

#### 4. **Stitching the walls together with birch bark thread**

##### a) Punching holes

Using a hole punch, make holes in the wall at an even spacing. Spacing to the edge: 7–10mm, spacing between the holes: every 7–10mm, hole size: 4–5mm.

**Alternatively**, the holes can be drilled with a wood drill. Be careful not to tear the bark.

**Vorsicht, Verletzungsgefahr!**



##### b) **Stitching**

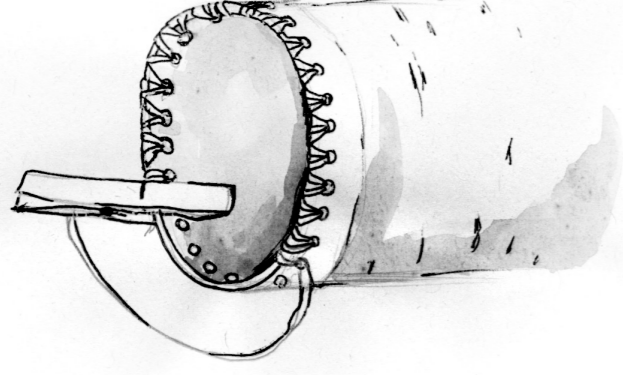
Put a slightly sharpened thread through the hole and carefully push it further with your thumb. If you need to use another thread, stitch through the last 1–2 holes one more time to fasten the thread. Stitch twice at the ends as well. Trim the end tightly or put it through the last hole one more time to strengthen the grip, and then trim. Proceed with the bottom side in the same manner as with the lid: cut the trimmings, thin them out, fasten, punch holes and stitch the parts together.

##### **Alternative double stitch**

The so-called double stitch holds faster and appears more robust. To make a double stitch, put the thread through a hole twice before moving to the next hole.

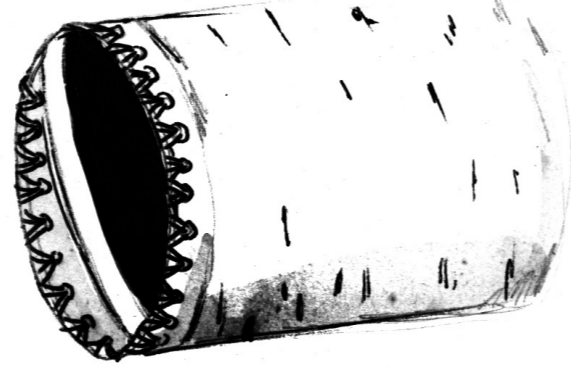
##### **Keep in mind**

- Never pull the thread too hard – it's fragile.
- Always apply pressure to make sure the thread sits very tight.
- The thread can be smoothed by rubbing it with a bar of soap. The threads are already pre-treated with soap, which is made evident by their white spots. The soap can be later wiped away.
- You can finish the stitching by putting the ends of the thread between the two walls of the container.
- You can use a sharp object to carefully push the thread through the holes if it gets stuck.



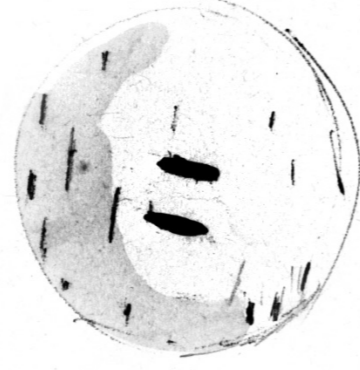
#### 5. **Inserting the bottom**

Place the bottom part of the birch bark container in hot water. This stretches the bark and makes placing the wooden bottom in the right position easier. The under side of the wooden bottom is slightly deburred. Rub the edges of the bottom with a dry soap bar. Now, insert the bottom upright into the container until it is completely inside and between the top and the bottom seams. Now flip the bottom over so that it lies flat just above the bottom seam with the deburred side and the logo facing downwards. Carefully push the bottom into place with your fingers or a blunt object. Now it sits tight.



##### **Finalising the lid**

The decoration should now be glued tightly and can be cut out and, if necessary, polished with rough sanding paper to match the size of the lid exactly. Subsequently, the birch bark is slit where the pre-cut holes for the handle are.

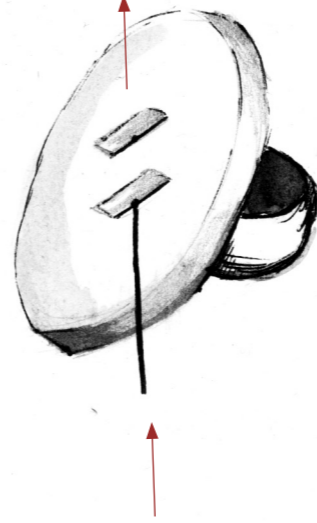


#### 6. **Attaching the handle**

Now take the two bark pieces for the handle. Cut them precisely to the width of the slits in the lid and taper them slightly at the endings.

Place both pieces on top of each other (light sides facing each other) and slide them through the slits from the top. Once you have pushed them through, you can place one or more leftover pieces of bark (e.g., from the lid decoration or the trimmings) between the two layers of bark sticking out from the slits and slightly pull the handle back, so that it is wedged inside the lid. The handle now sits tight.

If desired, the handle can be sanded down to the level of the lid. Alternatively, the endings of the handle can be left hanging from the inside of the lid. Punch or drill a hole in each ending and put a toothpick through the holes to fasten.



**Congratulations!**  
Your container is now ready.



SAGAAN

## Instructions for building a birch bark Tea Container

**Congratulations!** You are holding a valuable natural material in your hands.

Already many centuries ago, the first settlers of northern countries such as Canada, Scandinavian countries, and Russia were building birch bark containers to store their valuable foodstuffs.

Now you can acquaint yourself with the secrets of birch bark and get to know this long forgotten, yet fascinating, raw material.

If you have any question concerning the processing, we are happy to help:

→ <https://sagaan.de/birkenrinde/basteln/>



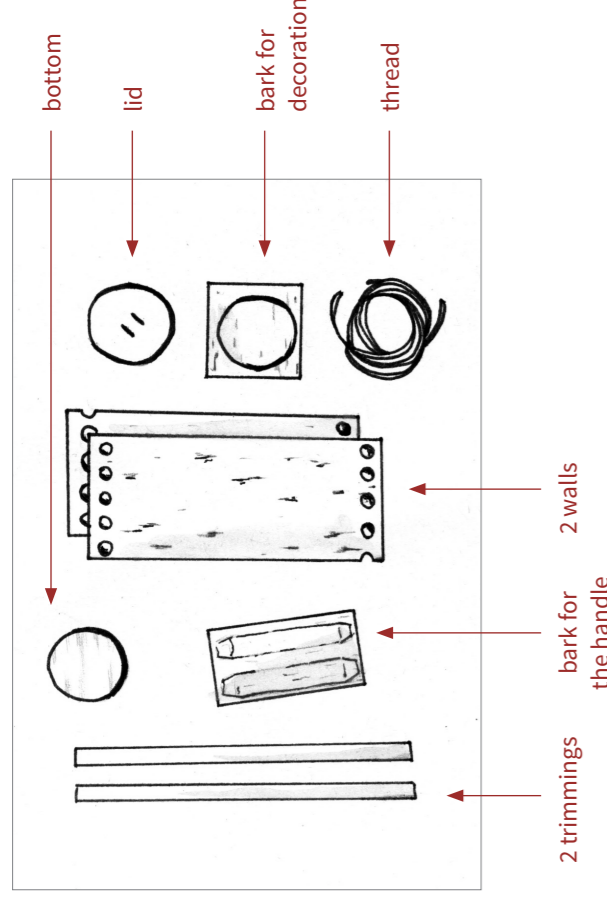
## SCOPE OF DELIVERY AND NECESSARY TOOLS

This set contains

- 1 piece of bark for the external wall with a wider spacing between the holes »P«
- 1 piece of bark for the internal wall with a smaller spacing between the holes »C«
- 1 bottom from stone pine wood
- 1 lid from stone pine wood
- 2 trimmings
- enough birch bark thread to stitch the parts together
- 2 pieces of bark for the handle
- a piece of bark for decoration

**Preparing the lid**

The lid is cone-shaped to make it fit easily and has pre-cut slots for the handle.



## Necessary tools

- Scissors or a pointed knife, such as a box cutter or a carving knife
- A sharp knife, for example an Opinel knife
- A leather hole punch alternativ
- An awl, a nail or a similar sharp object
- A regular bar of soap
- Clothes pegs or glue presses
- A small bowl of hot water (ca. 60°C)
- Some wood glue, if you decide to decorate the lid

**Gluing the decoration**

If desired, the birch bark decoration can be glued onto the top side of the lid (the wider side of the cone) prior to cutting it to size. After gluing, put it under even and strong pressure and let dry completely while working on the rest of the container..



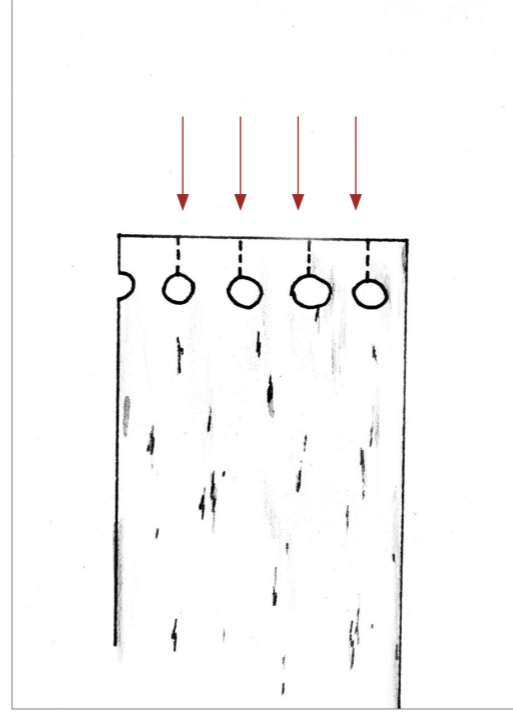
## BUILDING THE CONTAINER

**1.**

### Cutting and plugging the walls together

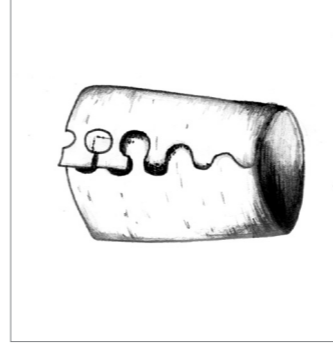
a) Cutting

Make sure to cut through the middle of the holes.



b) Plugging the external wall together

Bend the bark with the light side marked with »P« facing inwards. Plug the flaps into each other from outside to inside like a zipper forming a cylindrical body with flaps pointing inwards.

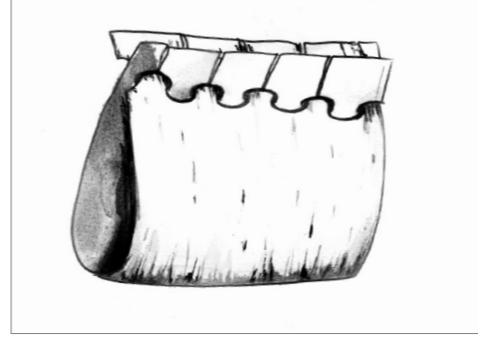


### Note

From now on, you should have a bowl of warm water at hand. Proceed carefully – the following steps require especially high skills. Make sure that the walls don't tear along the brown lines while you are putting them together. If the birch bark appears fragile or unyielding, you can briefly soak it in warm water until it becomes soft and velvety (depending on the water temperature and the bark properties, this might take 15–60 seconds). This generally makes working with birch bark easier. The process of softening the bark can be repeated, should the bark harden too much again.

c) Plugging the internal wall together

Bend the bark with the light side marked with »C« pointing outwards. Plug the flaps into each other like a zipper forming a raindrop-shaped body with flaps pointing outwards.



**2.**

### Plugging the walls into each other

Press the internal wall together starting at the »zipper«, after which bring the side wings towards each other, creating a kidney-shaped form. Plug it into the external wall completely; the rounding of the inner wall should be lying flat on the »zipper« of the external wall. Now, pop out the inner wall to form a round body. Make sure that neither »zipper« becomes undone.

external wall

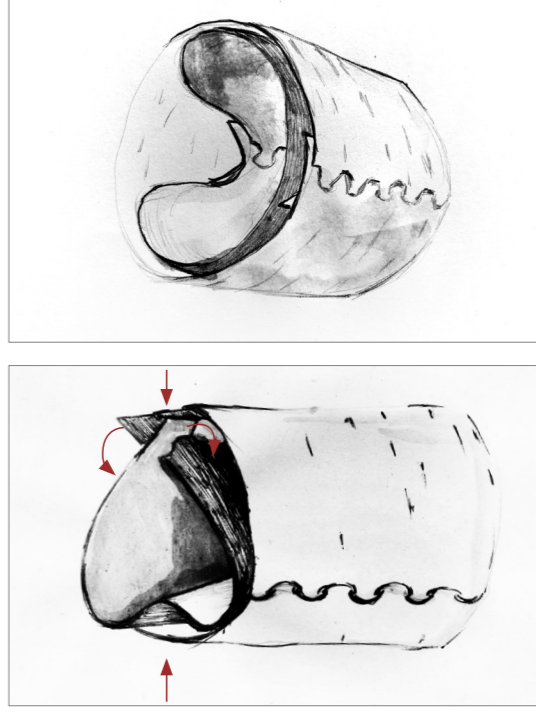


internal wall



### Note

Birch bark containers as a rule have a double wall. The light sides of the walls face each other so that they, as well as the plug connections (»zippers«), are invisible. Thus, only the golden yellow side of the bark can be seen and touched.



**3. Preparing the trimmings**

Place the trimmings around the container body and trim them so that they overlap by ca. 2 cm. (overall length: 29 cm). The light side of these overlapping endings has to be thinned out with a sharp knife so that they are tapered towards the edge (one of the endings is already prepared in such a manner). Now flap one of the trimmings tightly over the edge of the container and make sure it is flush. Fasten the trimming with 4–5 clips and make sure that they hold the trimming flush with the edge of the container so it can't shift out of place.

