



Handcrafting Your First Bag

A Beginner's Leather Workshop

ELOWEN & RUE · KUALA LUMPUR

Learn to Make What You Carry

There's something different about carrying a bag you made with your own hands. In this beginner-friendly workshop, you'll learn the fundamentals of leather bag-making — from selecting and cutting leather to hand-stitching and finishing — guided by the same artisans who craft every Elowen & Rue piece.

Over the course of this hands-on session, you'll design and construct a small leather pouch or crossbody bag to take home. No prior experience is needed — just curiosity, and a willingness to get your hands a little dusty with leather shavings.

This isn't a lecture. It's a workshop in the truest sense: small class sizes, individual guidance, and real tools in your hands from the first hour.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this workshop, you will be able to:

- Identify different leather types and understand what makes full-grain leather suitable for bag-making
- Read and use a basic pattern to cut leather panels accurately
- Prepare leather edges through skiving and burnishing for a clean, professional finish
- Hand-stitch a saddle stitch — the traditional leatherworking technique — with consistent tension and spacing
- Attach basic hardware, including rivets and a clasp or magnetic closure
- Assemble a small leather bag from individual panels into a finished piece
- Care for and maintain a handmade leather item after the workshop ends

What You'll Cover

Module	What You'll Do	Duration
1. Introduction to Leather	Understand leather types, how to read a hide, and get familiar with the tools you'll use throughout the day.	30 minutes
2. Pattern & Cutting	Learn to mark and cut leather accurately by hand using your workshop pattern.	45 minutes
3. Edge Preparation	Practice skiving and burnishing on offcut leather before working on your piece.	30 minutes
4. Hand-Stitching Fundamentals	Master the saddle stitch and stitch your panels together with guided one-on-one help.	60 minutes
5. Hardware & Assembly	Attach rivets and your closure, then assemble your finished bag.	45 minutes
6. Finishing & Care	Final touch-ups, a care guide for your new bag, and group show-and-tell.	20 minutes

Total duration: approximately 3.5 hours, including a short break.

BEFORE YOU JOIN

Prerequisites & What to Expect

EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

None. This workshop is designed specifically for complete beginners.

AGE REQUIREMENT

Ages 16 and above, due to the use of sharp tools such as skiving knives and awls.

WHAT TO BRING

- Comfortable clothing you don't mind marking slightly (leather dye and wax can transfer)
- Closed-toe shoes, recommended for tool safety

WHAT'S PROVIDED

- All leather, tools, and hardware for your project
- A take-home care guide for your finished bag

Group Size

Limited to a small number of participants per session, ensuring individual guidance throughout the day.

Ready to make something you'll carry for years?

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