

Violet Evergarden Shoes



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Overview



This tutorial covers high level steps for how to make a pair of spat-like boot-covers with a winding ribbon laces.

Materials:

Leather ankle boots with 3-4" heel

Dark brown pleather for the boot cover

Non-stretch cloth for facing

Leather paint (light brown, dark brown, gray)

Sturdy 3/16" grommets

Grommet setting kit

1/2" double-faced satin ribbon (brown)

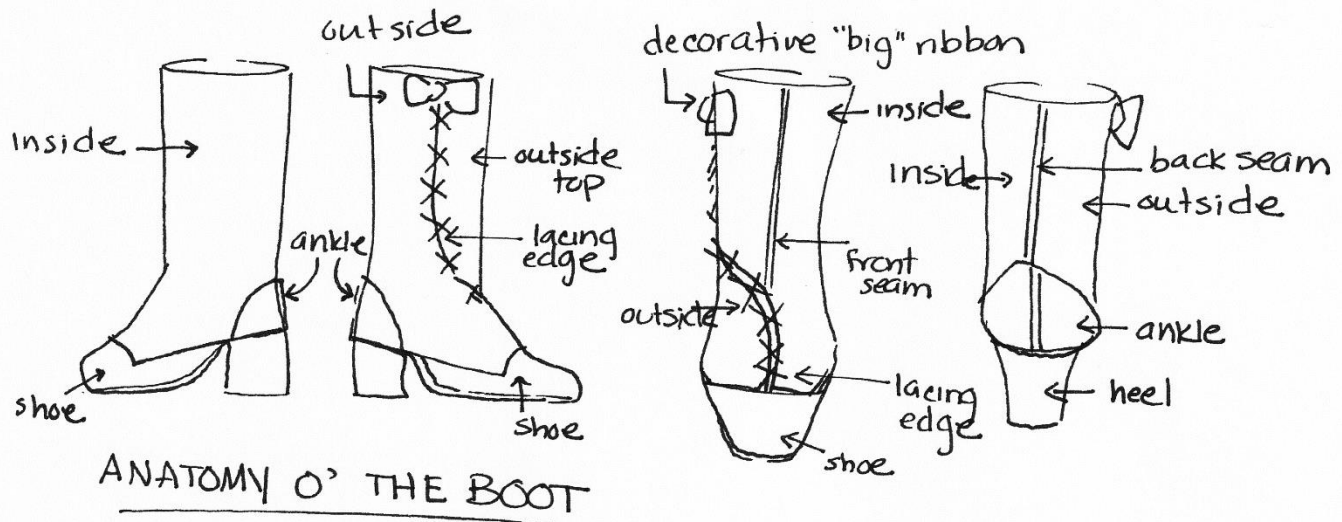
2" satin ribbon (brown)



Amounts will vary based on your patterns.



Creating the Pattern



1. Wrap the leg in cling film and duct tape.

Make sure to include vertical and horizontal strips.

It helps to wear the same tights or socks you will be wearing with the costume. Otherwise your pattern might come out too tight!

2. Draw the seam lines for front seam, back seam, and lacing edge. The front seam and lacing edge will merge.
3. CAREFULLY cut down the seam lines to make rough duct tape/cling film pattern pieces

You might need to get a friend to help with this part!

This should give you (3) rough pattern pieces: INSIDE, OUTSIDE, and TOP.

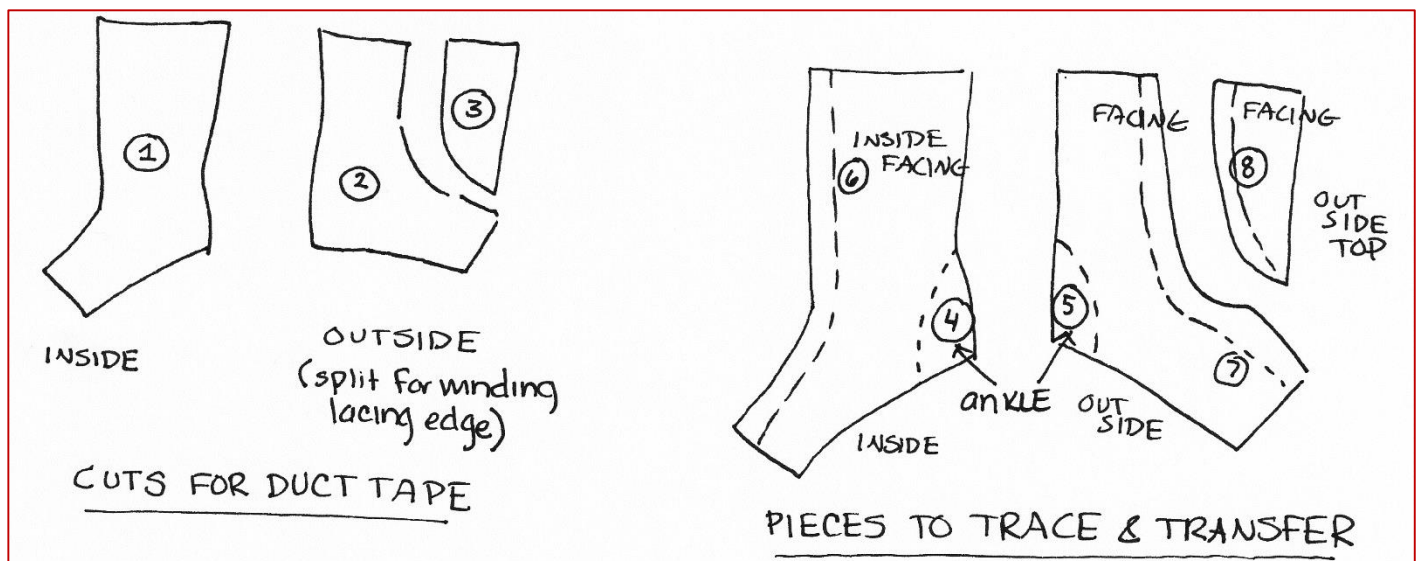


Creating the Pattern



4. Transfer the pattern pieces onto muslin or other cheap non-stretch material.
5. Along the lacing edge, mark 1" for facing.
6. On INSIDE and OUTSIDE, draw where the ankle curves should be.
7. Transfer the FACING and ANKLE markings onto new muslin.
8. This will give you (5) additional pattern pieces: INSIDE ANKLE, OUTSIDE ANKLE, OUTSIDE FACING, INSIDE FACING, TOP FACING.

IMPORTANT: At this point, your pattern pieces DON'T have seam allowance. You can either add seam allowance to your pattern pieces or measure out the seam allowance when you're cutting your fabric. In this case I did the latter: I measured $\frac{1}{2}$ " away from the pattern edges when I cut.



Cutting and sewing the materials

IMPORTANT: Before you cut your materials, it is highly recommended that you make a mock of your pattern in muslin or cheap cotton. You can use that version to tweak the fit of your pattern.

Once you are happy with the fit, proceed to cut (1) of all the pieces out of your **pleather**.

Then flip your pattern pieces over to cut out (1) of a mirrored version of all the pieces in the pleather.

Cut (2) of the facing out of your **facing material**.

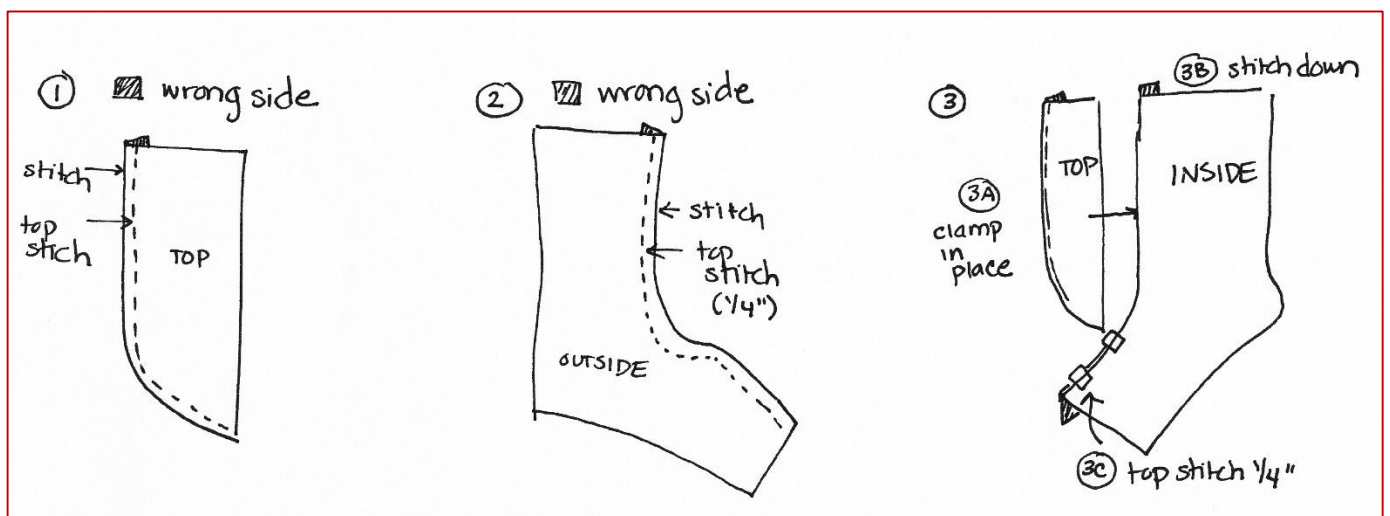
Sorry I don't have photos of this part of the process!

Preparing the main parts of the boot cover

1. Attach the facing to the edges of the TOP. Flip under and top stitch along the edge.

TIP: Is your sewing foot sticking to your pleather? Try using a ceramic foot or placing a piece of wax paper between your pleather and your foot. If using wax paper, you'll need to tear away the remnants afterwards.

2. Attach the facing to the edges of the OUTSIDE. Flip under and top stitch along the edge.
3. Clamp the INSIDE FACING in place, but don't stitch down
 - a. Clamp the TOP to the INSIDE along the front seam
 - b. Stitch down the TOP so there is a flap hanging off the INSIDE. Tuck the end between the INSIDE FACING and the INSIDE. Then stitch the INSIDE FACING.
 - c. Top stitch the entire front seam.



Cutting and sewing the materials

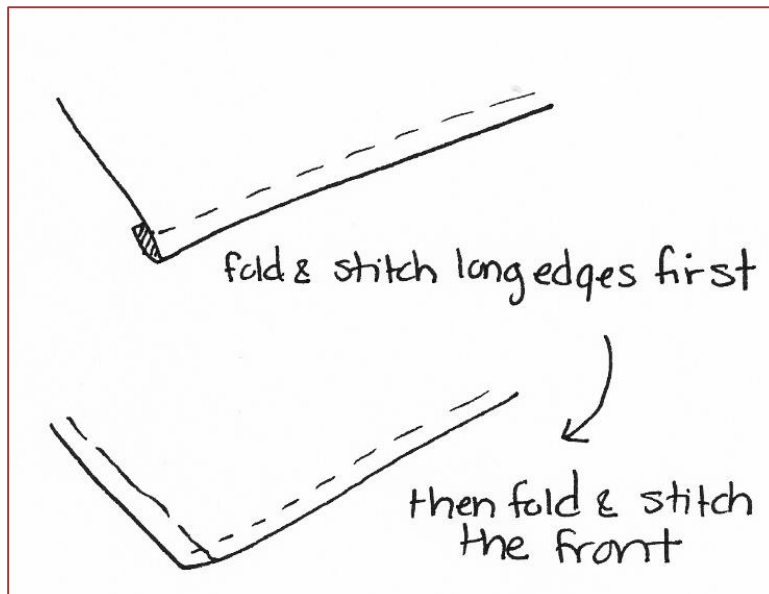


Assembling the boot

1. Stitch the OUTSIDE and INSIDE together at the back seam to form a boot.

NOTE: Turn to the next page to see what the boot should look like at this stage.

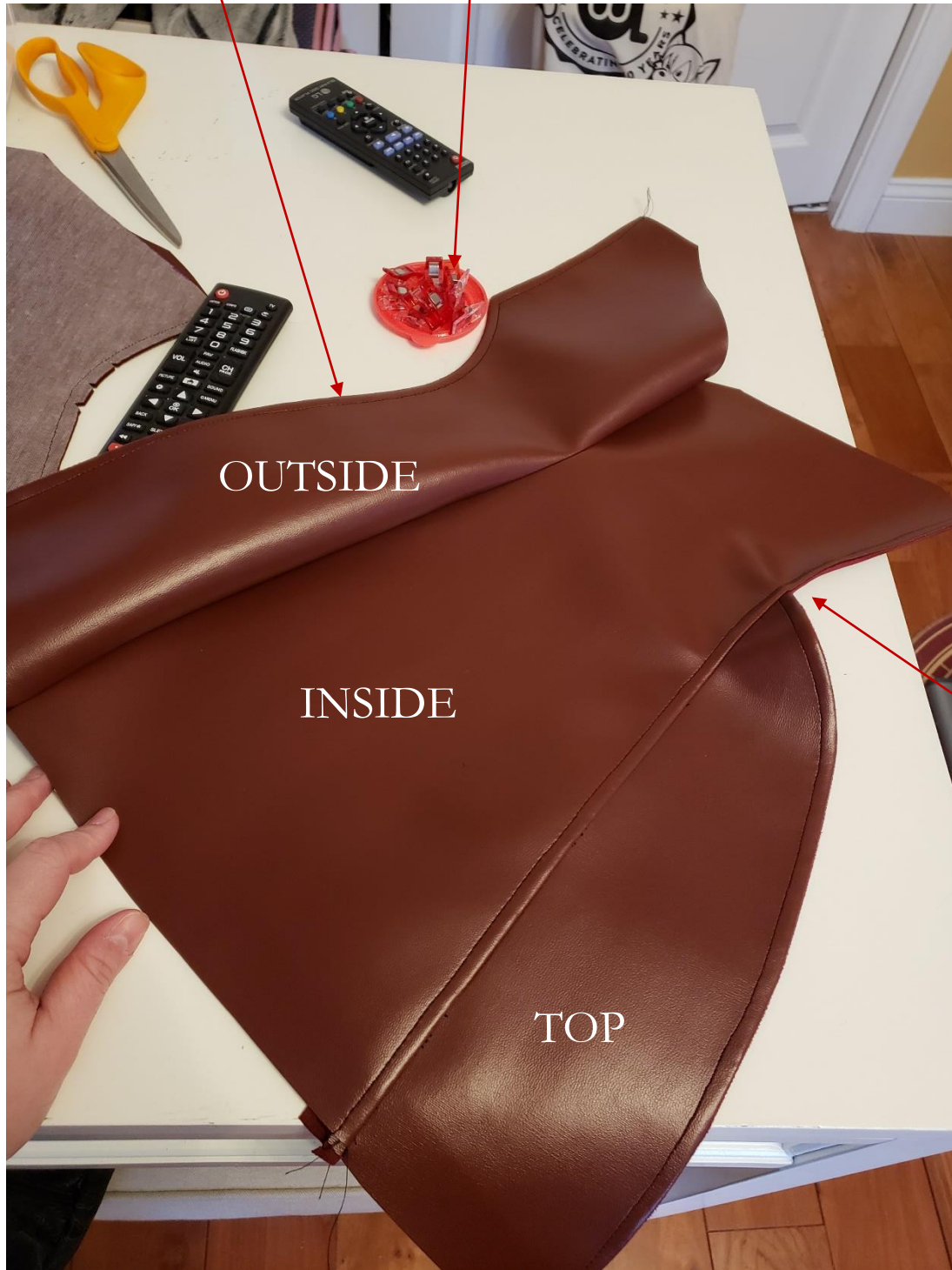
2. Stitch together INSIDE ANKLE and OUTSIDE ANKLE to form the ankle piece.
3. Hand stitch the ANKLE to the back seam of the BOOT.
4. Turn under the bottom edges of both boot pieces. Top stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the edges.
5. Turn over the top edges of each BOOT (about 1"). Top stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from all edges.



Cutting and sewing the materials

Top stitching, 1/4" away from the edge

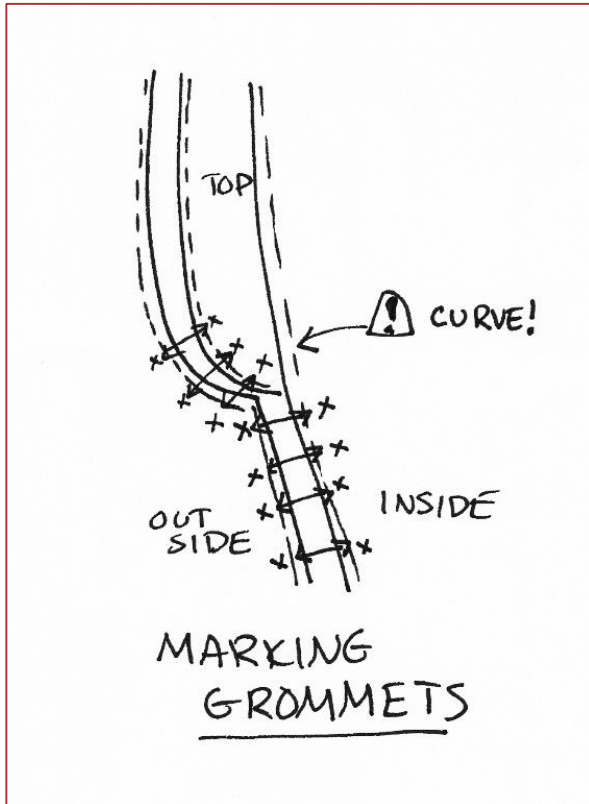
Fabric clamps / clips
(to avoid poking holes in the pleather with pins)



TOP end sandwiched
between INSIDE and
INSIDE FACING



Adding in the grommets



Make sure you are using two-part grommets and not eyelets (little gold single pieces). Eyelets will not be durable enough.

We'll start by marking where the grommets will go. Spacing is your preference. I went with 3/16" grommets, placed 1" apart, 1/4" from the top stitching line.

IMPORTANT: When you get to the curve, keep the grommet marks parallel. Because it's a curve, this means that some of the grommets will be closer together on the **OUTSIDE** and farther apart on the **INSIDE/TOP**.

You may need to play around with mark positioning to get a grommet arrangement you're happy with.

How to add the grommets

1. Starting on the **INSIDE** part of the boot, mark off where you'd like the grommets to be.
2. Align the **OUTSIDE** part of the boot and mark off the grommet holes exactly parallel to the marks on the **INSIDE**.
3. Use a grommet cutting tool to cut holes through the facing and pleather.
You may find an awl to be helpful to poke holes initially to help guide the cutting tool.
4. Use a grommet setting tool to insert the grommets.



Painting the pieces

1. Use a deglazer to remove the commercial glaze from the shoes. Make sure to wear gloves to avoid getting black all over your hands!
2. Prime the shoes with a dark brown.
3. Paint the heels, ankle pieces, and bottom of the shoes gray.
4. Paint the back of the boots gray as well. This will provide coverage if your spats move around.
5. Slowly layer a lighter tan color, leaving the edges dark to give depth.



Lacing the boots



In the show, Violet has a very big brown ribbon at the top of her boots, but if you try to lace a giant ribbon through the grommets, it looks very messy and may not fit correctly.

To get around this, I laced most of the book with 1/2" double-sided satin ribbon, which is tied on the inside of the boot.

To calculate how much ribbon I needed, I used an online calculator for gothic lace-up boots. There are a few available. Your yardage will vary based on how many grommets you used and how far apart they are.

The big ribbon is threaded through the top pair of grommets on each boot.

Don't forget to finish the edges of your ribbons to avoid fraying.

For my lace ribbons, I added metal tips.

For the decorative ribbons at the top, I used fray check.



Congrats! You're done!



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