

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

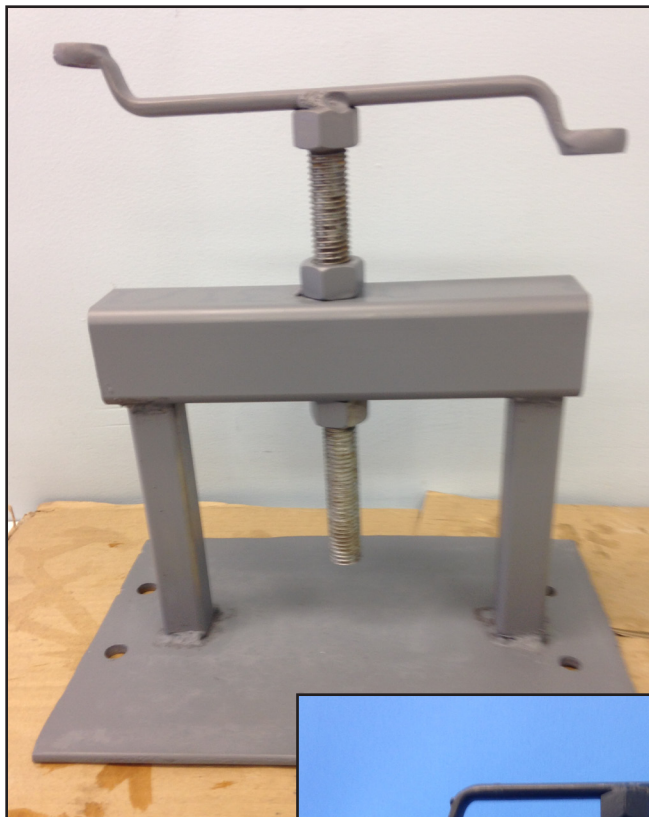
Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

May 2016

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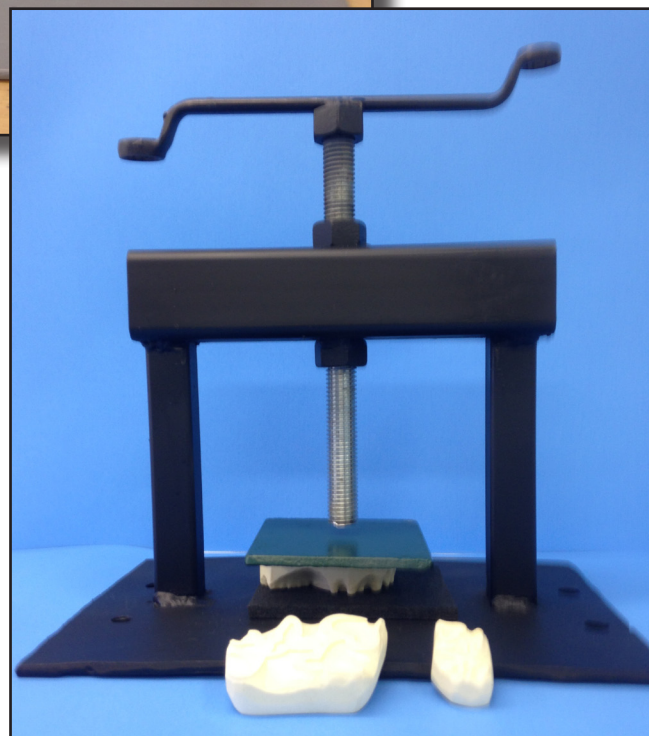
So today he sends me some pictures of his latest project. I have to say that this is one of the most clever mechanical clicker/presses I've ever seen.

Most people re-purpose a Harbor Freight 20 ton hydraulic press, but this, with its box end wrench handle is amazing.

Bob Stelmack
Richland, WA

Skip

Skip is a friend of mine and very interested in leathercraft. Especially interested in making leather slip-on book covers. I had an extra book press that I was going to sell to him when he comes to visit at the end of April, but unbeknownst to him, another friend, Herb, had purchased it last month and I was wondering when I should tell Skip that book press was gone.



Home Made Clicker/Press

Here's my latest project. This was my idea and & my plan. My neighbor donated the all of the scrap metal and welding expertise. He wouldn't accept any payment for this. It took him 2 hours to cut and weld everything. It took me two hours, plus, to drill the hole in the horizontal top tube.

My neighbor (actually Landlord) has a huge shop with 50 years of 'stuff' in it. He saves Everything. I had an idea for the 4-ton hydraulic press that you see in the picture, but decided to 'downsize' when this idea came to mind. We will probably make that press next even though it would be 'overkill' as far as the pressure. Just a fun idea.

I also saw the Harbor Freight arbor press, but I wanted something that I could press larger embossing plates on and do some type setting pressing. This press is remarkably light weight also. I'll probably use 'C' clamps to secure it rather than bolt it to the bench. That way I can store it easier and free up counter space. I love the old box-end wrench idea. Originally I was going to use a four lug tire iron but it didn't seem to fit proportionally, too large.

Skip S.



Some Notes on Clicker/Press

This is a picture of the parts for my press prior to welding. In the background you can see the tire iron that I had originally thought about using for the handle, but then I found the box wrench

After that you'll see a picture of my leather projects. I cut all of the leather out of scraps, stamped them, stitched everything then used 3 different finishes and stains. I like the Resoline finish the best. I tried staining the letters on one, a little sloppy—just experimenting. Fun.

My friend also mentioned the torque to thread ratio. He said that there is more torque with the large threads - such as the "C" clamp pictured (it's a huge clamp).

I enjoy reading the *Rawhide Gazette*. I hope to join the association sometime in the future.

Skip

Calculating the Mechanical Advantage of a Homemade Clicker/Press

Measure the pitch of the screw. The pitch of the screw is the distance between the threads and is determined by measuring the number of threads per inch (or centimeter) on the screw then dividing one by the number of threads (pitch = $1/\text{number of threads per inch or cm}$). For example, if a screw has eight threads per inch, the pitch is $1/8$. (my book press has 6 threads per inch or a pitch of $1/6$)

Measure the circumference of the screw. Circumference is calculated by measuring the diameter of the screw and multiplying by pi (circumference = diameter of the screw x pi). For example, if a screw has a diameter of 0.25 inches, then the circumference of the screw is 0.79 inches ($0.25 \text{ inches} \times 3.14 = 0.79 \text{ inches}$). (my book press has diameter of the handles of 16-inches or circumference of 50.3-inches)



screw. Using the previous examples, a screw with a pitch of $1/8$ and a circumference of 0.79 inches would produce a mechanical advantage of 6.3 ($0.79 \text{ inches} / 0.125 = 6.3$) (my book press pitch of $1/6$ and circumference of 50.3-inches and produces a mechanical advantage of 301.2)

Calculate the mechanical advantage of the screw by dividing the circumference of the screw by the pitch of the

So to increase the force either increase the diameter with longer arms and/or use a screw with more threads per inch.

Bob Stelmack
Richland, WA





How to sew Appliques on Hair-on-Hide Leather

I find it difficult to glue, stick or tack sew a leather applique on hair-on-hide leather when making some of my leather slip-on book covers.

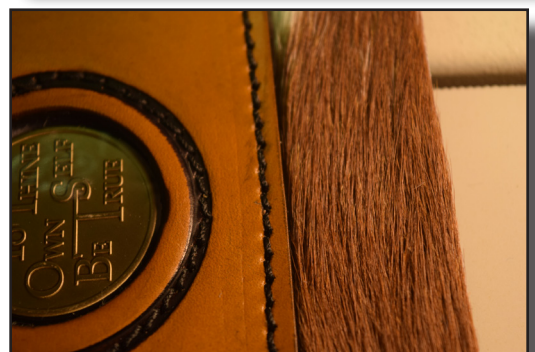
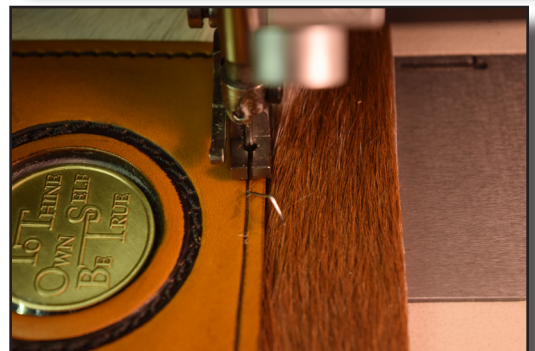


I use an Arrow P-22 stapler, the same one I use to make keeper belt loops for my belts. It has a deep enough and thin enough throat to reach in and staple in the stitching channel. I staple the top, side and bottom.

I stitch up to the staple, reach under the staple with a dental tool, pull one end up and use pliers to remove the staple. Then stitch across the missing staple and repeat for the other two staples.

The staples keep the leather from shifting as I sew. Quicker and easier than tack sewing.

Bob Stelmack
Richland, WA





Before I go on I have to back up. This area was never this organized. The floor was carpeted. There were tools and stuff all over the place. I never could find what I needed and the carpet was stained

My Workspace

In the third bedroom/den is the space where I do my tooling and final assembly of my leather book covers. The table is an old Pub table from England with friction fit cross members. It is a very strong table that can hold up even the largest English pub drinker.

It has an 1/8" hardboard scrap covering the top and on top of that is 1/2" cutting surface that covers about three fourths of the top. It is an indestructible cutting surface that I purchased from Boeing's Surplus Store many years ago.

Underneath the table is a clamp where I hang that ever present roll of paper towels.

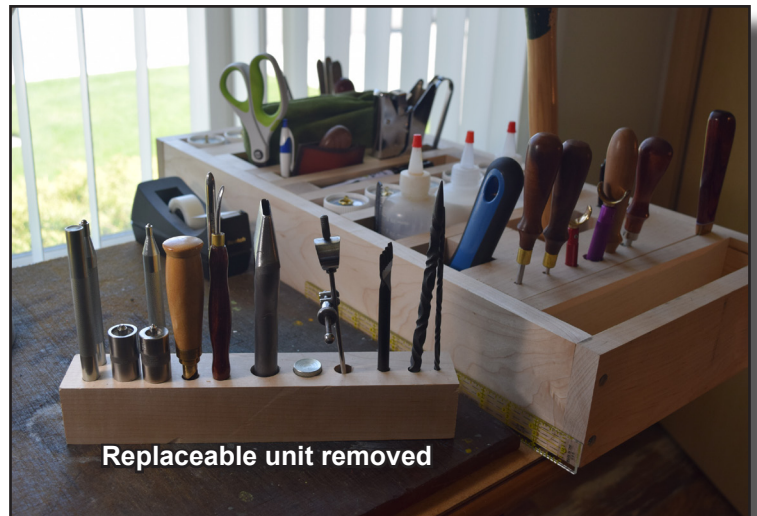
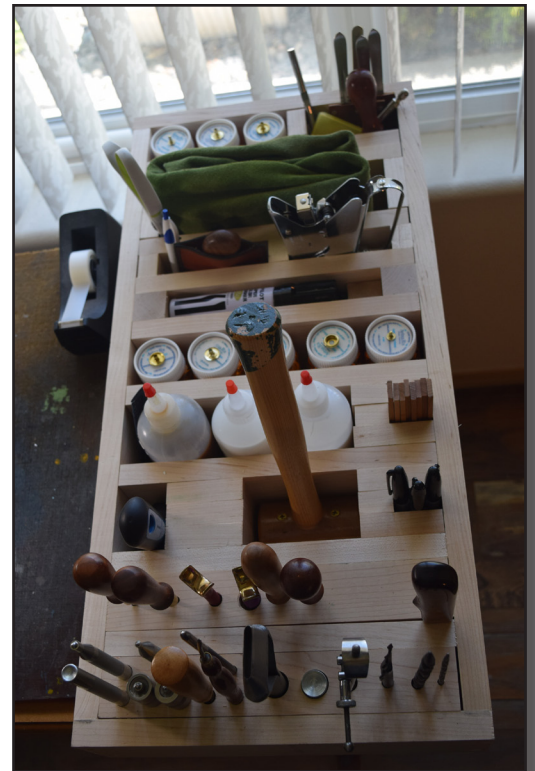


so bad I had trouble locating dropped items.

Karen came to the rescue and agreed to have laminate flooring put down. We picked a laminate pattern that resembled an old barn floor, so the errant thread or leather cutting wouldn't look out of place.

So everything was removed and then the new floor was put in. This is where the MAGIC started. I decided to put the pub table and the chair in the room and sat down to finish a leather book cover. I laid the cover on the table to trim, but there was no cutting surface and no cutter. So I went into the shed to get those two items. Then I needed to set a snap, but didn't have the snaps or the snap setter. So back to the shed for just those items.

I repeated the process until I have finished the book cover and had a small cardboard box of tools and snaps to the right of the of the cutting surface. I kept this process up for over a month and found that I only really used a handful of tools.



Replaceable unit removed

So now I knew what I used.

I began to design two wooden tool storage units. One for the floor and one for the table top. My son-in-law, Roger, works at a furniture factory as the lead machinist in Redmond, OR and provided me with a trunk load of clear maple 3/4" stock in various sizes.

The floor unit has fixed chambers and holds:

- Tooling stone with poundo board on the reverse side
- Various quilting cutting plastic templates
- Metal square
- 1/2" Corner cutter (Lassco)

- 1/4" Corner cutter (Lassco)
- 1/4 glass skiving surface
- Stainless steel 1/8" square 4" by 4" for snap setting inside cover
- Some iridescent powders for highlights
- Small granite stone for snap setting
- 3-ring page punch for notes and business papers

The top unit has movable sections and holds:

- Tandy snap/rivet setters
- Barry King snap setters
- Screw punch
- Barry King scribe
- Bag punch 1-1/2"
- Compass
- Lacing punch 1/8"
- Two custom made decorative scribes by Anvil Monkey Forge
- Two Norm Lynds lifters
- Two Paul Z. Leather Wrangler swivel knives
- Embossing ball tool by Norm Lynds
- Tandy edge beveler #2
- Rotary cutter 45mm
- Rawhide hammer, weighted
- Barge cement
- PVA glue
- Tandy super sheen
- Black permanent parking pens
- Snap & rivets (with a single snap or rivet glued to the cap to identify the contents)
- Refillable Marks-a-Lot makers refilled with Angelus black dye
- J. Cook head knife
- Arrow P-22 stapler
- Scissors
- Tooling roll with only the tools I use
- Scalpels
- Extra long snaps & rivets (with a single snap or rivet glued to the cap to identify the contents)

If I find that the order or location is not convenient in the top unit, then I removed the subunit and replace with a different unit drilled to hold the new arrangement.

You may have noticed the rolls of clear double sided 1/4" and 1/2" tape I use to hold the leather together for sewing—hung on the work lamp. The lamp has a daylight LED bulb in it.

I do have a 6-foot cutting table, some dyes, colors and other item at another location where I can spill them on the garage concrete slab. ;-)



Also in the small closet in the third bedroom/den is a makeshift photo booth. Well, really a shelf with white poster board and 3 day-light bulbs, where I take pictures of the cover I make. The other shelves hold the sample books used as patterns for the book covers.

And finally, I have to admit that a lot of the tools that were in the shed now reside on two shelves. I don't use them, but I can't stand letting them sit out in the cold. ;-)

Bob Stelmack
Richland, WA

April Meeting Workshop - Burning.

The 'L' shaped card holder we made in March was our burning project for April.

Gladys Wickstrom led the workshop, and she did a great job.

She'd brought patterns for everybody to use if they wished or could use their own patterns if they'd brought some along.

Gladys gave a thorough run-down on burning techniques for those who had not done

any burning or very little, explaining various techniques and how to get the best results. She also covered transferring patterns to leather. Two methods were explained that both worked. The first being the traditional way to put patterns on leather for tooling by casing the leather and tracing the pattern, but, then came the waiting period for the leather to dry before burning. The other quicker method was to use graphite paper. The advantage of that is if you miss the line a little while burning it does not matter as the left-over graphite can be erased with a soft pencil eraser. With the traditional method of pattern transfer, it leaves a dent in the leather and it is important to make sure that the burning stays on the lines.

We all got stuck into trying out our new toys, er, I mean tools on some leather scraps before going to our actual project.

It was a very productive afternoon and Gladys was an absolute gem with all the help she gave us. Watch out Gladys, you'll get roped into doing another burning workshop.

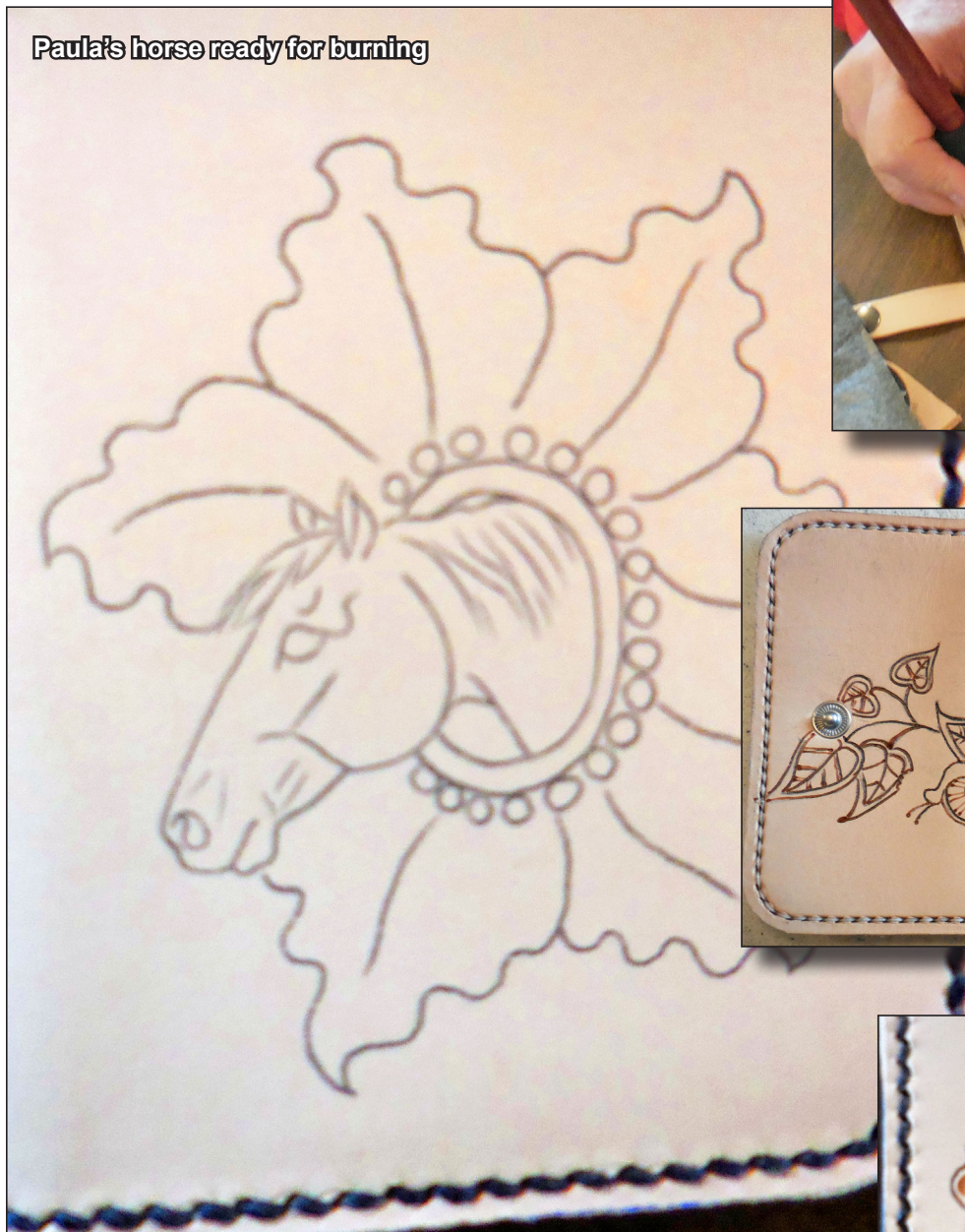
Paula Marquis

April Meeting Pictures

Here are a few of the pictures I took at the last meeting.

Norm Lynds

Paula's horse ready for burning



Leo at work



John's completed project

John at work



Paula's Rose

Wilton's Belt

Back in July I had an article in the **RG** regarding making a retaining belt for my son's fire department turn out coat. I recently received an order from one of his crew members for another belt.

The design and contents were discussed and a full length pattern was laid out on paper with 2 fonts for the name, photographed, sent for final decision. Once that was done, a 2 1/2" wide strip of leather was cut to length and cased overnight in the refrigerator.

I left 6" outside both where the heel bar of the buckle and last holes for the buckle tongue were to be located. It was decided to do the name in carved font, and the family initials to be stamped, using 1" stamps. A 3-leaf clover leaf was to be carved on the right side of the name and an American flag stamped on the left. D437 was used for the border stamp.

A paper jig was made for locating the buckle tongue holes, both at the heel bar location and 5 sets of holes at the other end. The holes were located 5/8" from each edge of the belt. All these holes were punched. The belt loop was made from a strip of 1/2" wide leather. This was cased and a line impressed 1/8" from each edge using a set of dividers. All the edges of the belt and belt loop were beveled, sanded, and rubbed with soft bees wax and canvas. They were then dyed black.

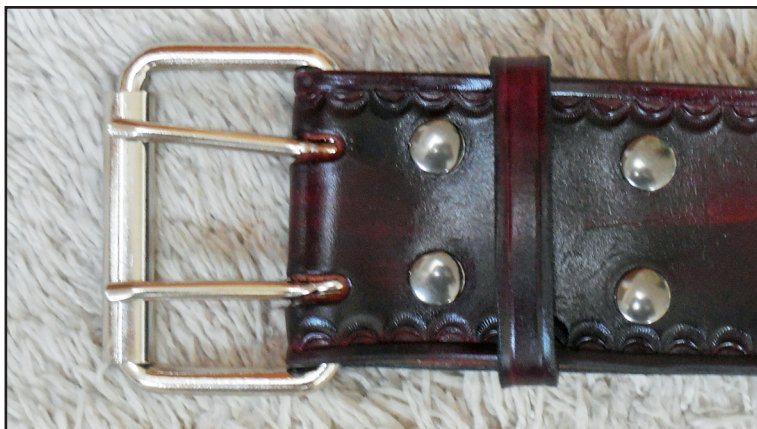
A problem that I knew may come up with the first belt is how well the finish and the leather would hold up in the conditions met. In the six months Kevin has worn his it has stretched a little. I called **Chan Geer** and talked with him. He recommended 2 light coats of Bee Natural Saddle Oil #1. Let that cure overnight and apply 2 coats of Bee Natural RTC (Sheridan Resist & Finish). I called Bee Natural and after discussing my problem

ordered both of their products.

When these were received the belt and belt loop were treated with the saddle oil. The belt and belt loop were then dyed with Marine Cordovan dye, except the clover leaf which was dyed green, and the lettering which was dyed black. When dry the belt was rubbed with a piece of soft cloth to remove any dye residue and the both sides were given 2 coats of the RTC. After the belt was very dry, the edges were coated with black edge coat. The buckle was installed and the placement of the snaps was determined, this 1" from the heel bar and the second 1

1/2" from that. 2 sets of snaps were installed, being spaced 5/8" from the edges. I'll wait for several months and ask how this finish is wearing in comparison to the first.

Norm Lynds



2016 Mountain Man Show.

The annual Mountain Man Show was held again in March at the Monroe Fairgrounds.

As usual it was a good show to go to and see all sorts of good things. **Ken Eriksen** had a table again as usual, all dressed up in his mountain man gear.

I always pick up some interesting skins. This year I bought an otter skin and a raccoon skin. Never touched an otter before, really soft, like touching velvet. Surprisingly they only have short fur, but, extremely dense. The raccoon was much courser that I expected. Really nice markings and I'm happy with both my skins. Every year I find something new and interesting.

Tandy also had a booth and usually have some good specials for the Show.

Took a friend with me this year who hadn't been before and she makes jewellery and had a ball stocking up on all sorts of beads, particularly antique beads.

Anybody who hasn't been to a Mountain Man Show, I would recommend you go next year. It's a lot of fun.

Paula Marquis





Rocky Mountains Trapper, circa 1839 by Alfred Jacob Miller (1810–1874)



Howard and Christine, friends originally from Germany, now in Canada. They come to the show every year, in costume.

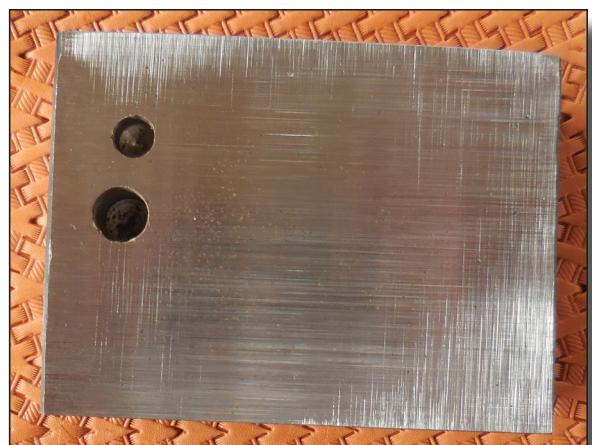


Metal Bench Block

In the latest issue of the Leathercrafter's Journal, in Dusty Johnson's column he discusses his steel bench block, which is about 3" x 5" x 1". Mine, that I have had for many years, is 2 3/4 x 3 3/4 x 1 1/4". As I use my block around the shop for a multitude of purposes, I added a couple holes drilled part way through the block, being 1/4 and 3/8" in diameter on one side. This allows me to drive out pins and attach ferrules, leaving a clean surface on the other side. Before taking the photo of the block I ran it across my belt sander to remove years worth of glue, finish, other crud, and some of the surface scratches and gouges that it has accumulated.

As this block weighs about 2 pounds, it is meant for bench work. For one that is very portable, a small piece of metal 1/8" thick by 1 to 1 1/2" wide by 4" long is handy and adds negligible weight to your kit. Another very useful tool is a 4 oz. ball peen hammer. I just finished using mine beating down the raised edge of a 3 x 4 1/4 x 3/4" sardine can on the bench block to make a small parts tray.

Norm Lynds



Meeting Activities for May 2016

May is Mother's Day month and we all remember that there will be no meeting on the 2nd Sunday. Everybody will be too busy with their Mother's to be interested in leather.

Normally, our May meeting will then be on the 1st Sunday (this year the 1st of May), but, we're going to be a little different this year. We are going to have two meetings!!

My friends from Australia - Andrew and Katrine - are coming over to celebrate my 70th with me and in their past visits they enjoyed coming to meetings and socializing with everybody. They won't be here till after the first Sunday. I will be going to Canada on the 5th to pick them up. The thought was to have the meeting on the 15th, but, a few members can't come on the 15th due to prior engagements, therefore we are having a meeting on the 1st Sunday so those members can come and again on the 15th when Andrew and Katrine will be here. Busy month!

Our scheduled activities for the two meetings will be to work on unfinished projects, or those who wish can start working on their entries for the Puyallup. Entries have to be in by the end of August and surprisingly that will only be 3 months away after the May meeting!

Good winning entry projects don't happen in a hurry, they take forethought, planning and executing. It's never good to leave things to the last minute, too much can go wrong and often does.

Looking forward to our two May meetings and hoping to see as many as possible at both meetings.

Paula Marquis

CHECKLIST

- ☒ Ready for fun
- ☒ Complain
- ☒ Good attitude
- ☒ Learn something new
- ☒ Something to share
- ☐ What to bring

Meeting Times & Location

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.



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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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NO CASING IS NECESSARY

Leather can be immersed or sponged with this solution. PRO-CARV eliminates the need to case leather. PRO-CARV allows you to begin working with the leather after immersing for 3-5 minutes because of the very rapid penetration into even the thickest hide. Allow the surface to dry somewhat before beginning forming or carving.

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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

Advertising Rates

The RawHide Gazette 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
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