

How to Measure a Custom Belt

Getting the proper measurement for your belt is key to a good fitting and functional custom belt. Two basic sets of measurements are required: effective belt length; and buckle length and width. Fortunately, it is easy to find both of these.

Effective Belt Length

The first step is to start with the belt you currently use. From the buckle end, identify where the belt sits in the buckle when it is fastened (Photo 1); this is the starting point for your measurement. Next look at the other end of the belt and find the hole where you are currently fastening the belt (Photo 2). This hole can generally be identified by the worn area around the appropriate hole. This will be the end point for your measurement. Now measure the distance between these two points with the belt stretched out on a flat surface. The resulting measurement (after you measure it multiple times, is the effective length of the belt. This length will determine the placement of the center hole for the new belt. Typically I will then place two holes (so two inches) on either side of this center hole. If you want more room for adjustment in general or in a particular direction, just let me know.



Photo 1: Point on buckle to start measurement

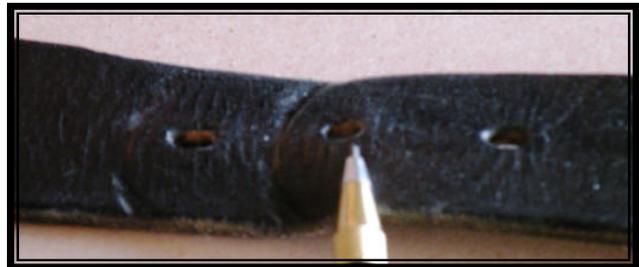


Photo 2: The favorite hole in your current belt

Measuring the Buckle

Once we know the effective belt length, we need to know the length of the buckle in order to find the length of the leather part of the belt. We also need to know the width of the buckle so it can be connected to the belt. The belt itself doesn't have to be the same width of the buckle, there are a variety of ways of dealing with a difference between the two.

The accompanying photos show how to measure the length and width of two types of buckles. The length is measured from the rear bar where the belt will attach to the buckle up to the point where the tongue of the belt will hook onto the buckle (photos 3a and 3b). If the bar will rotate, be sure to have it extended all the way to the rear of the buckle for this measure (photo 3b).

The width of the buckle is at the bar at the rear of the buckle (photos 4a and 4b). Be sure you measure from the inside edges of the buckle or bar since that is where the belt will go.



Photos 3a and 3b (above): Measuring the length of the buckle.

Photos 4a and 4b (below): Measuring the width of the buckle.

