THE SANDPAPER-SUPER-GLUE METHOD
FOR REPAIRING LEATHER

Real leather creates a fine dust when sanded. Mix this into wet super glue, and you've got a filler! We've used this method in our professional repair business for nearly 30 years. This method is exceptional for repairing minor nicks, scratches, or cat claw damage on genuine leather. Check out the videos on our website for more info.

UNSURE WHAT TYPE OF MATERIAL IT IS?

Does water bead on the surface?
This indicates a polyurethane coating on either genuine leather (full grain or corrected grain) OR synthetics like vinyl and bonded leather. Genuine leather will have a suede backing and create a fine dust when sanded. Synthetics will have a fine mesh/fabric backing. Don't be tricked by bonded or composite leathers, which may have a microsuede backing. Many synthetics are stretchy and will not create a dust when sanded. Cheap bonded leather may even peel or flake! Do not use this method to repair synthetics. Instead, use our FC1 Soft Filler.

Or is water absorbed within 30 seconds?
Does the leather have body oil or water stains?
This indicates an aniline or semi-aniline leather, which has a more natural, absorbent finish and often a multi-toned or “distressed” appearance. Aniline does not create as much dust as coated leather when sanded. To aid the repair process, we recommend applying a coat of Rub ’n Restore™ Color or glaze (mixture of Color and Clear Prep+Finish™) to the leather first. Allow to dry before sanding. Opt for finer grade sandpaper like 320 or 500 grit, and work gently so you don’t further damage the surface.

ABOUT SUBPATCHING
If your leather is torn such that you can see the substrate (batting or foam), you must insert a subpatch. This serves as the structural foundation of your repair. It prevents further damage by strengthening the material and allows your repair to move freely over the substrate.

SUBPATCH SUPPLIES
- iron-on patches or strong, thin mending fabric
- flexible glue (like 3M Plastic Emblem & Trim Adhesive or LocTite Vinyl, Fabric, Plastic Adhesive)
- scissors
- tweezers
- toothpicks or plastic knife
- rags
- denatured alcohol (in case of a glue mess)
- small board, book, or other flat weight
- hair dryer to accelerate dry time (optional)

SUBPATCH INSTRUCTIONS
1. Take a picture of the damage. Your friends and family won’t believe you repaired it!
2. If applicable, trim away any material that is stiff or sharp-feeling (typically caused by a burn or other glue). The perimeter of the hole should be as pliable and soft as the original material.
3. Choose a thin but strong patching material that won’t show a silhouette once in place. Cut a piece of patch so that it is a little larger than the hole. Round the edges for easier insertion.
4. Using tweezers, insert the patch under the tear(s). If the patch has adhesive on one side, insert this side up so it will contact the back of the leather. Ensure the patch completely covers the hole and sits smoothly between the substrate and leather. Any wrinkles or folds will create a bulge that looks and feels uneven.
5. Once in place, use a toothpick or plastic knife to apply a little flexible fabric glue to the backside of the leather. The glue can be messy, so we recommend squeezing a blob onto a piece of cardboard and dipping your tool into it. Remove any excess glue with alcohol and a rag. Using a flat weight, press firmly on the surface for a few seconds. Pull up the leather, and blow a little air on the glue to help it tack, and then press firmly again and hold. The less patch you see (i.e. how closely you pull the edges of the tear back to their former state), the easier and better the final repair will be. Allow the glue to dry. A hair dryer can accelerate dry time.

ABOUT THE SANDPAPER-SUPER-GLUE METHOD
This repair method works best on top grain, corrected grain, pigmented, or coated leathers (like automotive leather). Be gentle and use a finer grade sandpaper on more absorbent aniline or semi-aniline leather. Do not use this method to repair large surface areas requiring flexibility, synthetics like vinyl or bonded leather, or fabrics.

SUPPLIES NEEDED
- denatured rubbing alcohol
- subpatch supplies (if necessary)
- super glue (cyanoacrylate) – avoid the gel types
- assortment of 220, 320, 500 grit wet-or-dry sandpaper
- large needle or toothpicks
- glossy business card (optional for spreading the glue)
- rags
- paper towels
- Rub 'n Restore™ Color of your choice
- cellulose sponge or spray gun for applying the dye

SANDPAPER-SUPER-GLUE INSTRUCTIONS
1. Take a picture if you haven’t already done so.
2. Subpatch any holes or tears (see above).
3. Wipe the surface with alcohol to remove other conditioners or protectants. Allow to dry.
4. Apply a thin coat of Rub ‘n Restore™ Color or a glaze (mixture of Color and Clear Prep+Finish™) to the leather, and allow to dry. The dye will conceal discoloration and minor scuffs and make areas of damage more obvious, minimizing your work.
5. Using a large needle or toothpick, carefully apply a small amount of super glue to areas needing repair. For little flaps or tears, put a tiny drop of glue underneath and press the flap down with the other end of the toothpick/needle. Quickly wipe off excess glue with a paper towel. For thin lines, cracks, or scratches, apply a small amount of super glue to the area, and then use the corner of a paper towel to fan the glue along its perimeter and to clean up excess. You can also work with a glossy business card to spread the glue. Work in thin layers and avoid coating large areas, as the glue dries hard.

Using a piece of sandpaper (choose a finer grade for more delicate leather like aniline), gently sand in the direction of the crack/tear while the glue is still wet. Sanding the surrounding leather creates a fine dust which catalyzes the super glue.

6. Repeat steps 4-5 until all nicks and gouges are filled and feel smooth. If you have streaks where there was excess super glue, sand these areas until they are minimal. Use 500 grit sandpaper if the surface needs to be polished.
7. Apply your Rub ‘n Restore™ Color over the repaired areas. Work in thin layers, drying each layer before applying another. If you decide that your repair(s) need a little more work, you can repeat step 5 without having to remove the Rub ‘n Restore™ Color. Just make sure the dye is dry before reworking your repair.
8. Take an after photo, and brag to your friends that you’re an honorary Vinyl Lady (or Dude).