

**Hilchos Tefillin 32 (page 106)**  
**מסעיף לח עד אמצע סעיף לט עשאם מרובעות**

# Today's TOPICS

## Squaring the *Tefillin* Gauging the Square Making *Batim* from Multiple Layers of Hide



## Squaring the *tefillin*

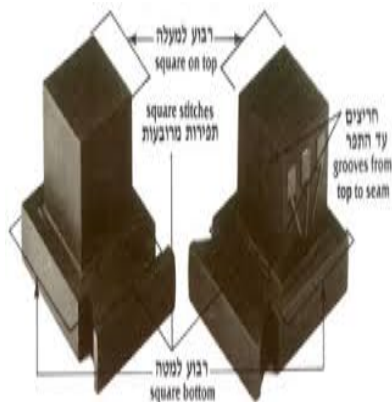
A halacha l'Moshe m'Sinai mandates that the *tefillin* be square. There is a *machlokes* regarding which parts of the *tefillin* this rule applies to. One opinion applies it only to the *titura* (the base or flap that covers the bottom of the *tefillin*). Most *poskim* apply it to the stitching that holds the *titura* closed. According to many other *poskim*, the *bayis* itself must be squared along its entire height (but the height and width do not need to match). The halacha follows the last opinion, and a *beracha* is not recited if the *bayis* is not square.

**סעיף לט, ס"ק קעז, קעו וקעז, וביה"ל ד"ה שיהיו וד"ה)**  
**(בתפרו)**

## Gauging the square

Although it is not possible to make *tefillin* perfectly square, it is necessary to square them as much as possible. Some *poskim* recommend comparing the lengths of the horizontal and vertical lines and then making sure that the diagonal lines match one another. The *poskim* note that as long as it seems square to the eye it is kosher; one is not required to use calipers or other modern measuring tools to perfect the square. Another opinion holds that if the square is off by a millimeter it is kosher only *b'dieved*.

(ס"ק קעה-קעו; ביאורים ומוספים דרשו, 211)



### Making *batim* from multiple layers of hide

The *batim* (both the *shel yad* and *shel rosh*) must be fashioned from one piece of hide. The *poskim* debate whether two hides sewn together or attached with glue can be reckoned as one. Some *poskim* permit glue but disqualify sewn and some disqualify glue but permit sewn. Although many *poskim* permit attached hides, it is preferable to make all of the *tefillin*, including the compartments of the *shel rosh*, from one hide.

סעיף לח, ס"ק קעב, וביה"ל ד"ה יעשה וד"ה מעור;  
(ביאורים ומוספים דרשו, 209; וראה שם, 208)

### Yesterday's HIGHLIGHTS

- The parchment for the scrolls, the hides for the *batim*, and the sinews used to stitch the *tefillin* must come from kosher animals. In this context, kosher animals include *neveilos* and *treifos* that were not slaughtered in a kosher manner.
- It is preferable to use the thicker hides of larger animals because thinner hides frequently develop holes which are *pasul* according to many *poskim*.
- According to many Rishonim, the hides for both the *batim* and *retzuos* should be processed *lishma*. Every item used for *kedusha* should be prepared for *kedusha* from the beginning.

### Tomorrow's TOPICS

- Nicks that upset the *ribua* (square) of the *tefillin*
- Inadequately blackened *tefillin*
- Pasting the compartments of the *shel rosh* together

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Important Note: The halachic summaries are to assist you with your learning.  
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