



**BRETTUNS VILLAGE TRUNK SHOP  
BRETTUNS VILLAGE LEATHER**

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### **How to Attach Trunk Straps**

Here's how we attach the straps to our trunks – you can follow this advice or make up your own technique. A little thinking before nailing; that's all it takes.

We start with the buckle end, which goes on the front of the trunk. You want the buckle to be located about an inch and a half beneath the dust banding that runs around the lid. In other words, with the trunk closed, you want the buckle 1.5" below the bottom edge of the lid. Hold the buckle against the trunk right there, then run the strap from the buckle down the front of the trunk. Some trunks will have a metal bracket to hold the end of the straps, some won't. If you have these brackets, just take a good look at where you need to cut the end of the strap off so that it'll fit in that bracket. No brackets? Just cut the strap so that it ends up flush with the bottom of the trunk.

Now you're ready for your first nails to hold these buckle straps in place. First, nail the bottom of the strap to the trunk using clinch nailing (flat piece of metal inside, pound through and let the nail curl back into the wood). Next, put one nail through the middle of the strap about ½" below the buckle. After that, if you want to put another nail or two somewhere on the strap feel free, or nail a strap tab (one of those hourglass-shaped things) over the strap to hold it where you want it.

OK, so you've got two of the four pieces attached to the trunk now, and you're ready to start fiddling with the longer straps. Close the trunk again, insert the strap end that has holes in it into the buckle, find the hole you want to use, and buckle the strap right there. Pull the strap up the lid of the trunk, across the top, and down the backside of the trunk. Pull tight if you can, then mark where the strap T-bones into the first slat on the back of the trunk, or just choose some point a few inches below the point at which the lid rests on the body of the trunk. Cut the strap to that length, and nail it, just like you did before with the buckle end. Again, you can add more nails on the lid of the trunk if you feel like it, or use strap tabs, or just forget about it and let the straps roam free.