

## Installation Instructions

### Sew-on Leather Bar Wraps

See it on video on Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/walnutstudiolo/sew-on-bar-wraps>

1. The first step in installing the grips is to clean and dry your handlebars using rubbing alcohol or warm soapy water. Remove the grease and anything that sticks to the bar, like foam tape, so that the double-sided tape will adhere.
2. Before you expose the double-sided tape, position the grips on the bar to give yourself an idea of how it's going to look. I like to position them with the stitch holes along the front of the bar so your fingers will curl around the stitches. Rubber bands can be used to hold it in place.
3. If you have brake hoods, either remove them completely, making sure to keep the brake hood bands in their original location (so the brakes install back where you want them to be) or, if you're not removing the brake hoods, simply roll up the rubber brake hood covers, and we'll sew them into place.
4. Wet the leather down completely until soft and pliable in lukewarm to tepid water. The water temperature should be comfortable to the touch (too-hot water will shrink the leather). Completely dunk the leather in the water and allow it to soak entirely through. (You can even seal the wet leather in a plastic ziplock bag overnight for maximum pliability). Don't worry, it will dry into place during installation.
5. Next, remove the waxed paper backing of the double-sided tape. Lay the grips parallel to the bar, making sure they're not crooked. Pull the leather around the bar, and you will feel it start to form. Be loose and lax with the leather and try not to pull on it too hard as you go down the bar. The harder you pull, the more the leather will shrink back when it dries.
6. Cut the included thread in half, one for each side. Begin stitching by going out the first hole from the inside and leaving a good-sized "tail" of string, which we'll come back and tie off later.
7. Begin stitching by looping the thread around the first hole twice. Follow the stitching pattern of your choice using the Stitching Diagram on the reverse side of this paper.
8. Continue stitching in your stitch pattern of choice until the end. While you're stitching, let it stay loose - we'll come back and tighten it, and it will be easier to grab the thread if it's done loosely.
9. If you're sewing around the brake hoods, skip the same number of stitch holes on either side of the brake hood, then continue stitching. Stitch as close as you can to the brake hood. The rubber should cover it all up. (Alternatively, you can remove the brake hoods from the handlebars. This will leave a clamp with a bolt sticking out from the handlebars. Keep this clamp in place so your brake hooks stay in the correct position. I use electrical tape to hold the clamp to the bar, and leave it because you can't see it when you're done. Sewing around the clamp is easy because it is small, but it is a pain to remove the brake hoods. Either way works great.)
10. Loop the thread around the last hole twice. Now go back and tighten the string down along the length of the stitching, from the beginning to the end. Needle-nosed pliers or the blunt end of the needle can help you pull the thread tight.
11. Tie off both ends: Thread the needle with the "tail" and tie a surgeon's knot by going through the knot loop twice and tightening down (how-to: <http://www.animatedknots.com/surgeonsjoin/>). Run the tail through one of the stitching holes on the underside of your stitching to tuck the knot underneath, pull it tight, and cut the tail of the thread.
12. If necessary, trim any excess leather off so it is flush with the end of the bar. The first side's done! Repeat the process on the other side.

### TIPS AND TRICKS

- Do your best to allow the water to soak in as much as possible, but it may not soak completely through where the double-sided tape is on the reverse side. Don't worry, this is normal and when it dries you'll never know the difference.
- You can “whip tie” the ends of the bar wrap using twine with Elmer’s Glue or shellac: <https://bit.ly/3apake0>
- For more tips and tricks, go to our Bicycle Bar Wraps FAQ: <https://walnutstudiolo.com/bicycle-faq>

## Stitching Diagram

There’s no wrong way to stitch on your Walnut Studiolo wraps. Here are our two favorite types of stitching, but you can use any kind of stitch you like, including ones that you make up!

