

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 5, Issue 1

Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

March 1999

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- From the Dusty Workbench
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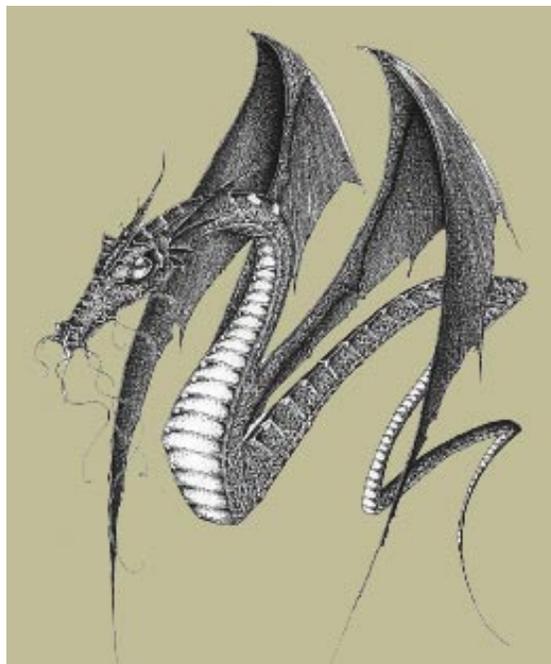
Mark your calendar!

The next meeting will be:
Sunday, March 28th,
2:00-4:00pm

Location: At Linda's
(see for map and directions)

Fantasy Dragons on Leather

Make sure you get to the next meeting for your special edition of "*Fantasy Dragons on Leather*". Another great article by **Adam Smith** that goes through the process of producing your own patterns of Dragons for your leather projects. Here is a sample of one drawing to peak your interest. The special membership article is also available on the Internet at the location shown on the last page.



Andy's New Job

Andy Stasiak finalized the deal with **George Hurst** and turned in his resignation to Tandy Leather. He will start at **Hide Crafter Leathercrafters** on Monday, March the 8th. PSLAC wishes him luck on his new venture.

Noel's New Job

Noel DeWittie writes: "I am at **Leather Factory** in Denver, and everyone at Tandy knows it. Started here on February the 10th I think and am having a good time. Still very busy during this transition time."

Jana's New Job

Jana is closing the Texas Irvin store and is going to run Stasiak's store until it closes.



Graphic by Dale Buckenbeger

Tips-Tips-Tips...

...Acrylic Special Additives

GOLDEN Artist Colors Acrylics, offer many and additional information can be found at:

www.goldenpaints.com

Here are several special purpose additives for acrylic paints that can be used effectively on leather projects. All of these could be used for texture enhancements in your leather coloring. All of the below blend with other GOLDEN Acrylic colors. These could be used to provide realistic texture to outdoor leather carving for ground and mountain textures. The Gold Mica Flake (Large), with a little work, could provide a very realistic reptile skin.



(The top three samples are from left to right):

Fine Garnet Gel

Used to create fine textured surfaces. Dries to a hard film. To increase its flexibility, mix in other GOLDEN Gels or mediums. Blends with GOLDEN Acrylic colors.

Coarse Garnet Gel

Used to create granular textured surfaces. Dries to a hard film. To increase its flexibility, mix in other GOLDEN Gels or Mediums.

Extra Coarse Garnet Gel

Used to create granular textured surfaces. Dries to a hard film. To increase its flexibility, mix in other GOLDEN Gels or Mediums.

(The bottom four samples are from left to right):

Pearl Mica Flake (small)

Used to create granular textured surfaces. Dries to a hard film. To increase its flexibility, mix in other GOLDEN Gels or Mediums.

Black Mica Flake (small)

Used to create fine textured surfaces. Dries to a hard film. To increase its flexibility, mix in other GOLDEN Gels or mediums.

Gold Mica Flake (Large)

Used to create granular textured surfaces. Dries to a hard film. To increase its flexibility, mix in other GOLDEN Gels or Mediums.

Course Alumina (Fine)

Used to create fine textured surfaces. Dries to a hard film. To increase its flexibility, mix in other GOLDEN Gels or mediums.

Bob Stelmack

Hamamatsu, Japan

RawHide Gazette

Editor / Publisher: Bob Stelmack
Co-Founder: Bill Churchill
Co-Founder: General Seymour
Treasurer/Secretary: Linda Stockhausen

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The RawHide Gazette is published monthly (12 times a year). Address for information and correspondence: PSLAC, c/o Bill Churchill (ph. 253-839-3038) 1471 South 302nd, Federal Way, WA 98003 (email: churchil@nwlink.com). The RawHide Gazette is provided to the Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op as a part of their membership benefits. Annual dues are \$24.00 USD per year.

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.

Celtic(?) Alphabets

This month I am putting in another alphabet. It is taken from the DOVER publication, “*Decorative Alphabets and Initials*”, edited by Alexander Nesbit.

This alphabet is a 14th century alphabet taken from a missal in the Vatican Library and parts of this alphabet should be familiar to the average leatherworker who can carve the basics.

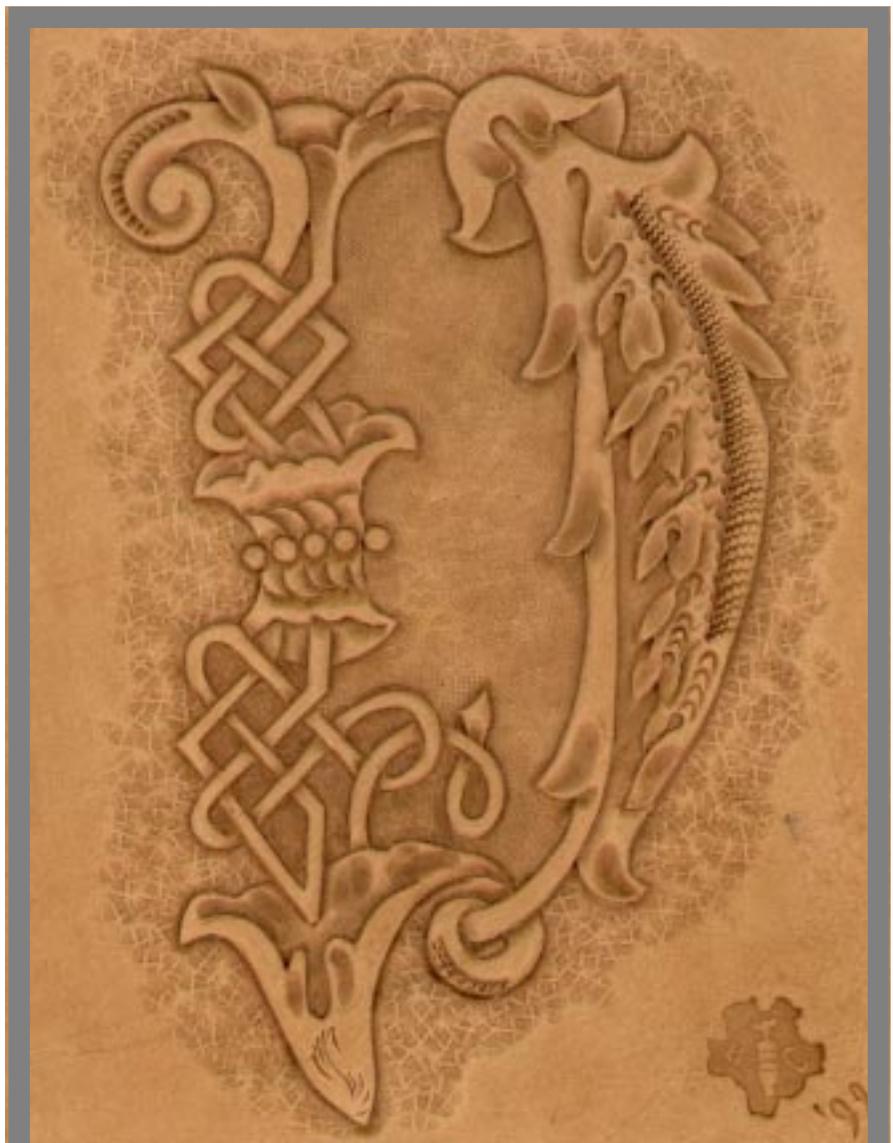
I sincerely doubt this is what you might call a Celtic Alphabet but it certainly has some Celtic Character and influences. The “Celtic Knots” naturally. But this alphabet does not have the usual animals or persons (gargoyles) entwined within the various letters. From the knots it goes to the German (medieval style) and this is the most likely part that the leatherworker will pick up on. Here you can see the leaves (somewhat Acanthus style) and the swirls that is very common within today’s basic carving. All the time you thought that the leatherwork patterns that you use today were modern.

To get the full impact of this take a couple of these initials (letters) and have them enlarged. I would suggest “I” and “P”. These two letters are probably the most interesting. When they are enlarged to a size of 6 inches, then you will get the full impact of the letter. They are really quite beautiful. I am using two of them on two different Bible Covers. ***Just the initial*** — nothing else. In the leaves I use an extremely small pearshader P236 and where you see the vertical lines in the background I use a ground down A98. The other tools that I use are:

- F976
- U853
- H908
- B936
- Filigree blade
- and naturally a modeler

Try these. They are fun!

Bill Churchill



Tandy Super Shene Replacement

From: Tobias Knapp
<ACE3836@aol.com>

Tandy's Super Shene is nothing more than acrylic latex. You have probably walked by it a 100 times and didn't even know it -- I did. About a year ago I was reading in an old leather magazine that Super Shene was acrylic latex, that rung a bell in my head but I couldn't remember where I saw that name before. The next day I was at my local building supply store and while in the ceramic tile section I remembered where I saw it at. When you use dry set mortar mix you can mix it with water or use acrylic latex additive. They sell it in 1 1/2 gallon jugs for about \$15.00 dollars. I have set a lot of tiles and used this stuff a lot and never realized that both of these are the same.

I bought a jug of this acrylic latex (mine was made by a company called TEC) and took it home to experiment with on leather. What I found is:

- It is a little thinner, but this is one thing I like because it doesn't darken the leather as much as Tandy's, a second coat and it about the same as Tandy's.
- Its a lot cheaper than Tandy's.
- Its easily available.
- The company that makes the brand I buy has a mildew preventer in theirs that Tandy doesn't put in theirs.

I used this on 2 rounders and Tandy's Super Shene on 2 rounders (both sides and edges) and then left them on the deck for over 1 month. They all held up real well. I have used this now for almost a year on a lot of leather items with no ill affects at all. I like it better than Super Shene. Look for it any where that sells Acrylic Latex Additive for dry set mortars, (it even looks the same).

If anybody else gives it a try let me know

what you think. (*Second time I have offered ideas to the guild, this could become habit forming*)

...and From: JJustis4@aol.com

Here is product that dries to a SATIN finish:

Appretto Light #32400
Basic Adhesives, Inc.
25 Knickerbocker Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11237
718-497-5200

Myrna Block (she will send you a 2 oz. sample to try). This stuff is made in Italy and is the final finish used on Ballet shoes.

Ken's Leather Finishing Demo

As described in the article in the Dec. 99 Gazette, I was questioning Bill Churchill about leather finishes, specifically Feibings Bag Kote. Tandy's Tan Kote product was readily available in the Seattle area through Tandy, but no one carried the Bag Kote (Fiebing's Web Site: <http://www.fiebing.com>). This led to a general discussion of finishes. I talked about a product I read about and then ordered, Pliantine, a British Museum leather dressing. From there the idea of a demonstration comparing leather finishes grew.

As I was collecting all the finishes I'd acquired over the years, I noticed that I also had a variety of leather cleaners, so I brought them to the demo. For the leather cleaners most were Fiebing's products. I had a Liquid Glycerin Saddle soap, a Glycerin Saddle Soap Bar, and their Paste Saddle Soap. I also had a liquid cleaner from Lexol and a Cream Saddle Soap from Bee Natural, of Battle Creek, WA. I suspect they all pretty much clean and lightly condition the leather about equally, at least I've been happy with the results from all. The Bee Natural product has a great smell.

For the leather finish comparison, I bought 2 identical belts from Tandy, with a rolled-on Western Floral pattern. I dyed one with a light brown Fiebing's

spirit dye and left the other the natural color, and divided them up into sections. The following is a list of finishes/conditioners used on the sections:

- Fiebing's Saddle Lac Aerosol Spray
- Tandy's Liquid Neat Lac
- Tandy's Satin Shene
- Tandy's Supershene
- Fiebing's Leather Balm
- Tandy's Carnuba Cream
- Dyo Leather Balm
- Rudy's Saddle Conditioner and Finish (by Bee Natural)
- Pliantine
- Dr. Jackson's Hide Rejuvenator
- Montana Pitch Blend Leather Conditioner
- Lexol Conditioner
- Meltonian Shoe Paste.

I also found an old can of R.M. Williams Saddle Dressing, an Australian product I've had good results from, but it was too old to use.

Obviously some of the above products, such as Neat Lac and Supershene provide a more durable "finish" than some of the conditioner products. Some, such as the Saddlelac and Supershene, which also comes in an aerosol, are easier to apply and give a very high shine. The Pliantine had a really interesting smell from the cedar wood oils, but it tends to take longer to absorb into the leather than most of the others. The Bee Natural condition had an algacide additive which would be good for leather products exposed to wet weather or sweat.

What I found after applying the above products are that all provided a nice shine to the leather, in fact it was hard to tell them apart. I plan to leave the two belts hanging in my leather working area, in indirect sunlight for the rest of this year and next January I'll bring them back to the monthly meeting and we'll see how the above products do, for shine, mellowing, etc.

Ken Eriksen



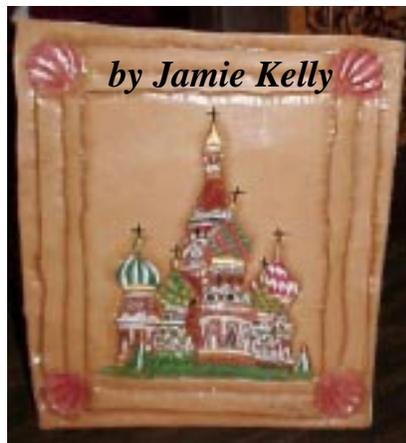
February Meeting

Meeting is over and at the meeting I brought up the subject that it would be nice to have a once a month that the "losers" of the cover contest have their cover published. *Bill liked the idea and so he would like you to make a small article asking them (people who entered the contest) to bring the covers to the meeting and I'll take a picture of them.*

Bill also would like you to re-publish the Russian building that you publish last month and wanted everybody to know it was done by a young person -- **Jamie Kelley**.

Bill would like to have a cover contest for the young kids to enter.

The meeting had the most people ever. They came from all over as far as Seabeck in a real big storm. We had RAIN, WIND, HAIL AND THE BRIGHTEST SUNSHINE . I took a group picture. I took the whole group and then I tried taking half and half I think I took too many pictures of Fred, but he was the only one who would pose. Oh, **Don Betts** was at the meeting because he



was on vacation (he usually works when the meetings are held) and you might notice that he doesn't like his picture taken, he is the one sticking his tongue out at me. I gave a demo but I don't know if Dale took any pictures. Ask Bill who gave the **demo on using Starlite Metallics as an "Antique"**. I took a few pictures of her. The picture of the shamrocks and hearts is the only leather that was brought to the meeting to have pictures taken. **Sister Rachel** did them (very nicely I might add).

Enjoy the pictures.

By the way the picture of **Larry and Fred** I would title "Twins". They look like brothers.

Take care -- **Dusty**

From the Hobby Hall

Dear Bill,

I appreciate you keeping me informed on the latest in leathercrafting. I have officially turned my Hobby Hall files and notes over to **Eileen Meyer**, the new Hobby Hall superintendent. She has my notes on changes in leathercraft divisions. I also let her know that the Fair association should not expect Tandy to

provide premiums in the professional division, I am sure the Fair can afford to pay. *(I hope the management will agree!)*

Bill, I personally appreciate the enthusiasm and support the leathercrafters have give to Hobby Hall. Best wishes to all of you and many thanks.

Eileen Meyer can be reached via the Fair Office PO Box 430 Puyallup, WA 98371-0162 The telephone number for the entries office year round is (253) 841-5017. They can also put you in touch with Eileen

Sincerely,
Joan Hamburg
19 Feb 99

(My words: I have never had the pleasure of working with nicer people than all of those wonderful girls at the Hobby Hall at the Puyallup Fair. I am sure that I am in good company with all who have been fortunate enough to have come in contact with all the girls there...Bill Churchill)





Tough Leather Trick

As Bill has watched, in one of his classes, he knows I have some of the toughest leather to tool on the earth. The cow must have been "one tuff beast". I recently started to make a leather Mah-jongg case for some antique tiles I found in some second hand stores here in Hamamatsu. The tiles are made from water buffalo horn and bamboo.

Well, I tried various awls I have, re-sharpened and even picked up some special ones at the local leather craft store, but none would go through the leather. I struck on an idea to use a "glovers" needle (a triangular shaped needle) and placing it in a very small, hand held drill as shown in figure (1). This worked like a champ and placed a hole through the tough leather with very little effort. The holes were made in the same spacing and grooving as would have been used with an awl. The "glovers" needle fit very nicely into the place where a small drill bit would be placed -- see the close up in figure (2).

I am sure that the same "push drill", figure (3), or something quite similar, would be available in the States. In figure (4) you see my arsenal if awls and it now has my "push drill awl". You can even see the leather Mah-jongg case in its progress.

Bob Stelmack
Hamamatsu, Japan



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Fri 8-6

Craft Show Leather Notebooks

Here is quick, easy way to turn an inexpensive paper note book into a leather bound gift.

- *Figure (1) --Take any small (in this case a 4" x 6" note pad) and wrap the inner pages with plastic wrap. This wrapping keeps and glue from getting on the pages.*
- *Get some scrap chrome tanned leather and apply some glue to it.*
- *Apply the same glue to the notebook.*
- *Stick the chrome tanned leather to the notebook and use a bone folder to get good contact with the spine, in fact, try to make an indentation down the middle of the spine.*
- *Allow to dry overnight.*
- *Remove the plastic wrap and trim the leather to the same dimensions as the notebook.*
- *Figure (2) -- Using a edge groover, groove the top, side, spine and bottom of the notebook.*
- *(Optional) Figure (3) -- Using a Tombo Brush dye the groove.*

I have experimented and find that you can stamp an impression (like an initial or corner stamp) into the chrome tanned leather to spice it up.

The whole thing could be done ahead of time and

**Great idea
for the craft
shows.**

the initial added at the time of purchase. *Great idea for those craft shows.*

Last month's issue of the *Rawhide Gazette* had some places to obtain those scape pieces of leather -- just look around your work area.

See the following page for a close-up of another small leather notebook.

Bob Stelmack
Hamamatsu, Japan

Real Headlines

Thanks to **Fred & May:**

Grandmother of eight
makes hole in one
Police begin cam-
paign to run down
jaywalkers
Two convicts evade
noose, jury hung
Queen Mary having
bottom scraped
Child's stool great for
use in garden
Eye drops off shelf
Squad helps dog bite
victim
Miners refuse to work
after death



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email: hcrafter@flash.net
George Hurst, Manager

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TWLeather, Inc.

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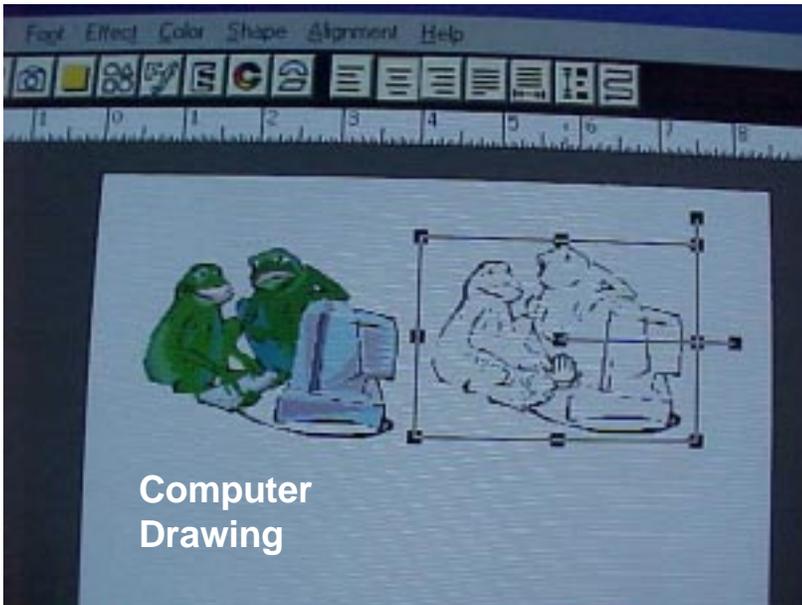
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Jim, Ken & Cal, Managers



Computer Drawing



Printed Drawing

From the Dusty Workbench

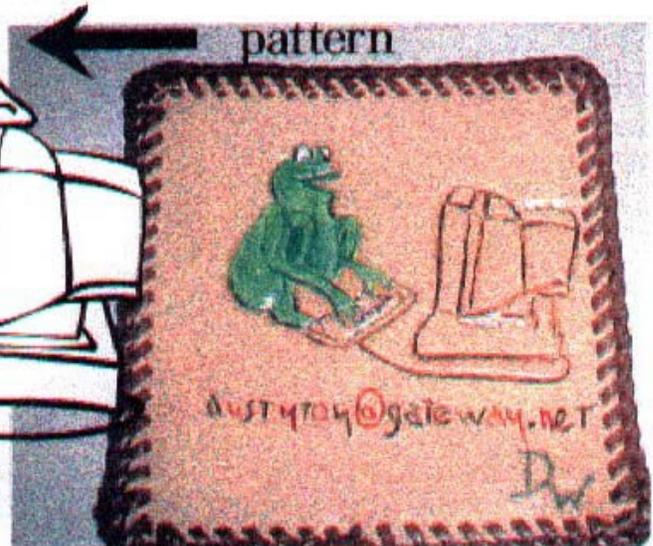
Hi PSLACERS,

I received a Digital camera for Christmas so I made the mistake of sending Bob Stelmack a picture just to see if I could send a picture to Japan. He liked the pictures so well he told me I was the newest "staff member" for the RawHide Gazette. Bring you latest creations to the meeting and comb your hair, because I'm taking pictures.

Since I have this computer I discovered a new way to transfer a pattern onto leather. I look for graphics that have simple line (on my computer). I go to color and put the color to white which just leaves the outline. Then I print the modified picture.

I now place the pattern onto the cased leather. Do not attempt to trace the pattern at this time, but cover the pattern with tracing film. Then trace the pattern as usual. As you can see I modified the pattern and cut out one frog.

I made coasters with my E-Mail address



dustytoy@gateway.net



Children's Leather

From: **Fred Nachbar**
 <Chengpch1@aol.com>
 Subject: Re: PSLAC

I have spoken to the Director of the alternative high school here in South Kitsap. We are starting a leather class for students that want to participate. *As of right now, we will start with three sets of tools on loan from PSLAC.*

The alternative school in this district is made up of high school age students who experience different learning styles from the norm (i.e. some students are learning delayed and receive services from special education, some student are teen mothers, some students have had or currently have problems related to drug and alcohol, some students need a less structured setting). I have been pretty impressed with what I see the staff doing with these kids. The director is GENUINELY kid oriented. He is out there talking to them (very little is he in his office) and helping them with their individual problems.



Demostration Given at the February Meeting

Using Starlite Metallics as an "Antique:"

Desperately Seeking Help

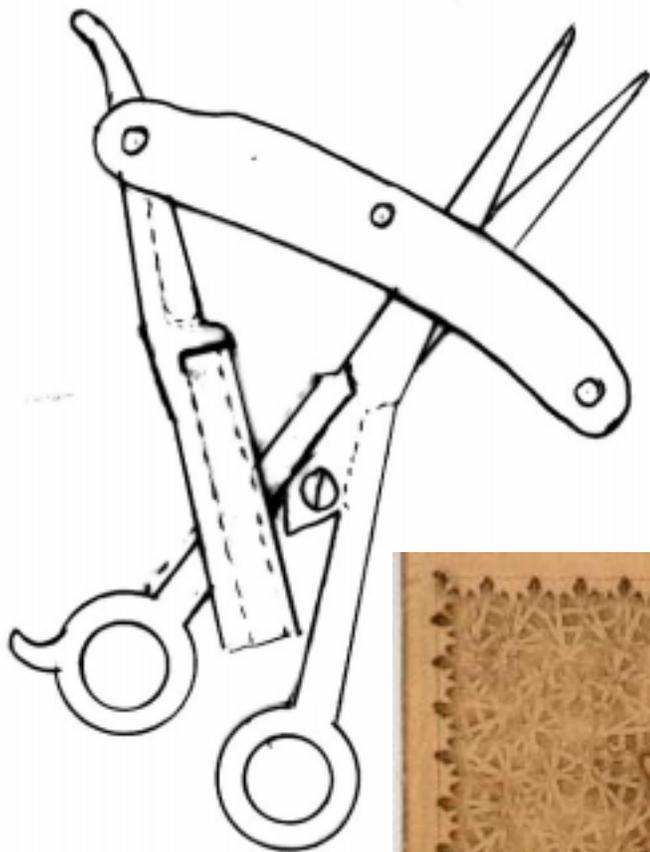
I'm seeking someone in the **Tacoma** area who is a braider and would be willing to take me as a student. I want to learn some specific things, like how to make buttons, pineapple, Turks head, help finishing a project (reins). *Willing to pay a fee.*



February Demostration

Norm Wear
 Puyallup
 253-848-6292



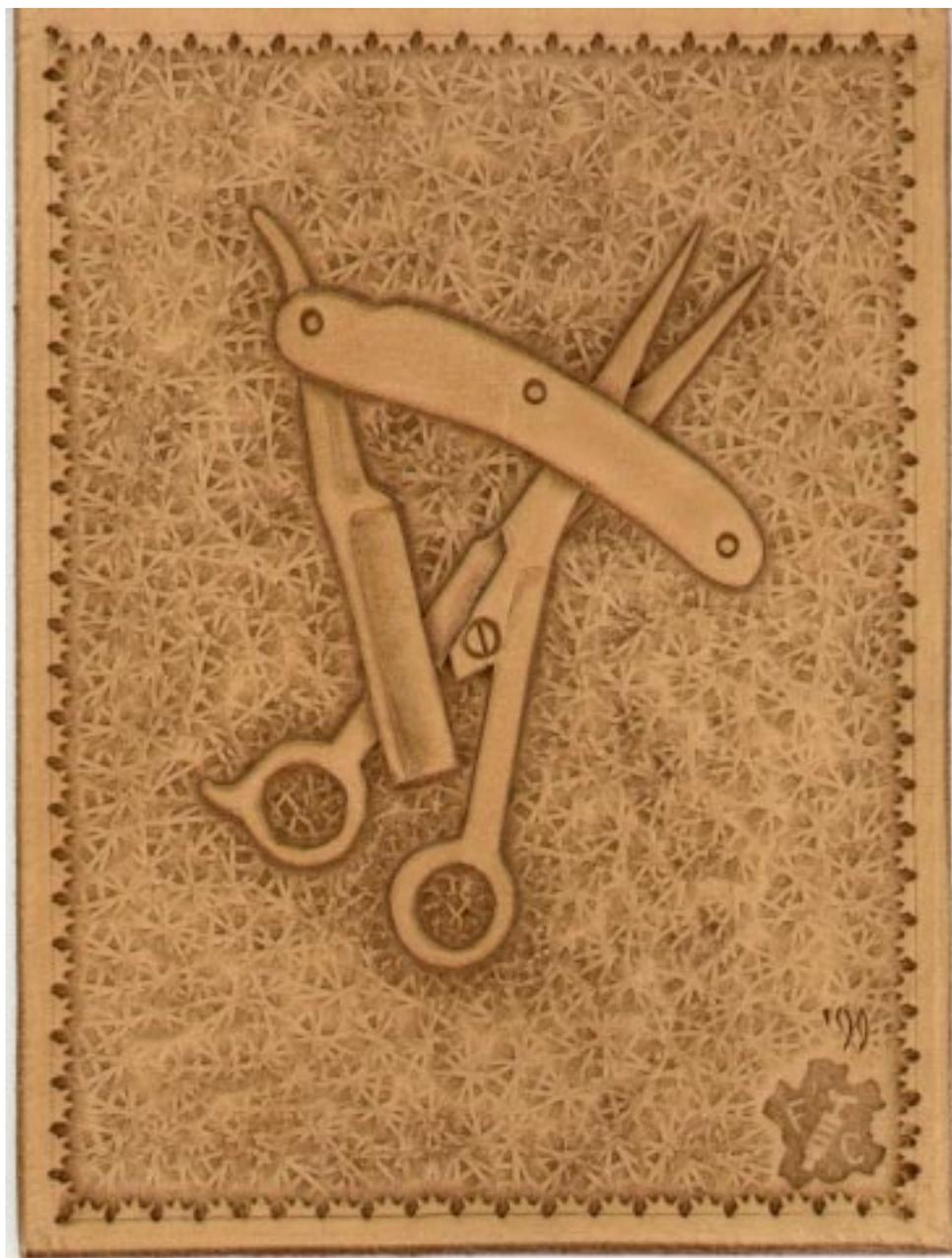


Barber Shop Pattern -- courtesy of Bill Churchill

March's Meeting

There will be demos given by **Fred Nachbar** on **Making Leather Christmas Cards** and **Bill Churchill** will have a seminar on the **Quickdraw Knife Case**. Materials needed:

- 10" x 10" 6/7 or 7/8 or 8/9 oz. Leather
- two 1/4" Chicago Screw (heavy screwpost-keypost)



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 **Rawhide 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.

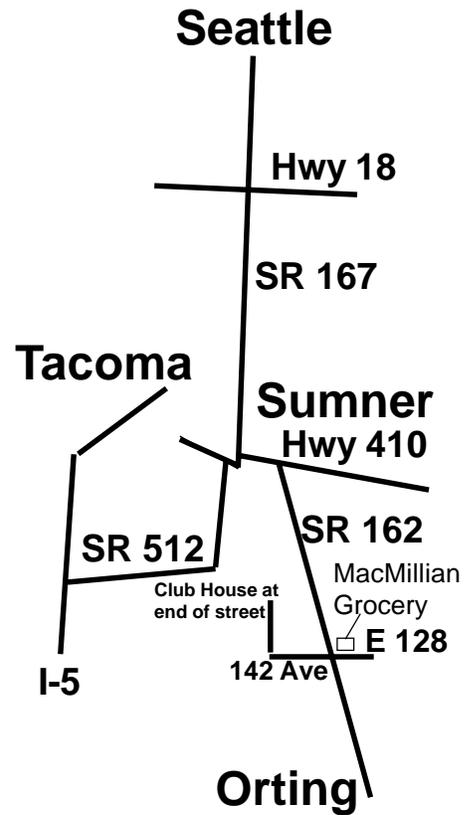
They are also posted, in living color, on the Internet.

**Leather Factory
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 Kevin White, Manager

Map to Linda's Club House



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