

Raw Hide Gazette

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"Without question, the Raw Hide Gazette is by far the best and most informative and comprehensive Guild publications of all of them! You are to be commended for your very fine and professional efforts. Keep up the good work. With admiration"
/signed/

Al & Ann Stohlman, December 1997

Volume 4, Issue 10

Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

December 1998

Hide Highlights

- Visit to Hamamatsu Leather Store
- Odds & Ends
- Tips-Tips-Tips --The Aquash --Orbus Circle Ruler
- Uncle Bill's Corner
- Far East Report: Japan Leather Forum -- Focus Purses & Jewel Box
- Confessions of a Tool Collector



Mr. Masaji, Owner & Karen

Tandy, The Leather Factory, MacPhersons -- in Hamamatsu?

Karen and I spent a three day weekend in Tokyo to do some Christmas shopping and to find a Japanese Leathercraft store. We had two addresses in Tokyo. Now an address in Tokyo means just about nothing. The address is something like this: 2-10-8 with a neighborhood name. The "2" is the sub-neighborhood, the "10" is the block number, and the "8" is the doorway or building in the block. Of course the neighborhoods and the block numbers are NOT in any numeric order, but the doorway numbers seem to go clockwise around the block. It took a couple of stops at the local "Koban" (Police Station) to locate the shops, but alas both were closed



Meeting Announcement

UN-Mark your calendar!

**NO MEETING in
DECEMBER**

The next meeting will be:
**Sunday, January 31st,
2:00-4:00pm**



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George Hurst, Manager

during our long weekend. Very disappointing.

I tried to have our translating Secretary order a catalog so I could get some local supplies over the phone, but she came up with a leathercraft shop right here in Hamamatsu.

Karen scouted it out for me and said that I would be right at home -- she said it's

was disappointed again, but Karen assured me it really was a leathercraft store.

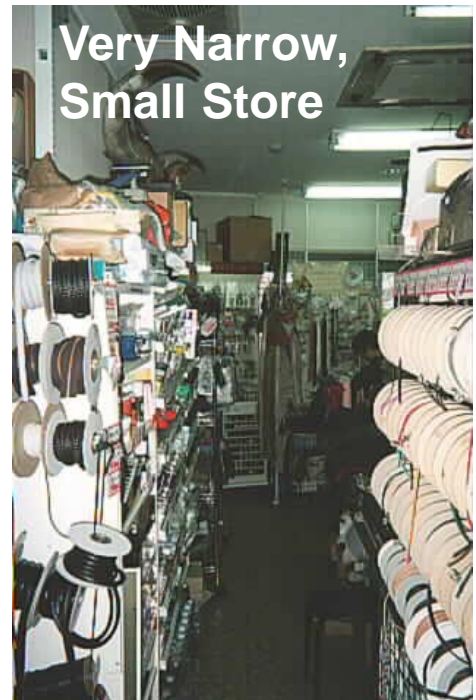
So we walked to it. Sure enough -- it looked like a Tandy Store (except no wood, beads, or other Ben Franklin type crafts). AND guess what -- it was right next to a liquor store near a place that was being torn down. I was in heaven!

I introduced myself to **Masaji-san**, the owner of the **Hamamatsu Craft Store**. I looked around and I was surprised to see several **Robb Barr** original art works on the walls. So I asked about them and he said either **Robb Barr** had come to give demonstrations or he had gone to see demonstrations. Japanese language is not yet very clear to us.

I mentioned that I had attended classes by **Tony Laier** and **Peter Main** and that I had also met **George Hurst** in Tokyo. He seemed quite interested and this is when he brought out his George Hurst videos (the Japanese Version). I almost bought one just to listen to the "Texan" George dubbed in Japanese. It would have been a classic.

I found a **Batik** wax melting pot for use with leathercraft that reminded me of

like a **Tandy Store!** My blood ran cold, it couldn't be true -- there are no run down neighborhoods nor are there any check cashing places in all of Japan. I



the **Ken Imus** demonstration he gave on **Batiking Leather**. The shop owner tried to show me how the pot was used to produce those wax dyed flowered purses

RawHide Gazette
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Co-Founder: General Seymour
Treasurer/Secretary: Linda Stockhausen

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All submissions are subject to editing for clarity and length. All articles submitted must be accompanied by name and address of writer.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to PSLAC, c/o Bill Churchill, 1471 South 302nd, Federal Way, WA 98003

Advertising Rates

The **RawHide Gazette** now offers advertising space to interested parties. Ad spaces are as follows:

- 1/4 Page or Business Card \$60 USD
- 1.2 Page \$110 USD
- 1 Page \$200 USD

These rates cover a six month time period. Guild members are entitled to a 25% discount. Leather companies supporting PSLAC are given free Business Card size advertisement, additional space at regular rates.



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Diana Tulloch
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Craft Japan Tools

This will be a place to meet other Leathercrafters in Japan.

Bob & Karen Stelmack
Hamamatsu, Japan

Odds & Ends

Aussie in Montana

Well -- now the story on **Peter Main**. He drove from Spokane and had a 4 hour class the same nite. Talk about burning the candle.

MONTANA — the land without a speed limit.

Japanese leathercraft books and as we left he asked if I could bring some samples of my work to the store. I will, and even have a sample day planner from **Bill Churchill** to show him.

down to 100 miles an hour through a construction zone. — cost \$174 Also in Montana's "speed" limit it says "according" to conditions the second ticket cost him \$55.

Talk about over worked:

Diana (Burien Tandy Manager) is ALSO running the Aurora Tandy Store. It sure doesn't make for a short day.

Tips-Tips-Tips

...Aquash

I'm not sure if this artists tool is available in the U.S., but it is made by Pentel and the only english on the package is the word "Aquash". It also comes with some Pentel Colored Pencil sets. The name seems to be the combination of "aqua" (water) and "sh" from brush. So it is a water brush used with colored pencils to give a water color effect to colored pencil drawing.

The brush unscrews and is filled with water for use in dissolving the colored pencil lines on a drawing.

I, however, intend to use it with plain water in it to "recase" my leather project



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Kevin White, Manager



I saw at the **Tokyo Internation Leather Art Forum**. We did not communicate the details, but I will try another day and pass on the details in another newsletter.

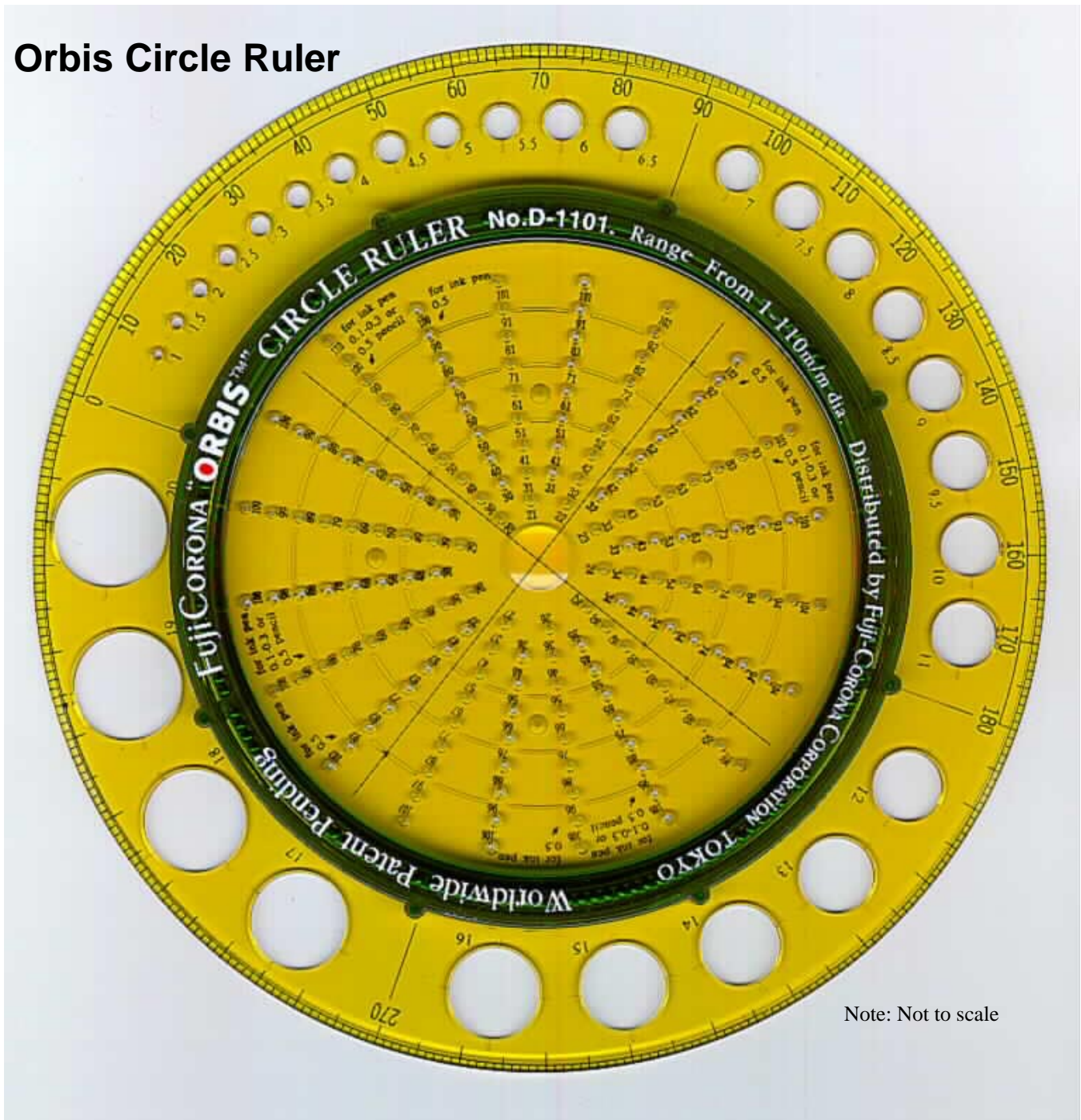
We looked around and bought several

And Peter not only manages to get a speeding ticket — he gets TWO. He rented a 1998 Pontiac and was doing 105 miles an hour and SLOWED

The "Aquash"



Orbis Circle Ruler



Note: Not to scale

as sections dry out and also to work on sections of a project that has dried out completely that need a little more detail work. The brush is small enough to wet small areas without effect the completed tooling around it. This brush will be ideal for the traveling leather tool kit.

I also will try mixing my own spirit dyes in it and use it for coloring projects. I have a few so I can have the colors prepared for the project.

...Orbis Circle Ruler

This plastic template will draw circle from 1 mm to 110 mm in size all in one package. The outside of the template is just a set of small circles, but the inside is a movable section attached with ball bearings that rotate to draw the circle. This gizmo is ideal for drawing those

circles for leather patterns that **Tony Ezettie** has shown us in the past.

The holes are sized for 0.5mm mechanical pencils and a set for ink pens.

Bob Stelmack
Hamamatsu, Japan

Uncle Bill's Corner

Our November was a big success. More people present at this meeting than I can remember in the last YEARS. I wonder if it was because to get the “**November Member's Only Special Supplement**” of the Gazette you had to be there? Believe me, it was worth it. (Not just for the supplement, but ALL the goodies to eat — just Joking. They were good though). The the “November Member's Only Special Supplement” was on **Northwest Coastal Indian Leather Art Design**. For those of you that did not get the supplement, it will be at the NEXT MEETING IN JANUARY and since this was such a success I have it on good authority that there might be some more GOOD supplements.

(ed. note: The “December Member's Only Special Supplement” is titled: “Designing Your Own Work”. It is 21 pages in length and includes the following topics:

- *Designing Your Own Work*
- *How to Start*
- *Project Design*
- *The Whiteout-Draw-Xerox-Cut-and-Paste Method*
- *The Computer Redraw*
- *The Photography Method*
- *Original Line Drawn Art Work Method*
- *References*
- *Project Construction*

It was written for the leathercraftsman who already has done all the kits that Tandy, The Leather Factory, and others have to offer...

...and after you have done all the projects you like in the LC&SJ.

...and after you have exhausted the “how to” leather books — and want to create something of your own original design.

The article will give the leathercraftsman some ideas and the freedom to “chance it on your own”.)

We will have to figure out a way for those who CANNOT actually get to the meetings to get a copy of these supplements. You could send a self-addressed stamped (\$0.78 stamp) envelope — legal sized to **Bill Churchill** for your the “December Member's Only Special Supplement” issue.

It was announced that starting in June of 1999 all dues will be pro-rated. They will then be due in June from then on. Just figure \$2.00 a month and you will know how much you owe from June to June. You can check your mailing label for your expiration date. Be sure that you are paid up until June 1999.

The **Portland Leather Factory** will not open until January 1999. We will have ample notice as to when and then we can all car-pool to Portland and spend all of our Christmas money that is left over.

The **Burke Museum** is having a NORTHWEST Indian Art show. Call the University of Washington for information.

From the Audience: You are encouraged to write Tandy if you go to a store and cannot find what you are looking for. Don't forget that Tandy is going through a transition and their stores may be greatly understocked from what you may have been used to, but it is up to you to let them know. All world class companies welcome constructive comments.

Holly Harbers brought a BIG bag of Goodies for the VA homes. Drop yours off at the **Tacoma Tandy** and SOON, as Christmas is almost here. Tell them for which VA home you want it to go to:

Retsil located in Bremerton or **Orting**. Both VA homes need all you can give.

The **Stelmack family** is due for a vacation in Sunny Western Washington in May, so in all probability the May meeting

MIGHT NOT BE THE LAST SUNDAY in May.

Brought the **George Hurst** tools to show with the examples on Leather and they were good.

We had one of the **Robb Barr Video Tapes** for show during the Meeting. It was well received and if the TV and VCR is brought back to the next meeting, I am told that ALL the tapes will be there and you can vote for which one to watch.

AGAIN — If your dues need to be paid, figure \$2.00 a month until June of 1999 and then we will be on track.

As **Fred Nachbar** has often said, “Blood will travel up hill to get on leather”. The IILG had a member who stuck her awl in the wrong skin while sewing up an order and got blood on the leather. Anyone have any good ideas on how to remove blood from tooling leather?

Also, I have not heard anything about advisability of using Clorox in the casing water (or casing mixture) so here goes again. I am putting 2 to 4 eye dropper drops of Clorox in my casing mixture to see if it will prevent mold and would it hurt the leather. This is what house painters use to kill and prevent mold on your house. Try it and let me know. Give it a three-month test.

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER!

AND ALL HAVE A MERRY AND HAPPY BUNCH OF HOLIDAYS

Bill Churchill
Federal Way, WA

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Focus on Purses and Jewel Box

Here are the Japan Leather Art Forum pictures that represent some of the fine craftsmanship show in Tokyo earlier this year. Figure (1) was one of the items that was not in the book of projects I purchased from the Leather Art Forum, but figure (2) was titled "Tiger in the Right Place" and was made by **Dar-Shann Chang** from Taiwan. He said: "This work celebrates the year of the tiger with hopes of bringing happiness". The final figures (3&4) were made by **Shwu-Ling Jan** from Taiwan and her work titled "Owing (to have)" and was one item that so beautiful I just had to take a picture of the front and back. The craftsmanship was unlike anything I'd ever seen. The construction, the tooling, and the coloration were all first class.



Bob & Karen Stelmack
Hamamatsu, Japan

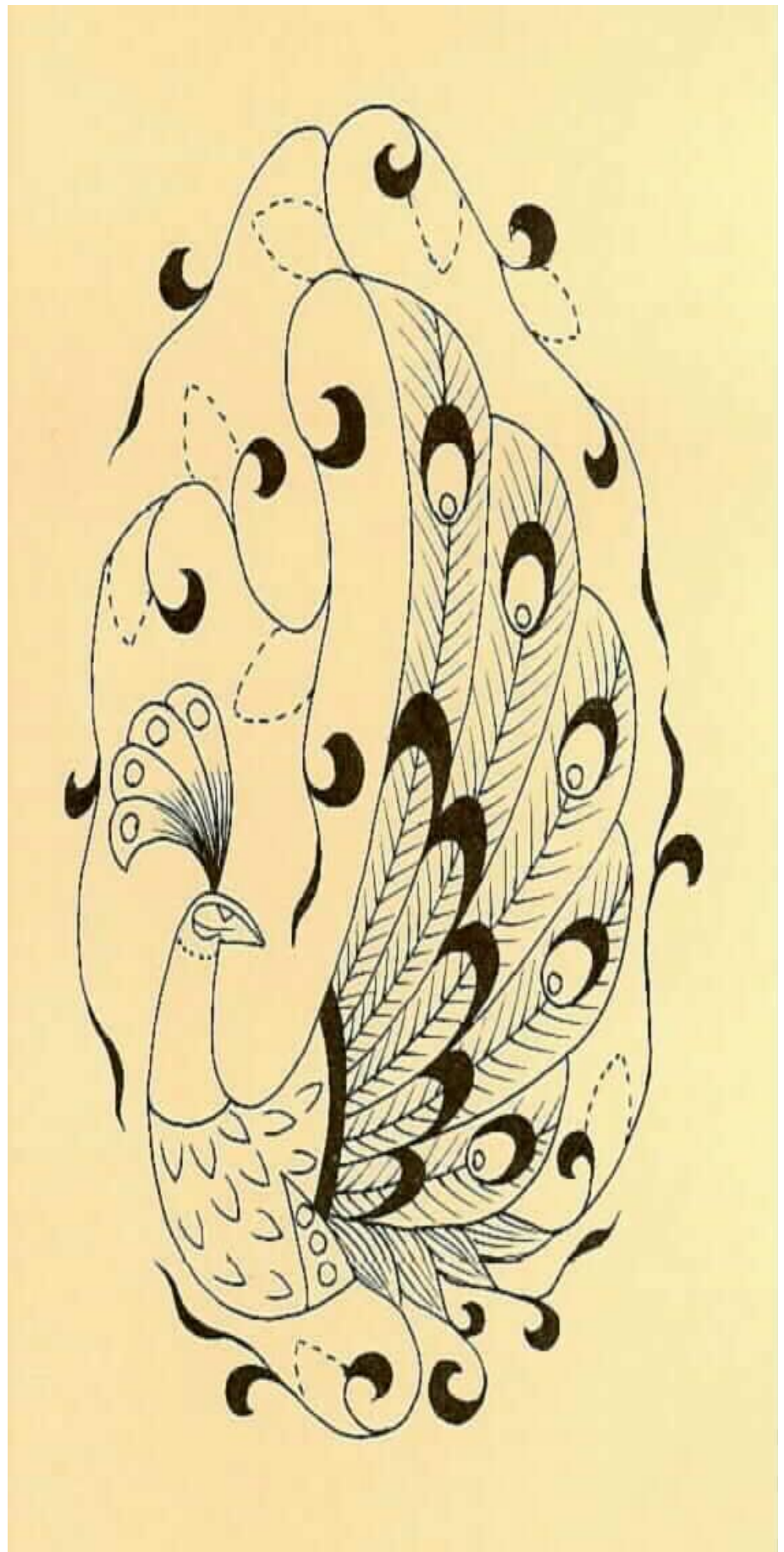


Peacock

Here is a highly modified sample from "The Design for Leather", copyright 1990 by K. Ijichi, published by Teladux and printed in Japan.

This A4 sized paper bound 64 page book has about 55 line drawn patterns for leather and about 25 color plate examples of their use.

If anyone is interested in obtaining this book please contact Bill Churchill. The cost was approximately \$35 dollars and had mostly flower patterns.



Confessions of a Tool Collector

I have an interesting question thrown at me occasionally and I thought that I would try to answer it now

As everyone knows, I have a considerable amount of tools and books (especially on leather) and Craftaids and patterns. When other leather workers and my students visit my house and see all of this, I can see the wheels turning:

- (a) What a show-off!
- (b) Boy he must be rich to have all of that just for a hobby.
- (c) "Honey, I want that many too".

Well I have been in leathercraft since 1958 and you are bound to have some "OLD" things that seem that they are custom made because you cannot buy

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Terry Durban, Manager

them anywhere anymore. That's my excuse!

When I bought into a business, My partner Was A Tool Collector. Anybody that opened the door and said: "You want to buy old tools"?, would say: "I'll take them" sight unseen. So even after being a Tandy Manager for 20 years I have never seen so many

tools. I am not only talking Stamping tools — all kinds of tools. To make a long story short, somehow or another (different story) I ended up with ALL of the S t a m p i n g Tools and books and Craftaids.

Nobody needs that many tools. When I accumulated all of these tools, I was too old to use every one of them in my lifetime. I have sold hundreds of these tools (AND NEVER MISSED A ONE). I still have tools that I will never use and I have donated bunches for the Co-Op raffles .

Now what I am going to say might sound funny for someone who could sell you hundreds of tools, but NO ONE NEEDS ALL OF THOSE TOOLS! To me it is like Beanie Babies. Why so many? Sit at your workbench — lay out the tools that you honestly use. Surprising isn't it? It all started back when the Leather Companies started making Doodle Pages and Kits with Instructions.

First Doodle pages: Doodle Pages were one hell of a sales tool. (this is where Tandy is making a mistake by discontinuing them). Let's take a Doodle Page, the old ones from **Al Stohlman, Ken Griffin, Cliff Ketchum, Fletcher Whitlow, Christine Stanley** and **Al Shelton** to name

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a few. Each of those Doodle Pages had at least one "NEW" tool on it. The artist presented such a beautiful rendition that you jumped on your horse and ran down to the local Leather Store and bought it. And all this time you thought Doodle Pages were COMPLETELY for your benefit. No body gives anything away.

Second Photocarves: Then how many of you have bought a Kit with INSTRUCTIONS inside of it to do the Pattern that Looks so good on the Photocarve? The same flower in 40 different kits each takes a different Beveler, Pear Shader, Veiner, etc. — Another selling tool. **Thus ANOTHER Collector is Born.**

I can't remember how many times I have heard, "I have five racks of tools". Being a Tandy Manager, I politely led that person to where we sold the Tool Racks — right under the Craftool Rack.

General Seymour has said hundreds of times, "Churchill convinced me that only another tool would make the SAME flower look good".

The moral of the story (What I tell absolutely every student):

- Learn your tools.
- Learn what each tool will do.
- Learn that it will do a lot that it was not designed for.



ステルマック

Karen and I wish all the members of the Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op the happiest of holidays and a wonderful New Year.

The Japanese characters above are our family name. It is Su-te-ru-ma-kku, or loosely Stelmack.

- Learn each tool has five striking points.
- Learn where they are and how to use them.

Again lay down the tools that You Consistently use and then put the horse out to pasture (or ride it to your nearest Leather Store and smile).

Bill Churchill
Federal Way WA

(ed. note: I have it on good authority that there is a Twelve Step Group, TA, Tools Anonymous, that can help those with this disorder. ;-)

PSLAC Membership Application

If you know someone who is interested in leathercraft — give them this information:
Puget Sound Leather Artisan Co-Op MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

YOUR NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE NUMBER: (____)-_____

We publish a membership list with our members expertise listed. This list is used to refer possible clients to the best person for the job. Tell a little about yourself, how you got started in leather, what your favorite things to do in leather and other crafts and/or art forms

Send this form along with your first years dues (\$24.00) to one of the directors listed below:

Bill Churchill
1471 South 302nd
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(206) 839-3038

General Seymour
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Orting, WA, 98360
(360) 893-6759

Linda Stockhausen
12614 142nd.Ave. Ct, E
Puyallup, Wa. 98374
(360)770-8751

If you would like to subscribe to The Leather Crafters & Saddlers Journal through the Co-Op and include an additional \$24.00 for a one year subscription.

RG On-line

The Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op can be found at

<http://www.nwlink.com/~stelmack/pslac.htm>

If you need the **UserId** and **Password** for the subscription pages, just contact the **Raw Hide Gazette** at: (253)839-3038 or email at churchil@nwlink.com ...or... stelmack@nwlink.com -- of course the password information is free for the Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op members. Those on the Internet still need the \$10 per year subscription rate.

Web Editor: Bob Stelmack
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Tomitsuka-Cho 1933-1
Hamamatsu-Shi 432-8002
Japan

Your Photos here -- if you send them in to:

PSLAC (ph. 253-839-3038)
c/o Bill Churchill
1471 South 302nd
Federal Way, WA 98003

Photos taken and sent in to the PSLAC are, space and focus permitting, used here in the printed newsletter.

They are also posted, in living color, on the Internet.

** This space reserved for PSLAC Members pictures of projects or tips for the group.

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