

The Leather Creed

“If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away.”

Henry David Thoreau - 1854

Title	Description
Master	Expert or extensive level of experience in various aspects of the leather lifestyle/fetishes. Capable of training and educating others about Leather. Often considered an elder of the Leather community. Usually maintains one or more trainees, slaves and/or boys.
Sir	Extensive level of experience in the Leather lifestyle. Expert in at least one leather fetish and capable of training it.
Daddy	Leather Dom/Top with a boy. The use of “Daddy” to address is considered a term of endearment. Not generally used by any others to address the person except by his boy/slave.
Dom/Dominant	Usually a Top, but not always. Dominates the relationship/scene. In control.
Top	Prefers to be the giver.
Handler	A person who role-plays as a caretaker of a pet/critter. Pet handlers can act as trainer, nurturer or a dominant figure.
sub/submissive	Usually a bottom, but not always. Submits to Dom/Top/Master/Sir instructions, directions and desires. Relinquishes control of the scene.
bottom	Prefers to be the receiver.
boy	Usually submissive, training in Leather. Serves Master/Sir. Must have permission to wander.
boi	Female/nonbinary/trans boy
slave	Lives with the Master. No choices on anything. All activities/needs determined and instructed by Master.
pet	Those that identify themselves as pups, ponies, furies and other critters.

Protocol	Comments
<i>Protocol, in general, is an agreement to a set of acceptable guidelines for behavior among a particular community. Protocols differ between communities, and the important of protocols varies between individuals. There is a lot of talk about protocol in the Leather world. Like every other idiom it means different things to different people. Leather protocol has many expressions, with many regional, social, private and public variations.</i>	
Respect yourself	
Respect others	
Respect each other's opinions. This does not mean you have to accept it but offer the respect that in turn is afforded to you.	
Never touch without permission (body or equipment)	<p>Master/Dom/Daddy as well as slave/boy/boi/pet. No one has right to touch another without expressed permission. In the case of a slave/pet it is usually with the permission of his master/owner.</p> <p>It is considered very respectful to ask permission of everyone to touch, even if it is as simple as a hug.</p> <p>Permission given to touch is not about the person asking the question, it is about the person who is giving permission. If someone says NO, this should not be taken as offensive or personal; remember, it is not about YOU (the asker) it is about the person you are wishing to have contact with.</p> <p>It is considered very disrespectful touch without permission especially in scenarios of ass slapping/grabbing when one is going bare-assed, the grabbing or pulling of a boy/slaves collar (it can also be dangerous), harnesses, or of someone's personal belongings (whips, floggers and even human property).</p>
Greet everyone on an equal level of respect regardless of their visual designation, until requested differently.	No one can assume a person's status by looks alone, so it is considered appropriate to begin a conversation with everyone, in an open and respectful manner. If the person is under ownership or control of another, it is either their responsibility to let you know this OR their Master/Owner/Daddy will relay this information to you.

Protocol	Comments
Addressing a person by a title	<p>There are two schools of thought when it comes to titles. The first is that titles are reserved for specific relationships, such as a Master to his slave, a Daddy to his boy, a Sir to his sub. The titles of their respect are between the people in that relationship. It is perceived by some in the community to be pretentious to force these self-imposed personal titles onto others who are not in the direct relationship.</p> <p>Others feel that if someone introduces himself with a title, it is out of respect that the titles are adhered to when talking and introducing the individual. These titles can include but are not limited to Master, Daddy, as well as boy, in addition to the person's name.</p> <p>In general, these two schools of thought may find conflict but we must all try to find a common ground to work and relate to one another. So use your best judgment when utilizing or not utilizing titles.</p> <p>The bottom line is that no one should take it as a sign of disrespect if one chooses not to use a title when talking with someone who is not in your specific relationship.</p>
Left = Top/Dominant - Right = Bottom/Submissive	<p>Flagging hankies, articles of clothing or equipment on the left gives the impression you are Dominant/Top/Aggressor or Active in a relationship or scene.</p> <p>Flagging hankies, articles of clothing or equipment on the right gives the impression you are submissive/bottom or passive in a relationship or scene. Mixing the items you flag can be confusing and a sign of personal embarrassment.</p>
Proper locations	Boy/Slave should always remain at the Master/Sir's right and slightly behind unless otherwise directed.
Do not reprimand in public	
Safe Sane and Consensual	<p>The terms Safe Sane and Consensual are often utilized within the Leather Community. Safe and Sane is defined by the open and honest dialogue between two (or more) consenting adults who come to a common agreement to engage in a scene. It may not be viewed as safe or sane to others, but these consenting agreements are between individuals and, in general, are not the business of outsiders to the agreement.</p>
Always negotiate in an honest manner before entering a scene with someone.	
Disclosure of any illnesses is important for the safety of all scenes.	

Protocol	Comments
No Alcohol/drugs in a leather scene	
Safety word for any leather scene	
No sex at club meetings	
DO NOT wear another person's leather unless invited to	
Never wear cologne, deodorant or other fragrances.	
Never wear articles of leather with tennis shoes, sandals or flip flops.	
Never use female pronouns when referring to men.	
Never use the terms 'tinkle, potty, pee' or the like when you need to perform a bodily function.	

Protocols of Dress	
Flagging	<p>The term flagging in the Leather Community refers to how you wear a particular item of clothing. In general, articles of clothing worn on the left hand side of a person's body gives the impression that you are Dominant, Top, Aggressor or Active in a relationship or scene. If worn on the right hand side of the body you are submissive, bottom or passive in a relationship or scene. For people who are versatile, often they will flag both left and right. The articles of clothing these are most often seen in are, but not limited to, arm bands, gauntlets, wrist bands and hankies. Hankies come in a WIDE variety of colors and each color and shade signifies a particular interest and/or fetish within the Leather Community. Many Leather Bars usually have at least a partial listing of the more common colors and their meaning.</p> <p>Always remember, that just because someone appears to be flagging a particular color hankie or article of clothing on a particular side does NOT necessarily mean he is into what you think. In the modern era, leather to some is just an accessory, so it is always best to clarify a person's interest and not make any assumptions as to a particular meaning.</p>
Equipment	<p>Often particular pieces of equipment can be attached to a person (but not necessarily worn). Such items include, but not limited to, floggers, restraints, handcuffs, etc. As with articles of clothing, if worn on the left it usually means you would like to utilize the equipment on someone. If on the right, it gives the impression you would like the equipment to be used on you. Equipment is personal property and should never be grabbed or used without permission.</p>
Collars & Chains	<p>Leather collars and/or chains are very symbolic within the Leather Community. It is usually an identification of relationship between a Daddy/boy or a Master/slave. Sometimes it is more specific by the addition of a closed padlock without a key. Often these articles are worn so that they must be put on and taken off by the one who possesses the key. As with all protocol this is a generality, because in this day and age, there are many who wear collars or chains as an accessory or even as a piece of fetish gear. So always query someone if you really want to know.</p>
Leather Vests	<p>Leather Vests are very common within the Leather Community. Often you will see pins as well as colorful patches or information on them.</p> <p>Most often, the back of a vest is reserved for two distinct purposes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The identification of one association to a particular organization or business. <p>This patch is known as the club's colors and identifies a person to that club or organization. It is considered Leather Courtesy to greet someone wearing colors from out of town by a member of the local club. Remember, the leather community is a small tight knit group of like minded people. So we must strive to be open and friendly to our fellow tribesmen who may wander into our neck of the woods.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The identification of a person who may be holding, or held, a particular title from a contest or an honorary designation. <p>The front of a vest is often covered in pins. Usually the left side of a vest is reserved for affiliation with specific organizations, runs that one has participated in, events, etc. They are worn on the left side to show their connection to the person's heart. The right side is often reserved for pins which do not have a particular affiliation such as events you may have not participated in but have attended.</p>

Protocols of Dress	
Harnesses	<p>When clasps are to the back, indicates one is in training.</p> <p>A second set of cross straps (usually worn just above the waist) indicates a slave.</p> <p>Often has a connecting cock strap/ring.</p> <p>Wearing the cock ring extension without slave straps indicates?????</p>
Hats/Caps	
Pins	<p>Pins are given to an individual, usually by a person affiliated with a club, event or title holder. These pins symbolize that a member of a club/organization felt that you merited the honor of wearing their club's friendship pin. One tradition of presenting a Friendship Pin has the giver placing the pin on the front of the receiver's jeans, at the point where the head of his dick (penis) sets in his jeans. After that day/evening, the pin is moved to the vest.</p> <p>Members of a club are encouraged to introduce themselves whenever they see their clubs' pin on a person's vest. A fellow club member gave this person the honor of wearing the club pin and it is common courtesy to introduce yourself as a member of the club.</p> <p>Receiving a pin is usually considered an honor, therefore, it is considered improper etiquette to ask for a friendship pin. It is an item that is always given as an act of friendship.</p>