

3 STEPS TO BEGIN YOUR SHOE PATTERN



3 Steps To Begin Your Shoe Pattern Like a Pro

In shoe craftsmanship, there are several techniques of pattern constructing on the last. One of them I will share in this guide, because I think it is one of the best ways to do it and I constantly use it in my work, when I construct shoe patterns. It is a technique, with which you can easily and accurately make the pattern of any shoe type. Its essence lies in the fact, that the last is taped with layers of adhesive tape on both sides of the last: the inner and outer sides, and then a shoe design is applied on it.

So this leads to the following advantages of this technique that will change the way you work:

- The shoe maker has an opportunity to draw the shoe design and evaluate it instantly from an aesthetic point of view, keeping the right proportion of anatomy of the foot.
- It is very easy to draw on adhesive tape and if it does not suit you, the shoe maker can easily fix it by deleting and then drawing a new one.
- Adhesive tape perfectly preserves all last proportions after it is removed from the last.
- As it easy to attach the adhesive tape to the last , easy to remove it from the last and attach to the cardboard as well for further continuation of the work on the pattern.

Choosing the right adhesive tape

There are several types of adhesive tape but the most common and used are:

- 12-15 cm wide
- 5 cm
- 2.5 cm narrower

I strongly advise you to use a narrow one, it is more comfortable to attach it to the last, especially in the curved places of last, and it can always be found in your local stationery shop, so you will never run out of it.

Covering the last: Step one

Lasts are divided into outer and inner sides by the lines in the middle of the front and back of the lasts. So the **first step** of our work is to attach the layers of adhesive tape to the outer side of the last.

1) **The first** layer of adhesive tape we attach horizontally along the middle of the last. We must take enough tape to cover the last from the heel to the toe. To do that you tear off and unroll a long piece of tape, attach it, and cut the extras of adhesive tape with a knife. It's enough to attach it, heaving a bit extra on the bottom at the toe and passed a little beyond the center line of the heel.

The second way is to unroll enough tape, and attach it to the last, cutting it on the end of the toe or heel. In this way you waste less tape.

To attach the first layer of tape in the most perfect way, without wrinkles in curved place between instep line and joint line, make 2 or 3 cuts on the tape.



Then on top of these cuts you have to apply small triangular-shaped pieces of tape to secure them. You don't have to make them triangle shape, it's just have more clean look.



It is necessary to attach the tape, creating fewer folds as possible. To do this, in the process of attaching the adhesive tape, slightly pull the tape, especially in the rounded places on the last.

For example, attaching the adhesive tape this way in the heel, you can avoid creating wrinkles of the tape.

- 2) **The second layer** of adhesive tape is attached on the first layer towards the bottom of the last, the way their joint area(one on top of the other) is not less than 1.5 cm.



This layer is attached by the same principle as the first: unroll long enough piece of adhesive tape to cover last from the heel to the toe, attaching the tape in the same direction as the first layer and pull it slightly to avoid creation of many folds. Applying the second layer from heel to toe, you almost cover the lower part of the last. If you have not covered small section near the edge of last bottom, attach a small piece of tape to cover it.

- 3) **The third layer** we attach on top of the first layer, in the same way as the two previous layers. joint area(one on top of the other) is not less than 1.5 cm. Applying it, you will cover almost the entire upper part of the last, and what will remain is, to attach another small piece of tape to cover outer side of the last completely.



Now, if you have small folds on your tape you can smooth them out, for example, using the side of the utility knife handle.



Step two

Once you finish covering the outer side of the last, proceed to the inner side and attach the adhesive tape in the same way as you have just done with the outer side. This is the **second step**



Before you will proceed to the next stage of the work, you can trim unwanted pieces of adhesive tape gathered on the bottom and top of your last. To cut off the extras of the tape accurately with a knife along the edge of the last, you can first draw the line along the edge. And in rear part of the last bottom, where is the steel plate, you can draw the line using this plate as a guideline. If you will find it difficult to cut with a knife, you can use file or sandpaper glued to a piece of wood stick . Send the taped last edge several times and you will trim the excess of tape.

Step three

The third step is to attach the layers of adhesive tape across the last along its width. Apply layer after layer of tape across the last, from the heel to the toe, using the rules of attaching of tape described in paragraph **1** of **first step** of work.



These transverse layers of tape will strength your pattern, and will make it more sustainable. As a result, when you will take out adhesive tape pattern from the last, you could easily paste it on cardboard, without any unnecessary strain and deformation. As a result, you will get the exact pattern, corresponding to the parameters of your last.

Once you are completely covered the last along its width, cut the excess of tape at the top and bottom of the last to get the last with clean lines of its borders.



Smooth out all wrinkles with edge of a knife handle.

When you make a pattern for a symmetric model of footwear, you can tape only the outer side of the last. You should do the same procedure as described in paragraph 1 of **first step** , and then, without attaching the inner side of the last, move on to attach the adhesive tape along the width of last , as described in **third step** of work.

Now you have a covered with adhesive tape last that fits perfectly and it is ready for you to apply on it any shoe design.

Cover your last following those three steps and you will always get the right results.

Find more information , full shoemaking courses at
www.shoemakingcoursesonline.com