

Raw Hide Gazette

Volume 3, Issue 1

Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

March 1997

Opportunities

Now is your chance to give to further the craft of leather. Noel DeWittie, Manager of the Burien Tandy Store, is always ready to have one of the Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op members teach a basic leathercrafting course. Course materials and a course outline is available AND rumor has it that above and beyond the sheer satisfaction of helping others begin their craft that there is something in it for the teacher! Talk to Noel about teaching. A check of the mailing list shows that there are several people within a 10-20 drive to the store.

Bring Your Finished Key Case for Judging

Just like Linda's winning wallet last month — you have a chance to win a prize by bringing a finished key case to the March Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op meeting. So — bring one of your best to the meeting.

Comfy Moc Kits For Sale

I have several pair of children sized Comfy Moc kits (sheepskin) that I want to sell. I will bring them to the next meeting, or anyone interested can call me at 941-1813 or e-mail at

spiritwolf@wa.net . I am asking \$10 per pair.

Dale Buckenberger
<spiritwolf@wa.net>

Meeting Announcements

Bill announced that he has completed the development of a floral carving class. This class is more of a "hands-on" class than the prerequisite Advanced Figure Carving class that Bill already teaches. Costs and schedule will be available at the next Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op meeting. AND DON'T MISS BILL'S DEMO ON COLORING!

Introductions around the room had a pleasant surprise — Mel Savage, who just joined during the meeting, is a member of the IILG and has corresponded with other members of the group over email. It was nice to put a face to the name. Welcome Mel!

Bill Churchill
Federal Way, WA

Anonymous Letter

(The Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op received the following handwritten letter:)

Paper _x_ Pencil _x_ Eraser _x_ and Brain ___ (I knew I'd forget some-

thing!)

Poor Tony!

He was so nervous before the Demo at the Co-Op meeting!! — But he "did good". He really "sparked" a lot of interest.... You could see it on all the faces of the members! I think they'd expected something totally different, from what they got — And boy, did they "GOT" a lot!!!.... Even after his "Demo", Tony's concern was, "That he'd goofed up and hadn't done a good enough job" — WOW!! Was he ever wrong!!

I think, that we need to give Tony — a 2 thumbs up for his Great Demo — on stirring the ol' "creative juices"!

Great job on the wallet — Linda!!

The more we learn, the more we want!! — Input - more input!! Greedy!!!

/s/ **Standing on the sidelines**

Meeting Activities

One bang up demonstration on pattern making was given by Tony.

Read on for the details:

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

Pattern Making Demo

(ed note: It was a little difficult to see all of Tony's demo with the high level of interest and the large group that we have — so I took some pictures of Tony's pattern book, traced and included here to go along with Tony's notes. I did find that Tony's description of drawing the "C"s made me look at the French Curve as nothing but a series of "C"s put together and could be used to make those curved lines that Tony so easily drew.)

Why would you want to make your own patterns?— The best reason that I would give for creating your own patterns is that the pattern is yours' and not just a copy of someone else's work.

The greatest satisfaction that you can have in leather art comes as a result of creating your own patterns. I call what we do leather art because it is akin to sculpture. You are not just working the leather or crafting the leather but you are dyeing and coloring, carving and creating patterns. You are using the leather just as an artist would use marble, clay or canvas. Unlike the laborer who works only with his hands or the craftsman who works with his hands and his head, you will be working with your hands, head, your heart and some blood and sweat as well.

There are a lot of ways that we can modify patterns and that is what most of us do and it is perfectly acceptable. The question is then how do we make patterns, how do we create something out of nothing?

People invest a lot of time and money to learn to draw. It comes as shock to them to find out that what they are really doing is learning how to draw the letter "C".

When I entered Saddle Making School my copying days ended. My instructor

said: "I had to draw my own patterns". When I told my instructor that I could not draw a straight line with a ruler. His reply was simple. He asked me if I could see straight lines in the patterns other than the lines for the border. I couldn't.

What's the next step? I suggest you get some pencils and some paper and a large eraser and start drawing. If a line doesn't fit, erase it and start over. What you are really doing is drawing the letter "c". It can be long and thin or it can be sharp and tight. You will find that a small change will make a big difference in the shape of your pattern.

My first step in pattern making is to define the parameters. Determine how big or how small you have made the pattern. It is important to remember that on many patterns the border is only a guideline.

The next step is to decide what type of flowers, leaves, buds, scrolls or other figure that you want to carve. After you choose then position your flowers on the primary parts of your pattern. Now position the leaves, scrolls, buds and other figures. The positioning doesn't have to be done in any particular order but remember to keep things proportional. The leaves need to be the proper size for the flowers and the other elements of the pattern.

All patterns that you create will have a flow. They will move and grow as you combine the different elements in your pattern.

One of the tricks of the trade is to learn that the more you fill your pattern with carving the less background you will have.

One of the most important lessons to learn is that you need to let your imagination flow into the pattern. Remember that just because you haven't seen it done doesn't mean that you can't or shouldn't do it. Take the

case of the acanthus flowers and leaves that most of us are familiar with in leather patterns. There is no such flower in nature, it just does not exist! The lesson to be learned here is to make your flowers for your pattern any way that you want them to be. It's a lot of fun to study other peoples' work, draw the parts that you like and draw them the way you want them to be.

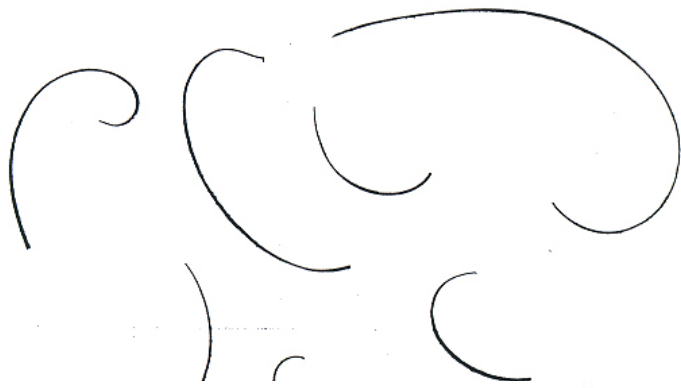
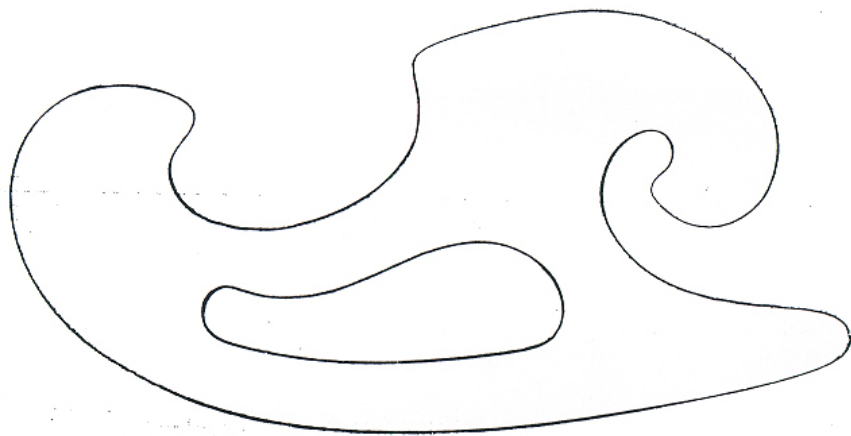
Here are some tips that will give you an advantage in making your own designs. When you are drawing your patterns only you will know what effect you want. You can use this knowledge to figure out what tools you will need to have or what tools you will need to have made up. You can decide what you want pushed up or pushed down, what side you want beveled and a number of other factors that will influence your carving. This should help you keep mistakes at a minimum.

Since this is all new you are going to have some bugs to work out. This can best be done by doing a practice piece on the type of leather that you are going to use for your finished project. This will be a big help to you because it will allow you to fine tune your carving technique as well as see how the dye is going to work with your leather.

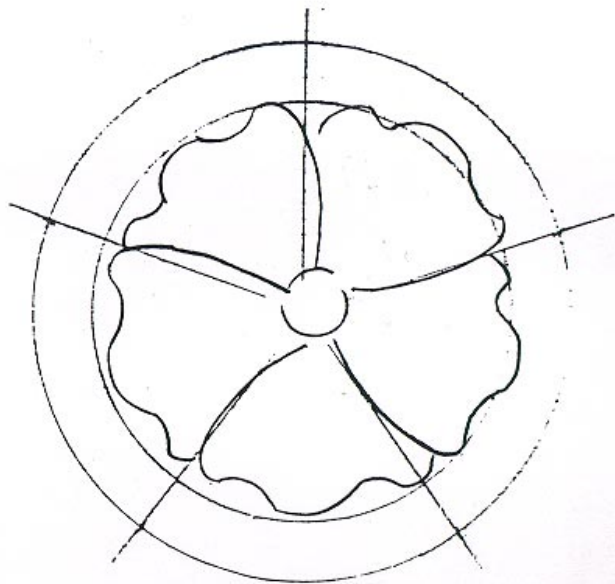
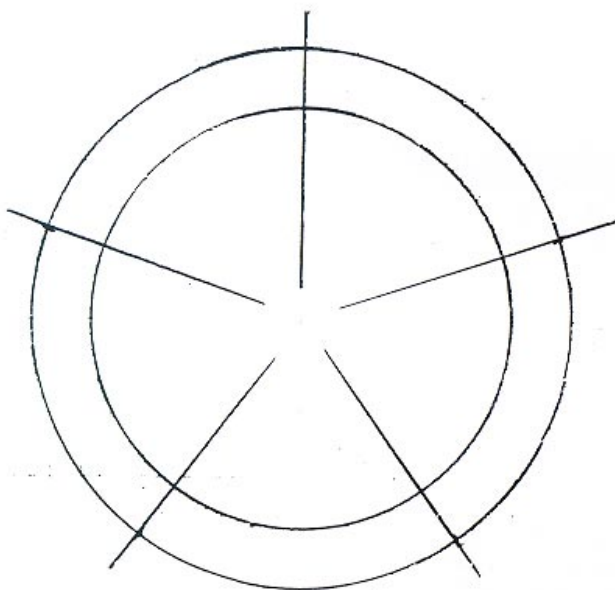
One of the greatest advantages to having a pattern is that when you start the decorative cuts you can draw them in on the paper to get a better idea of where you want and what they will look like when you are finished. After you have finished your pattern you then do the practice piece as describe in the preceding paragraph.

When you finish the project you may want to make a list of ways to make your next project easier or better. The chances are that if you do one piece you will do more and each one will get better if you take some notes. As you do more projects your art improves and you are giving more value to the customer therefore you can charge





TOP



more for your finished art. One last thing I might add is that you also get the satisfaction of doing original art work and that is awesome.

Tony Ezettie
Retsil, WA

Executive Communication!

Dear Valued PSLAC Member,

We wish to inform you that your membership may be in arrears and that you will be missing out on the OUTSTANDING Newsletter, and all those wonderful demonstrations at the meetings (Check your mailing label for expiration date). And don't forget the discounts you will receive at TANDY 'S..LEATHER FACTORY..and.. MacPHERSON'S..

The dues are still only \$24.00 yearly...Well worthwhile. Make your check out to PSLAC and mail to any of the following:

GENERAL SEYMOUR
17915 212th Ave. E.
OPTING, WA 98360-9622

LINDA STOCKHAUSEN
12614 142nd Ave Ct. E
PUYALLUP, WA 98374

BILL CHURCHILL
1471 So. 302nd.
FEDERAL WAY, WA
98003-4135

Thank you and hopefully you will continue to enjoy the PUGET SOUND LEATHER ARTISANS CO-OP.....

...and those Points.....

There seems to be a problem with our point system...FOR THE FABULOUS SWIVEL KNIFE...So let us expand upon them a little more. Donation of leather kits, tools, etc.

The average tool cost about \$4.00. So from now on the MAGIC NUMBER will be \$4.00...\$4.00 will equal ONE point. If you donate a CHANGER COIN PURSE #4072 and the cost is \$3.98, that is ONE POINT..Remnants of carving leather. bring your receipt and we will get the points from that. If you have Remnants at home and wish to donate, a pound will be worth Two Points.

Speaking of REMNANTS..We do need some for "CHILDREN'S LEATHER" Good carving Remnants..

...and the Future.....

KEN IMUS HAS DONATED AS A FUTURE PRIZE...A LEARNING LEATHER LESSON BOOK "Painting With Acrylics On Leather" by Paul Burnett. It is a good explanation of dyeing with acrylics..Worth \$30.00.. Thank you Ken...

...from the executives themselves.....

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

Uncle Bill's Corner

Would you believe MARCH.?. Spring is coming..Grass cutting.."HONEY DO"...So..?..Get all your carving done..!..Finish up all those projects you started during all that SNOW. GET YOUR ENTRY READY FOR THE FAIR. August is when you enter, that is only about five months. Let's beat the WOODCARVERS again.

How about **TONY EZETTIE** and the demonstration that he gave at the February Meeting.?. I sure did learn something. In all of the years that I have been a devoted follower of a SWIVEL KNIFE, I have never met

anyone who could demonstrate the art of drawing your own patterns. How to follow patterns. How to tool patterns..How to Dye..and Finish them...BUT NEVER how to draw them. TONY EZETTIE, I personally want to thank you.

There are a couple of things that I would like to expand upon, even if to just remind you that these two items are in this month's GAZETTE..A helpful breakdown of the point system.. I personally want to thank you for your WONDERFUL RESPONSE.. And, those of you that have forgotten, your address label will tell you when your dues should be paid. Don't miss out on this fabulous News letter with all the helpful hints and leather news in it. And Demonstrations at the meeting such as the one last month.

A long time ago, I was making Billfolds and selling them to fellow members at the VFW. And I started getting complaints..The Billfolds that I was making were TOO LARGE!.. One person said that he couldn't get his out of his pocket to pay for an item that he had purchased. I couldn't understand..I was making them the same size that I had always made them. So I measured the one I was making and then went to a store who was carrying and selling HIGH CLASS leather goods and measured the "EXPENSIVE" Billfolds. Sure enough, Mine were much larger. So I am putting in three patterns this month. Two for the regular billfold (By this I mean a kit that you might buy or just the billfold backs that are available..The pre-punched billfold back naturally is the larger of the two, and remember that LACE WILL MAKE THE BILLFOLD EVEN LARGER), and then the size Billfold back that most people want today....I realize that you will find "CUSTOM" Billfolds that people have had made, but this is the size for TODAY...!.. Now a lot of people make and sell Billfolds. The one thing that hurts is the inventory you have to build up and then you can't sell all that you have made. Your taste is not like everyone

else. So you end up with quite a bit of money invested in your inventory. One way to get around that is: Make two complete Billfolds that you normally make. These are to show what your finished product looks like. then measure a piece of leather that you would normally make Billfolds with to hold about 24 Billfold backs. Carve these 24 Billfold backs, Dye and put on the finish. Then when you are showing your prospective customer your Billfolds and he likes one in the middle of the leather...TAKE A DEPOSIT..and advise him that you will have it ready in three days. This way you have to buy (or make) an inside for that particular Billfold and not one for all of the Billfolds you have made. Also I have found that if I always put My Business Card and \$1.00 in the Billfold (Seeding the Billfold) that word gets around. Naturally That \$1.00 was included in my price. This can work for Check-book Covers, Key Cases, even Clutch Purses, Actually almost any small Item.

As an added thought. Remember I once said to trace every kit you purchase and then staple the tracing to the instructions, well that also goes for the INSIDES of billfolds. Take it apart and trace it, then cement it back together and use it. Then you can make your own INSIDES using either English Grained Morocco Goator Morocco grain Pig Splits or Morocco Grain Cowhide Splits or Saserra Book Binding and Lining Leather Or LACE REMNANTS(Which by far will be the strongest, but a little heavier INSIDE).
TENINO IN 109 DAYS
HAVE F U N.

Bill Churchill
Federal Way

Tips-Tips-Tips

HOW TO MAKE A LEATHER BUFFING WHEEL.... Cement three to five leather Rounders together with CONTACT cement. Using pattern of

rounder, mark the center and drill hole to fit the shaft of the electric motor that you are using. After cement is completely dry (I usually let cure for at least 24 hours, especially if the project is going to be used heavy duty such as this project). Put rounders on the shaft of the motor and tighten. Start the motor and hold a Bastard File on the spinning rounders until the rounders are perfectly round. Then use sandpaper on a wooden block and again hold to spinning rounders until perfectly smooth. After that hold jeweler's rouge (red or white) on the spinning rounders. Then hold as block of hardwood on the spinning rounders. Now you have the perfect HONING Wheel for all of your blades. Be careful because you can easily overheat your blades and lose the temper. Every so often apply rouge but it does not have to be heavy. If you should ever accidentally cut or gouge the wheel, cement a piece of leather in and go through the whole routine again.

Bill Churchill
Federal Way, WA

Next Meeting!

Mark your calendar! **Sunday, March 23rd, 2:00-4:00pm** 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.

Don't forget Bill Churchill's Demo on Leather Coloring at the next meeting.

Update on "Welcome the New Member!"

General Seymour brought to my attention that the individual that felt that our meeting was "cold" is also the

same person who wrote his membership dues on a closed bank account. Funny when you think about it. And I notice he is "once again" featured in the Leather Crafters Journal — go figure.

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
Federal Way, WA 98003
(206) 839-3038

Don Betts
12613 67th Ave. E.
Puyallup, WA 98373
(206) 848-2649

General Seymour
17915 212th Ave. E.
Orting, WA 98360-9622
(360) 893-6759

Fred Nachbar
1324 Flower Ave.
Port Orchard, WA 98366
(206) 876-6227

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.

BILDFOLD
BACK
W/LACING HOLES

(FROM A KIT)

TANDY # 4039

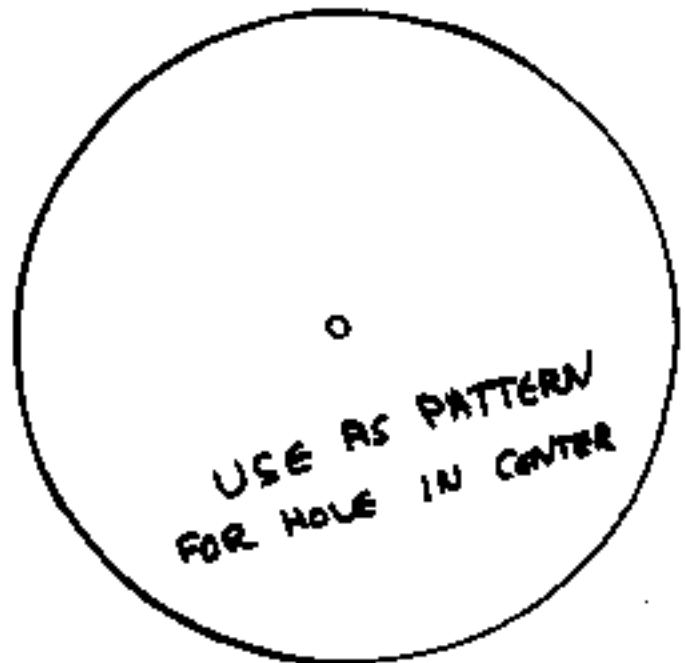
BILDFOLD BACK
WITHOUT LACING HOLES

(OVER THE COUNTER)

TANDY # 4033

BILLFOLD BACK
FROM DEPARTMENT
STORE

(SEWN ONLY,
NOT LACED)

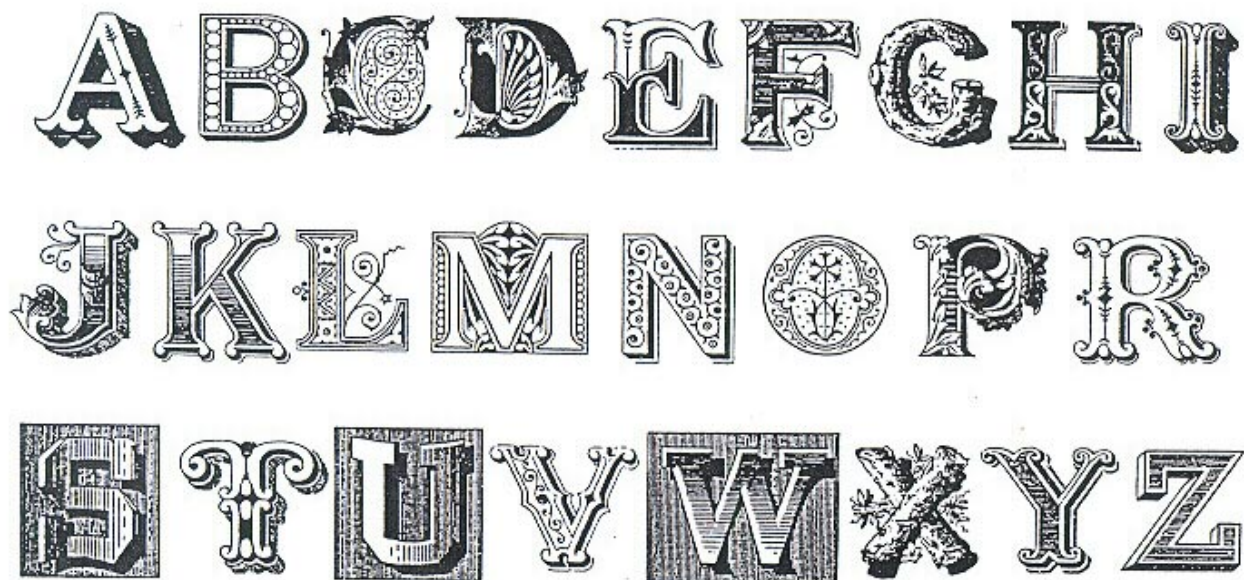


ROUNDER WITH HOLE
IN CENTER. GLUE 3 TO 5
WITH CONTACT CEMENT. DRILL
HOLE.

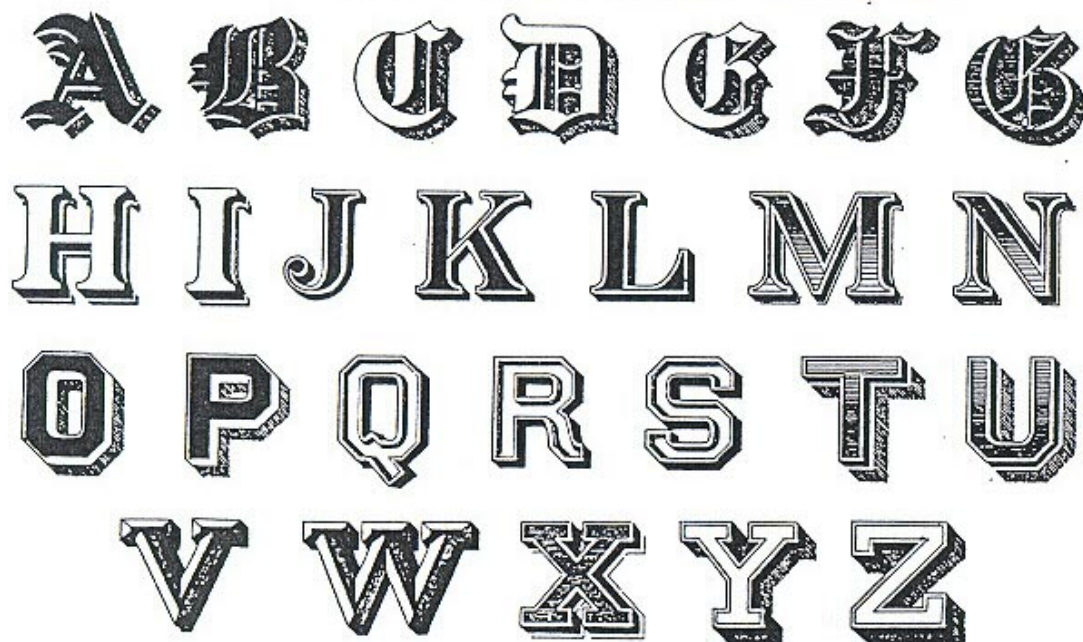
Many of us have alphabet stamps to use on our leather projects. But sometimes we have a need for something more ornate or different for that special project. Well here are a few alphabets that might be helpful. Maybe you will find one that will be perfect for your use. Happy tooling!

Rachel Kiefer

rnamentsl



LETTERS VARIOUSLY SHADED



A

B C D E F

G H I J K

L M N O P

Q R S T U

V W X Y

Z

