



This background would work nicely for a western themed site. This tutorial is rather advanced. I strongly advise not attempting it unless you are strongly proficient in Paint Shop Pro.

To create this sidebar graphic:

1. Create a new graphic 200x75.
2. Add a new layer, name it "Leather" and start working on this new layer.
3. Set the foreground color to R:68, G:31, B:18 and background to R:82, G:34, B:20.
4. Double Click on the Selection tool and set to L:0, R:140, T:0, B:75 and hit OK.
5. Flood fill with a linear gradient set to 90 degrees.
6. Add 10% Uniform Noise.
7. Zoom in one time to enlarge your graphic.
8. Choose Image|Mirror.
9. Select the blank (white) part of the graphic and invert your selection. This will result in the "leather" part being selected.
10. Set your background color to R:241, G:230, B:199.
11. Apply the Buttonize filter set to: Height: 1; Width: 4, Opacity 60, Transparent Edge.
12. Mirror your image again.
13. Make a 10 pixel wide selection to the right of the leather graphic and flood fill with foreground color. Save Selection to an Alpha Channel.
14. Add a new layer. Name this layer "Stitches".
15. Switch your foreground and background colors.
16. Select the line tool and set to Normal, Width 1, Antialias Checked.
17. Holding down the shift key, draw a vertical line about 8 pixels high in the middle of the 10 pixel border you just added to the leather graphic.
18. Line you the cross hairs with the line you just drew and draw another vertical line about 6 pixels high leaving a space between the "stitches".
19. Select your two stitches, copy and paste "as a new selection". Move into place below the first two stitches. Repeat until you run out of room.
20. Click on the Leather layer and turn off all the layers above. Load the 10 pixel wide selection, move it to the right of the leather and flood fill with background color (this will add another 10 pixels of the dark brown to the right of the graphic).
21. Turn back on all layers and add a new layer.
22. Add another new layer and call this one "Edge".
23. Set foreground color to R:68, G:31, B:18 and background to R:199, G:177, B:171.
24. On the new layer, make a 5 pixel by 75 pixel selection. Move this selection to the right of the stitches.
25. Flood fill with a linear gradient set to 90 degrees (dark on left to light on right).
26. While still selected, copy your selection and paste "as a new selection". Mirror this selection

- and move to the right until it lines up with the first selection.
27. Flood fill the background layer with the beige color (R:241, G:230, B:199).
  28. Click on the leather layer. Select about 2 pixels of the right edge and apply a Gaussian Blur of 1 (this will soften the edge).
  29. If you want to add a right drop shadow (recommended), add another new layer and call it "Shadow".
  30. I added a right drop shadow with a blur of 8, offset 3 horizontal and 0 vertical.
  31. If part of the blurred edge on the leather layer shows through, move the shadow a pixel or two to the left.
  32. Adjust the opacity slider on all the layers except the leather layer until they look good to you.
  33. Save as a psp graphic for future modifications.
  34. Merge all layers.
  35. Crop your graphic so that you have four stitches starting at the top of one and ending with a space between at the bottom. Crop out the left shadow created in the buttonize step if you wish. Crop all the way to the right margin. Be sure to start a few stitches down from the top. This will crop out the gap in the drop shadow.
  36. Make the beige background color PSP's background color and add a right border of 900.
  37. Save as a jpg.