

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 3, Issue 11

Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

January 1998

Hide Highlights

- Meeting Announcement
- Tips-Tips-Tips
- Uncle Bill's Corner -- Head Knives, Marble, & Magnifiers
- Dental Tools
- Peter Main's Holiday Greetings
- ...and much more!

AL Stohlman -- Get Well Soon!!!

I have a very sad thing to tell everyone: "**Al Stohlman has Cancer**". I received a letter from Al and Ann telling me the sad news. I will put parts in this. I can home from classes last night and read the letter. It was a terrible shock. I talked to Ann this morning (January 8th) and Al has been transfer to the hospital in Vancouver BC.

Ann said she would try to get me the address so that all of you can send him a get well card. Let him know we are thinking of him. Having been there, and I know a few others that will agree, those cards mean a lot.

Here are the parts from Ann's letter:

The doctor checked him over and sent him over to the local hospital for blood test, cardiograms, x-rays, and so on. From these tests he thought Al might have lung cancer or pneumonia. We were at the hospital all afternoon and Al could not go home that night. He would be kept there and sent to the hospital in Kamloops in the morning for more through examinations.

To make a long story short, Al was in Kamloops hospital about ten days. He had the nurses keep calling Ann to try to keep her informed of his condition. He had a lot of fluid taken from his lungs. They continued the x-rays, cat scans and other test revealed at last and I quote "Al is load with malig-

nant cancer".

"We did not want any of you to know about this until after the holidays in case it might some how dampen the spirits of your own festivities.

What the future holds for us now is not in our hands.

We must gather all our strength and use the support of you friends out there and your prayers to amass a powerful force to combat this dreaded disease.

Al said: "Well I guess it's my turn now. These golden years are tough to handle"

Ann & Al Stohlman

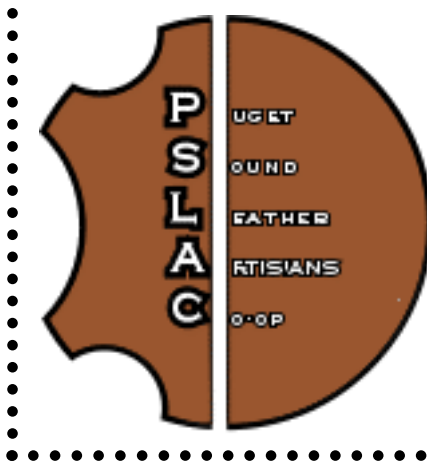
Remember those cards help.

Here is the address to send to best wishes for a speedy recovery:

Al Stohlman
C-46 Fawn Creek
RR#1
Lone Butte, BC, Canada
VOK1X0

/s/ **Bill Churchill**
Federal Way, WA USA

(ed. note: Late note -- Bill has confirmed that Al is not in Vancouver BC, but still in Kamloops awaiting the tests to see if he will be sent to Vancouver or sent home.)



Uncle Bill's Corner...

...on HEAD KNIVES

Reprint from *Rawhide Gazette* Vol.2, Issue 4, June 1996: "When I first met **Al Stohman** he 'tried' to show me the benefits of a HEAD-KNIFE. I looked, I was fascinated. I even tried it and forgot it. I met **Deb Laudadio** and she practically carried hers around in her teeth so she would not be without it. She even had a custom one made. So -- again I tried it. I studied **Al's** book on TOOLS and started using one. "I WON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT MY HEADKNIFE". I honestly do not know how I ever got along without it. I will never be able to skive SKIVER like **Al Stohman**, but I do foresee the day I will have to skive SKIVER, if and when I do then I'll work on it. Read and STUDY the book on TOOLS. (The front cover is not a photograph of a bunch of tools -- It is a photograph of a CARVING of a bunch of tools)".

...on MARBLE

When I was a **TANDY Manager**, we (managers) were always looking for new things that would help our customers. Another manager and myself found something that I would like to pass along. **MARBLE**

— the ultimate aid when it comes to leather tooling. Nothing beats marble. Metal will ruin your tools. Nylon or hard rubber just won't cut the mustard. And the wooden boards that they put in some starter kits in my estimation is a waste of money. **BUT MARBLE HAS A GRAIN**. Sometimes that grain is **WEAK**

and your marble might crack. Especially when you are stamping. So one day we found a company that makes **HARD Plastic** counter tops. So after talking to them, we designed the molds the size that we wanted and every time they had an over-run (too much resin) they would pour the remainder into our molds. And with a little bit of work we had the best tooling "**MARBLE**" you ever used. **NO GRAIN** — Can be sanded, can be waxed and you might even get pretty colors. After sanding, smoothing, evening up we told the customer to glue hard rubber to the bottom (**TANDY** Protecto Board #2226). This protects your table, makes your tooling quieter, and turning your "**MARBLE**" over gives you a cutting or hole punching surface. Generally your cost for the "**MARBLE**" is \$3.00 to \$5.00. Mine is about eighteen years old.

Be sure that the molds are at the very least one inch deep. Make sure they have the molds on an even level (an inch on one end and a half inch on the other end makes a very poor tooling surface). Whatever length and width you want. Mine is 10 x 14 1/2 inches and it seems to be the perfect size and weighs about 11 pounds. Not too heavy to carry to the **CO-OP** meetings.



"Uncle" Bill Churchill

...on MAGNIFIERS

I have found locally where to get "**OPTIC-AID**". The magnifiers that you clip on to your glasses. These aids are almost indispensable. I have been using them for years. They come in five (5) powers. (See table) I already have two powers — #713 and #715. The #713 is

the one most used. For those of you that wear glasses, your prescription is for nearly 20/20 so #713 is the size that you would want. Any other size would be for specialty use. The company is an Independent which means he will not have a large inventory. I asked for a discount for the **CO-OP** but his mark-up is so small he could not afford to give one. I believe him and I have dealt with him for years. He will order them for you and it takes about a week for them to come in.

AUBURNOPTICAL

1125 Harvey Road
Auburn, WA. 98002
(206)833-0380

Ask for **DENNIS JENSEN**

Price \$32.33 (including Tax)

"WORKING DISTANCE IS A VERY GOOD RULE OF THUMB"

So be sure and measure your usual distance from your eyes to the surface of your work.

	Working			
Model	Distance	Diopter	Power	
712	20"	+2D	1.50X	
713	14"	+3D	1.75X	
715	8"	+5D	2.25X	
717	8"	+7D	2.75X	
710	4"	+10D	3.50X	

Bill Churchill

Federal Way
and fold and trim to make even.

SEE IF YOUR KNIFE FITS.

THEN cut out of leather. DON'T out of

Check Your PSLAC Expiration Date

On your mailing label, following your name, is the date that your **PSLAC** membership and *Rawhide Gazette* expire. Don't miss any issues and help support the membership.

Alternate Surplus Location

This is the address of Seattle's Surplus that was mentioned during the November Meeting at the Tacoma Tandy Store. It is yet another place to get computers, office supplies and such. They deal in cash only.

Department of Administrative Services

2029 - 15th Ave West
Seattle, WA 98119

Phone: 206-684-0827
FAX: 206-386-1529

General Seymour
Orting

Puyallup Fair is getting closer than you think...

Start your projects NOW!!!

Letters to the Editor (& PSLAC)....

...Too Late!!!

If this makes it before the next newsletter, I'd like to wish all the PSLACer's and Shutter Bug Stelmack a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! *Of course, you all sent our newest member from Holland a Christmas Card!*

Well another great meeting! Thank you Larry R. — for letting us meet at the **Tacoma Tandy Store!** There was certainly enough room and more seating. (Thanks to all who brought chairs — that helps)

Gosh, "**Uncle Bill**" you wanted kids... and WHAM !! — that **Terry** practically drug 2 of them in off the street! I hear they're so excited about leather!! And plan to jump right into those "Basic Leather Classes" of Fred's... Who knows, we may have a budding Robb Barr or Peter Main there!!!

Great Goodies Sabine Stone!! Much more of that and we'd all be using the double doors to get into places!!! So — I'm enclosing a little recipe of my own, to add a little holiday cheer. The instructions are quite clear, so there's no way to put in the wrong Ingredients!!!

Yes, "Wild Bill" the Fair starts September 11th. We know — we've got to get busy. See ya "Next Year"

/signed/ **Standing on the Sidelines**

FRUITCAKE

Ingredients: 1 cup water, 1 cup sugar, 4 large eggs, 2 cups dried fruit, 1 teaspoon salt, 1 cup brown sugar, lemon juice, nuts, **1 bottle whisky**

Sample the **whisky** to check for quality.

Take a large bowl. Check the **whisky** again. To be sure it is of the highest quality, pour one level cup and drink. Repeat.

Turn on the electric mixer, beat one cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl. Add one teaspoon of sugar and beat again.

Make sure the **whisky** is still OK. Cry another cup

Turn off the mixer. Break two eggs and add the bowl and chuck in the cup of dried fruit. Mix on the turner. If the dried fruit gets stuck in the beaters pry it loose with a drowscriver.

Sample the **whisky** again to check for consistency.

Next, sift two cups of salt. Or something., Who cares? Check the **whisky**. Be sure.

Now sift the lemon juice and strain your nuts. Add one table. Spoon. Of sugar or something. Whatever you can find. Grease the oven. Turn cake tin to 350 degrees

And done until cooked. When al dente, place the tin somewhere. Write down location. Check the **whisky** (just to be sure) and go to bed!..... end of Fruitcake

RawHide Gazette 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: (206)431-5166 or email at stelmack@nwlink.com -- of course the free password information is just for the Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op members. Those on the Internet still need the \$10 per year subscription rate.

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.

Your Photos here -- if you send them in to: **PSLAC (ph. 206-431-5166)**

Bob Stelmack's first attempts at embossing for a Christmas gift for his daughter Mandy

**c/o Bob Stelmack
13820 - 56th Ave S, #301
Seattle, WA 98168-4779**

(Note: The use of acrylic gloss on the frog.)



Bob Stelmack's first attempts at embossing for a Christmas gift for his daughter Kimberly.

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
Federal Way, WA 98003
(206) 839-3038

Fred Natchbar

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

General Seymour

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

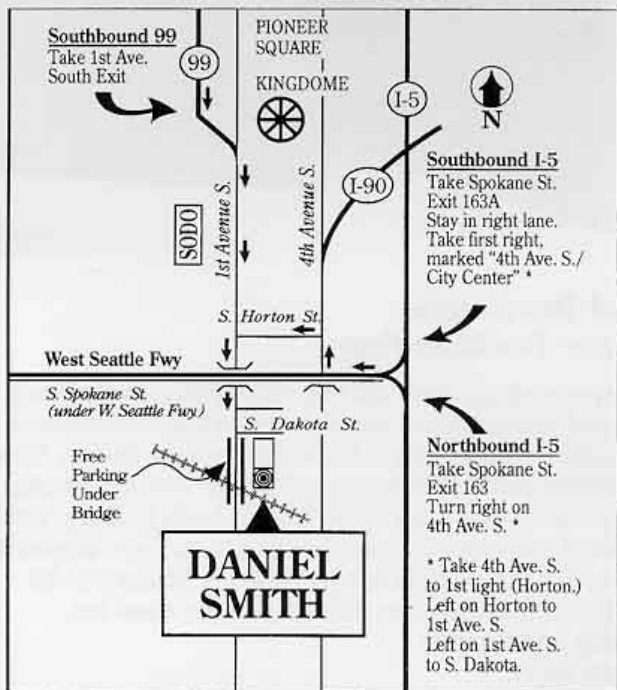
Don Betts

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

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.

SEATTLE

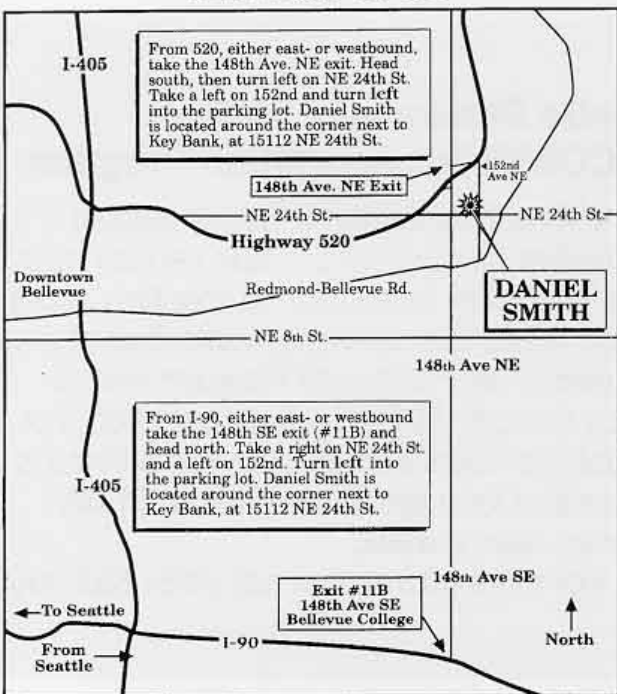
206 223-9599



Store Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9-8, Fri.-Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-6

BELLEVUE

425 643-1781



Store Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9-7, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 11-5

Additional Location for Art Supplies

Those of you that have bought your specialty paints, inks, and other art supplies from Daniel Smiths, there is now an additional location, in Bellevue, for your convenience. The two maps here show the locations of Daniel Smiths.

The Al & Ann Stohlman Visitor's Book

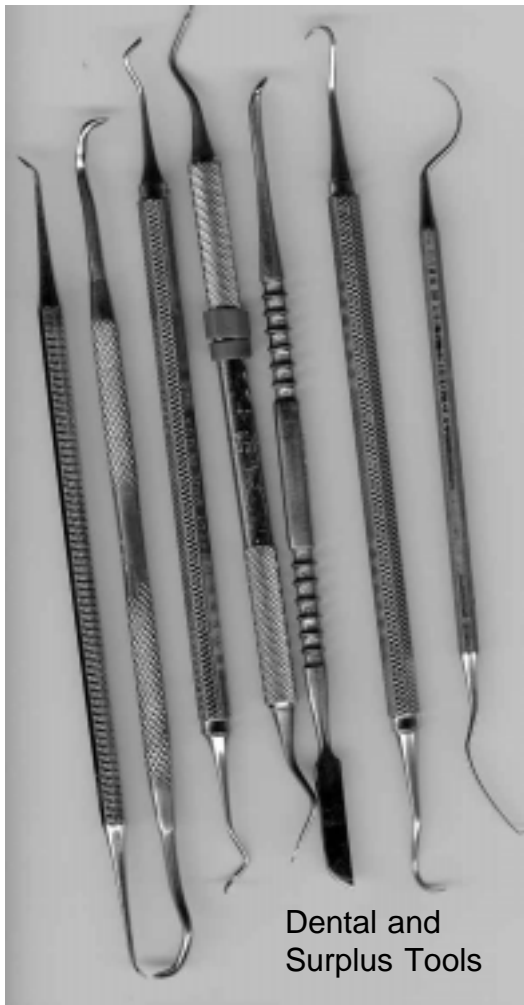
Here is a picture of the Visitors book in the Stohlman Leather Museum located in the Stockyard Station in Ft. Worth, Texas (picture from the IILG Web Site located at: <http://www.peak.org/~iilg/index.html>)



Newest International Internet Member

Welcome our newest Overseas *Rawhide Gazette* member:

Louis Seater
Panmure, Victoria
Australia
email: luseater@standard.net.au



Dental and Surplus Tools

the tools.

If you have ever taken one of Bill's classes, then you have seen the tool about to be described. It is a dental tool that has been sharpened to a "razor" edge and is used to form those deep undercuts in the leather projects. The tool modified here was ground down on a sharpening stone until the outside edge formed a knife edge. Then the tool was taken to a Japanese water stone and a very sharp edge was formed. The tool is stropped between uses, just like a swivel knife and is kept in a protective leather sleeve to protect the edge and to protect the user.

Bob Stelmack
Tukwila

receive, it has all the information Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op has compiled. An INDEX to the RawHide Gazette is in the works and will be published in a couple of months. The INDEX then will be updated every month and will be available "on-line" at the PSLAC Internet location (and mailed on request):

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

A special deal!!! -- On our first meeting of the year there will be a "Complete RawHide" up for raffle.

Let us ring in the New Year with a big turn out for the PSLAC.

Bob Stelmack
Tukwila

Dental Tools

Make friends with your Dentist. He has broken dental tools that make wonderful tools for leather work. Many of the tools can be used "just-as-is" for detail modeling and texturing leather. Others can be modified with files, grinders, sandpaper, or sharpening stones.

Also, you can find some very inexpensive dental "type" tools in most surplus stores and some sporting goods stores. They run around \$3 each. A good supply can be found at Radar Electric, 168 Western Ave W, Seattle (206) 282-2511, second floor in the surplus sales section.

Remember when asking your Dentist that the Bomb Squad has first pick of

"The Complete" RawHide

For those of you wanting to get back issues there is now a COMPLETE publication of ALL issues of the *RawHide Gazette*. This complete publication is currently over 250 pages in length and comes bound for your enjoyment. The cost to the PSLAC members is \$20 which includes shipping and handling. It contains all issues of the RawHide Gazette, the Getoleather, Leather & Stuff and even a couple of Impressions from the 1989's. This collection is a "must-have". Visit the PSLAC in print over the years. To order call 206-431-5166 and ask for *The Complete RawHide*. You will not be disappointed. Although the Xerox quality is not as good as the original RawHide you now



Razor Sharp
Outside Edge



Peter Main's Holiday Greeting

(ed. note: This was posted on the IILG Internet Site and is passed along to others without Internet access. Peter details the carving in the following text:)

Back in the 80's I used to carve leather cards such as this, have color prints made, then make embossed bordered cards, add some calligraphy and post them to all my friends. Now, not only was this a costly venture but a very time consuming one. Those days are long gone.

So, now to this applique card.

I made this one in 1989, the size being approximately 7"x10", the bird is a 'honeyeater'. The original (less the Merry Christmas) is now framed and hanging on the wall of the **Tandy Leather Museum and Gallery** at The Stockyards, Ft Worth, Texas.

The bird was made using a sculptured leather plug about 1/8" thick, 2-3oz leather was used for the bird itself. There is a lot of fine swivel knife cutting employed, also extensive use of a hair blade.

All the feathers are lightly undercut

"...also extensive use of a hair blade."

with a scalpel, the lifted with a modeling tool to give a more realistic appearance.

A scalpel was also used to cut out the bird, undercutting the outside feathers so they appear very thin.

The lettering was first cut with a swivel knife, then cut out with a scalpel.

The bird was colored using spirit dyes applied with a sable brush. The dry-

brush technique was used, also to apply just a hint of white to highlight the feather texture.

"...apply just a hint of white to highlight the feather texture."

The lettering was air-brush colored with spirit dyes, yellow and tan.

The background is very lightly modeled and coloured with a wash of acrylic color and spirit dye. All elements were lightly sprayed with diluted Super-Shene, avoiding a gloss finish.

The completed work was assembled using white glue, allowing the feathers to sit up from the background.

Peter Main
Austrialia

Bits of "Wisdom"?

Humor courtesy of Cori Schrader:

Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm
 Drink 'til she's cute, but stop before the wedding
 Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines
 Early bird gets the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese
 I almost had a psychic girlfriend but she left me before we met
 I drive way too fast to worry about cholesterol
 I intend to live forever. So far, so good
 If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends?
 Mental backup in progress. Do Not Disturb!
 Quantum Mechanics: The dreams stuff is made of
 Support bacteria. They're the only culture some people have
 The only substitute for good manners is fast reflexes.
 When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
 Ambition is a poor excuse for not having enough sense to be lazy.
 If I worked as much as others, I would do as little as they.
 Beauty is in the eye of the beer holder...
 If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.
 Many people quit looking for work when they

find a job.
 When I'm not in my right mind, my left mind gets pretty crowded.
 Everyone has a photographic memory. Some don't have film.
 If you choke a smurf, what color does it turn?
 Who is General Failure and why is he reading my hard disk?
 What happens if you get scared half to death twice?
 Energizer Bunny arrested, charged with battery.
 I poured Spot remover on my dog. Now he's gone.
 I used to have an open mind but my brains kept falling out.
 I couldn't repair your brakes, so I made your horn louder.
 Shin: a device for finding furniture in the dark.
 How do you tell when you run out of invisible ink?
 Join the Army, see the world, meet interesting people, then kill them.
 Laughing stock: cattle with a sense of humor.
 Why do psychics have to ask you for your name?
 Wear short sleeves! Support your right to bare arms!
 For Sale: Parachute. Only used once, never opened, small stain.
 OK, so what's the speed of dark?
 All those who believe in psychokinesis raise my hand.

◆ PSLAC Partners in Leather

- ◆ **Tandy Seattle** - Jana Stobaugh, Manager, 20003 - Aurora Ave N, Seattle, WA 98133, phone: (206) 542-1677
- ◆ **Tandy Tacoma** - Larry Riekana, Manager, 5429 - S Tacoma Way, Tacoma, WA 98409, phone: (206) 474-1777
- ◆ **Tandy Burien** - Noel DeWittie, Manager, 14611 - 1st Ave. S, Seattle, WA 98168, phone: (206) 244-0351
- ◆ **Leather Factory** - Kevin Durham, Manager, 28 West Boone Ave, Spokane, WA 99201, phone: (800) 822-8437
- ◆ **MacPhersons Leather** - Terry Durban, Manager, 519 - 12th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98144, phone: (206) 328-0855

The next meeting will be in **January**
 Mark your calendar!
Sunday, January 25th, 2:00-4:00pm

Location at the "Village at James Street" in Kent, in the Rec Building on S. 239th Place just off James Street at 67th Ave S. (see map in this newsletter for exact location)

...AND many important announcements!!



Your "IILG" Representative

(ed. note: Your editor is a member of the IILG (International Internet Leather Guild) and passes along items thtt are seen in the email traffic. Here are some samples from the latest email information -- as always test any new process on scrap leather and use common sense)

Homemade Craftaids?

-----first message-----

Date: Mon, 15 Dec 1997 21:27:04 -0800
From: bob.clifton@juno.com (bob r clifton)
Subject: [IILG] Home Made "craftaids"

Has anyone ever attempted to make a clear plastic pattern transfer device (like the craftaid)? I'm sure everyone has some personal paterns and designs that would be nice to have on a quick transfer sheet like the craftaid.

Regards to all, and Merry Christmas,
BC

-----next message-----

Date: Tue, 16 Dec 1997 07:12:29 EST
From: JPotgieter <JPotgieter@aol.com>
Subject: Re: [IILG] Home Made "craftaids"

Hi, Yes Bob, briefly as follows:

You pour a small amount of Thinners over some styrofoam pieces. This causes them to "melt" into a soft pliable dough like substance. Quantities are a matter of experimenting, but start with too little Thinners.

In the mean time have ready a piece of leather with only the swivel knife cuts on that you want on the template, wide and deep. Press the styrofoam "putty" into a flat form 1/4 inch thick and place onto the design. Lay an x-ray film over this and then press down hard, so that the

putty is pressed to a thickness of about 1/8 inch.

Leave like that overnight to harden completely and there you have it !

Johan Potgieter

With something developed in the Federation of Southern African Leathercrafters!

-----next message-----

Date: Tue, 16 Dec 1997 05:32:43 -0800
From: David Torix <"moongazer*no Spam*"@nidlink.com>
Subject: Re: [IILG] Home Made "craftaids"

I don't know about plastic ones, (althought JPotgieter's solution sounds interesting) but I have heard of "tap-ons" or "Knocks" (I wouldn't call them "Knock offs" <grin>).

Basically you take a pattern you like, tool it, probably on very thick leather, finish with Super Sheen or your favorite leather finish. The important thing is to make it water resistant. If you want the pattern to look a certain way, make this master a mirror image. After it is done, and completely dry, case a new piece of leather and place the knock on top of it grain sides together. Using a hammer, or mallet, "tap" or beat is more like it, the tooled piece into the untooled piece. This makes a very nice impression into the cased leather. You can then carve based on these impressions.

For reversing the pattern I will draw, or take the pattern and scan it into my computer, then reverse it and print it in a graphics program. For larger patterns I draw or trace onto tracing film, draftsman's mylar, or thin white paper. If using paper try to use a dark pen or marker to trace. Turn the tracing over (face down) and trace onto new film from the backside. A light table helps a lot, or you can tape the pattern to a large window on a sunny day. This should allow you to see the pattern through the back side of the paper and makes tracing easier.

An interesting side note: Since I am left handed I find it sometimes difficult to carve a pattern drawn by a right handed person. All the curves seem to be the wrong way. Using a Knock made from a standard pattern is an easy way for me to transpose the pattern so it becomes "left handed" and easier for me to carve.

Hope this helps.

Dave.

-----next message-----

From: CSchlim <CSchlim@aol.com>
Date: Tue, 16 Dec 1997 10:41:03 EST
Subject: Re: [IILG] Home Made "craftaids"

Yes, I have made a form of craftaid.

I purchased some "soft" sheet plastic (don't know more than that). I placed a reverse print of what I wanted under the plastic and, using my ruby blade, I carved the design into the plastic. I then can use the plastic by placing the cut side down on cased leather and go over the cut lines with the modeling spoon. Works fine.

I met someone who also made craftaids by carving the designs on heavy leather and then pour some liquid plastic onto the leather and let it set.

I think the old way was to carve heavy leather with the reverse design so that the lines open up when it dries. That became the pattern. (Think of how much room that would take to store these!)

Hope this helps!

Cathy Schlim

-----next message-----

From: CSchlim <CSchlim@aol.com>
Date: Tue, 16 Dec 1997 10:50:17 EST
Subject: Re: [IILG] Home Made "craftaids"

More on craftaids....

I also use my scanner to make a pattern to carve. However, I scan it in and print

onto a transparency. This makes the immediate pattern without any need for a pen (which I never seem to get perfect lines!). The only catch is that it is a one-time pattern and that you MUST be careful to keep the toner (ink) side up and away from the leather when you use a stylus to trace through to the cased leather.

Let me know if you need more info.

Cathy

----- next message -----

Date: Tue, 16 Dec 1997 20:29:02 -0600
From: Ann Waters <clerh2os@itis.com>
Subject: Re: [IILG] Home Made "craftaids"

Hi Bob-

Jim Resley showed me how he makes Tap-outs. He tools a thick piece of leather. When it has dried, he puts it in an oven at about 150 deg. F. for about 20 - 25 minutes. This bakes it hard as rock.

You can then put it on top of your new piece of wet leather, design side down, and "tap on the back" with the flat side of a hammer like the wooden or acrylic ones with the nice, wide surface. This transfers the design to the new piece and the original, baked piece you have forever. Some saddle makers keep files of their tap-outs for their records of patterns.

Does this help? Hope so. :)

Ann Waters

----- last message -----

Chris is On-the-Mend and has a Warning About Oxalic Acid!!!

From: "Check, Christopher J"
<Christopher.Check@PSS.Boeing.com>
Subject: For the newsletter
Date: Tue, 6 Jan 1998 10:47:27 -0800

First, I wanted to thank those members of PSLAC who have called during these past six weeks and given my mind a break from the horror of daytime TV. I am slowly recovering from my spinal surgery and hope to be at the next meeting if my back muscles are strong enough to hold me upright.

Second, I have thought and thought on a comment a few issues back, which is in most of the leather books I have read, concerning the *use of oxalic acid to clean tooling stains and mold from your leather*. You can't argue that it works but this is one serious chemical that has been directly linked to the deaths of several of my friends (I am a rock collector and it is widely used to clean rocks). The problem with oxalic acid is that it is easily absorbed through the pores of your skin, from there it is quickly cycled through your kidneys and liver, where it stays resident. Across time sufficient amounts will accumulate which will kill you via liver and kidney failure.

If you are insistent upon using oxalic acid, **ALWAYS wear long latex gloves** (the pore size of latex is smaller than the size of both oxalic acid and your skin) and then throw them away after each use, being careful to not touch the outside of the gloves in the process or splash the acid droplets. This is also true when handling the anhyros form, how it is sold, as the crystals will react to the moisture of your skin and be absorbed. Also, any residue of the crystals, even microscopic, can do terrible damage if you didn't wash well and ate something. (This cost someone I know his tongue, tonsils and part of his throat. According to the doctors, any further contact with this acid will probably kill him outright.).

Remember, it is lifetime exposure which will kill you, not a single incident.

In my testing, if you are cleaning

rocks, Dr. Pepper will work slower but just as well as oxalic acid. With leather I have been working with varying strengths of lemon and/or lime juice with reasonable results. I haven't finished the testing yet though and so do not know what the long term effects are on the leather or on all stains, dyes, paints and finish combinations.

Next, I learned a lesson in physics last week. As I am on a 5 pound lifting limit, there is not a lot I can do. So, why not do some leather work? Well, it turns out that a 32 ounce hammer, when swung, can equal 40-50 pounds at impact. Net result, a lot of torn stitches in my shoulder. Just hope I don't have to be opened up to repair them. This was a very painful lesson to learn since I am math and science challenged.

Time to sign off.

Chris Check

Late News -- from Uncle Bill

GOOD NEWS!!! Chris Check seems to be out of the woods in his fight against cancer. He says he will be at the next meeting. We hope that we can write the very same about "P.K." Dan's house soon. Our thoughts are with you.

SPEAKING OF "P.K.", SHE CALLED AND ADVISED THAT SHE IS READY TO HAVE A SEMINAR FOR KIDS AT THE JANUARY MEETING. SO BRING THE KIDS!

Which reminds me ... The CO-OP has bought two eight foot long tables for seminars and demonstrations. We are READY AND RARING ... BRING ON THE SEMINARS

... and **BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR**

Bill Churchill
Federal Way

If the weather is
very bad -- snow-
ing, etc., then the
PSLAC meeting
will be held the
next weekend...

RawHide Gazette Leather Page Contest

Remember – you have until May 16th to submit a full sized (8 ½ x 11 inch) leather carving that will be used for the Front Page of the RawHide Gazette for the April, May, and June issues. The winner will also receive a “top-of-the-line” swivel knife and that person’s leather carving will go into the PSLAC’s archives. NOT bad for a \$5 piece of leather and little time. *Think of the Fame, the prize, and YOUR artwork on the Internet.* Anyone in the PSLAC can enter and those who do not win this time around may resubmit for the next quarter or pick up their entry at the next PSLAC meeting. Those on the Internet will be mailed back their entry if they do not want to have it resubmitted. Mail your entry to: PSLAC, c/o Bob Stelmack, 13820 – 56th Ave S, #301, Seattle, WA 98168

Reminder: DUES ARE DUE

For most of the PSLAC members, January is the month to renew. *Thank you for your support!*