

RawHide Gazette

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"Without question, the RawHide 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 8

Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

October 1999

Hide Highlights

- Great Northwest Leatherworkers Trade Show
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- Ken's Knothole, Patterns & Email Bag

Meeting Announcement

Mark your calendar!

The next meeting will be:
Sunday, October 31st,
2:00-4:00pm
Location: **WOODY'S PLACE** -- 4248 A Street SE, Auburn

The Great Northwest Leatherworkers Trade Show Pendleton, Oregon Oct 15-16-17

Workshops, Seminars, Vendors in 85 booths at the Pendleton Convention Center, Pendleton, Oregon. Produced by the **Leather Crafters & Saddlers Journal**.

October 15-17, 1999, Open Fri 9-5, Sat 9-5 and Sun 9-3.

SEE - COMPARE - BUY:

- The finest leather in the USA
- Exquisitely made hand tools
- Perfect leather stamps
- The largest assortment of hardware
- Leather stitchers for those big jobs
- Hard-to find exotic leathers
- Handmade saddle silver
- Boot and shoe findings
- Excellent saddle trees
- Books and videos on leatherwork
- Leather clickers and machinery
- Rare, reconditioned leather tools

BIG THURSDAY NIGHT RECEPTION



TION at 8:00pm

For more information call (715) 362-5393.

In October there will many leather distributors on Pendleton, Oregon. This your chance to ask them if they would like to sponsor the **Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-op**. If so, just have them contact Bill, Ken, Chuck or Bob and we will set up the process and get the information out with the next **RawHide Gazette**. It would be a good idea that everyone who goes to Pendleton wear a name tag identifying them as a **Member of PSLAC**.

(ed note: If anyone would like to design a pin or patch for PSLAC, then do it and we will see that the pin or patch is available for the next big leather exhibition.)

Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

Mice

Last week it was antsthis week it's mice!

This picture is made up of thirteen parts applied to a background. The mice have sculptured leather plugs under them and the petals are skived to paper thinness. All coloring is done with spirit dyes with the addition of dry-brush white to highlight the texture on the mice.

I will post the completed picture of 'ants on pants' next week.

Peter Main

Leather Theft

To all: This is to let you know that **The Leather Factory in Portland** and



RawHide Gazette
Editor / Publisher: Bob Stelmack
Co-Founders: Bill Churchill & General Seymour
Treasurer/Secretary: Linda Stockhausen

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email: bingbudz@postalzone.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, address and permission of writer.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to PSLAC, c/o Linda Stockhausen, 12614 142nd. Ave. Ct. E., Puyallup, WA 98374, U.S.A.

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 Full 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.

MacPherson's Leather in Seattle were burglarized in the last week. If someone offers you a deal on tools (especially Hackbarth stamps) or leather that sounds too good to be true, please be aware that the items may have been stolen. We would appreciate it if you would contact us should you have any well-founded suspicions. And watch eBay (the electronic swap shop) for any suspicious activity.

Thanks,
Susan Hefta

(ed. note: Bill provided some details)

Talked to Durham in Portland. They hit him for \$7 to \$10 thousand on Hackbarth tools, all of the Ron's Tools and any other tool that cost lostsa \$, also leather. He figures about \$25,000 to \$40,000. And at MacPherson's mostly finished goods and leather. They did a good job.

Bill Churchill
<churchil@nwlinc.com>



Fish

Before anything else.....I know that two fins are missing from this rainbow trout!

This fish appears upside down (the fin areas are covered) as part of a scene I have almost completed. It is made over a sculptured leather plug and wrapped with fine leather skived to paper thinness at the edges to assist the turning, especially in the mouth areas. It is colored with spirit dyes (with a little white acrylic on the underside) using both brush and air-

brush, then has many coats of 'gloss' to give it the 'wet look'.

Peter Main



Peter's Custom Modeling Tool

Some of Peter's work that has been recently shown has been sculpted with Peter's own "redesigned" modeling tool as the main tool. Here are some details on this tool in Peter's own words:

While visiting the many Tandy locations last year, I had with me prototypes of my modeling tool. These tools were used in the classes I was instructing and created an overwhelming demand. It was my intention that Tandy would carry these as a stock line and therefore be available to all. Well, that was not to be, for several reasons, but mainly because I was not happy with the production run. Now all that is at last rectified, as I have spent part of the past two weeks at my grinder and buff completely reshaping a batch of tools to 'work'.

I made the original modeling tool over twenty years ago, as I found that the 'bought' ones could not do the detail I was striving for. This tool takes the place of small bevelers in fine detail work as well as general smoothing out of rough beveling. I have many modelers, but always find my hand reaching just for this one.

I have made only two exact replicas (meaning handle shape). One was for **Cherryl MacIntyre** (a wonderful crafts person from Brisbane) and the other for **Al Stohlman**. Al loved the tool and used it for all detail work. That tool is now in the hands of **Tony Laier**, Ann presented it to him last year.

I will be bringing a limited number of

these tools to Denver. They have a price tag of twenty dollars, so those that have requested them over the past year will at last have a chance to grab one.

I have had such a response to the modeling tool that I find it necessary to respond to all here.

I can post the modelers from Australia for an additional three dollars. So as checks are received for twenty three dollars I will have them airmail posted same day. Checks can be made out to me in US dollars and sent to:

Peter Main
264 Hume Highway
Camden
NSW
Australia 2570

I have also been asked for more information on the use of the modeler. Not being able to demonstrate here, I can only answer it in this way.....the recent photos of the small ants, fish, mice, and birds etc. were done only with this modeler (swivel-knife outlines of course).

Peter Main

Invitational Leather Art Show *Peter Main to hold class in Madison, WI*

October 12th is the date scheduled for the Opening of the **Invitational Leather Art Show "Leather-To The ends of the World"** that will be taking place in Madison, Wisconsin at the Promega Corporation's World Headquarters. This prestigious, invitation-only show will showcase the work of the world's foremost leather artists. There are nine principles that will have their work exhibited for a two month period, beginning with

the Opening night reception at the Promega Corporation's Biotechnology Center, located at 5445 East Cheryl Parkway, Madison, WI, on **October 12, from 4 pm to 7:30 pm**. The reception will be held for the artists and the public is invited to attend.

The principles invited to partici-

pate in this Leather To the End of the World Show are (in alphabetical order): **Robb Barr, Joe Barth, Bob Beard, Rene Berends, Silva Fox, Garry Greenwood, Roz Kaohn, Mike Taylor, and Ann Waters**. Other members from the Leder Gilde and the IILG have been invited to participate. Work will be represented from countries such as **Mongolia, Taiwan, Australia, USA, Germany, Switzerland, England and Canada**.

The show will hang for two months, after which it is expected to travel to galleries in Mitchell, South Dakota; Rapid City, South Dakota and on to Jackson Hole, Wyoming. The public is invited to attend.

Because Peter Main will be in Madison, WI for the Leather Art Invitational, he has agreed to hold a class there during the second weekend in October.

If you are near to the area (Chicago, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Dubuque, etc) and would like to attend his two day class, please let me know.

This is a rare opportunity for leather people in this area because we rarely have teachers stop by to do classes. Take advantage of this opportunity. Details will follow soon as to cost and subject matter.

Please email me if you are interested in attending. For more information, call or write

Ann Waters at (608) 835-9025
592 Hillcrest Lane
Brooklyn, WI 53521
...or..
Email: **CLEARH2OS@aol.com**

Dream Leather Cruise

Hi Everyone! You have heard the rumors for months and now the details are ready! Yes, It's TRUE! We will be sailing to Alaska next summer and everyone is invited!

Plans have been finalized for the first ever Dream Leather Cruise of a Lifetime!

This will be a Cruise to Alaska with four of the top leather teachers in the world on-board. The four teachers who have signed on are: **Robb Barr, Bob Beard, Rene Berends and Peter Main.**

Most of you are probably familiar with who **Robb Barr** is. He is a widely popular, very original, international Leather Artist and teacher who has produced many wonderful videos on his methods of leather art.

Bob Beard is known worldwide not only for his over the top leather art, but also his excellent line of Pro-Series tools.

Let me introduce **Rene Berends** to you for those who aren't familiar with him. He is the President of the Leder Gilde (a very prestigious, juried, international Leather Guild based in Germany) who is a master bag maker and an incredible, original leather artist.

And last but not least, our wonderful Australian Leather Artist, **Peter Main**, a favorite around the world for his detailed, exquisite art and imagination.

Not only are these the top Leather artists in the world, but as those of you who have had the privilege to meet them, they are each extremely wonderful people with great senses of humor that make each class with them a time to remember.

With these guys on board, it is surely to be a trip to remember!

They are all excited about this trip and have each prepared a new class just for this trip with an Alaskan theme.

The details are as follows:

The ship we will be sailing on is called, **The Norwegian Sky** (a brand new ship!)

The trip is scheduled for the week of the Summer Solstice next summer. The Northern Lights should be spectacular at this time of the year! We will be cruising up the west coast from Seattle, into the Alaskan waters. We will cruise the Sawyer Glacier, and the Inside Passage.

We will view whales, dolphins, seals and polar bears. Because we will be Cruising the Inside Passage, the native Alaskan wildlife will be seen in their natural environment. The Cruise will also be stopping at great ports where we can disembark and view Native Alaskan Museums and Villages. Great shopping opportunities abound with Alaskan and Eskimo Art in many cities.

The ship will depart from Seattle, Washington on Sunday, June 18, 2000 and return to Seattle on Sunday, June 25, 2000 .

The Itinerary:

Sun, 6/18, 4:00pm	Depart Seattle
Mon, 6/19	At Sea
Tues, 6/20	Cruising
	Sawyer Glacier
Wed, 6/21, 7am-Noon	Haines, Alaska
Wed, 6/21, 1:30pm-10pm	Skagway, Alaska
Thurs, 6/22, 7am-5pm	Juneau, Alaska
Fri, 6/23	Cruising Inside Passage
Sat, 6/24, 2pm-9pm	Vancouver, Canada
Sun, 6/26, 7am	Arrive Seattle

Prices:

All prices include cruise fare, current port charges and current taxes, meals

and onboard entertainment. Airfare is not included. All cabins are inside cabins.

For two people to a room - including classes with all 4 teachers, \$1,671.00 each

For Two people to a room- not taking any classes, \$1,471.00 each

This means that for two people who will be sharing a room, if only one person takes the classes, then his/her fare would be the \$1,671 price and the person sharing the room with them who is not taking classes would pay the \$1,471. price.

We have some rooms that will hold 4 to a room - and these must be reserved quickly to hold them. These are great for a family!

The prices for these are:

For four people to a room - including classes with all 4 teachers, \$1,322.00 each

For four people to a room - those not taking any classes, \$1,122.00 each

To reserve your space on this Dream Cruise of a Lifetime, a \$500 non-refundable deposit must be received by Ann Waters (address below) no later than January 2, 2000. The check should be made out to "**Leather Arts Cruises**".

For further information and a brochure, call Ann at (608) 835-9025 or write to her at the below address.

Each of the four teachers have prepared a special six -eight hour class to be held on-board.

This Alaskan Cruise be an incredible trip and the place to be next year!

Ann Waters
email: ClearH2Os@aol.com
Leather Art Cruises
592 Hillcrest Lane
Brooklyn, WI 53521
(608)835-9025

Dumb Questions

I'm trying to gather "silly leather questions" for my website, starting with ones I got when I once spent a year working for Tandy's many moon ago. Among the standards so far...

QUESTION:

Why is the leather such funny shapes?

ANSWER:

They're "cow-shaped" ma'am.

QUESTION:

Why do the deerskins have holes in them?

ANSWER:

Because they SHOOT them...

QUESTION:

Why don't you have leather by the running yard?

ANSWER:

Well, because they don't make 300-yard long cows...

QUESTION:

What's a "slunk" hide?

ANSWER:

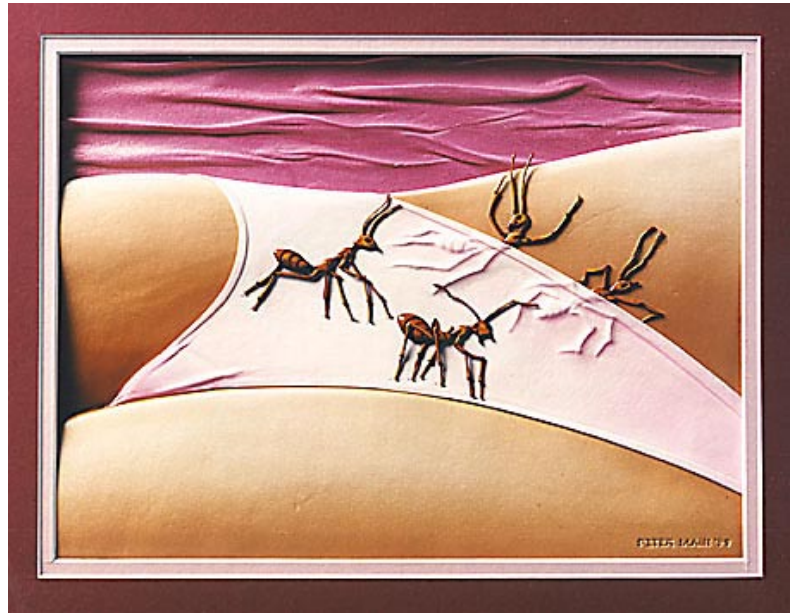
Well, you know what "persian lamb" is? Oh, never mind, you really don't want to know....

You get the idea. I'm sure there's a lot more out there than the ones I can remember, and I'd like folk to send them to me so I can put them up on my website. I'll accredit people with the silly quotes when they want.

Send your silly quotes to:

Adam Smith

email: spike@ica.net
Sword in the Stone Crafts -- fine leatherwares for the new Renaissance
<http://welcome.to/SwordintheStoneCrafts>
905-878-4205



Ants in the Pants

A short time ago I posted some ants....well this is where they ended up. The 'body' is made from several layered sculptured leather plugs covered with 2-3 oz. leather. The 'pants' are skived kangaroo fitted over the body (and ants). The sheets are very thin sheepskin, sprayed with metallic red to give the look of satin. All coloring is done with an air-brush using spirit dyes. I also made the double mat sit up from the picture to add depth. The picture size is around 7x10".

This picture is just for fun....and I enjoyed it!.....hope you do too.

Peter Main

Tips-Tips-Tips

A Tooling Surface to Die For

I went to a tomb stone shop and bought a 24 x 36 inch tomb stone that is granite and has a mirror finish on it. They some times chip the edge and sell them for very little. Mine cost \$30.00 and I built a table to hold it with drawers under the top.

I built it high enough that I can stand and

work at it or set in a high draftsman chair. You can walk all the way around it or pull over a small table on wheels to allow you to work on a long item like a gun case.

I have over head fluorescent light but also have 2 high intensity lights that are mounted on the wall and shine across the table from 2 sides to reduce shadows (they have to be mounted high enough to prevent glare getting into your eyes).

Tobias
ACE3836@aol.com

Fred Sez

Some thoughts -- At breakfast Saturday we talked about the rising cost of the beginners kits. Bill, General, Linda and the rest didn't have any heartburn with having a slight markup in the price of the marbles. A 2-3 dollar markup seems reasonable to gain money for the kids programs. This still keeps the price to under 10 bucks.

Also, how 'bout bringing up shows in libraries and other public buildings at the next meeting to test the waters on how the membership feels about it.

Fred Nachbar <Chengpchl@aol.com>



Dusty's Bench



"Organization" ?????? I don't know what that means. Look at the picture..... that proves my point. Have a nice day. I won't because now I have to try to clean up my pig pe..... NO THAT ISN'T THE NAME..... OH YEAH!!..... 'PLAY PEN'.

Dusty Wert

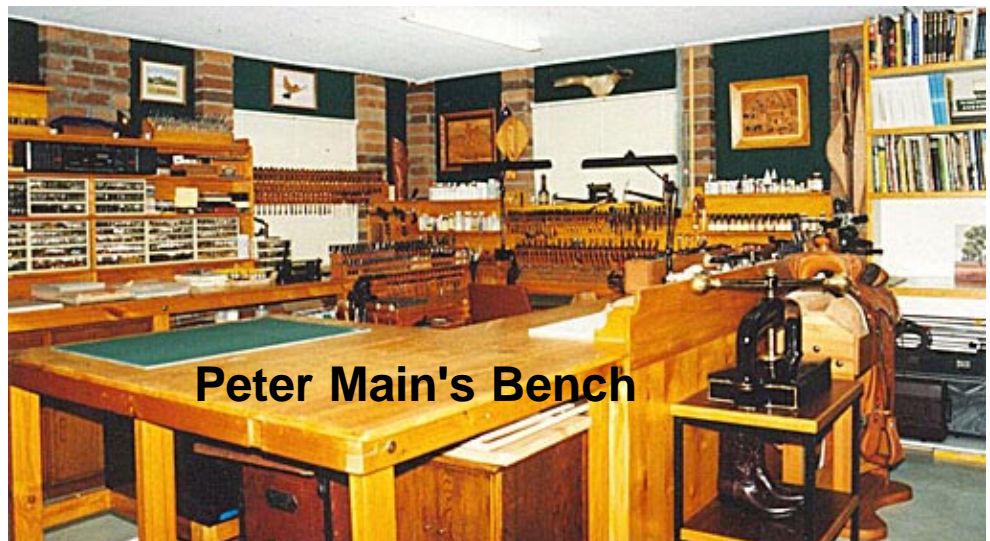


Bill Churchill's Bench

Just a sampling of Work Benches --

What does your work bench look like?

Send in a picture!



Peter Main's Bench

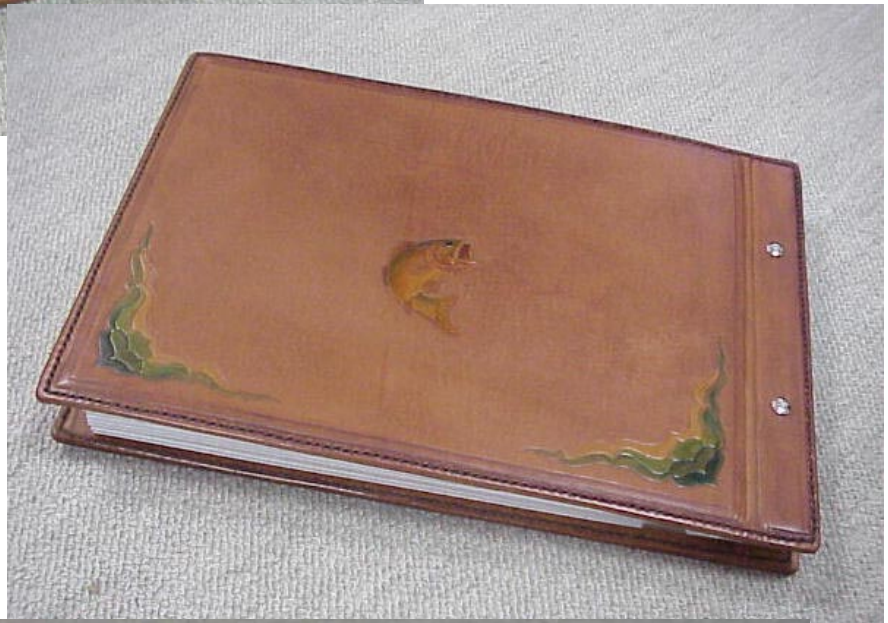


Rainbow Trout design by Robb Barr

Finished Rainbow Trout Album

Note the lightly colored bass on the reverse and corner treatment. Both done with just CraftAids and Tombow coloring -- NO TOOLING. The hinge was designed to allow opening of the album without allowing the highly embossed fish to touch the table surface.

Bob Stelmack, Hamamatsu, Japan



Rainbow Trout



PK Dan at Steel Lake with the Scouts



Uncle Bill's Corner

This has been one heck of a month. Busy...Busy...

First, let me talk about **"PK" Dan**. She needs a medal. She did (Most) of the work at the Federal Way festival, when

we helped around 300 kids make a Free Key Fob. Then she came to the **Puyallup Fair** and spent two hard hours helping another 130 Kids make Free Key Fobs. When we closed the line at the Fair, there were at least 35 more kids waiting. Wonder-



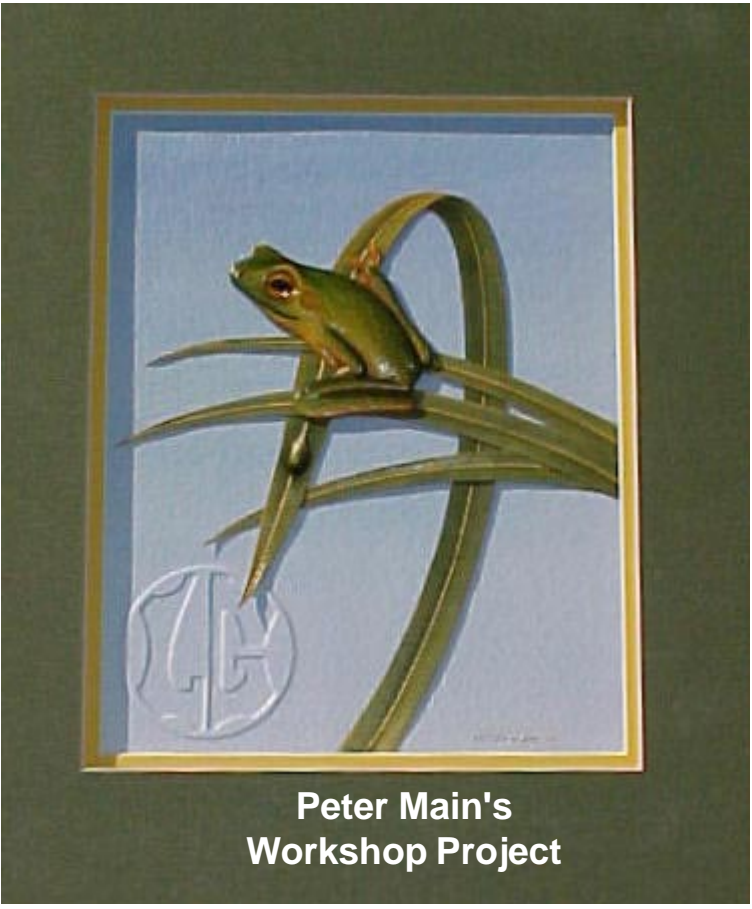
Peter Main

ful Lady and our Thanks go out to "PK".

Woody and Kevin Collins also were demonstrating at the Fair and Helping Kids make Free Key Fobs. Kevin is 15 Years old and is the first Kid that has demonstrated at the Fair in Leather (to my knowledge). If I remember right, Kevin came up with a few BLUE (First Place) Ribbons too. Actually if it wasn't for the Collins Family, we would not have had more than 30 or so entries. **All we had was 46.**

The wood carvers are laughing this year. Leather had 5 Demonstrations — the wood carvers had 45 Demonstrations. Leather had one window full of entries — Wood Carvers had three. A lot of people in the CO-OP have been sitting on their hands. Over 300 members and we get 46 entries? My thanks to those that did enter.

Peter Main was here! He had a two-day seminar. He also showed his beautiful art at our first meeting after the summer layoff. (I really didn't make him buy that EXPENSIVE camera), but cameras really got a work out at that meeting. Dusty and Fred wore out their trigger fingers. Hopefully the pictures come out and are sent to Bob in time for this **Rawhide Gazette**. Peter left here with a toothache and landed in snow in Denver, but his was a very successful trip. **Ann Stohlman** called me on the 30 Sept 99 and told me that the **"STOHLMAN**



Peter Main's Workshop Project



PSLAC and Peter Main

MUSEUM is going to be on the **King Ranch** in Wyoming in the **King Western Museum**. Peter did all of the ground work and the deal was finalized by Peter on the 30 Sept. So, not too long in the future, the Stohlman Museum will be real. I have never seen the Museum on the King Ranch, but everyone tells me that is the Holy Grail for Leather. **George Hurst** practically gets on his knees when he talks of the King Ranch and the Museum.

PENDLETON OREGON this month: 14th—15th—16th—17th for the largest leather show that has ever been in the Northwest. I know that everyone wants to go.

Do the **CO-OP** a favor. Wear a name-tag stating that you are a beloved member of PSLAC. Put your club membership card on your

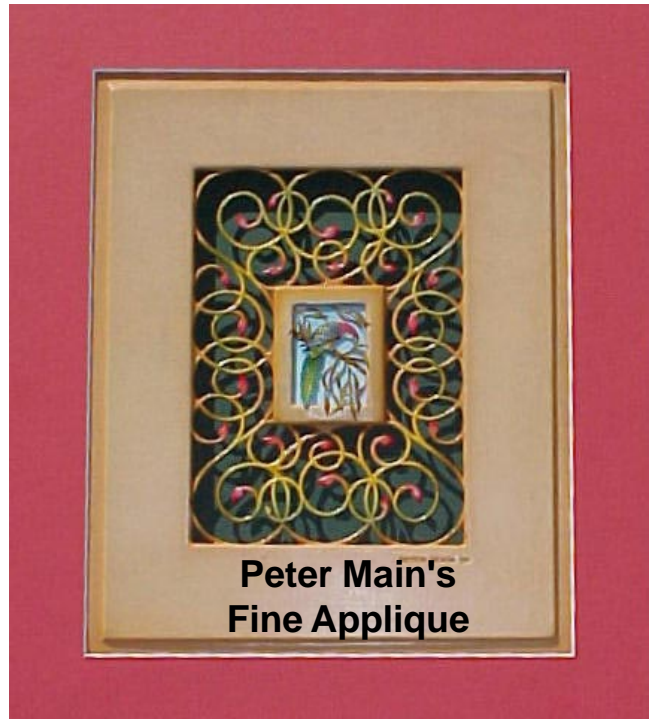
chest and smile...

SEE YOU IN PENDLETON!

Bill Churchill,
Federal Way

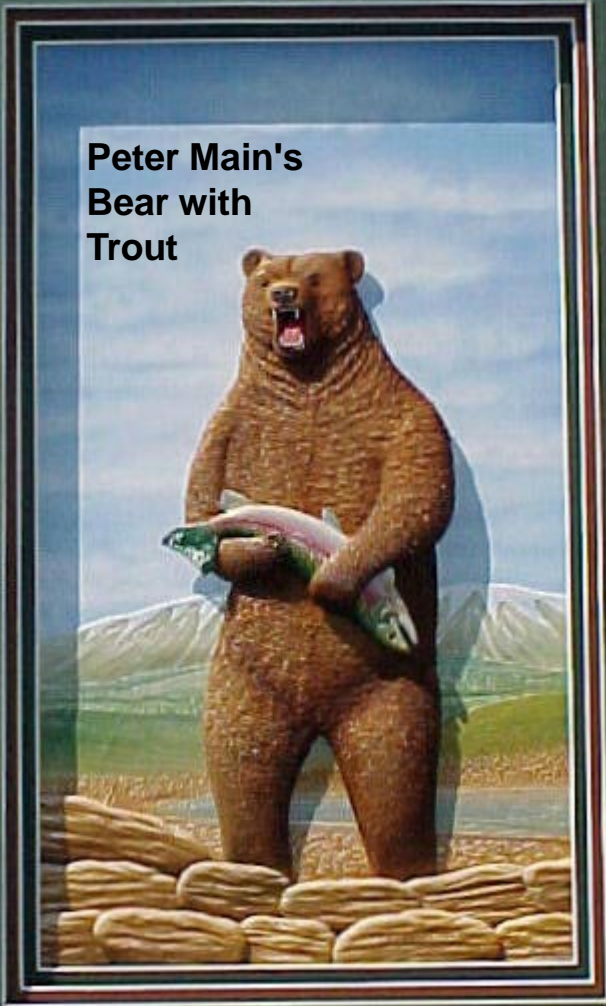


Peter Main's Embossed Frog



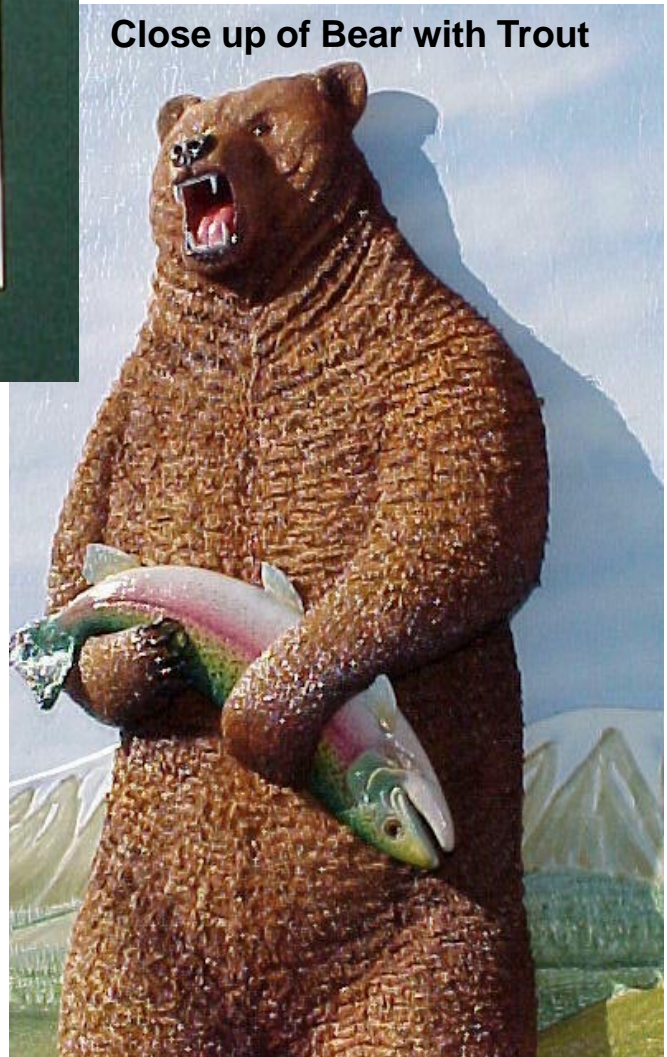
Peter Main's Fine Applique

**Peter Main's
Bear with
Trout**



**The picture was taken,
at the PSLAC meeting
in September, outside
in the sunlight to
accentuate the applique
work (note the shadows
cast).**

Close up of Bear with Trout



**After ALL my hard work
on my Rainbow Trout
Album -- Peter Main's
Bear has a feast with
the trout ;-)**

Quick Punch Holder

I have carried around, used, and broken more of those mini-punch bits than I would care to admit to. My latest project had a .040" plastic stiffener in it that took the life of another punch bit. I decided to get myself a set of steel hardened punches that I could mistreat and have a better chance of survival. So far -- so good.

But where do I keep these beauties where I can find the size I need?

I made a quick holder for them and made enough mistakes to pass along -- so you don't have to.

First, as with most of my projects, they are in my head and actual measurements are sort of guessed at. I really needed to measure this one out -- I barely had enough width to hold all the punches. I guessed at the width of the sewing channels and guessed wrong. What I thought would fit the large punch was really the size for the small one.

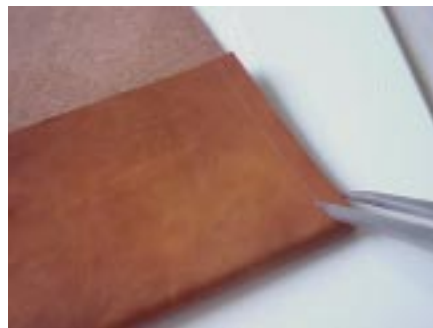
Second, I made the holder out of too thick a piece of leather which made it hard to form the "pockets" for the punches.

Third, I made the pockets too deep which made removal of the punch difficult. I did reform the pocket to only allow the punch to go down 3/4 of the way.

But like everything else I make, it gets finished and used.

Bob Stelmack
Hamamatsu, Japan

"Okay, now go out there and improve on the punch holder and send me a "picture" and a "description" of the right way to do it!"



The "Churchill" Hand Sewing Stand

Materials:

- Two (2) Oak boards 3" x 1" x 32" high is what I needed, adjust height for your comfort
- 15" x 11 1/2" x 1" Pine board (Base)

- 2 1/2" x 2 1/2" x 2 1/2" Pine block (*separates the oak boards and also used to fasten to base*).

I used a threaded brass rod and an old handle from a power mower (To adjust the mower's handle).

See drawing for the correct use of the brass rod.

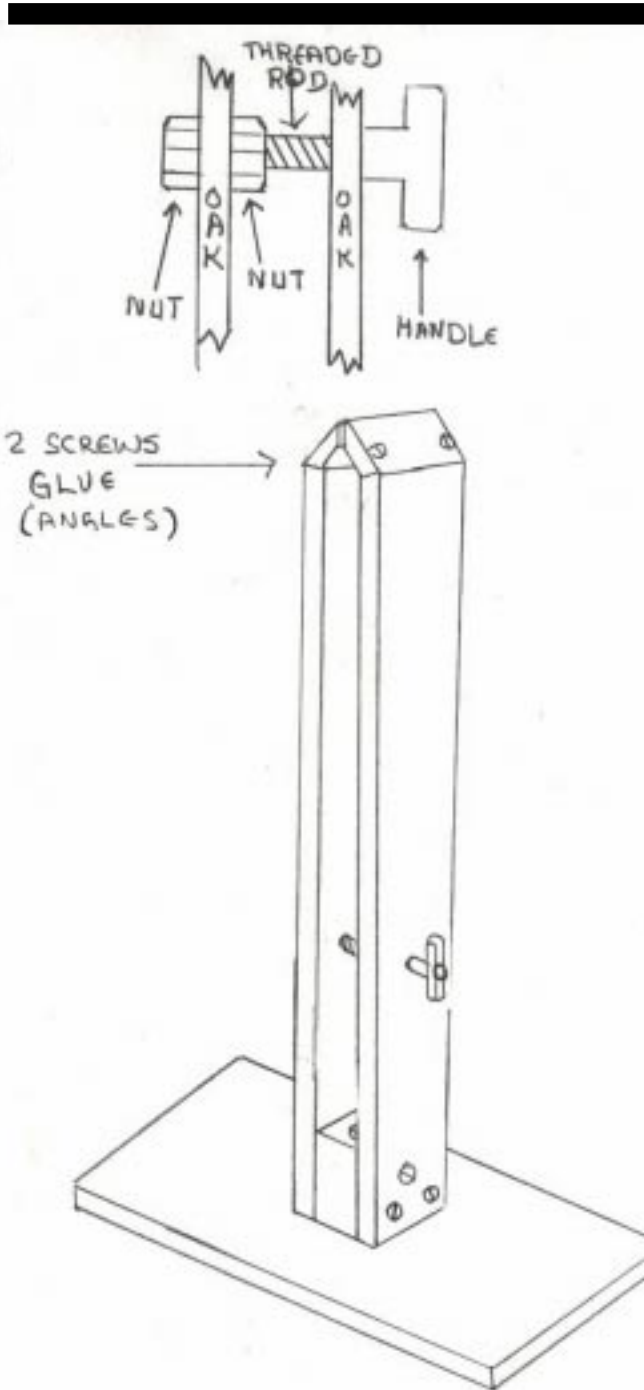
I used three wood screws and wood glue to attach each oak board to the block. I

also used four wood screws and wood glue to secure the oak boards and block to the stand.

For the "JAWS" wood screws and wood glue.

I would suggest covering the jaws with Sueded leather cemented to the jaws.

Bill Churchill
Federal Way, WA



Note Stitching awl mounted on stand.

Momas

638 St. Peter St.
New Orleans, Louisiana 70116 USA



I have been making masks since 1985 for all occasions including Mardi Gras balls. There are many more Original Masks in the studio established in 1995. These are only a sampling of my handmade masks. All masks are made and signed by Dalili in the studio. Visit the studio at 638 St. Peter Street just 1 block from Jackson Square near the corner of Royal and St. Peter in the heart of the French quarter.

Dalili

Phone: 504-524-6300

E-Mail: maskdalili@aol.com



MOMAS MARDI GRAS MASKS. Hand made original Leather and Feather masks by Dalili. For Mardi Gras, Halloween, New Years, and New Orleans Carnival Balls. Custom made masks are available.

URL: <http://www.neworleans-mask.com/>





These masks show the versatility of tooled and wet formed leather. My favorite masks are those whose shape resembles leaves. These examples can be ordered from **Dalili** or use these examples as a spring board to your own ideas and designs. Your imagination is the only limit.

Bob Stelmack -- Hamamatsu, Japan





Leather Mask

Artist - Vincent Ur

E-mail me at: masques@swbell.net

Phone: 1-918-599-9263

URL: <http://home.swbell.net/masques/>

Background:

I first began mask making after a vacation to New Orleans, where I was first exposed to leather Mardi Gras masks. I spent several hours in the mask shop, and purchased two, before I headed home.

After doing some research on the mask making process, I drew upon my background in art and literature, and produced several masks of my own design. Over the next few months, as my experience in mask making grew, and new techniques developed, I began experimenting with new and varied designs.

Because I have had no formal training, my techniques, designs, and subject matter are somewhat unique and off the beaten path. I have now produced thousands of masks. My styles range from festive masks such as the man in the moon, jesters, and the sun king, to creatures of the night like demons, skulls, and dragons, to everyday animal masks such as wolves, eagles, cats and bats. I also produce many custom pieces on a

regular basis.

My masks have been featured in local newscasts, magazines and newspapers, a fashion layout with model Susie Owens, and several arts and fashion shows. Several masks can also be seen in the CD-ROM computer game "Taboo" as well as a book of props and theatrical costuming for the live action game "Vampire: The Masquerade". My work was also among the several masks purchased by the Fox network to be used in a new series set in New Orleans. I have produced masks for several theatre groups, as well as dance groups, and some Metropolitan Opera productions. I currently work with many Renaissance Fairs as well, and due to the international appeal of Mardi Gras, my masks have traveled as far as Ecuador, France, and Norway.

About the Masks

Each mask is unique. The leather's original design is cut manually and then shaped by hand. **Each mask is molded from a single piece of leather.** Nothing is glued or stitched on.

The leather is then treated to retain its form and resist moisture. Acrylic paint is applied, which enhances and completes the mask's identity while reinforcing and protecting the leather's shape.

The completed mask is light, yet strong and durable, making it suitable for years of wear or hanging as decoration. Each mask is finalized by signing and numbering, enhancing the mask's value.

(ed. note: The following pages show the variety of styles and patterns that Vincent uses. These can be ordered from Vincent -- or you could make your own designs and build your own.)

Bob Stelmack -- Hamamatsu, Japan







• • • **Native American Masks made for wall display by Terry Shinaberger**



The Fair –The Kids

Yesterday at the Fair was a complete success.. **Kids made Key Fobs, Key Fobs and Some more Key Fobs.** It took 130 Kids to finally break the Marble. It just split. I have never seen that happen before. But anyhow. **PK** came through like a champ. I know that her hand was hit at least 20 times. It is probably twice the size this AM. We are talking 130 kids in TWO HOURS. Thanks to **Tandy** we have all of the materials to make these. You should see the faces on most of the Kids: *"I CAN'T BELIEVE IT, I ACTUALLY MADE THIS"*. **General** was there too, and he talked to all of the parents as they were going through the line. One parent said, "How can you give all of this away?" He told them that was the reason for the CO-OP to help kids learn about Leather (also said something about a rich Aunt). We were exhausted at the end and the Hobby Hall had someone who was to follow us (wood Carver or something) cancel, so they wanted us to stay another 2 hours. We all had previous engagements. Fun was had by all! **Bill Churchill**

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: (_____) - _____

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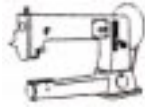
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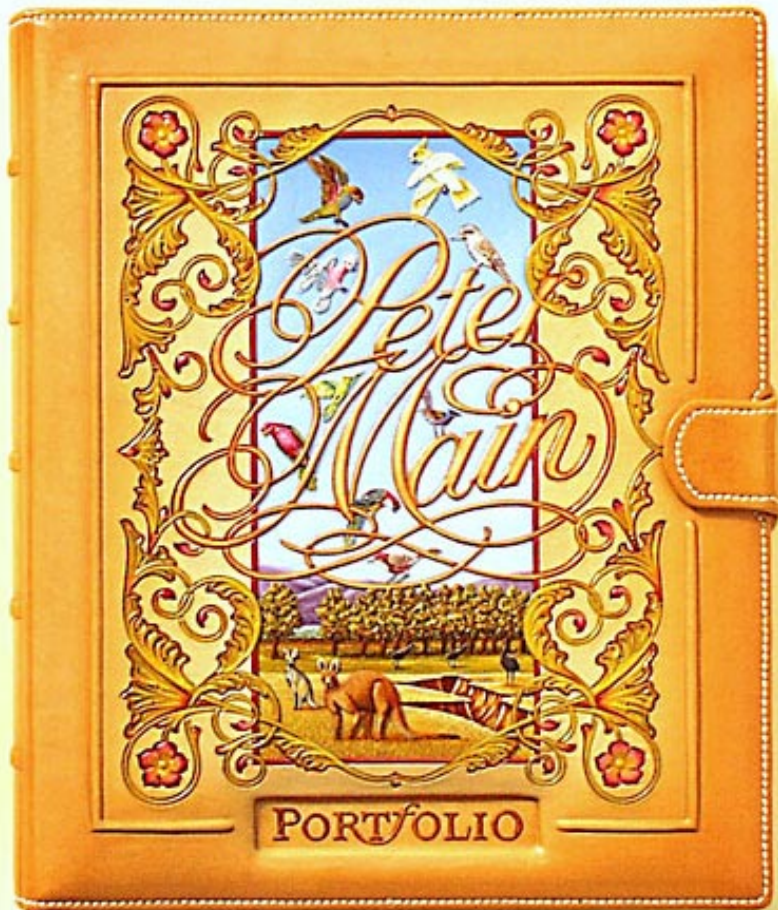
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Peter's Portfolio

Hello, ...if you recall some small birds and a scene.....this is where they all ended up.

The portfolio is padded, has turned hand sewn edges, also has a curved spine with false bands and is lined with natural goatskin which I dyed tan to match the outer cover. Of course it has a 'magnetic' closure on the strap; this strap fits into a recess on the cover and is sewn into another recess on the back.

The portfolio has a gilt ring binder which will take 32 plastic sleeves (64 photos). While making this I was putting together photos of my work in 'date' order. I had estimated the number of pages to be enough, but as the time went by I found more, even some early shots going back to 1970.....now I have make 'volume 2'!

Peter Main <pgm@wolf.net.au>



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The Penultimate Key Case

After making and wearing out many of those "kit" key cases, I finally designed one to "last forever". Unfortunately it has lasted so long that key styles have changed and a new one will have to be built even though this one is still functional and still looks good.

The key case is made from a thick piece of shark skin. The skin was already dyed brown when I bought it.

broad "U" shape. I was tough work since the steel was very rigid. I used a file to round all the edges so they would not "cut" into the leather.

The "U" bracket was drilled with two holes that would allow



The snap is a normal Baby Dot Snap and the case is sewn with brown polyester thread. The thread is the only part that has shown any wear.

The keys are attached to a standard "barrel pull-apart" key set, but the end that is attached my special designed bracket had be drilled out a little for a larger hole. I will explain a little later.

The special bracket is a stainless steel "shim" from Boeing's Surplus Store. Most days you can find some shims around for sale, if not ask one of your Boeing friends if they can locate one for you.

I took the stainless steel shim, to a bench mounted vise, and hammered it into a

attach to a second piece of shark skin to be sewn inside and placed after the bracket was complete.

The bracket then had two holes drilled and tapped to take a long hex headed screw that ultimately holds the "barrel pull-apart" key rings. This is the tricky part -- the hole must be centered such that the

two rivets to pass through to

"barrel pull-apart" key rings will rotate a complete 180 degrees. This will insure that the keys will fold up for closures and extend for use.





The hex headed screw was screwed through the first hole and the "barrel pull-apart" key rings were placed on the screw with washers to space the keys. I used stainless steel washers. (I've included enough pictures to show how the key case is made and just how the washers hold the "barrel pull-apart" key rings.)

After the screw was screwed through the second hole, the screw was hammered with a ball peen hammer to flatten and immobilize the screw and so that it would not "back out". With a little effort the screw could be removed to replace one of the "barrel pull-apart" key rings, but to date none has failed, unlike those key case kits.

The bracket was then riveted to the inside shark piece and all was sewn together.



The case has lasted almost a decade and other than a little fraying of the thread, it looks as good as when I made it. The shark skin does not show marks and all I've ever used to treat it was petroleum jelly about every six months.

scrupulous parking lot attendants have been known to copy the house keys, look at the registration and visit your home at some later day for some midnight shopping.

I place the house keys on one ring, work keys on the second and car keys on the third.

The problem with today's keys, that will cause me to remake the key case, is the SIZE of car keys now. Some car keys now are electronic and lock the car from a distance. They are longer and thicker. Right now I let the keys extend a little past the case and it seems to work fine.



The "barrel pull-apart" key rings come in very handy when your car needs some work, or if someone needs the keys to work. You can just pull off the set and hand them over without giving your house keys with them. This makes just plain good safety sense. Some un-

One final note: If you are right handed have the case snap left over right. This will allow you to open and select the key with the right hand. Lefties -- reverse the case snap.

Bob Stelmack
Hamamatsu, Japan

A Visit to Leather Purse Shop

Right here in Hamamatsu is a small (emphasis -- small) shop that makes and sells leather purses. The owner invited me inside to see the working area. The work area was approximately 8 x 10 feet and as you can see it housed all the tools, patterns and work surfaces to manufacture purses. The sewing machine was directly below the camera. The sales area is even smaller.

He makes many types of purses and bags, but the one that caught my eye and became a birthday gift for Karen was a simple draw string bag.

At first I was surprised to find Karen's initial on one of the bags, but then realized that the Japanese language only has a few beginning sounds: k, g, s, z, t, d, n, h, b, p, m, y, r, w, and the five vowels. So it was pretty common to find a monogram of "K" for Karen or "S" for Stelmack.

The draw string bag was simple in design and very easy to make.

The following pictures give details that show how to make the bag.

In this example the purse was made from light weight blue pig skin. The draw strings, corners and initial were made from light weight chrome tanned contrasting brown leather. The stitching was white linen thread used to accent the monogram.

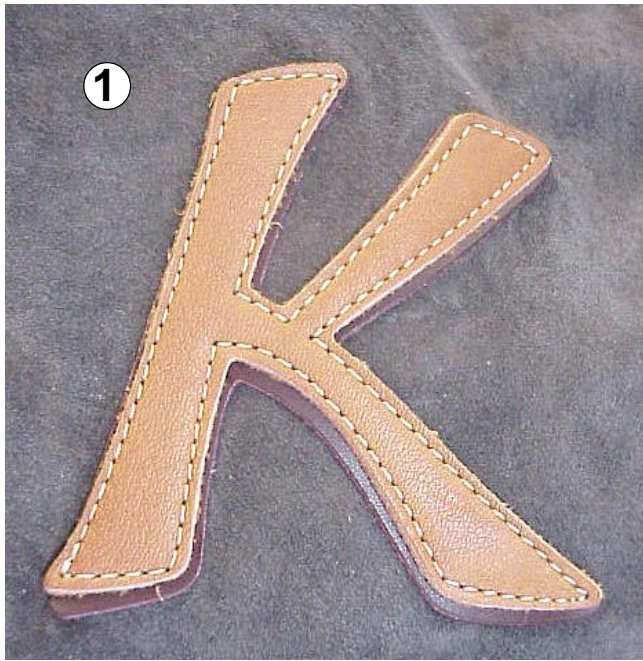
The whole bag could not have taken more than 30 minutes to make and he sold it for



3900 yen (approx \$32).

One interesting thing I have found in many business establishments in Japan is the ever present aquarium with goldfish or Koi. Something very soothing to watch while you work.

Bob Stelmack
Hamamatsu, Japan



(1&2) Sew the corners and the monogram on the grain side of the leather.



(3) Place the two grain side together and sew the bag closure up to the draw string channel, then fold over and

tuck the edges in and sew around the draw string channel.

(4) Form two draw strings and loop through the channels and tie off on each side.



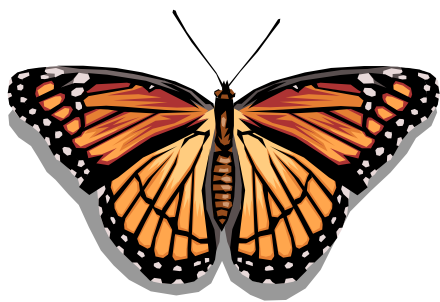
How About Computer Clip Art for Leather Patterns?

Most computers come with software and that "ever present" clip art. It might be a good idea to browse through the clip art -- there are many examples to show both the colors and the bold pattern lines. Just for grins I grabbed some clip art from Microsoft Publisher and sprinkled here, on a couple of pages some butterflies and some other things. Check out your own computer for some ideas.

Bob Stelmack,
Hamamatsu, Japan

Ken's Knothole

Welcome back all from the summer break and what a spectacular September meeting to start this season off, with all



of **Peter Main's** incredible art pieces and him there to explain them and his impromptu seminar on photographing leather. Also some very nice (large) cougars in leather, displayed by **Fred Nachbar**.

Summer Travels: my wife and I take a

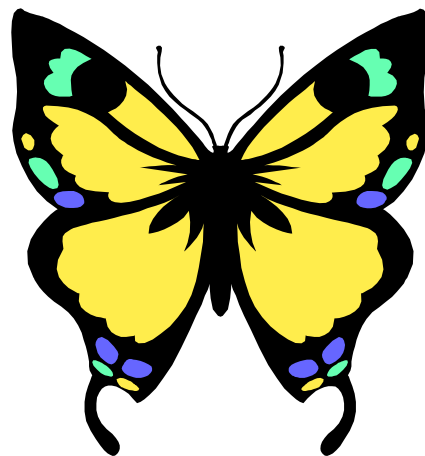
yearly trip to visit relatives in Billings Montana, and I try to visit leather shops on the way. For years I have stopped at franchise **Tandy Store** in **Bozeman**, which could stock locally purchased tools, buttons, books, etc. Sadly, in the past few years and now especially since the Tandy Closings, it has begun to move to a bead/



craft shop, very few tools or leather, and now not worth the stop.

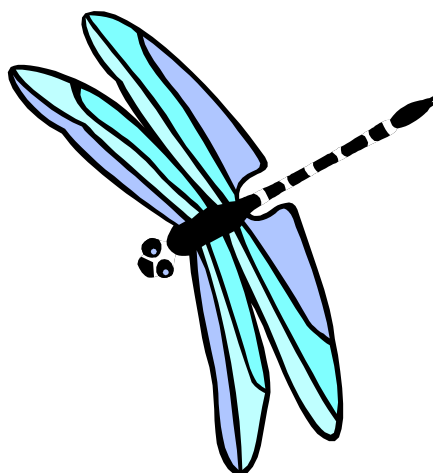
On a positive note, **Montana Leather in Billings** (which owns our local **MacPhersons**) was bigger and better than ever. All the usual shoe, boot, and saddle findings, but also more craft tools, knives, kits, leather, etc. *They had the kangaroo lacing that Terry from MacPherson's talked about at our June mtg., in two widths and a number of colors.* The colors looked very even. I picked up 4 hanks of a very rich red color and will be braiding them into a hat-band in the near future. Ken Imus picked up a kangaroo hide from Seattle MacPherson's recently so they are now stocking this product.

Final stop on the summer travels was to **Rand's Custom Hats** in Billings



(www.randhats.com) to get a leather sweatband installed in a Panama style straw hat. I had one sweatband installed for an example and bought an extra one,

which I'll use as a pattern, so I can make others. It is thin leather in a flattened parabolic shaped, folded around a very thin stranded wire (for strength). Also, they took a measurement of the shape my head by fitting a weird round 100+ year old antique with

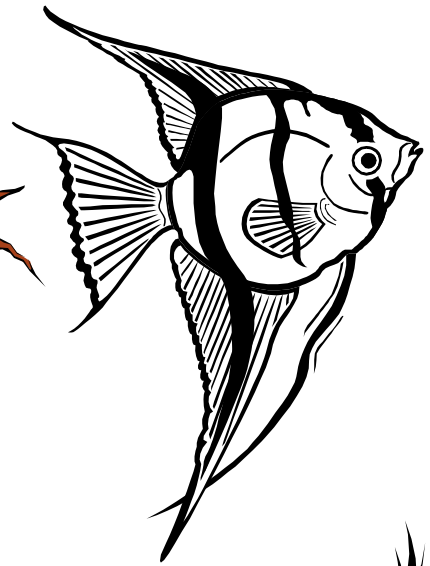
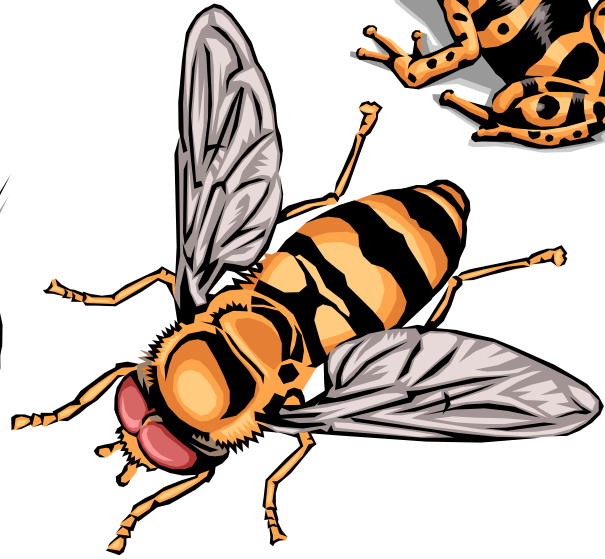
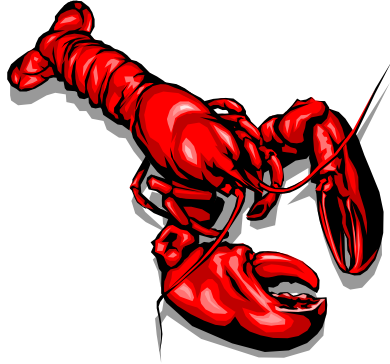


lots of springs and levers, over my head. The levers push pins into a piece of paper that give a exact outline of your head, from which they hand fit a hat that I bet will fit better than anything off the shelf (and by the way the shape of my head was very scary).

the Seattle area next June for the Leather Cruise.

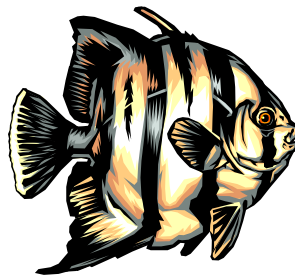
Ken Eriksen

Peter Main's class: I was one of the fortunate PSLAC members to take Peter's class last weekend. As others have stated, I've found him to be a very gracious and patient teacher, very willing share what he has learned over the past 30 or so years of leatherworking. What he can do with just a few tools and his



modeling spoon is amazing. I was very happy to be one of the first in the US to snag one of the modeling spoons he brought for sale. He did talk about the amount of hand finishing he had to do to get these spoons "right" and that he may not continue to carry them, so I suggest you contact him, before these run out.

Finally, his dry brush technique for layering in and building shades of color finally started to click for me, though it was a bit frustrating to see his demo, and then try it and have it look like mud (mantra: practice, practice, practice). Peter said he might try to do some short evening classes here before he leaves the country. I'm politicking for a class from him in hand sewing, or rolled edges, or embossed lettering. We'll get the word out to the group if these classes gel. If not this year, *keep in mind he'll be back in*



Email Bag

*(ed. note: This crossed my email inbox last month and I was fascinated with the coloration used to bring one of those **Dover** pictures to life. In addition there was some good discussion about weather proofing leather for the elements that was pretty good advise.)*

(Gary answers with this advice:)

Fozzie! Glad to be of assistance! What I would suggest is this; for the lines on the main body, the ones you have pointed out in the second pic, I would use the modelling tool, instead of bevelling. In fact, I would not have cut them at all, just used the spoon end of a stylus to sort of lift



My problem is I am trying to carve 2 Celtic dogs onto a motorcycle tool roll if you look at the pictures I have used the black and white image as a tracing pattern and want it to look as much like the coloured image as possible I have carved the basic outline but do not know what to do about the lines (changes in color) on the main bodies. Do I cut them and bevel them or just cut them or maybe just mark them with a stylus or even leave them out and just colour it like the main picture.

them toward the inside, to give it a more natural, three dimensional effect. Celtic knotwork is my speciality, so I have a little knowledge in this area. I once did a similar cat motif on a Wallet, which gets a lot of use, and wear, as it is in and out of the pocket all the time. Cut lines are more susceptible to scrubbing down and wearing down than sculpted lines and mouldings.

As far as colouring, got for it, just be sure to use a good finish like neat-laq, or



Also in view of the fact this tool roll will be subjected to all the rain we get in the U.K. would it be best not to colour it and what would people suggest as the best finish. Sorry to ask so many questions but this is for a good friend and I need to make a good job of it.

Cheers,
Fozzie
<Fozzie@fozziebear.demon.co.uk>

another lacquer type, to keep out the rain. If you go for a sheen finish, I add a little sno-proof before and after, to give it more water-repellent qualities. An excellent substitute for sno-proof is neatsfoot oil, although it doesn't have quite the water shedding quality of sno-proof. Mink oil is another good one.

"Gary LittleBear"
<garylittlebear@earthlink.net>

RG On-line

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-- of course the password information is free for the Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op members. Those on the Internet still need send \$10 per year for a membership to:

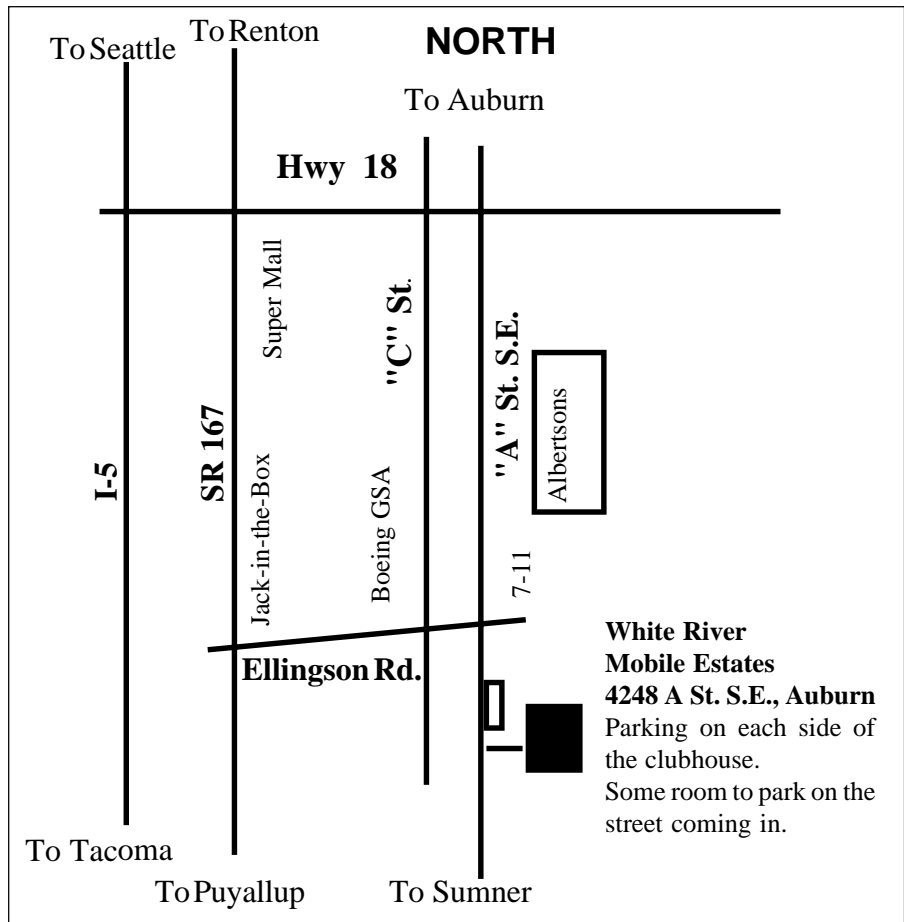
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