

# Angled Basket Weave Tutorial

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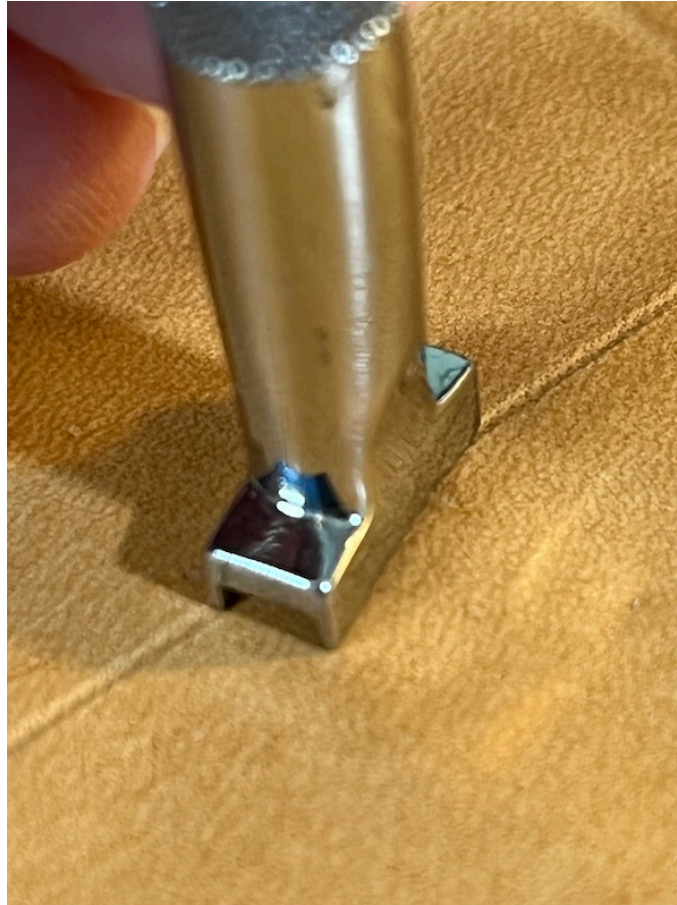
This tutorial covers my techniques for stamping angled basket weave designs on my leather projects. People tend to think this technique is harder than it actually is and I will show you some simple techniques to make this come out straight and even.

We'll start off with a cased piece of leather for a money clip back. Here is the less than perfect piece of leather I'm starting off with. It's got some wrinkles but since most of the surface will have stamping across it that won't matter. I've marked the border and a pretty deep center line down the middle to act as a guideline for my stamps.



## **The Trick to Angled Basket Weave**

You don't need to do any fancy math or have special tools to stamp at an angle and still keep the stamps lined up the length of a project. There really is one simple trick. You place the stamp you are working with diagonally across the center line down the middle of the project. See the picture below:



By placing the impressions like this it gives you the right angle for the basket weave to run and still have the overall pattern flow parallel to the reference line. So in this case since center line runs parallel to the edges of the money clip, the design will run parallel to the borders and all the stamp impressions should be even with the borders when we are finished.



You start off the project by placing the opposite corners right on the line. I do this right near the border.

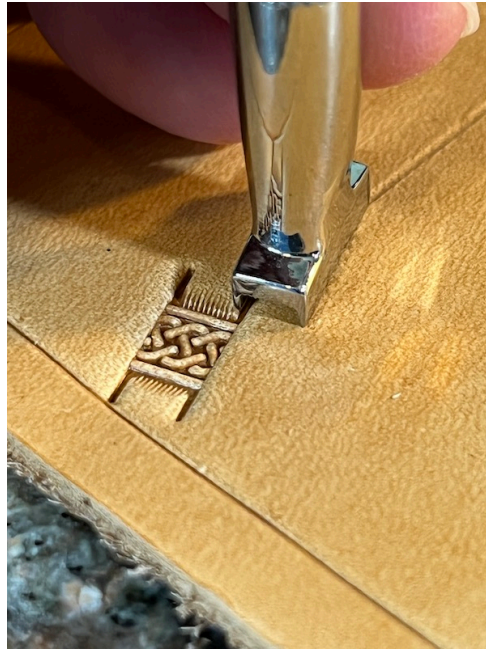


The view above shows how it looks when I start off at the border, and I make my initial impression.

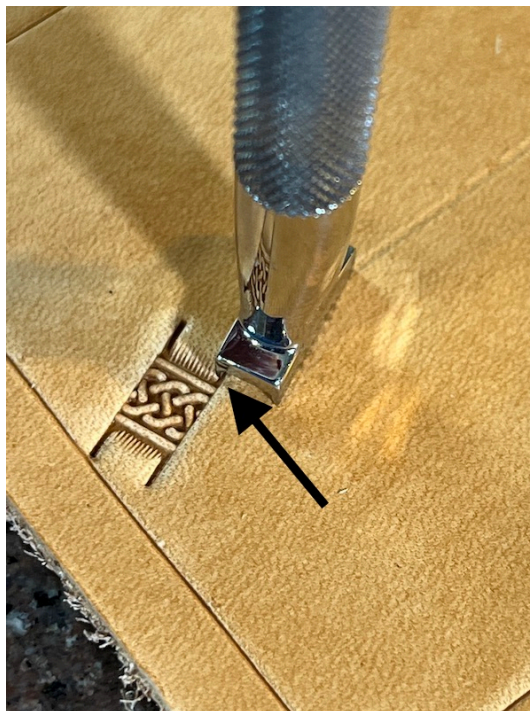


This shows that first stamp. If you did it right the center line should appear to go right through the middle of the stamp from corner to corner.

To make the next impression, line the stamp up with the back leg of the basket weave stamp in the impression from the first stamp. Again place the front corner right on the center line.



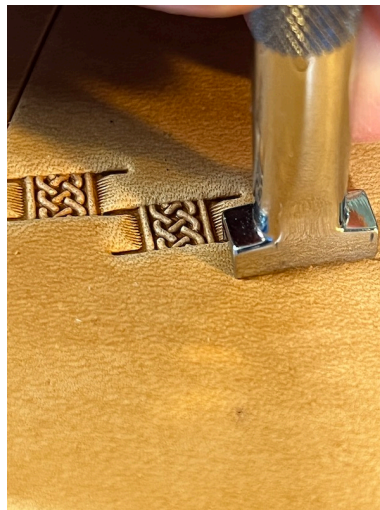
Just like I showed in my Straight Basket Weave tutorial, we want to leave a slight gap between the back of the stamp and the center bar of the last impression. The arrow in the picture below shows this gap. It's just a small gap, only about the width of the thickness of the leg impression. This allows us a little leeway to keep things straight and keep the stamps from crowding as we go.



Here's the second impression. Once again notice how the guideline goes right through the middle of both stamps.



The next impression is just like the last. The back leg of the stamp goes into the last impression with a slight gap between the stamp and the center bar of the last impression. The front corner of the stamp sits right on the line.



Repeat and repeat. By keeping each stamp diagonally on the guideline you will end up with a row of angled basket stamps that run straight down the length of your project. The first row will be the baseline for all the other impressions on the project.





This image above also shows my view as I'm stamping this first row. Later when I start stamping the other rows I'll rotate the leather 90 degrees so I have a better view to line up the stamp in the previous impressions.

Once you reach the other end of the piece, you will need to tip the stamp up to keep it from accidentally marking the border.



This leaves you with just a partial stamp impression but it helps fill the space to the border. Don't worry if you can't get too close to the border because eventually you will come back a bevel this area and stamp a border stamp that helps fill the space.





Next I will turn the leather so I can better see how the stamp is lining up into the first row impressions and I'll start stamping the next row, now moving from right to left. I use the impressions in the first row to line up my stamp and keep the angle correct.



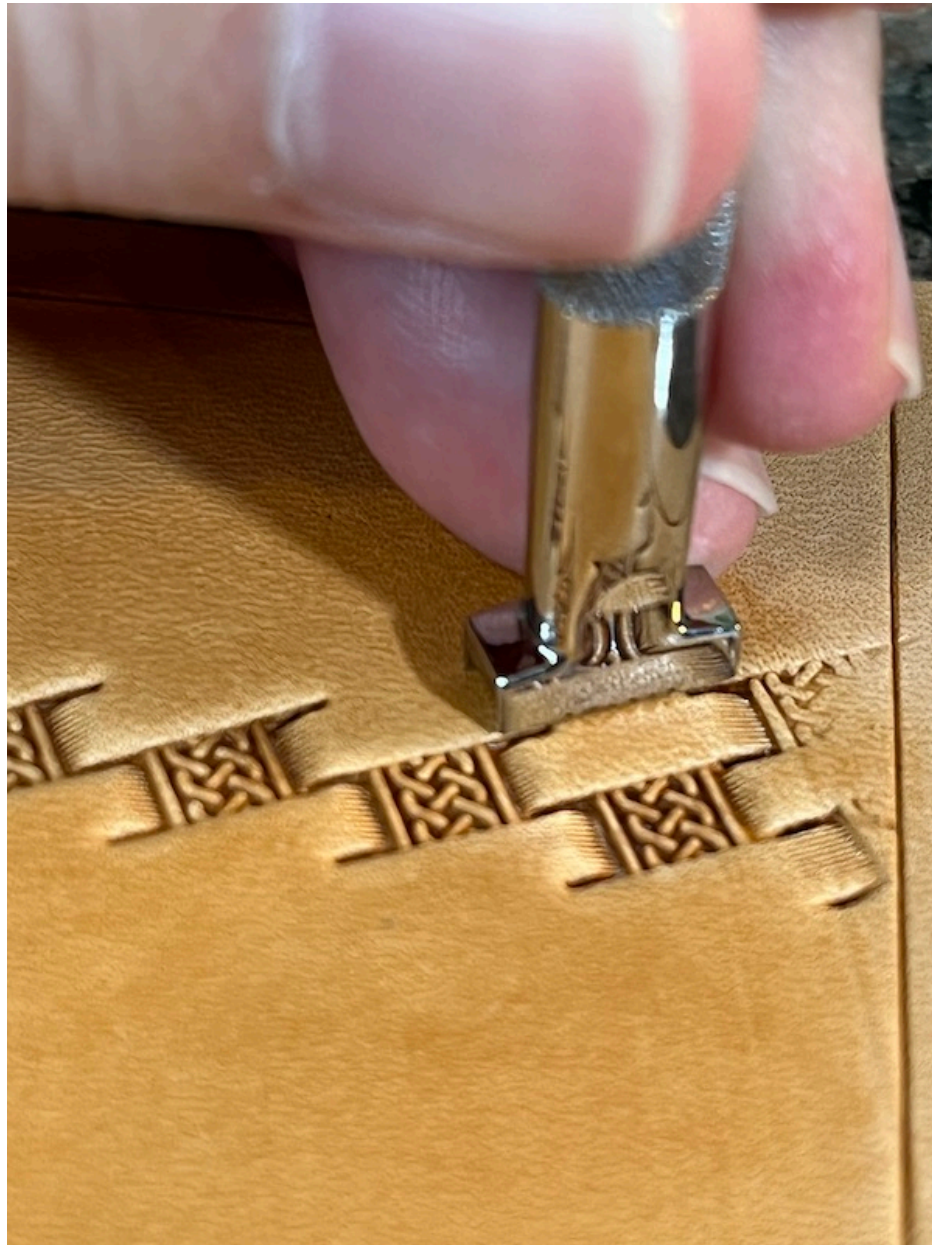
As the picture above shows I still have to tip my stamp up so I don't hit the border area. The back leg of the stamp goes into the existing impression (leaving a small gap just like I described before) and I eyeball the angle of the stamp to make sure this first impression is lining up correctly.

This image shows the first stamp of the second row.

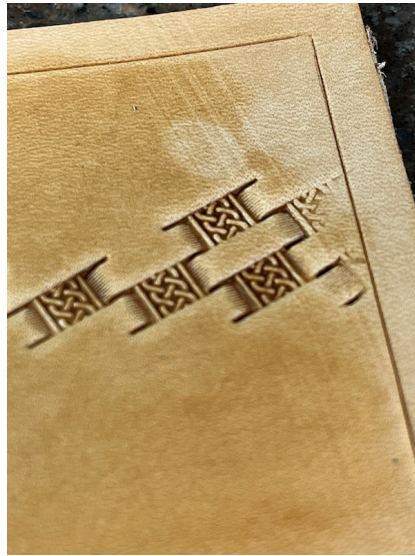




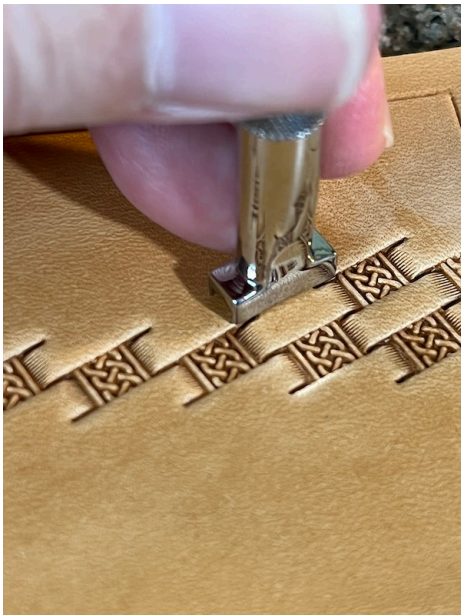
Next you will place the stamp using two impressions to help line it up. Note I'm keeping the same sized gap I've been using all along between the stamp and the center bars of each existing impression. This extra leeway helps keep things straight and uniform.



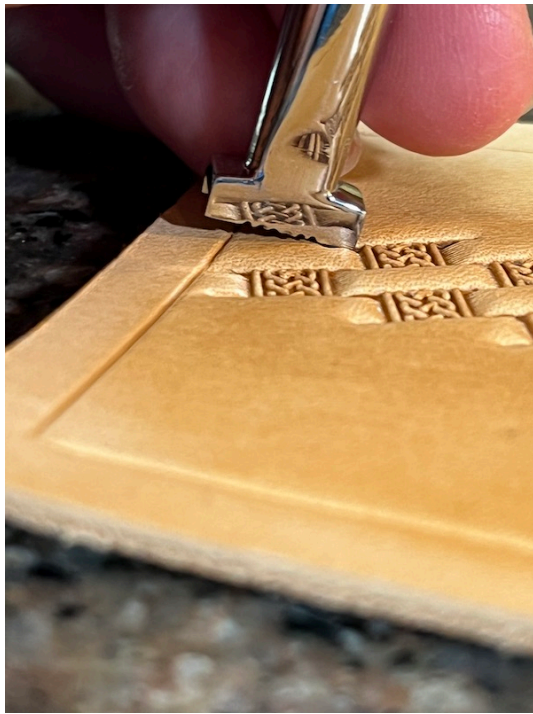
This is my other trick to keeping my stamping designs looking uniform: Whenever I'm placing an impression between two existing impressions I try to make the space on either side even. By keeping it evenly spaced between impressions it will help correct for little errors that happen as we stamp. This helps to correct for crowding that happens as we get further into stamping the area, and it helps to keep everything in straight lines. As I said in my Straight Basket Weave tutorial, minding the small gap and keeping the new stamp impression centered between the existing ones will help average out any slight errors we've made already and keep the stamp impressions from crowding each other. Paying attention to these two key details will go a long way to improving your basket stamping.



The image above shows the new impression I just made. I keep adding new impressions this way, working from right to left.

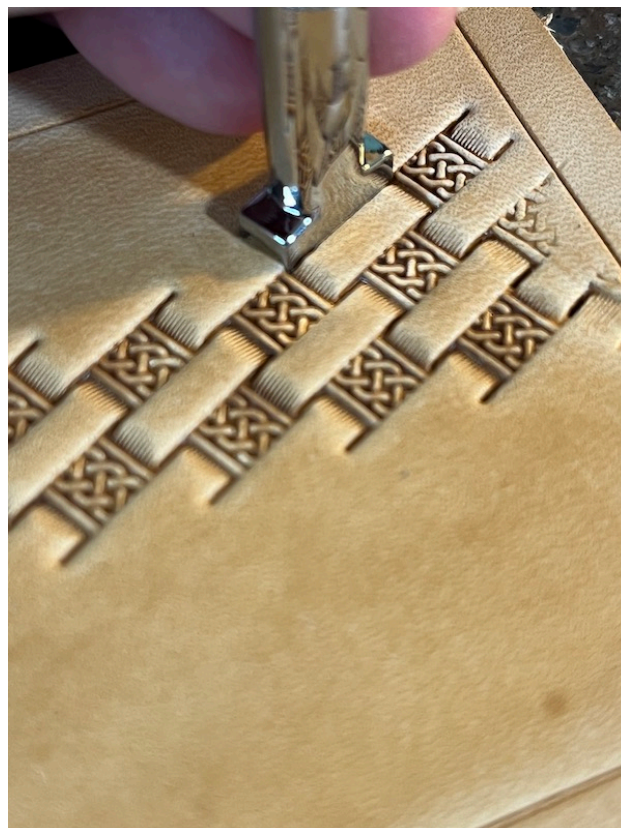






Once you reach the left side you will again tilt the stamp up and leave a partial impression. The legs of this partial impression will act as guides for the next row.

You then go back to the right and start the next row, using the previous impressions to line up the next row.





Remember as you make each impression to keep it centered between the existing impressions. This helps keep any particular stamp impression from being much out of line with the others. This keeps you from getting very crooked and is more likely to keep all of your impressions in a straight line.

Keep stamping rows this way until you have most of the side filled and you are so close to the border you can't stamp full impressions any longer.

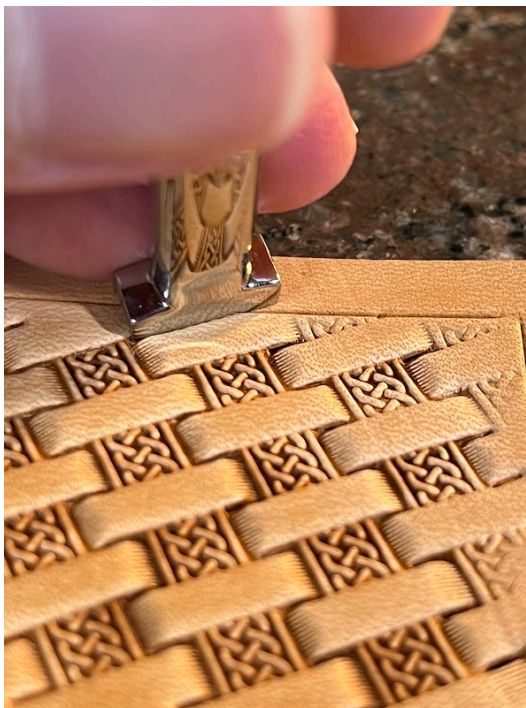




To get the partial impressions to fill in the border area, we need to tip the stamp onto its side. In this case there isn't much area to fill in so we'll have to tip it a lot to not hit the border.

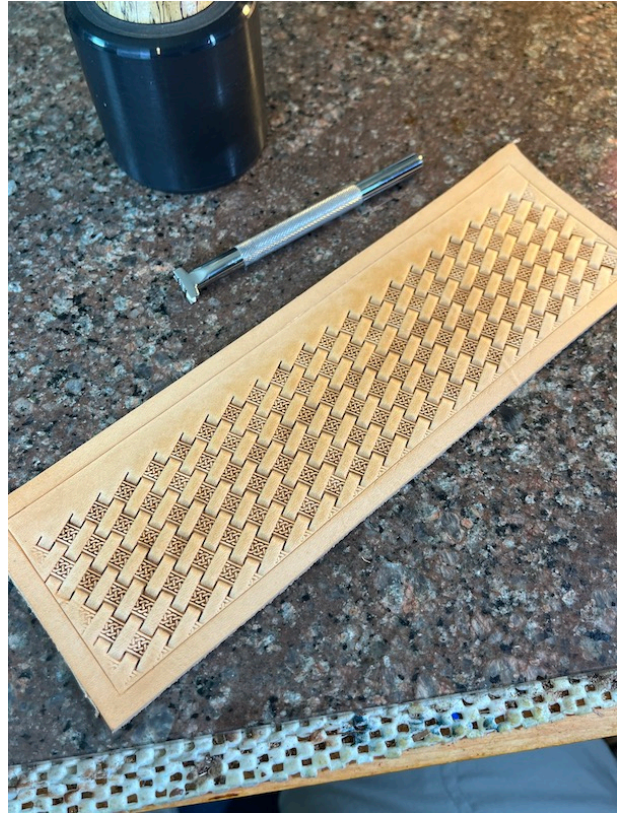


As you can see from the picture below you can't make much of an impression in this small space. If you have a larger border stamp you could just skip this part





Once you have finished one side of the project, rotate the piece around and repeat for the other side. Start at the right side and stamp toward the left, using the existing stamp impressions to line up each new one just like before,



If you are careful and keep the gaps between impressions consistent, you should come out pretty even and straight at each border

