

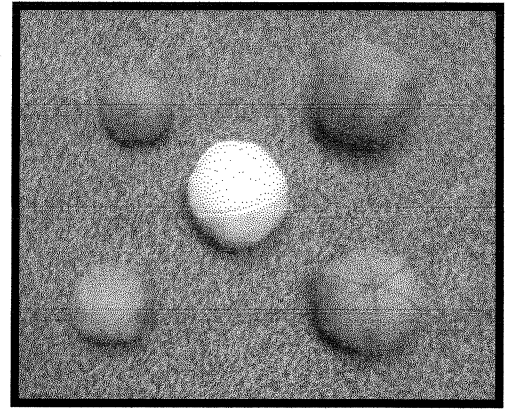
## Viking Toys – Balls

### Tools:

Scissors  
Pen or Pencil  
Awl, if leather is thick  
Needles, ideally leather  
needles

### Materials:

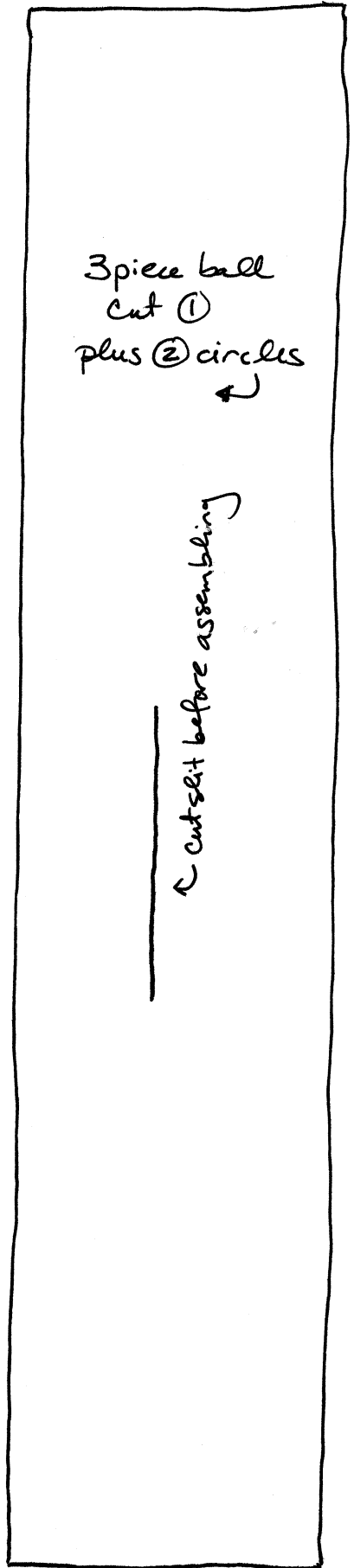
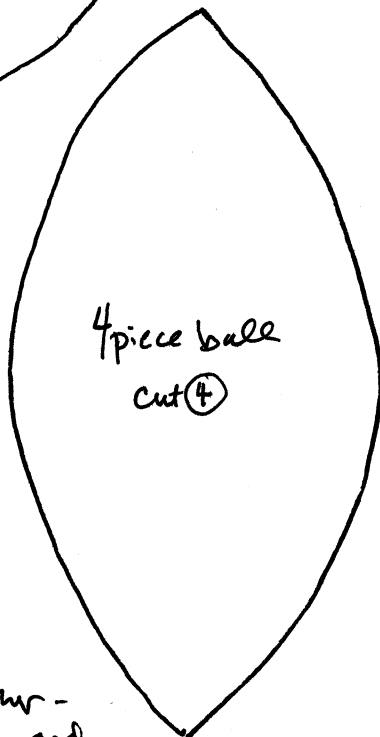
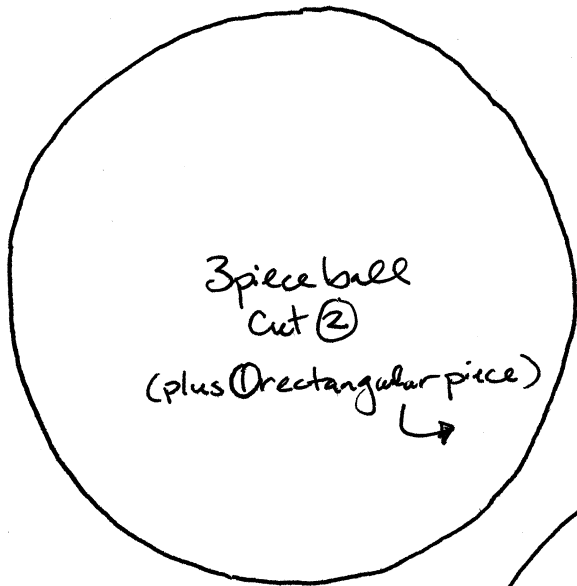
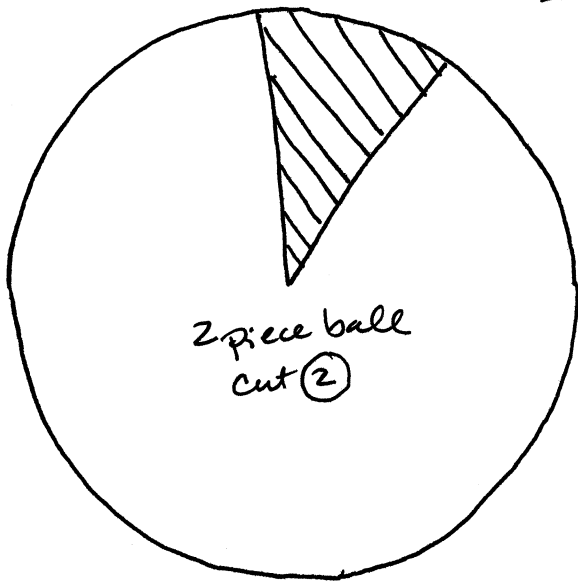
Leather  
Dried Moss  
Heavy string or artificial  
sinew  
Carbon paper (optional)  
Cardstock (optional)



1. Read all directions first.
2. Choose leather that is sturdy enough not to tear easily, but not so thick that it does not stretch at all or that it is difficult to sew. All seams are sewn right faces together with a running or back-stitch unless otherwise specified.
3. If differently sized balls are desired, use a photocopier to scale the provided patterns.
4. Transfer patterns to the wrong side of the leather by placing a sheet of carbon paper under the pattern and tracing the outline with a pen. If you plan to make several copies of the same item or if you don't have carbon paper, you may want to copy the pattern onto cardstock and cut out a template to trace instead. Remember inspect the right side of the leather before beginning to avoid any flaws.
5. Using the scissors to cut out the required number of pieces.
6. Follow the sewing directions for each type of ball:
  - a. For a two-piece ball: Sew shut the dart on each piece (think of it as sewing PacMan's mouth shut). Place the right sides of each half together and sew about 80% of the way around. Turn the ball right side out.
  - b. For a three-piece ball: Sew a long edge of the rectangular piece around the circumference of one of the round pieces. Sew the rectangle's short sides together, trimming off any excess if necessary (this will look sort of like a cup at this phase). Sew the other circular piece to the other long side of the ball. Turn inside out through the slit in the middle of the rectangular piece. Enlarge the slit lengthwise, if necessary.
  - c. For a four-piece ball: Match up the edges of two pieces and sew one edge together, starting at one point and working to the other to make a double piece. Repeat with the other two pieces. Match up the two double pieces so that the unsewn edges all match up, the seams face out, and all the points come together (when sewn, they will look like an X). Start in the MIDDLE of one of the sides (that is, NOT by the points), and sew 80% of the way around. Turn the ball right side out.
  - d. More than four-piece ball: cut more, thinner leaf shaped segments and assemble like the four-piece ball, but adding segments as desired.
7. Stuff the ball as tightly as possible with the dry moss. Use your pen or pencil to jam more moss in as necessary.
8. Stitch closed the opening using a whip stitch or other convenient stitch - it doesn't really matter as long as it is securely closed.
9. Provide toy to a child or child-at-heart

Note on obtaining dry moss – check the floral area of your local craft store if you don't have the time/inclination/climate for gathering and drying moss

Leather Ball  
Pattern



Based on finds from York  
See: Craft, Industry, and  
Everyday Life: Leather and Leather-  
working in Anglo-Scandinavian and  
Medieval York by Quita Mould