Assembly instructions: Do-it-yourself Horse Brass Strap

Assemble your tools and materials. You will need your three horse brasses, the leather strap assembly, a small brass ring, a brass "Chicago screw" fastener, a straight-bladed screwdriver, and possibly a small pliers. The Chicago screw fastener has two parts - a "post" with internal threads and a "screw".

The narrow leather strap is the "lace strap". The wide leather piece underneath the lace strap is the "backer". The first pair of "laces" at the bottom of the door strap is already done and the second pair is partly started. These laces are at the bottom of the completed piece – you will install the brasses from bottom to top.

Left: Decide in what order you want the horse brasses on the piece. Slip the bottom brass onto the lace. Pass the lace through the next slot so it protrudes behind the backer. Use the pliers to pull the lace if needed. The loop of lace holding the brass in place should be *just* large enough so the brass can lie flat against the backer.

Right: Feed the lace through the next higher slot so it protrudes from the front of the backer. The lace strap should lie as flat as possible against the backer, but not so tight that it makes the backer curve.

Left: Slip the second brass onto the lace and fasten it as you did for the first brass. Repeat for the third brass. When you are done, check that the first round hole at the top of the lace strap is aligned behind the round hole at the top of the backer. Adjust the lace as necessary until the two holes are aligned.

Middle: When you are done, there will be a length of lace sticking above the top of the backer. Slip the post of the Chicago screw fastener into the two holes. Slip the brass ring over the lace.

Right: Flip the piece over and fold the lace down behind the backer, so it traps the ring in place. Align the third hole so it is centered over the post. Slip the screw into the post. Use a straight-bladed screwdriver to install the screw so the ring is fastened into place. You're done!

The finished project, back and front.