Discover how to successfully stamp on leather for professional-looking results, and then make an mp3 player case with personalized stamped details.
Ink
When stamping on leather, use fabric ink for best results. Fabric ink is made specifically for fabric and produces rich, vibrant color on most leather. Stamp the leather, following the manufacturer’s instructions; let dry. Once the ink is dry, position a piece of cotton fabric over the leather; press without steam to set the ink, following the manufacturer’s instructions.

Or use a paper stamping pad to stamp the leather. Stamp the leather using the paper ink, and then set it aside for one hour to dry. The ink won’t dry completely, as it isn’t made for fabric. Spray the leather with one light coat of clear water-based varnish with a satin finish; set aside to dry, and then repeat. Don’t spray too much varnish, as it can cause the ink to run.

Leather Texture
Smooth leather is easiest to stamp because it allows the entire design to show (1). Textured leather gives a unique appearance to the stamp design, as the ink can’t saturate the leather cracks unless there’s excessive ink on the stamp (2). Don’t use too much ink when stamping, as the design details won’t be clear. Stamp large, simple designs that have thin lines onto textured leather and smaller, more detailed designs onto smooth leather.

Ink Color
Generally, black ink looks best on light-colored leather and white ink looks best on dark-colored leather; however, when using paper stamp pads, white ink may be too translucent to appear on dark colors. White leather is a great canvas to display colored ink (3). Colored ink may not show as well on colored leather (4). Always test the ink colors on a leather scrap before working on the intended fabric to ensure desired results.

Tip: Use a damp cotton swab to wipe away excess ink before it sets into the leather.

PIGMENT VS. DYE
Dyes are made to soak into paper, while pigments sit on top. Pigment inks work better when stamping leather because they don’t soak into the fabric or bleed. Pigment inks are thicker and more opaque, making the colors more vibrant.

Dyes are more transparent than pigment inks so they tend to blend in more with the leather color; however, dyes dry faster than pigments.
MP3 Player Case
Stamp leather with your favorite design, and then stitch a handy mp3 player case to carry in your purse or pocket.

Supplies
Supplies listed are enough to make one 3¼”x 4 1/2” case.
• 12” square of lightweight leather
• 15”-long zipper
• 1”-diameter fusible web circle
• 1”-diameter felt circle
• All-purpose thread
• Air-soluble fabric marker
• Size 80/12 leather needle
• ¼-inch snap and snap applicator
• White fabric ink
• Rubber stamp

Cut
Download the mp3 player case pattern at sewnews.com/web_extras.
From the leather, cut one front and one back. Transfer the snap placement marks.

Construct
Stamp each case on the leather right side, following the manufacturer’s instructions and previous stamping tips.
Attach the female snap at the snap placement mark on the front piece right side.
Adhere the fusible web to the felt circle, following the manufacturer’s instructions.
Position the felt circle fusible-web side down over the female snap wrong side; cover with a press cloth, and then press to fuse (5).
Trim each zipper end at an angle away from the teeth (6). Align the case front and back with wrong sides together. Sandwich the zipper tape between the layers with the teeth extending just beyond the case sides and lower edge; pin within the seam allowances (7). Clip the zipper tape at each curve to prevent bunching (8).

Tip: Use masking tape or paper clips to hold leather layers together to prevent pin holes.

Topstitch the case perimeter ¼” from the edge. Trim the zipper end, if necessary. For additional strength, topstitch the perimeter one more time.
Insert the mp3 player into the case to determine the male snap placement on the tab. Mark the placement, and then install the male snap, following the manufacturer’s instructions. ✗

Sources
Blockhead Stamps provided the rubber stamps: blockheadstamps.com.