of the bowl or plate, onto the piece of leather
3. Cut around the edge of the traced edge to make a circle of leather. You can use the craft knife or a sturdy pair of scissors
4. Cut along your traced line to create a circle of leather



5. Cut small slits, parallel to the edge of the piece of leather, about 5mm in from the edge. Slits should be approximately 4-5cm apart
6. Thread your piece of leather thong through the slits, in and out, all the way around, starting and finishing on the outside of the leather (if there is a smooth side, this will be the outside of the pouch)
7. Thread leather thong through slits cut in circle to create your simple pouch. Finish on the outside



8. Thread the two ends of the leather thong through the centre of the bead so that the bead can slide up and down the two pieces and draw the circle into a simple pouch
9. Tie the ends of the thong together using a tight overhand knot, to stop the bead dropping off



The wooden bead holds the drawstring for your simple pouch firmly closed.

That's all there is to it!