

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 Stohman, December 1997

Hide Highlights

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Paula’s Tri-Fold Wallet

The March PSLAC meeting project was an interesting take on a wallet. **Paula Marquis** led us through the construction of this interesting wallet with most of us getting to the stitching, although, I think **John** and **Leo** may have been the only ones to finish. As usual everyone was ahead of me, but this project is quite easy to finish.

We did not carve the wallet, since we will have **Gladys** and **Debbie** demonstrate how to decorate by burning and coloring next month. That demo should be fun since we will be decorating after construction is complete.

A full size pattern of this month’s project will be available on the PSLAC website in the Members Only area at:

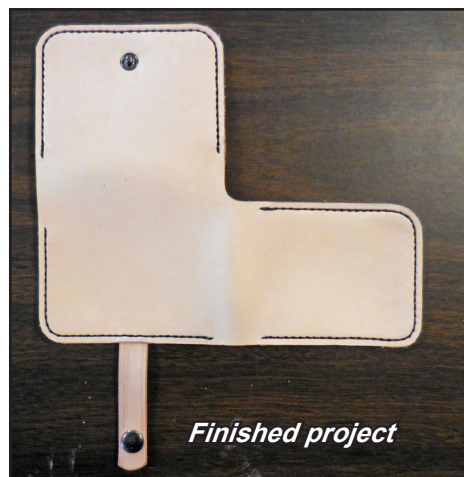
pslac.org/table_index_member.htm

Please give me a few days to prepare the drawings. I’m sure **Bob** will publish the Gazette before I can complete and post the patterns.

Paula had prepared cutting patterns for us so we started by cutting out the outside and strap from 5-6 oz leather. Because we were not going to carve this project I used some of the Purple Pre-Finished leather from Tandy (more on that later). Everyone else used tooling leather. Caution must be taken when placing the pattern due to the opportunity to make the grain sides end up facing the wrong way or Left side vs. Right side opening (your choice – but I know at least one person got it swapped around...).

The two full pockets were cut from 3-4 oz soft Calf/Pig/Goat to allow a bit of stretch. The corner pocket will require 3-4 oz firm

Calf. This pocket can be made even stiffer by coating the flesh side, except the quarter inch stitching edges, with Tan Coat, RTC etc. prior to assembly.



Once we had cut out the pieces, we creased the folds. Optionally, treat the flesh side of the large piece and all but three eights inch of the strap with Tan Coat or Leather Balm to smooth the fibers and give the wallet a finished look inside. Make sure to mark where the project edges will be glued and leave a quarter of an inch unfinished on the stitching edges for the glue to stick. We then edged all the pockets and finished just the edges of the pocket openings. The pocket openings are much easier to finish prior to assembly.

This is a good time to install the Male part of the Line 20 Snap. Mark the location in the center of the wide flap about three quarters of an inch from the edge. Punch the hole and install the snap. The Cap part of the snap will be fitted and installed on the strap after the sewing is complete.

We then glued the parts and assembled the wallet. Do not forget to place the strap in between the pocket and wallet outside and

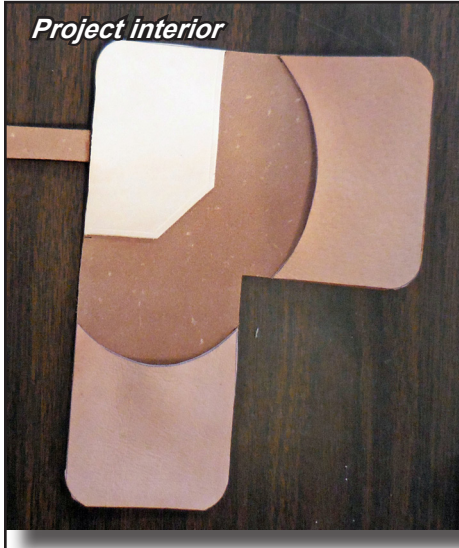


match the Grain side with the outside (not the pocket) leaving about three eighths of an inch inside the pocket. The strap can be skived to thin the “bump”.

(the finishes are not equal...) interesting effects can be created. More on those results next month.

Roger Kaiser

Fun Fact: *The Shoe Lasting Machine was patented, March 20, 1883*



Once the parts are assembled, mark for stitching and sew the wallet. Note, you can stitch all the way around or just the pockets,



again – your choice. As soon as the stitching is complete the edges can be trimmed, beveled and finished. The last task is to fold the Wallet, mark the strap to length, cut the strap end and install the Line 20 Snap Cap. Of course, covering the Line 20 Cap is quick and easy and can provide a very nice look.

This project was left unfinished to allow us to burn a pattern on the outside using an adjustable heat wood burner. We will have more information on the burners and tips used next month. Remember the Pre-finished leather? Dependant on the color



Snap Post Length Adjustment

One of my major irritations is when I am ready to attach snaps to my project and find the snap posts are too long for the project leather weight. Too long a post will render the snap useless since the snap will not latch due to the excess material below the spring. Often it is difficult to source snaps with short post lengths.

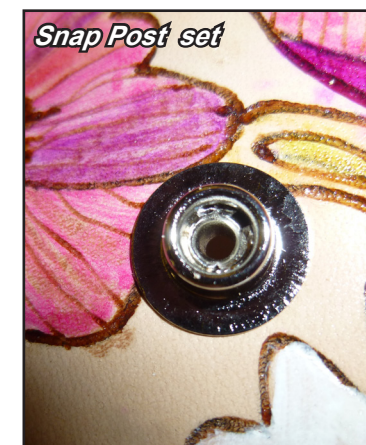
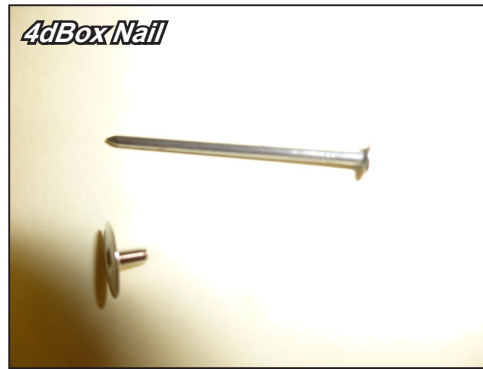
One simple fix is to cut a washer from light-weight leather (2-3 oz.) and place it under the Snap Cap before setting the snap. Use a ½" round punch for the washer and the same size punch as used for the Snap Post. The Leather Washer sets the Cap slightly higher and is not really noticeable. This technique can be used on either the Cap (female – spring) or the male half of the snap. However the male part of the snap is unaffected by a slightly longer post since it can accommodate some excess material.

Another solution is to shorten the post length. We will demonstrate using Line 20 or "Baby Dot" snaps.

The first method is to use a piece of scrap leather the thickness of the post length you want. Punch a hole to snugly fit the post. Use a small metal file to shorten the post until it is flush.

The second method is to use a 4 Penney (4d) Box nail and insert it through the post. Using a pair of diagonal cutters (flush cut jeweler's or electronic side cutters) cut around until the post is cut through. Use caution not to cut the nail. A 5/64" drill bit is the same size and could be used but will likely dull the diagonal cutters unless you are very cautious.

John Wickstrom



Homemade Stitching Pony for \$8.70

by Skip

This is how I spent my afternoon, from 1 to 5. I bought one 1" x 4" x 8-foot "common" board, a couple of carriage nuts, some washers, two wing nuts, and the two acorn nuts.

I cut this all by hand, drilled the holes, sanded it all, screwed everything together, cut a diagonal line for the top of the jaws with a hand saw, re-sanded it all and here it is.

I will varnish it tomorrow and then add the leather on the jaws.

\$8.70 total (plus tax).

Now all I need to do is practice my stitching.

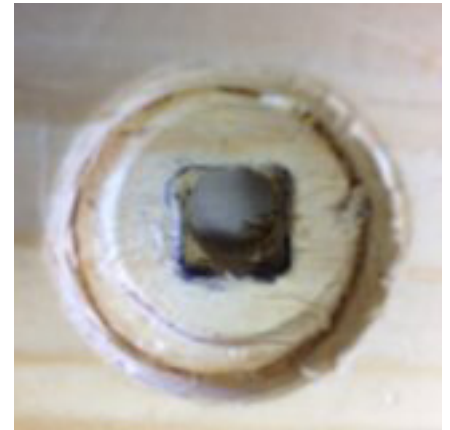
Some things that I learned:

Originally I used four screws to attach the wood to the 2" x 4" block (scrap I had laying around out back). With four screws I could barely open the jaws, and I hadn't even glued the protective leather on it yet. I took out the top two screws on both sides and used short 'dummy screws' to hide the mistake. Two screws on each side would be sufficient. I first tried a small door hinge screwed to the base to make it easy to open the jaws (see pic) then realized that I could not swivel the pony, a feature that I wanted to keep. I have an idea to remedy that when I make another one. I used the acorn cap nuts so that I won't scrape my knuckles or arm (blood would stain the leather? :))

I used my neighbors auger bit to countersink the carriage bolts and his handsaw to cut the angle on the jaws. Because the "common board" is so soft I was able to tap the bolts to capture the square on them, so it wouldn't swivel lose on me. I used my old vibrating sander to soften all of the sharp corners on the wood. I took the pictures with my iPhone. That's about it.

I'm not a wood worker by any means, though I wish I'd taken that up at an earlier age - as well as leather crafting. The blade on the saw is so dull that the wood smoked when I'm cutting it. Really. I had to sand off the burn marks. I was not rushing the project today and I had to correct many mistakes along the way but I still finished in a little over four hours. It would have taken me less time but I have a tendency to over think things

Skip



Meeting Activities for April 2016

Easter has been and gone and I hope everybody had a great Easter. Now we are looking to Mother's Day and a reminder that the meeting will be on the first Sunday in May as all the Mothers in the club will have their children visiting them and we'll have almost nobody at the meeting if it's on the second Sunday.

At the April meeting everybody is going to bring their finished card case/wallet that we didn't quite finish at the last meeting and then Gladys is going to lead the workshop and we are going to burn instead of tool our project, so hope everybody remembered not to seal and put a finish on their project.

All those who have their own burning equipment already, bring them to the meeting and if possible short extensions that can be plugged in with multiple plugs so we can run it around the table and plug into each other.

For those who don't have a burning set and are not sure if they want to spend a lot of money on one because they don't know if they are going to enjoy it, a much cheaper set and still of good quality can be obtained from **The Woodworking Store** or **Rockler**. Woodworking Store is downtown, but, I'm not sure of the address. Rockler is on Northgate Way at Northgate. The pyrography magazines recommend **Walnut-Hollow** as a good brand and not too expensive. It has a number of tips and has an adjustable heat setting control and is also very compact in size. For those who wish, can also Google Walnut-Hollow and go to their web site and check them out.

I would also suggest using **graphite paper** to transfer patterns to the leather as any leftover lines can easily be erased with a pencil eraser, but, **carbon paper** does not erase from the leather.

Looking forward to a great meeting. See you all there.

Paula Marquis

Brettuns Village Leather

Hand written note on my last leather order from Brettuns Village Leather said: *"In the last 10-years you're the only person to take advantage of the PSLAC discount. Thanks!"*.

So, just a reminder, some of the advertisers in this RawHide Gazette offer discounts on their products. Over the years, I've order a lot of leather to make leather book covers. Take a look at Brettuns Village Leather at:

Deal of the Week (DOTW)

www.brettunsvillage.com/leather/dotw/dotw.htm

Clearance Leather

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- Thread for sewing leather
- Parts and Hardware for Trunks and Boxes

**Bob Stelmack
Richland, WA**

Meeting Times & Locations

Western Washington (Seattle/Tacoma/Everett)

General Member's meetings are on the 2nd Sunday of each Month unless specified below. 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM approximately. Meetings held at Cedar Grange Hall No. 534 at Maple Valley General meetings start at 1:00 PM followed by the mini-demos.

Breakfast informal get-together locations:

North Breakfast: Last Friday of the month at 10:00 AM. Lake Forest Park Town Centre. 17917 Bothell, Everett Hwy, Bothell, WA 98012 Bothell Way N, bordered by 170th N. & Ballinger Way N. Meet in the Third Place Books eating area.

South Breakfast: 3rd Saturday of the month at 8:30 AM. Homestead. 7837 S Tacoma Way, Tacoma, WA, 98409 (253) 476-9000

Eastern Washington (Spokane) PSLAC East

PSLAC East Member's meetings are on the 1st Saturday of each Month unless specified below from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM approximately.

• Informal meetings held at Spokane Tandy Leather Factory Store, 1702 North Monroe Street, Spokane, WA 99205 Contact Ken Bush (509-294-1883) for time, date (normally the 1st Saturday) for details.

We are members of PSLAC East (Puget Sound Leather Artisans Coop). The East is because we are East of the Cascade Mountains. We offer classes in leathercraft at the Spokane Tandy Leather Factory store. These classes are free and open to the public. An informational newsletter is sent out prior to each class with a short description of the class, indicating whom the instructor will be and what tools will be needed. We also schedule ad hoc classes which are announced in the newsletter. To be on our mailing list for class notifications, please send an email (including your full name) to whiterosex@aol.com requesting to be on the PSLAC East mailing list.

PSLAC Members Only Advertisement Page

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I make almost anything that can be made from leather and can be sewn by hand. I do not like sewing machines and cannot get along with them. Therefore, that excludes making clothing, which entails using very soft leather.

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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Ad spaces are as follows:

1/4 Page or Business Card.....\$60 USD

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These rates cover a six month time period. PSLAC members
are entitled

to a 25% discount. Leather companies supporting PSLAC are
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