

VELO ORANGE

Elk Hide Handlebar Grip Installation Instructions

Please read these instructions to the end before starting the installation, since anticipating the next step will make things easier.

Elkhide is a natural material from a wild animal so you may find the occasional scratch or nick; it's simply the nature of the beast. You may also find that there is an occasional "wave" or nick in the edge. Even though the covers are cut using a special laser cut die, the material is so stretchy and flexible that it can stretch or shift in the die. Don't worry, when sewn and pulled together these irregularities disappear.

The cover is sewn on using a cross-stitch. This stitch is similar to the more common baseball stitch (which you could use instead) in that it also uses two needles. Most people find the cross-stitch more attractive. It's also easier to pull the leather tight with this stitch. There is a diagram of the sewing sequence on the last page of these instructions.

1. Cut the strip of leather to the lengths you want for the bar grips with a sharp pair of scissors or with a razor knife and straightedge. If you stretch the leather sideways you'll see the little perforations for sewing; cut between them, not through them. We recommend wrapping MTB sized bars with one layer of cloth tape to increase the bar's diameter slightly under the leather.
2. Since leather covers can shift in use, we've added strips of strong two-sided tape to secure them. Remember to peel off the white backing paper backing..
3. Tie a knot in the middle of a length of each piece of thread. Make sure the knot is fat, or it will pull through the holes. Thread a needle onto each end and pull some thread through each needle's eye. You'll be sewing with and single strand of long thread threaded through both needles.
4. Starting at the stem end, pass each needle through the leather from back to front, so the knot will be under the leather. Then loop the thread over the leather and pass the needles through both holes and out the hole across from the entry hole. Pull tight. The seam should be under the bar if viewed from the saddle.
5. With one needle, pull the thread diagonally over the seam and into the top of the next hole, then under the leather and out the hole directly across from the entry hole. Do the same with the other needle, crossing over the first thread. Continue sewing so the thread passes diagonally over the leather and straight across under it. Pull the thread tight after each stitch. Again, please see the diagram on the last page.

- When you reach the end, loop the thread over the leather, straight across, as you did at the start. The needles should exit under the leather and to the side. Tie both threads together with an overhand knot. Push the knot under the leather and carefully cut off the excess leather and thread.
- As with all leather, apply some Proof hide, Neatsfoot oil, or other leather treatment.

If you need any additional help or have comments, please don't hesitate to e-mail chris@velo-orange.com.

