

## How to make Regulation scent articles

**AKC regulations regarding scent articles; Chapter 5, Section 7:** "The articles shall be provided by the handler and shall consist of two sets, each comprised of five identical objects not more than six inches in length, which may be items of everyday use. One set shall be made entirely of rigid metal, and one of leather of such design that nothing but leather is visible except for the minimum amount of thread or metal necessary to hold the object together. The articles in each set must be legibly numbered, each with a different number, and must be approved by the judge.

### Tools needed for the project:

- Bench vise (a must)
- Power drill
- Drill bits (1/8" for pilot holes on dowel, 3/16" for holes on ends)
- Fine tooth saw for cutting dowel lengths
- Safety goggles
- Sandpaper, medium and fine grit
- Sanding block
- Permanent black marker (to number articles)
- 1/4" nut driver and/or flat screw driver
- Sharp knife or case cutter to cut leather for dowels
- Cutting board/surface
- 12" ruler, a wooden one with a metal edge works well

The bench vise is used to hold the pieces while drilling holes. The sandpaper and block are used to take the sharp edges off the metal ends and dowels. The cutting knives and board are used for the leather pieces.

### Materials needed for a set of 6 leather, 6 metal articles:

- 12 aluminum end pieces, 1/8" thick x 1 3/4" square
- 12 leather end pieces, 3/16" thick x 1 3/4" square
- 3/8" solid aluminum rod cut into 12 lengths for the dowel
- Neutral color leather scraps for covering the dowels on the leather articles, all one color
- Tube of 3M or other brand weather stripping adhesive, yellow color
- 24 washers
- 24 #6 x 1/2" sheet metal screws

### [A few words before you start](#)

You can make the ends of the articles any size you need. I am working with the 1 3/4" square. The aluminum ends need to be cut at a metal shop. This is the most costly part of the set depending on the labor cost in your area. If you don't have access to a bench vise have a metal shop cut the dowel lengths and drill the 1/8" pilot holes too. Metal and leather ends need 3/16" holes drilled in the **VERY** center **BEFORE** you round off the corners.



Leather end with center hole and rounded corner

### [For the real do-it-yourselfer:](#)

I buy the aluminum rod from a supply store such as Menards or Home Depot for about \$5. It comes in 4' or 6' lengths and different diameters. The smaller diameter, the harder it is to work with because you need to drill a pilot hole in each end of your dowel (this is tricky) to attach your ends. Aluminum is soft and it is a challenge to keep the pilot hole centered. If you are real fortunate and have a drill press, it does the best job otherwise you need the bench vise to hold the dowels while drilling.



Aluminum dowel in 1/4" and 3/8" diameter x 4"long

**A word of caution:** when using the bench vise to hold the aluminum dowel, use a cloth around the dowel as it is very soft material and will indent easily if you don't cover it. The length you cut your dowels depends on the fit for your dog. I want the article just wide enough for me to scent the dowel, so 4 fingers wide is 3" for me. This gives the dog width for seeing when he returns with the article. This is a factor in Chihuahuas because of their eye placement and short muzzle. Six of the aluminum dowels will be covered with leather. The 3M weather stripping adhesive has a strong odor but this goes away after it is dry. It is the best I have found and has good adhesion.



Leather pieces to cover dowels

After you have your leather cover pieces cut (6) the length and just to go around the dowel with a perfect seam (practice a few), spread a thin coat of glue on the rough side of the leather and adhere it to the aluminum dowel. Be careful not to twist the leather on so you have a straight seam with edges just touching. Some of the glue may seep out as you work the leather but it will clean off with a rag.



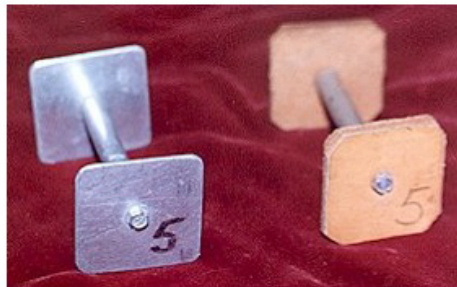
Shows seam on leather article

I buy the 'off billet' strap of a saddle at a tack store for my leather ends. It is 1 3/4" wide and only needs to be cut between the holes to make 1 3/4" leather ends. This is very cost efficient, about \$12. In my part of the Midwest, it would be too expensive to go to a shoe repair shop and have the ends cut. Metal and leather ends need 3/16" holes drilled in the **VERY** center **BEFORE** you round off the corners.



**Washer with sheet metal screw**

Start by assembling the metal articles first. Attach each end to the dowel with a sheet metal screw and a washer on the outside. A drop of glue in the pilot hole will help 'set' the screw. Make sure it is tight and square when placed on a flat surface. You don't want the article to look 'sprung'. Do all six. The leather cover on the aluminum dowel should be allowed to dry 24 hours before assembly. Follow the same procedure as with the metal articles to assemble. Do all six.



**Finished set**

**Now all you need to do is number them 1-6 and find an article basket to carry them in!**

