

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

Volume 9, Issue 7

Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

December 2003

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******General will be doing the December demo on how to carve eyes. Bring some scrap leather, small bevelers , modeling spoons and mallet.



Happy Holidays from PSLAC

As this year comes to an end, we wish all those who have supported the Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op many thanks. With the New Year will come the tenth anniversary of PSLAC. Having started with Bill Churchill and General Seymour with a few charter members, we have seen PSLAC grow to almost 300 members. Members who attend the meeting and members from across the world who support PSLAC via the Internet.

We are always looking for suggestions, articles, tips and any ideas to will keep the group vibrant. Don't be afraid to offer suggestions or criticisms—they all help make the group stronger.

We intend to continue meetings in the Puget Sound Area (looking at alternate locations), the Children's Programs, leather seminars, Internet support and all these with our sponsors support. So, support our sponsors and help yourself.

See you next year.

Bob Stelmack
Editor, RawHide Gazette

Meeting Announcement

NEXT MEETING:

**Sunday,
December 14th
at
Noon-5pm

(see map on last page)

Stitching Clam(p)

Here is the piece about the stitching clamp PSLAC had in the March issue:

Soon after I started doing leather craft in South Africa, I had need for a stitching pony. There was a radio program where you could swap articles that you did not want any more. I called in and said I would swap 'whatever' for a stitching pony (I had to describe it carefully).

Soon I had a call from an old gentleman in Johannesburg. He said he had something similar and that I should have a look. It turned out to be the same stitching clamp Bob told us about in The March 2003 issue. On his workbench he had also set out some other duplicate tools he had: a diamond shaped awl, a strap cutter and a few others.

I thankfully paid him for all of this and before I left he said he would teach me to hand sew as he had done when he was one of the saddlers for the Johannesburg Municipality, making harnesses for their horses, repairing saddles and everything leather.

Included in this, was teaching me to use the stitching clam(p): you have to sit a bit higher (almost bar stool height) with your feet resting on a little footstool. The clamp is placed between your legs and the spring action of the shaped wood would hold your article, but not tight enough for stitching. To do this, you actually apply pressure with your thighs. I still use mine to this day for almost all stitching and lacing (when I need both hands free).

My stitching master called them clams (without the 'p') and I see RA Salaman also indicates that this might be the more correct name (in his book: Dictionary of Leather-Working Tools)

An interesting anecdote from the depression years, as told to me by this master craftsman (I sadly have forgotten his name): Men would come in from the street when there was an opening for a stitcher, but in order to test if he was really a true stitcher, they would hand him the stitching clamp and a piece of leather - if he could put the leather in the clamp, he was hired! What's so difficult? Just think - you need both hands to pull the two jaws open and a third hand to position the leather in the clamp. Only a true stitcher knew the secret: with the clamp



between your knees, you put your left hand behind the clamp, palm towards you, as if you were going to pull the clamp towards you. You then push the right hand jaw with your thumb to the right and closing the other four fingers, you push the left hand jaw to the left with the other four finger tips. The clamp is now open for you to put the leather in with your right hand!

Johan, Minnesota

j@johan-potgieter.com
johanpotgieter@comcast.net
www.johan-potgieter.com/personal.html



From the Dusty Workbench

I'm going to have a table at the local Holiday House Bazaar and so I have been making things to sell at the bazaar. I made a whole bunch of dream catchers. I started to think how are they (the customers) going to get the dream catcher home without ruining the feathers or breaking the beads.

I hate to sound like a commercial, but I saw some Glad Press'N Seal on the TV. I bought one roll to see how it would work with my problem and it works just fine. I will have to wrap the dream catchers as I sell them, but the customers will be able to hold on to the dream catchers by the 'hanger' that is on the dream catchers.

I went to the November PSLAC meeting with Glad Press'N Seal and told the group of my discovery. Len Madison picked up the Press'N Seal and asked "would this have a residue on your project?" I told him that was the beauty of Press'N Seal, it doesn't react like masking tape scotch tape or duct tape. He then came up with another reason to use the Press'N Seal. When he airbrushes or dyes a project he would be able to press the Press'N Seal on the leather that he doesn't want sprayed by accident or have brush marks where he doesn't want a brush mark to be. I put the Press'N Seal on the leather and held it up to see how strong it was. It seals very nice and comes off with ease and no residue on the leather.

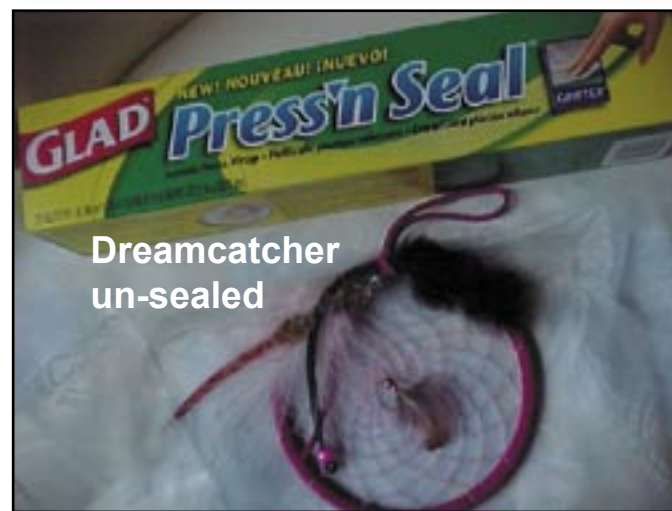
Tandy Leather Company

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I would like to have you try it and please write and let us know how you used it and the results.



Dreamcatcher sealed in the Press'N Seal



Dreamcatcher un-sealed

Holding a leather project with Press'N Seal pressed on ►



Photos by Dusty Wert

Disposable Brushes

Here's a real deal on acid/glue brushes. 144 for \$14.99 (plus shipping). Great for gluing of all kinds. They're great for contact and rubber cement.

I've even seen Norm Abram (New Yankee Workshop on PBS) use them for wood glue.

The site calls them disposable brushes, but the 1/4" and 1/2" brushes on the page are usually called acid brushes, originally designed to apply soldering flux.

Wash them out with the appropriate solvent after use, and they'll last for several uses.

This company has been around for quite a while, and I've bought from them several times with no problems.

Dale

Disposable Paint Brushes



[ENLARGE IMAGE](#)

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Photos by Dusty Wert



Norm Lynds' Tool Class at the November PSLAC Meeting

(ed note: Norm makes leather tools and was kind enough to give a class on tool modification and he also makes tools to sell. Here he describes the type of tools he makes.)

Real quickly, the lifters are like Tandy's Pro Petal in 3 diameters, 1/8, 3/32, and 5/32 if my memory serves me correctly at this hour. Each of them is shaped, sharpened, and tempered to hold an edge for quite some time, and then readily resharpened and polished.

Currently, I am making 2 types of modelers. The first is fairly close to Peter Main's. I understand that he is no longer making them, and have heard a couple reasons why he quit. Anyway, General got one and used it and came back with a modification for the second one, which was to point the tip to be able to get into corners. I have a smaller one in the works which I am trying different versions to see which one works the best. I also am making one similar to the modified one used by the Japanese fellow for micro carving which was described in the Journal several months ago. He modified the stylus end of a modeling tool and used it. I make mine and put them into handles.

I turn my handles from various woods which have included maple, walnut, cherry, madrone, purpleheart, and my favorite one is lilac, which I wish I had more of.

The mallets are made of a hard nylon. I have





Norm using the belt sander

Tools and Hardware for Leather

Photos by Dusty Wert

used mine quite a bit, and have done some heavy work with it, and it is holding up quite well. I attach the head to the handle with a lag bolt. On some I add 3 or 4 washers to add a bit of weight, but for most usage I don't feel that is necessary. I have never weighed one, but both sizes are sufficient. I use the lighter one about 95% of the time, and only use the larger one when I have something that needs real mashing.

I make the embossing tools using ball bearings which I have to anneal to be able to drill them to attach a shaft which is then mounted into the handle. I make them from 1/4 inch to 5/8 inch by 16ths for a large selection. I also have made one 3/8 diameter and a little over 1/2" long which is tapered. I think that one will work out rather well for some situations.

I have also covered scalpel handles with wood, both completely enclosing the handle, and by just mounting scales. They are a lot more comfortable to use, and look a lot better. Besides that, it covers the "Made in Pakistan" stamped on the handle.



Norm's grinder and buffer

At the club, we seem to have settled on a price of \$10 each for all the tools, except the mallets, which I am asking \$20.

Norm Lynds
Email: nwlynds@juno.com



This Dusty Wert's table for a November Bazaar.
Dusty's first and she had the
only leather handcrafted stuff at the Bazaar.



Rich listening so he can learn to
modify Dusty's tools

Tiny's latest project ►



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A lot of my works are 'bespoke items', meaning, one of, individual custom requests, ranging anywhere from books and folders to rifle scabbards, holsters and golf bags, fully carved and stamped, and any and all articles in between, which also includes saddles and harness.

I like to make articles that are practical, such as all kinds of bags (including brief cases, bible covers, etc.), belts with a challenge, mouse pads, tissue box holders, knife and sword sheaths, 11th Century bottles (sealed so they can be used as wine carafes), to various types of boxes (both useful and decorative) and other artistic decorations including such things as moulded bowls and vases as well as framed pictures.

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RawHide Gazette

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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 Jeff Bement, 3942 SW - 329th PL, Federal Way, WA 98023, 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. PSLAC members are entitled to a 25% discount. Leather companies supporting PSLAC are given free Business Card size advertisement, additional space at regular rates.

RG On-line

The Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op can be found at:

<http://pslac.org>

If you need the **UserId** and **Password** for the subscription pages, just contact the RawHide Gazette at:

stelmack@nwlink.com

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

Jeff Bement
3942 SW - 329th PL
Federal Way, WA 98023
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Your Photos here - if you send them to:

Web Editor: Bob Stelmack
7 Memorial Hall Drive
Wellingore LN5 0BD
England

Photos sent in to the PSLAC are used, space and focus permitting.

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



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Home of the *Rawhide Gazette*
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Check on your Membership Status. Enter at least three characters of your name or email address and submit:

(Click here for Administration of the Membership Database)

Search this site by keywords (Note: the PDF Rawhide Gazette issues are not searched, but the index to the issues is.)

Latest issue of the Rawhide Gazette and the Members Only Issue.

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From Everett: South on I-5 to 405 South, or to I-90, going east:

From I-90 get off on exit 17/Front St., and bear right onto Front Street. At the third stoplight, turn left onto E Sunset Way, then see below:

Taking Hwy 18 from around Auburn to Issaquah

Get on Hwy 18 going East, from Auburn, it's about 12 miles to Maple Valley, then at about 2 ½ miles after Maple Valley, look for the turn off to Issaquah Hobart Rd SE, turn onto ramp 276th Ave SE and go 0.6 miles, bear left onto Issaquah Hobart Rd SE. It's about 8 ½ miles from there to Issaquah. Hobart becomes Front Street S, which takes you into downtown Issaquah. Turn right onto E Sunset Way, then see below:



After turning onto E Sunset Way:

go two blocks (past the Police and Fire Stations), turn left onto 2nd Ave SE, go past the old Senior Center building on your left, and a baseball field, then left onto NE Creekway, go almost to the railroad tracks. The new Issaquah Valley Senior Center is a brick building on your left, parking in front of it. There is also parking behind, from Sunset, turn left into the parking area, right before the Police Station (look for a large parking sign on your left), and follow it till you see a kids play ground.

Address: 75 NE Creekway, Issaquah, WA 98027

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