

# NATIVE EARTH™

FOOTWEAR AND ACCESSORIES

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## Sewing Buttons



**Materials: Sinew (nylon thread), scissors, needle, lighter, awl, button.**

- 1: Cut a piece of sinew approximately 12" long. If you have more than one or two buttons to stitch, use a longer piece.
- 2: Thread one end of sinew through needle.
- 3: Use lighter to burn the other end until a small ball forms.
- 4: Pierce flattened part of sinew with needle next to the nylon thread ball end and thread the needle through the shank or holes in the button pull all the way through, securing button to sinew end. This anchors the thread to the button.
- 5: Now start stitching the button onto the boot...
- 6: On the leather there should be two small holes about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " apart. At this point check to make sure that the design on the button is aligned according to your preference. Pass needle through both holes in leather and through shank on button. Make sure to pull the sinew firmly enough to secure button.
- 7: Continue stitching the button. Make three complete loops...tighten sinew so button is tight against the boot.
- 8: Shank the button by winding the sinew tightly around button three to four times.
- 9: Stitch through the boot holes and the shank of the button one more time.

**Now you are going to "sew" your finishing knot (see the two right photos)**

- 10: Stitch through the base of the loops underneath the button. Use the awl to enlarge the hole for the needle to pass through easily.  
Do not tighten the sinew yet--leave a loop by not pulling all the way through.
- 12: Knot the sinew by passing the thread inside the loop so that it lies within circle made by sinew. Pull the sinew tightly to make a cinch or overhand knot.
13. **Now your knot is finished, but it needs to be sealed:** Cut sinew approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the shank and use a flame (lighter) to burn a ball on the thread end close to the button shank. Smash the molten ball flat against the shank of with the metal edge of the lighter to seal.
14. Check the button for tightness and alignment or any dragging threads.