

Dremel drill: 7 Ways to Use This Shoemaking Tool

SHOEMAKING COURSES ONLINE

A dark blue diagonal gradient bar that starts from the bottom left corner and extends towards the top right corner, covering the lower half of the page.

1. Sand the lasted shoe bottom .

Before we will attach the sole to the bottom of the shoe we must sand the bottom to allow good and strong attachment.



2. Sole edge finishing .

In bespoke shoemaking they use irons to smooth the edges of the sole and this is the proper shoemaking tool for the job.

Good alternative for shoemaking irons is the dremel drill. You can use a different sanding paper grits to smooth the edge. For example, you can start from grit 120 to shape the edge of the sole and move on till grit 1000.



3. Shaping stacked leather heel

When building your stacked heel [on the bottom of the shoe](#) (in the process and at the end), you need to cut the extra leather and to shape the heel, so it will match your shoe.

For this task you need experience and proper skill to use your shoemaking knife, otherwise you could cut your upper. Dremel drill will help you to cut the edges and to shape the heel in the way you want.



4. Ready made heel

I usually against using ready made heels for your shoes, but if you still want to use them, Dremel drill will give you the best solution.

The problem with ready made heels is that in most cases they will not fit your last, so you will need to shape them.

For example, if the heel seat of your ready made heel is too flat, you can use dremel to shape the right curve on the heel.



5. Skiving the sole

I don't recommend it as the right way to skive the sole and the proper shoemaking tool for it is the skiving knife, but this could be a solution too.

Let's say you don't have good shoemaking knife or in most cases, don't know how to use it, so to make the sole edges thinner you can sand them with dremel.

Note: it will take you more time to "skive" the sole with dremel and it will be messy.

6. Wooden heel: shape and finish

We work on creating [our wooden heel in moccasin course](#), and after cutting the right measurements of our wood heel the obvious tool for me will be dremel drill.

It will help me to shape the edges with a little afford and especially will be great solution in creating the heel seat.



7. Shoe last corrections

Sometimes you will need to make some changes to your last. It could be too narrow for your feet, so you will need to add veg tan leather on the last. In my [Bespoke Derby Course](#) I teach how to customize your shoe lasts according to your feet measurements using veg tanned leather.

You need to shape and smooth the veg tan leather, so it will have the same shape as your last.

With Dremel drill you can control how much you sand, so it will be perfect for this type of work.



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