

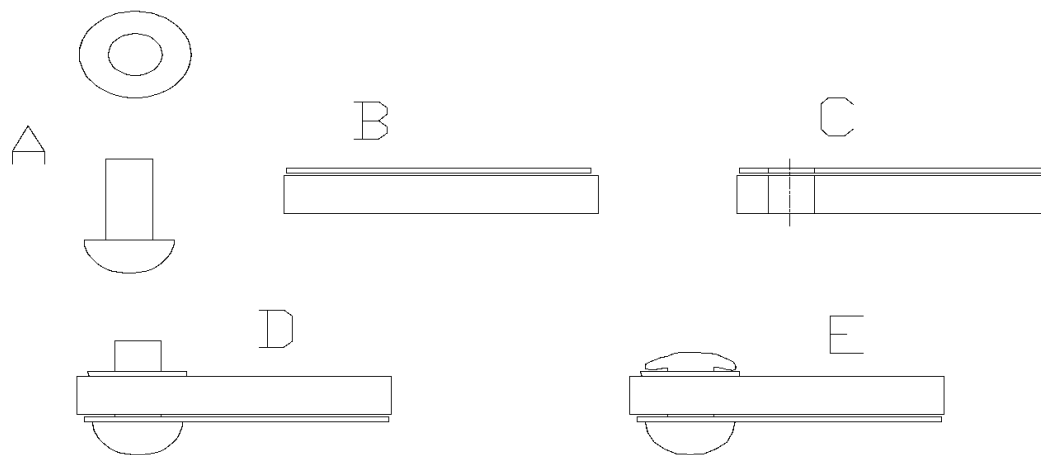
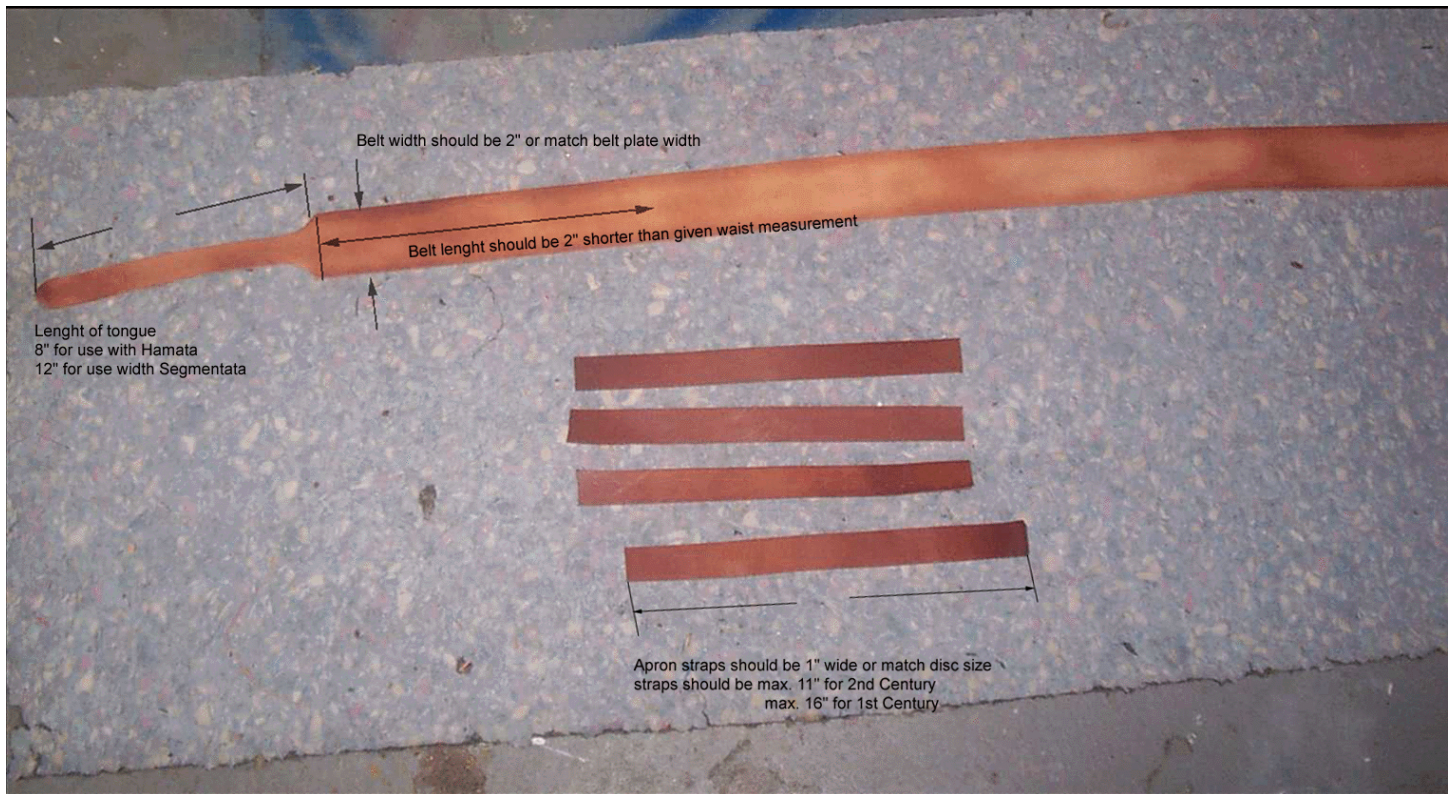
How to make a Roman Army belt



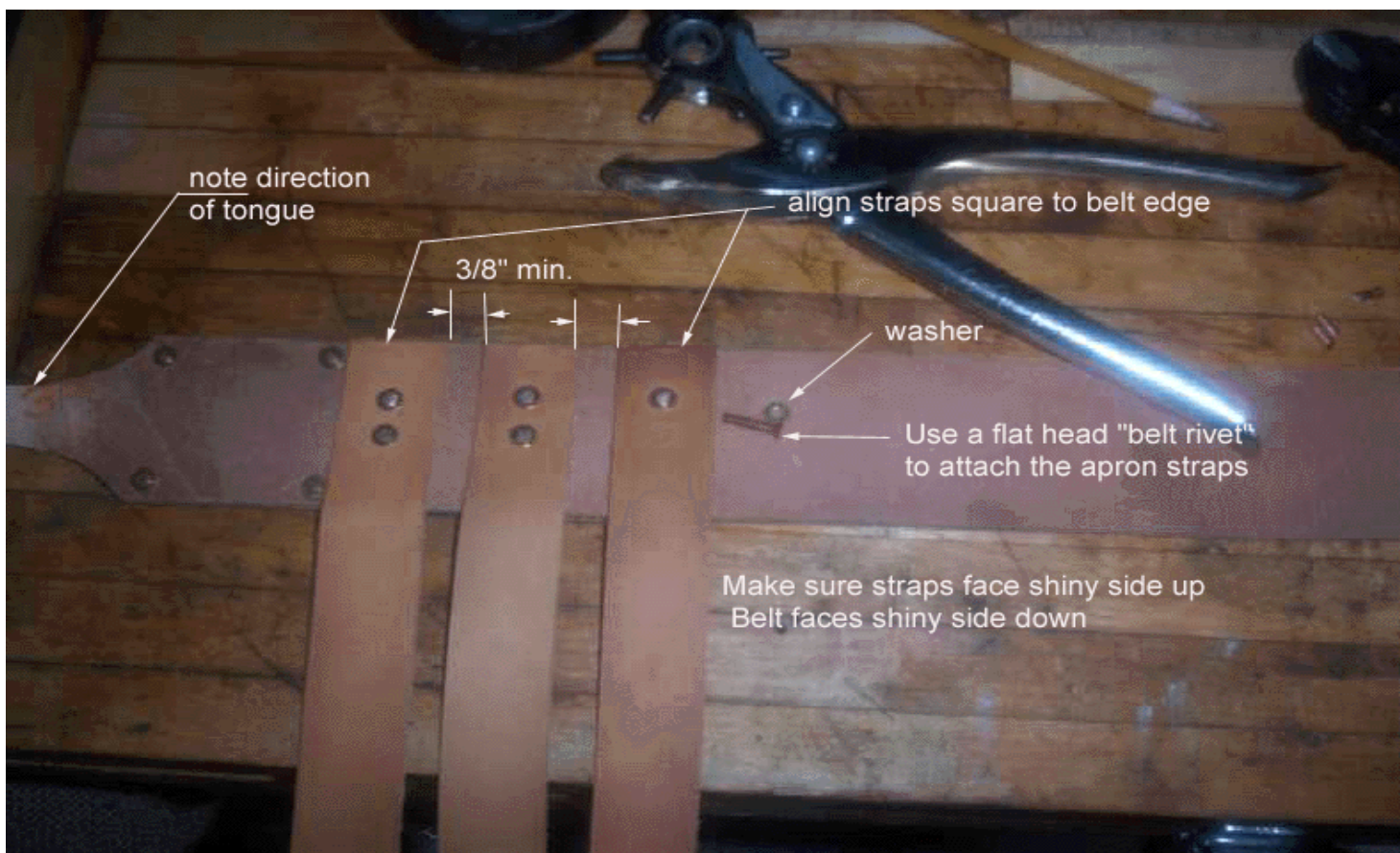
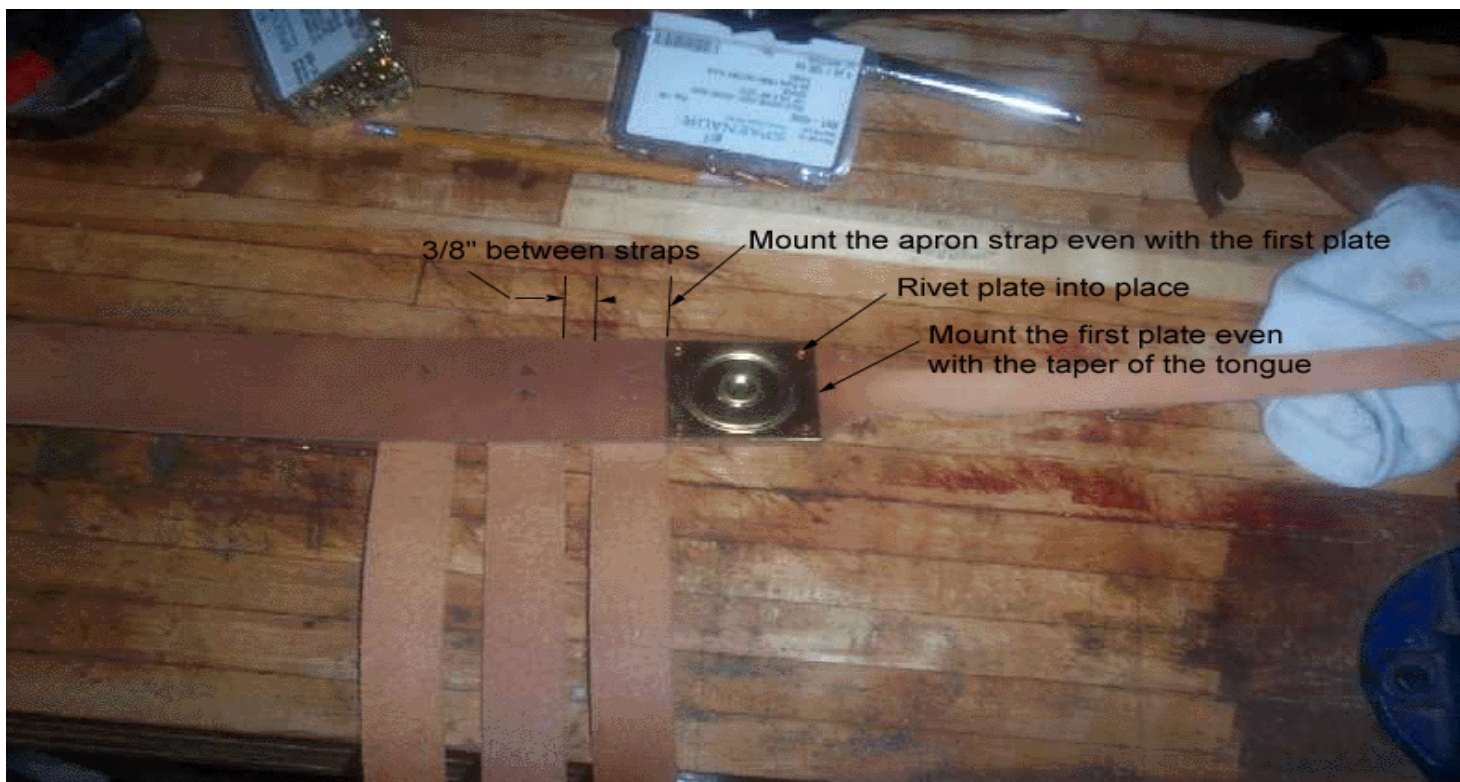
Robert Norton
Sept. 07/04

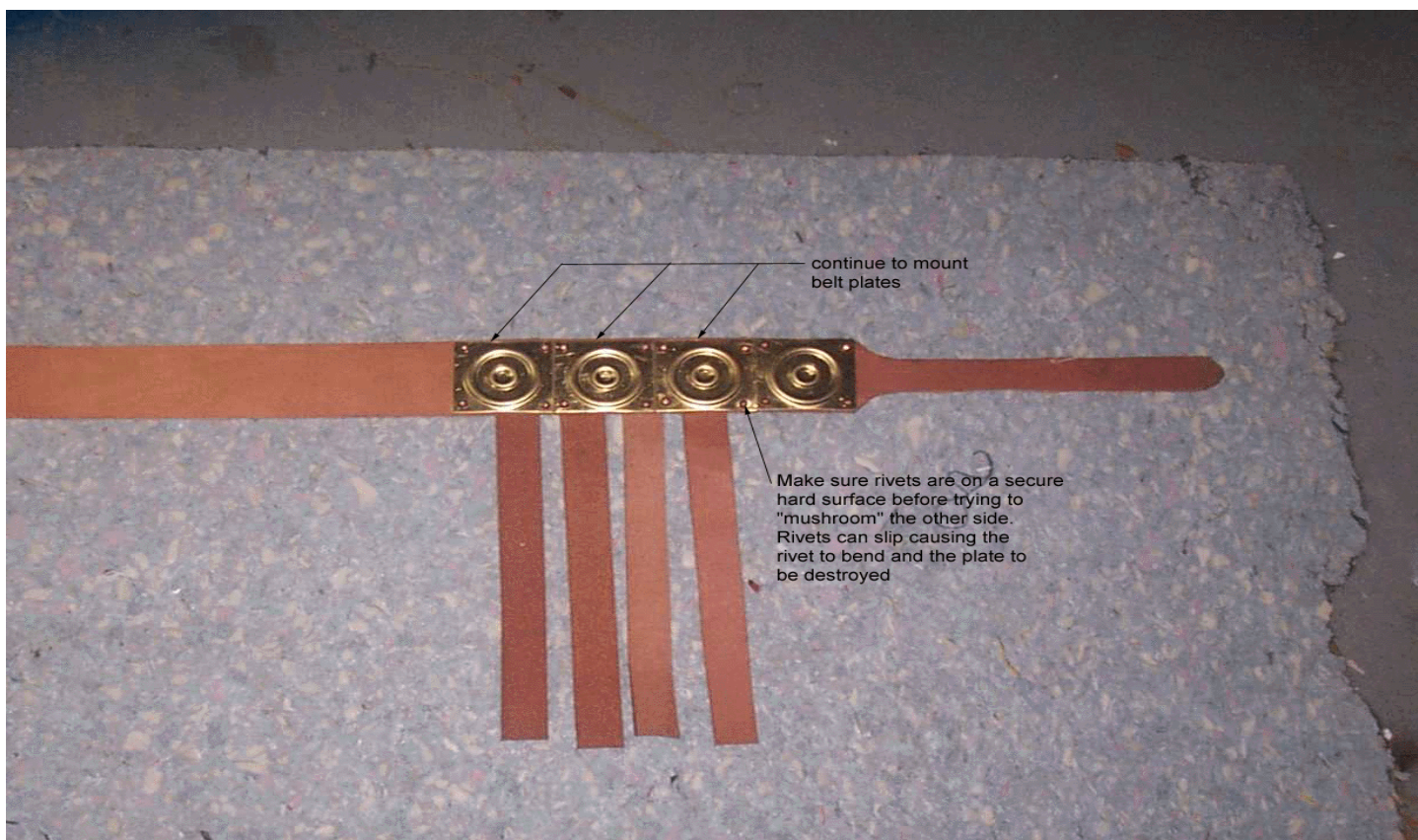
Introduction:

When I started re-enacting, the first thing I realized was how expensive this hobby could be. This was especially true because everything I did, I had to do twice, since my young son decided he wanted to be a part of this hobby too. My aim was to produce a belt that looked good enough to pass muster, be of good quality and still be inexpensive enough for the average person to afford.



Riveting is quite easy once you get the hang of it. In step **A** take a washer and rivet, copper or brass as you wish. Prepare the materials you wish to rivet as in step **B**. Drill or punch a hole the size of your rivet shaft as in step **C**. Place the rivet through the hole, then place the washer on the rivet as shown in step **D**. If the rivet sticks out more than $1/8$ " pass the washer it must be cut back. Place the piece on a hard surface (anvil) and with a hammer "mushroom" the shaft of the rivet (Step **E**). Remember if using copper rivets, they can be quite soft so only use sufficient force to mushroom the rivet, not bend it.



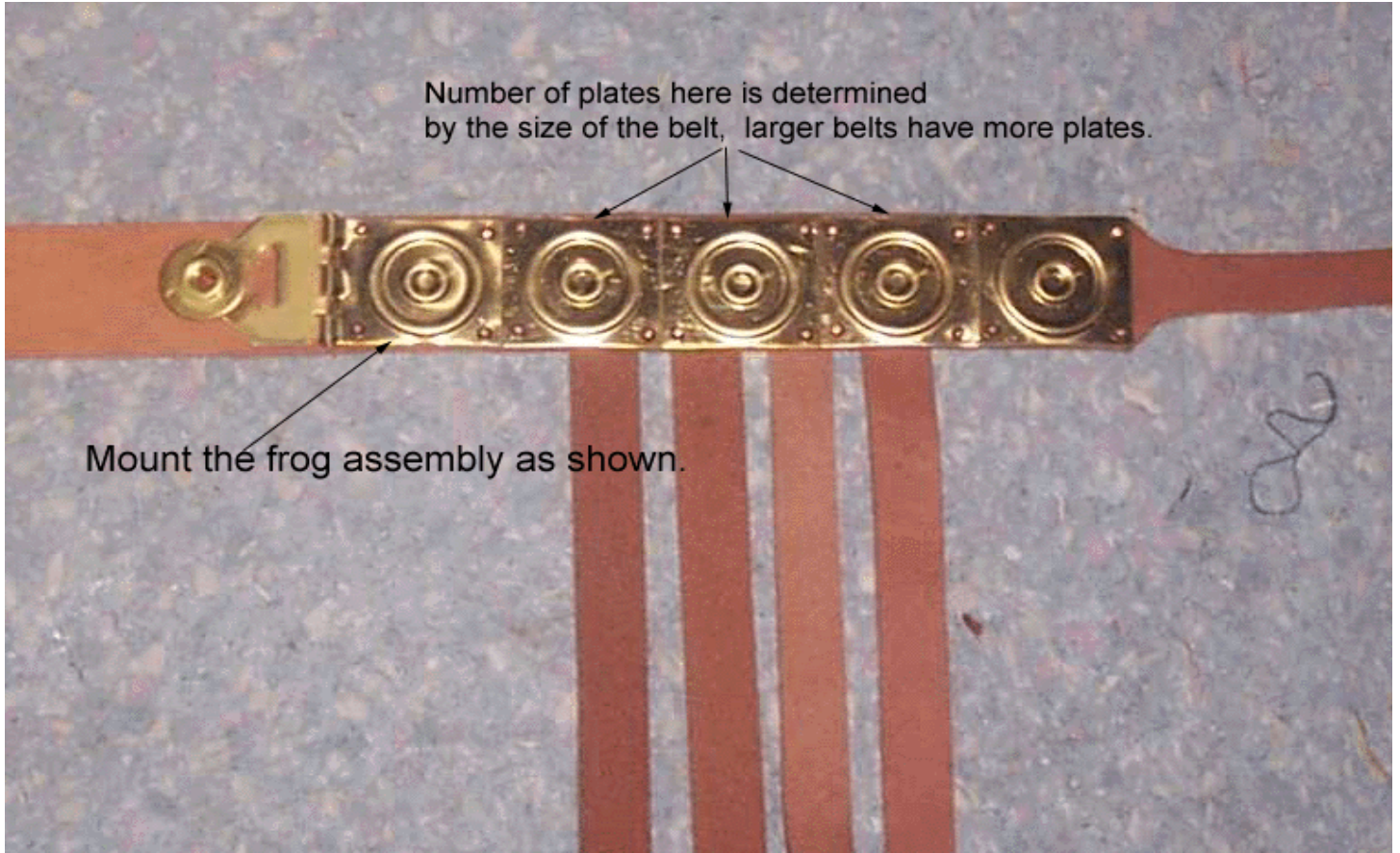


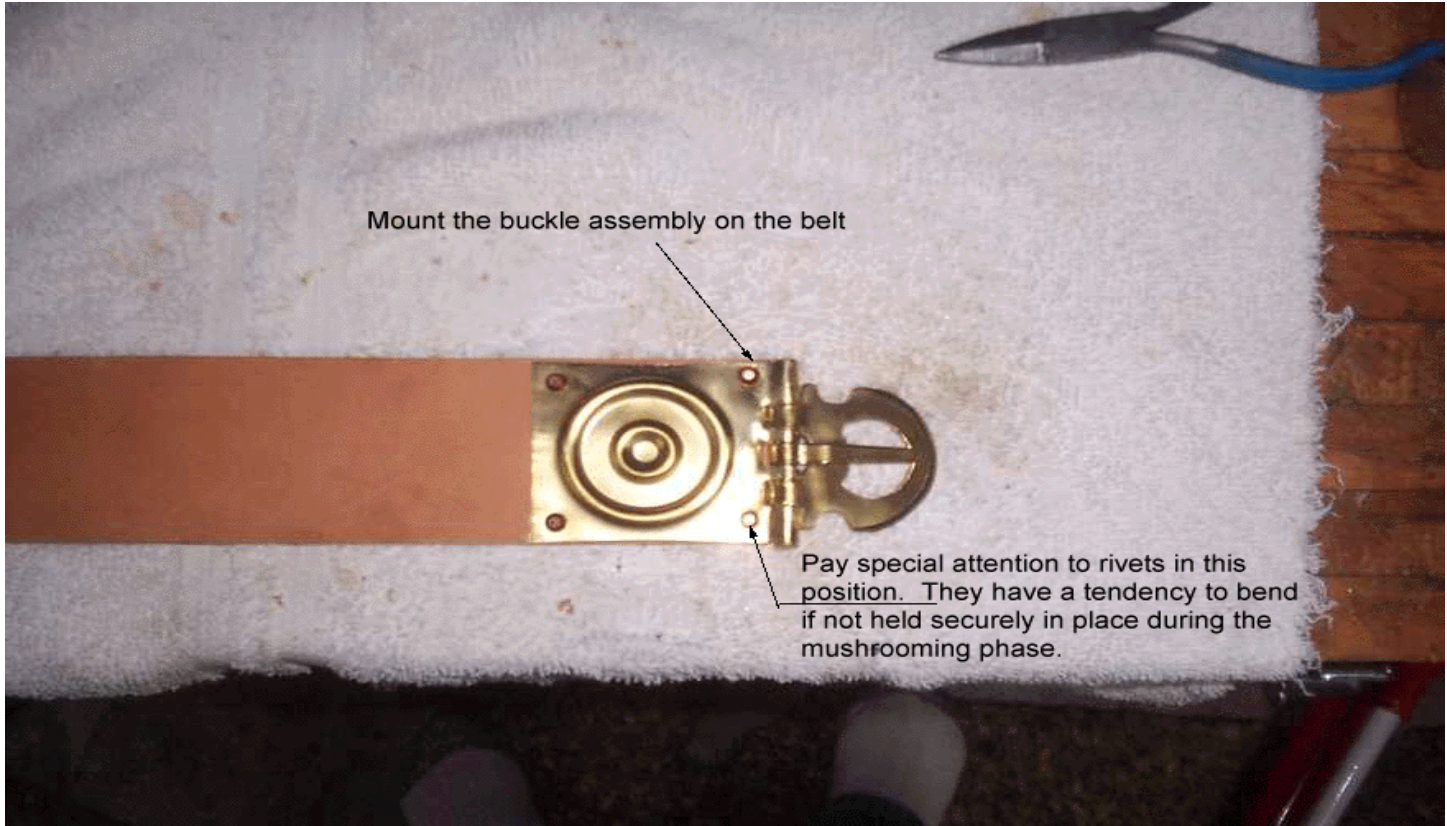
Buckles and Frogs can be made in a variety of ways especially for those operating on a budget

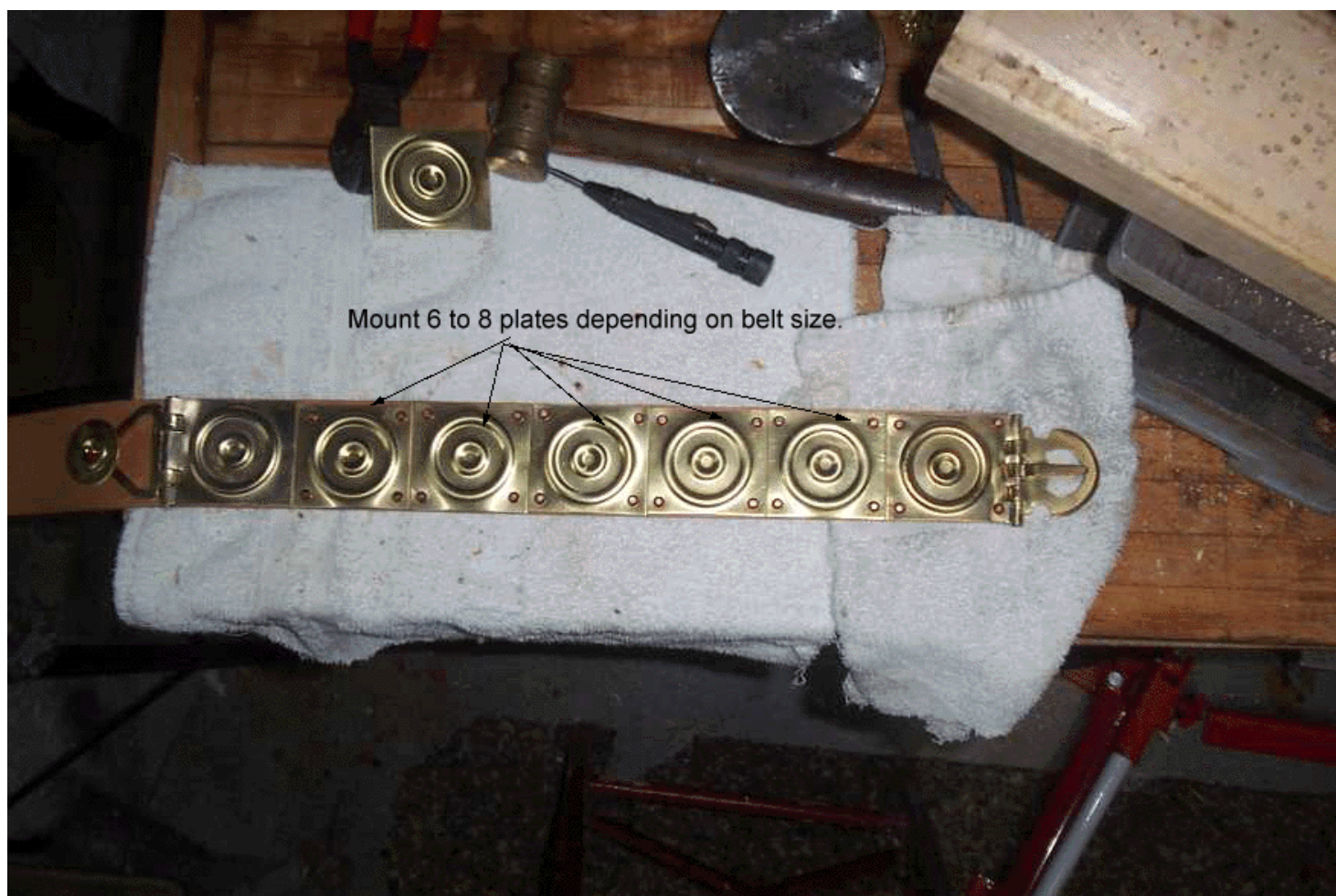


Number of plates here is determined
by the size of the belt, larger belts have more plates.

Mount the frog assembly as shown.







waist size chart	30	32	34	36	38	40	42	44	46	48
# of plates	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13

This belt plate chart shows the number of 2" x 2 ¼" plates required for your belt. When you have finished mounting the frog assembly to the buckle side, there should be approximately 6" between the frog discs. The next step is to mount the apron discs, apron terminals, and terminal end plates.



The belt discs can be made in several ways, cast (most expensive), hand cut (most labour intensive), or machine tool punched (easiest and cheapest).

The discs should be mounted to the belt with rivets to ensure that they stay put. You can solder the rivets to the disc as shown in the photo, or drill a hole through the disc and put the rivet through the disc and into the belt. Be sure to put a washer on the rivet before you “mushroom” it.





Item "A" is called an "end terminal plate" they come in a variety of styles (see appendix B) The Tabs on the terminals go through the slots cut in Item "B" (terminal ends). The terminal ends are made by folding a piece of 1" x 4.5" metal brass strip in two, then pounding the "fold" with a hammer until it flattens out a bit. Now cut out the slot. Mount the plate, drill through the plate and the leather, (item B) secure using two rivets. Repeat this procedure for all apron straps. The terminals (item A) fold the tabs over a 3/16" rod then insert the tabs into the slots on Item B.



Finished Belt with sword baldric displayed.
Manual for buckle and frog available.