

Raw Hide Gazette

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Volume 2, Issue 9

Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

November 1996

Meeting Activities

Another good meeting with lots of activities and discussion. Ken Imus gave a wonderful demonstration on an embossing technique, using of all things - ball bearings.

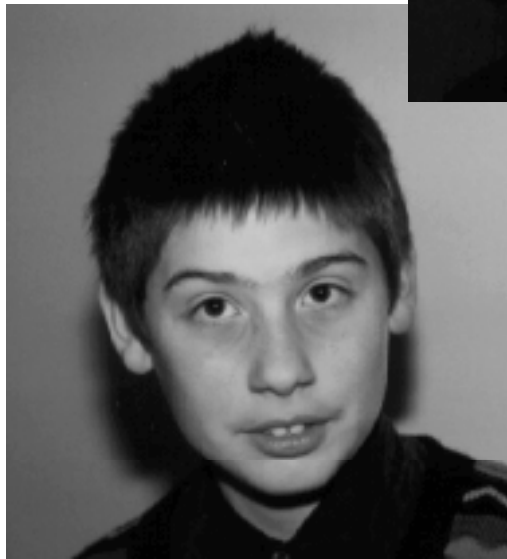
Bill gave some demonstrations of the use of Boeing Surplus items used to texture leather and his interpretation of a credit card holder technique shown by Tony Laiers. We had our new recipients of the leather starter kits (see related articles) and some "STAND-UP and SIT-DOWN" comic sessions. A good time was had by all. Read on for details and descriptions of the Demos given...

Uncle Bill's Corner

(This section was for last month's newsletter)

This is probably the "HAPPIEST" newsletter that I have written. While Larry Riekene (Tacoma Tandy) and I were demonstrating at the Puyallup Fair this year, a Mr. Al Bibelheimer came up to our table and said, "I have some old leather tools and would like to give to someone. I suggested, "Why not give them to a youngster"? He didn't know any and would the Co-Op find a child and give the tools to the child. Well the man delivered the tools to General Seymour while he was demonstrating at the Fair and General gave them to me. The tools were old (I mean old!) and no one could start

leathercraft with that assortment of tools. So I sold the tools and bought a beginners leathercraft kit from Tandy and put out the word, we need a kid! I received a wonderful letter from Terry and Bob Shinaberger which said in part: "I would like to suggest two (2) boys (brothers) to SHARE the kit. The boys share most everything, including an interest in doing crafts. Jarrad is 13 and Kyle is 12.



Both boys are now entering Projects in the Fairs (Kitsap and Puyallup)". I do not know what kind of projects.

I quote from the letter, "Bob and I (Terry) can't think of a more deserving home to place a leather kit into".

Well, there is more to the story. After having a big executives meeting, we agreed that this is who we would give

the kit to, but one set of tools for two people? Well, we found some nice people and we now have another brand new set of basic tools. And yours truly talked Larry (Tacoma Tandy) into donating a wooden mallet and free basic classes to Jarrad and Kyle in January. (Wasn't hard to talk Larry into all this).

If at all possible, we would like to have these two boys at our October meeting so we can see them and give them the address of the original donor so they can send a thank-you-note to him.

Now is that a nice story or is that a nice story? Thank you again Terry and Bob Shinaberger. You are wonderful people.

I hear from the grapevine that we have new members. We have recruiters all

over the place. Good for you. Keep up the good work. Now all you have to do is get them to come to the meeting and perhaps show their expertise.

If I remember right, we have two demonstrations this coming meeting. One is on embossing with ball bearing and the other I forget. Come and see them.

See you all at the meeting.

(This section is this months newsletter)

Now that is the part of the letter that I wrote for the October newsletter, but didn't get it to Bob in time. So now I can finish the story. October meeting was good. We had 17 or more attending and three of them were Jarrad and Kyle and their lovely mother. Two nicer boys I have not met. I know that they are going to enjoy the kits and I know for a fact that Fred Natchbar is really looking forward to having them in his class.

Boys, I wish you all the luck and may you too sometime introduce someone to leathercraft.

Tell me I can't write a nice newsletter!

Bill Churchill
Federal Way

Tony Laier Returns!

Tony Laier will give seminars at the Tandy stores in Tacoma and North Seattle in January. This one will cost \$50. Don't know all the particulars yet. Advise you call the Tandy store and ask. If it is half as good as the other one (that was free) it will be fantastic.

Bill Churchill
Federal Way



Tony Laier's Credit Card Pockets

For those of you that did not get to see the fabulous demonstration that Tony put on at the Tacoma Tandy store a few weeks ago, I will attempt to give you one of the many things that he did.

Most people when making a billfold, checkbook cover, etc. will walk around the block to keep from putting in credit card pockets. The first thing

is: I don't have a sewing machine ... Or I hate to hand sew them in... Well Tony has taken away our box of excuses No sewing credit card pockets.

Ball Bearing Embossing

Ken Imus showed how using a ball bearing on a non-skid surface (rubber mat) could give an "embossed like finish" to your projects. Ken showed a purse he made for his mother (circa 1955) still retained the embossed look (of course - not as clear as the Stohlman's leather plug technique), but

still a passable and attractive item. Ken just wet the leather (front and back), placed the ball bearing (smaller size for lighter leather) on the non-skid surface and used his fingers to press around the bearing while moving the leather. This is much like an old technique of a modeling spoon from the back side, but this way you can see the progress from the front as you work on the project.

Ken Imus
Everett, WA



Tony uses 3/4oz calf leather, but you can use any leather that is strong. I use Morocco Grain Pig Splits. It is nowhere as good as calf but it not only doesn't cost as much as calf but it is already dyed (Black and Brown). I cement an extra piece on the back (double backed).

The overall dimensions naturally are according to the project that you are constructing. The cuts for the credit cards are approximately 1/8th inch



longer on each side that a credit card is wide. You will notice that there are holes at each end of the cut. This makes the cut stronger. The cuts are 3/4th of an inch apart. This will be up to you as to have many credit card pockets you want. I would not suggest putting them closer than 1/2 inch apart.

The credit pocket itself can be made from faille (usually found in most fabric stores) or I use garment leather. (Reason: I like leather.. I have had bad results using faille.. When the recipient of the project looks inside those pockets, they see LEATHER!)

You will notice a "FOLD" line on the pocket. The top end is smaller than the bottom. The first pocket is cemented (using a contact cement) F L U S H with the top cut line. Follow the usual procedures using contact cement, (Put cement on both surfaces to be cemented and let it get tacky.. put them together STRAIGHT and rub briskly with a bone folder). Fold at the fold line and again cement but this time 1/4th inch ABOVE the cut. In effect you have made a pocket.

Bill Churchill
Federal Way

Boeing Surplus Leather Texture Tooling

Bill showed us a series of wheels that looked like they might have been used to knurl machine tools. These "knurled wheels" had geometric designs machined into the outside edges that

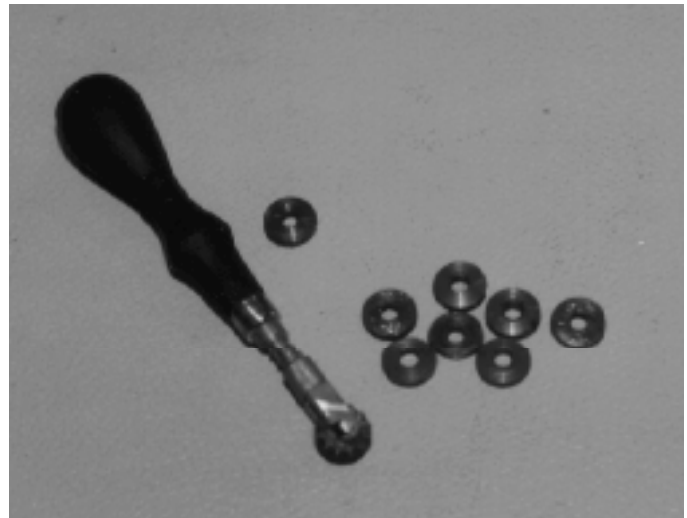


when "rolled" along a piece of leather produced some very attractive and unique patterns. Bill made a tool to hold such a wheel (made out of a large nail - split, drilled and filled with an axle). These wheels made very clear patterns that would work very well for borders and especially longer items like belts. Bill also showed a commercial version from Osborne.

Bill Churchill
Federal Way

TIPS AND HINTS

For those of you that are able, I would



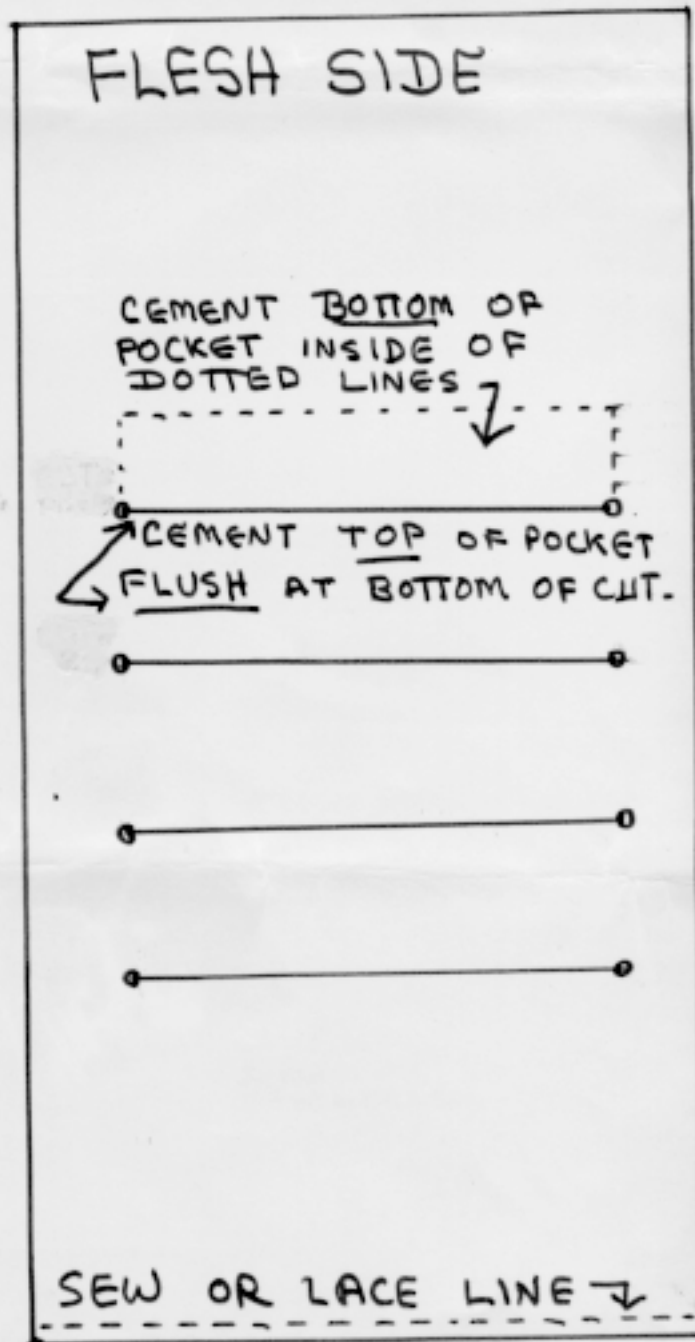
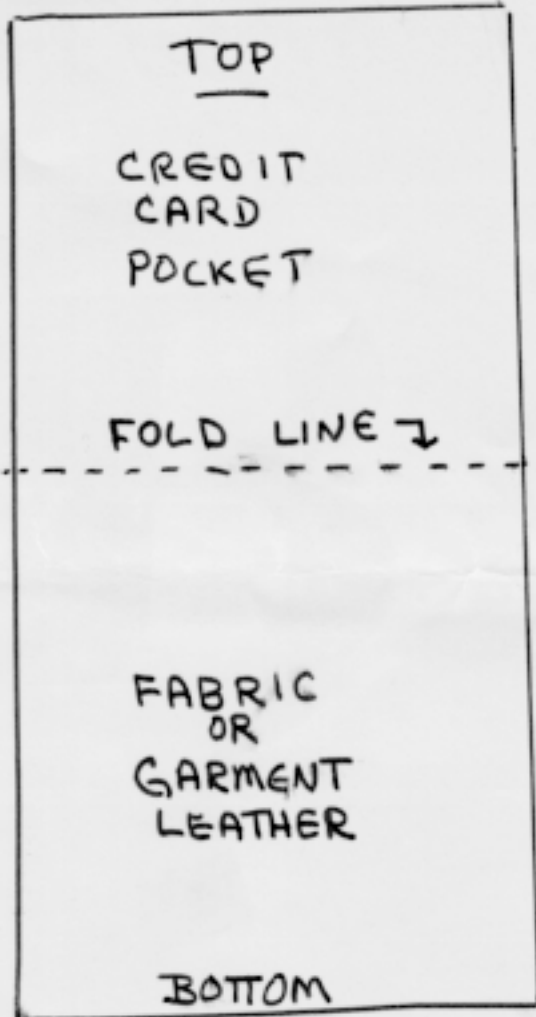
suggest that you give Boeing Surplus a try. Here is a list of a few things that I have gotten there. But this is not a store that stocks certain items each week. You have to look and sometime you luck out. I have managed to find poster board, Teflon board (used for cutting board) about 4 by 6 foot long. You can find a lot of desks and tables that work beautifully in you leather shop. There are: stationery, folders, coloring pens, wooden handles, plastic handles, X-Acto



Noel



TONY
LAIER'S
CREDIT CARD
POCKET



handles, cutting knives and the list goes on....

Tuesday is the best time to go as the shelves are usually restocked. They usually have a lot of nice wooden boxes (to carry tools, etc.). As with anywhere, you have to watch prices, but as a general rule, I have never been able to beat them for good prices.

Boeing Surplus is located in the North End of Kent, at 20651 - 84th S., Kent (at the intersection of South 208th on the East Valley Road, right hand side going south) open 10am-5pm (Tue-Fri) and 9am-4pm (Sat). Call 206-393-4060 for more information.

Bill Churchill
Federal Way

I followed Bill's advice and made a trip to Boeing Surplus. I recommend you pick up some safety glasses(\$2) for use during Bill's tool making demo and for your own safety while working on your craft. I also picked up sand paper and emery cloth by the pound (about 1/2 to 1/4 the cost in a hardware store). I picked up some plastic hex key handles that will fit awls, glovers needles, small jewelers files, and some other leather tools. I found cutters, office supplies, three ring binders (\$.50), sheet metal, sheet plastic, thread (nylon and cotton), 1 to 3 inch leather punches (\$5-\$10), and stuff I could not identify, but looked like I could use it to help my leathercraft project. - **Bob Stelmack**

Christmas is Coming

Do you have a bin full of small scraps of leather? I use mine to make small Christmas pins or can be glued on card stock and used as Christmas Cards. I have collected a number of small pictures such as: Santa Claus, Snowman, Angels, etc. Or use your

Christmas craftaids. If you use 3-4 oz leather, you can trace the picture and cut it out, then paint it, add a pin to the back and "behold" a Christmas pin has been born. If you use heavier leather, then cut the leather in a design such as a diamond, circle, star, triangle, square or rectangle before you transfer the picture.

I also use rounders. Trace and color the picture and then punch a hole in the top and add a ribbon or string to hang it up. These can be personalized with a year and name. Start your own family tradition!

Sister Racheal
Lynnwood, WA

Ask-it-Basket

A new feature starts this month and will draw on out "old-timer" (I mean very experienced leather craftsmen). If you have a question or are looking for an alternate technique - just give the PSLAC newsletter a call (206-431-5166) and the question will be published in the next newsletter. The answers given back to the newsletter will be published as the "old-timers" answer them..

So - to start the column here are some "seed" questions:

"Is it possible to lighten a previously dyed leather article"?

"Can you dye rawhide"?

"Can the clear finish be removed from a tooled item to allow additional dyeing or tooling"?

"How do you seal leather to keep the dye from rubbing or leaching off with moisture"?

Anonymous
Anytown, WA

An Answer Already

(Editors note: Bill must be psychotic or psychic, one or the other, because he sent this in even before the newsletter was printed. He answers one of the questions above.)

There have been a lot of questions on what finish to use on a project and not have it smear the coloring. Stohlmans book on color has most of the answers on finishes, but I would like to say a couple of things. **FIRST AND FOREMOST:** Whatever you are using **F I R S T** **TRY IT ON SCRAP LEATHER** (preferably out of the same piece of leather) especially if you are using an acrylic (Other than which is recommended for leather)

As they say, when in doubt **PUNT!** Well when in doubt, **SPRAY.** I would recommend **SUPER SHENE SPRAY** ... After you are **POSITIVE** the **SUPER SHENE** is dry take a brown grocery bag and fold it to about three or four layers and then rub the project where the **SUPER SHENE** has been applied. This will take some of the gloss off, but it will take all the **AIR BUBBLES** out. When you have rubbed the surface, actually you have rubbed **MOST** of the **SUPER SHENE** off of the surface ... **BUT** ... it is still in the pores. I usually put at least two coats of **SUPER SHENE** on rubbing with the grocery bag each time. Then I put on a couple coats of **TAN KOTE.** **TAN KOTE** is a formulated wax developed by **FIEBINGS** many years ago and when buffed after it is completely **DRY,** leaves a beautiful leather finish.

Bill Churchill
Federal Way

Welcome to the Newest Members

Kim Tate from Spanaway, **Margaret May** from Olympia, and **Thomas Mathery** from Tacoma join us as our newest members. Let us make them welcome at our **next meeting in November on Sunday the 24th.** We

will get a chance to share experience with them. WELCOME to all!

Apology to Len Phay

While trying to highlight the participation of the PSLAC in the Puyallup Fair I failed to highlight Len Phay's name. Len was a most prolific participant in the Fair and his work was award winning.

There was also some confusion from the Puyallup Fair Press Release that identified Andrew Nakayama with his Pale Blue Castle with Sparkeroof as the "Best in Leathercraft Division (class #1929) - where in fact, General Seymour received that honor with his Handbag/Flower entry. As General lamented: "I had the ribbon - I was looking for the \$100 award". I'm happy to say that the Puyallup Fair discovered their error (even before being contacted) and General has his well deserved money.

Bob Stelmack
Tukwila

Executive Communication!

The Executive Committee is looking for duplicate tools for donation to our next youngsters that join the Co-Op (they are also looking for new young members). If you have any extra tools or any mallets that might make up a "basic set" of leathercrafting tools - give the Executive Committee a call.

Also, the Committee is looking for a nomination to fill a Director's position. If you can make yourself available - give the Executive Committee a call.

And, if you have any skill that you would like the leather stores to make known to their customers - give Bill a call. This is a chance to make some extra money because the Tandy

Employees have just been restricted from participating in enterprises that involve leather services for the customers.

The Executive Committee — General Seymour (360) 893-6759, Bill Churchill (206) 839-3038, Don Betts (206) 848-2649, Fred Natchbar (360) 876-6227 and Chuck Carlson (206) 848-5359

Next Meeting! (Holly is Bringing the GOODIES)

Don't miss Bill Churchill's demo on making tools! This demo will take over an hour - so be there on time so you don't miss anything. **Mark your calendar! Sunday, November 24th is the next PSLAC meeting** at the Foster Greens Apartment, Information Center (Recreation Center), 13865 - Interurban Ave, Tukwila, WA. All members and sponsors are invited... Just a reminder that parking at the apartment complex is very tight and that 50 feet south of the meeting room is a business that is not open on Sunday - park at your own risk.

The Leather College

Just in its planning stages is Tandy's introduction of an accredited LEATHER College. This college will allow a person to achieve a degree in Leather Arts. The training will be provided through the local Tandy Stores and its affiliation with the various leather instructors now currently teaching classes at the stores.

Those classes will be validated and records of completion kept. Details are sketchy now, but more will be revealed.

Noel DeWittie

Tacoma

(Editors note: Will it be called "Rawhide U" or "University of Leather"? Will they have really pig skin footballs for the football team? So many questions - so little information..- ha!)

Leathercrafter's Survey!

If you haven't turned in your survey - please reconsider. REMEMBER - this information can lead to hard cash jobs in your spare time. This also gives you (the craftsman) a chance to do those things you are good at. Things such as: Lacing, Hand Sewing, Belts, Belt Finishing, Special Order, Billfolds (Kits Only), Billfolds Repair, Billfolds Tooled, Clothing (Making), Clothing (Repair), Chap (Making), Chap (Repair), Saddle Repair, Moccasins, or other talents. (Send information to: Bill Churchill, 1471 - South 302nd St., Federal Way, WA 98003)

You know, if it were my resume (survey) that I was sending to the different Tandy Stores locally, I would try to make it easy for the clerks to read when someone needs a leatherworker. (E.g. I would use a dark black nylon pen that writes a little heavier than the average ball point pen. I would also print neatly. And, then who do you think might get the job making someone's new billfold? It pays to advertise - NEATLY!)

(Editors note: At this point Bill enclosed a sample filled out form written in BOLD BLOCK LETTERS that even Al Stohlman would be proud of, but instead you get another copy for you to fill out and it is attached. It might be a thought to have Bill send the Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op newsletter a copy of the filled out forms so a one page TYPED sheet with "Who-Does-What" could be produced.)

Bill Churchill

Federal Way

Robb Barr Seminar in Tacoma - CANCELED!

Robb Barr, the International Leather Artist, suffered a heart attack last Thursday, October 24th and canceled his appearance at the Tacoma Tandy Leather store on Saturday and Sunday, November 16th and 17th. If you paid the seminar fee of \$100 please contact Larry at the Tacoma Tandy Leather store (ph. 206-474-1777) for a refund. Our hopes and wishes are with Robb for a speedy and complete recovery.

To all of you at PSLAC.

Our thanks and appreciation for your kindness in selecting us and giving us the beautiful sets of leathercrafting tools and classes.

Sincerely,

Janard & Kyle Stone

**PSLAC (ph. 206-431-5166)
c/o Bob Stelmack
13820 - 56th Ave S, #301
Seattle, WA 98168-4779**