Ready-Set-Sew
Best Practices for Leather Sewing with the Janome HD-3000

General Tips for Sewing on Leather:
• Use a leather needle. These needles have a blade to “cut” into the leather rather than a point which “pierces”. This prevents skipped stitches and keeps the leather from becoming perforated and tearing.

• Use a longer stitch length. 3mm is recommended.
• Presser foot pressure dial – 3. Use full pressure to hold all layers together.

• Sew seams with good quality 50wt all-purpose thread. Recommended needle size 90/14.

• Top-stitch with good quality top stitch/jeans thread in the needle. Recommended needle size 100/16.

• Make sure the thread you choose is suitable for a sewing machine. Often when adding top-stitch detailing, a thicker thread is desirable. Some thicker threads are designed for hand stitching only. Be sure to check the label on the spool to verify it can be used in a sewing machine.

Starting at the edge of thick layers or sewing over thick seams:
1. Stop sewing when you get to the thick edge or a seam. Put the needle down in the leather when front of foot lifts higher than the back.

2. Lift foot. Gently push down on the front of the foot to make it level. Then push the black leveling button at the back of the foot to lock into a level position.

3. While holding the button, lower presser foot. The foot will stay level.

4. Start sewing. The button will automatically release when the foot comes off the hump.
5. Continue sewing using the leveling button whenever the front of the foot lifts higher than the back.
• Also use the leveling button when starting with several layers of leather.

Recommended leather thickness:
• Use leather thinner than 4mm thick.
• If you are sewing through more than 4 layers, use leather less than 2mm thick.