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**Full Size:** If you would like to have a full size print out, take the full size pages to your local print shop and they can print it for you.

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**Pattern PDF files** are typically laid out as follows: Cover (if applicable), instructions sheets (if applicable), pattern 1 – full sized, pattern 1 – tiled, pattern 2 – full sized, pattern 2 – tiled, pattern 3 – full sized, pattern 3 – tiled. ...Etc.

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**NOTE: Digital kit patterns do not include any kit parts that they may reference.**

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**NOTE: Some patterns may reference tools, and other items no longer available.**

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*Leathercraft Projects To-Go*

## Camp Leather "Mystery"

# BRAIDED WRISTBAND

*Plus A Look Back Into The History of "Camping Worldwide"*

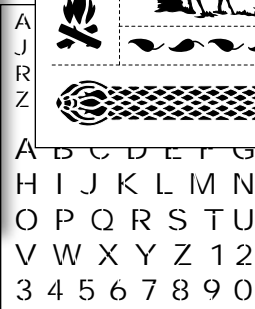
**OBJECTIVE:** Students will learn to stamp and form leather into a useful and decorative project. Lesson includes history and new vocabulary words. Creativity, math and dexterity skills will be exercised to design, personalize, color, finish and then form the wristband into a Braid.

Learn the "Age-Old Mystery" of the Braided Wristband!

### MATERIALS LIST

All Supplies Needed To Complete 12 Mystery Braid Wristband Projects:

- Pre-Cut Veg Tan Tooling Leather Wristbands
- Hook & Loop Fasteners
- Stamping Tools & Handles
- Mallets
- Sponges & Sheep Wool
- All-In-One Stain / Finish
- Cova Color® Acrylic Paints
- Brushes
- Border Designs
- Sharpie Pens & Stencils
- Instructions & Handbook



### YOU WILL or MIGHT NEED:

- Pencils For Planning Designs
- Plastic Water Bowls
- Classroom Markers, Acrylic Paints & Brushes
- Plastic Palettes, Plates Or Wax Paper For Paints

### CLASSROOM TIME:

Minimum of 4 Sessions:

Design, Case & Stamp = 90 minutes

Color the Projects = 45 minutes

Assembly = 45 minutes



## GETTING STARTED:

### SESSION 1 - Design:

- Copy the blank templates (p. 5), cut apart on dotted lines, along with stencils & hand out with copies of border designs (p. 6) with pencils for planning designs.

### SESSION 2 - Case & Stamp:

- To prepare for casing & stamping, set-up sturdy tables for 3 or 4 students per table with one plastic bowl of water & two sponges per table (Note: Sponges can be cut in half).
- Hand out to each student: A copy of p. 7 instructions, one project part & one mallet.
- Share stamps and stamp handles.
- Follow the Leather Preparation and Stamping Instructions on the next pages.

### SESSION 3 - Adding Color:

- Set up 1 or 2 staining tables for All-In-One Stain & Finish to be applied with sheep wool pieces. Cover tables with paper to protect them from spills.
- Add additional color with Sharpie Pens and Cova Colors. Use plastic palettes, plates or wax paper for mixing paints.

### SESSION 4 - Assembly:

- Copy and hand out Instructions (page 8) along with fasteners.
- Demonstrate the assembly steps.

## ABOUT THE PROJECT:

*The leather used for this project is called vegetable-tanned (Veg Tan) leather cut from cowhide. One side is smooth (the grain side) and one side is rough or suede (the flesh side). Veg Tan leather can have designs tooled on smooth side using different tools.*

*The Leather Craft Handbook offers you more information on the various tools that are available and how to use them on future projects.*



## How Did “Camping” Start?

Historically, camping takes us back to a time before there were towns and cities, when our ancestors wandered over the land existing by hunting and gathering. They lived in settlements called camps. In the 1800’s, camping took on a different meaning.

It is said that Camping is an American tradition, starting back in the early 1800’s. Camping Handbooks were written and the idea of setting up recreational camps was born. Camps were to be places where children could prepare to be productive, healthy adults while having fun playing games and enjoying outdoor sports.

In 1861 one of the first camps was formed: The Gunnery Camp in Connecticut. Soon after, the first YWCA Camp (or summer boarding & vacation house) for women was started in Asbury Park, Pennsylvania. In 1885, the first YMCA Camp was founded in Newburgh, New York. In 1900, the first Boy’s Club camp was organized in Salem, Massachusetts. Then the American Camping Association was founded and the Boy Scouts of America held its first camp in 1910 in Lake George, New York.

From then to now, camps can be found everywhere and are sponsored by churches, cities, private organizations and families. Camping has turned into more than just having fun. Many camps focus on teaching values through respect, honesty, caring and sharing.

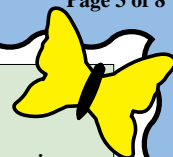
**Did You Know:** When the automobile came along, it allowed families to travel farther away from home and go “camping”. Many took tents along and set up camp sites while others stayed in their trailers and “house-cars” or motor homes, now called RVs.

The camping experience was and still is a relaxing, enjoyable way to vacation. Get away from the everyday routines of school and work and go out to enjoy nature.

Continued . . .



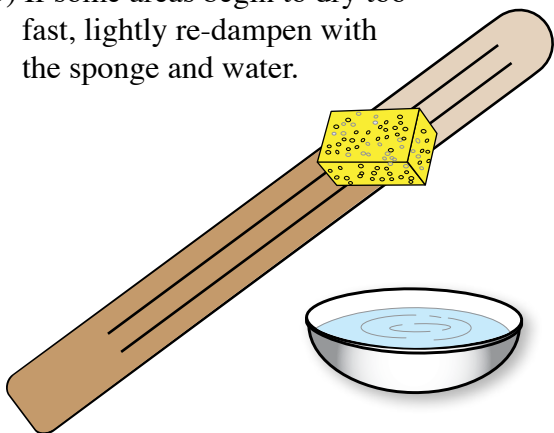




## LEATHER PREPARATION:

Before you can stamp a design on leather, it needs to be moistened. This is called “casing the leather”. (Note: Sponges can be cut in half.) Students should share sponges and water bowls per table.

- 1) Apply water to the smooth (grain) side of your leather using a clean sponge and water. Dampen leather but not too much.
- 2) Set leather aside and wait until it begins to return to its natural color and feels cool to the touch. Then it is ready to stamp. While waiting for your leather to partially dry, plan the designs.
- 3) If some areas begin to dry too fast, lightly re-dampen with the sponge and water.



## History Continued:

**Did You Know:** Some of the early camping activities of the 1800s are still done today: Hiking, canoeing, swimming, fishing, bird watching, collecting flower & insect specimens, bike riding, sailing, horseback riding, archery, mountain climbing, story telling & cooking over a camp fire. Today, additional activities are offered like studying the stars, making movies, photography, exploring caves, swinging on ropes through trees, sports, treasure hunts, explorations and community charity work. Then there are indoor camping activities such as learning to play instruments, creating with crafts, singing, dancing, acting and even cooking lessons.

Camping locations are worldwide offering all climates and terrains: the mountains, ocean, desert, or a local lake, park or even your own backyard. Remember, the camping experience doesn't have to ever end. When you are an adult, sign up to be a counselor or teacher at a camp. Or, take your friends and family camping.

The project for this lesson is to decorate a wristband with the Camp theme and then braid it using the Mystery Braid Technique.

## VOCABULARY:

**Casing** - Adding water to one or both sides of vegetable tanned tooling leather to prepare the surface for tooling.

**Flesh Side** - The rough (suede) underside of leather.

**Grain Side** - The hair side of the leather with the hair removed.

**Tanning** - The process using tannins to change a fresh animal hide into leather.

**Tannins** - Yellowish substance from oak bark and other plants used to tan leather.

**Staining** - Adding color to the leather using different types of stains and paints.

**Stamping** - Using metal stamps with designs or shapes on the end and a mallet to put a design on the grain side of vegetable tanned leather.

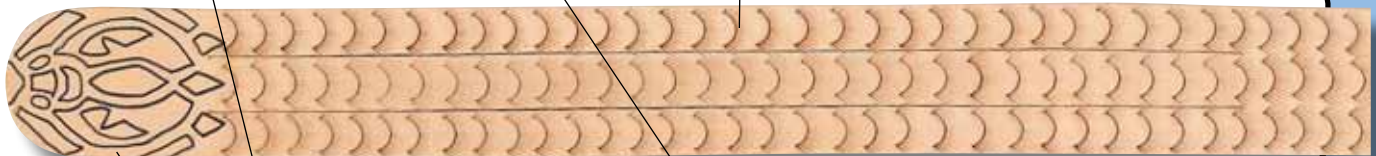
**Vegetable Tanned (Veg-Tan)** - Leather which has been tanned with vegetable materials that are derived from certain plants and woods, often called bark tannins.

## CREATE DESIGNS USING DIFFERENT STENCIL PATTERNS & STAMPS

Here are some ideas combining stencil patterns, stamps and alphabet stamps. The same samples are shown on page 1 with color applied. Different coloring techniques can be used: Leave backgrounds natural leather and add color using Sharpie Pens and Cova Color acrylic paints. Or, apply All-In-One Color Stain & Finish over the entire project and then add more color.



NOT SHOWN HERE



STENCIL PATTERNS

**HINT:** To place letters so they will read properly after wristband is braided, first braid the blank wristband and mark letter placement. The undo and color.



### COLORING HINTS:

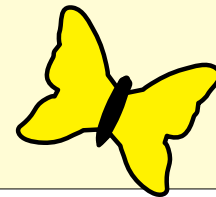
**WHEN USING ACRYLIC PAINTS** over All-In-One, make light colors stand out on the dark background by first painting the inside of the design with white acrylic paint. Let it dry completely (few minutes), then paint over the white with the desired color.

**MIXING COLORS:** The primary colors (red, yellow & blue) can be mixed to create the secondary colors (orange, green & purple). Add white to lighten and black to darken a color.

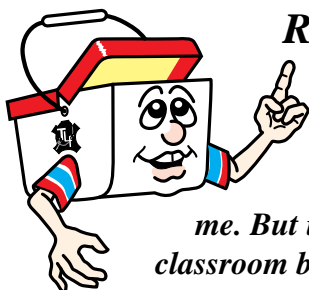


### CLASSROOM EXPANSION IDEAS:

- ~ Study some of the students' favorite camping locations.
- ~ Study how other cultures camped: Native Americans, the Military and the Settlers of the New Frontier.



### RECYCLE ME!



*"I am your Theme Bucket - be sure to recycle me! I would like to end up in your closet with many of my friends. I could store art supplies, extra leather project parts, or even help you organize your files. Create a new label for me so I can help you find what is stored in me. But until it's time to recycle, I am happy to bring fun & learning into your classroom by offering you Projects To-Go from Tandy Leather Factory."*

# WRISTBAND TEMPLATES FOR PLANNING DESIGNS

*Use pencils to sketch design ideas before applying them to the leather.*

The image displays four identical vertical wristband templates arranged horizontally. Each template is a long, narrow shape with a rounded top and a straight bottom edge. Inside each template, there are two vertical lines near the left and right sides, and a vertical dotted line running down the center. These lines are intended for sketching design ideas before applying them to leather.

## WRISTBAND BORDER IDEAS

Add border designs to your project. Here are some ideas or create your own.

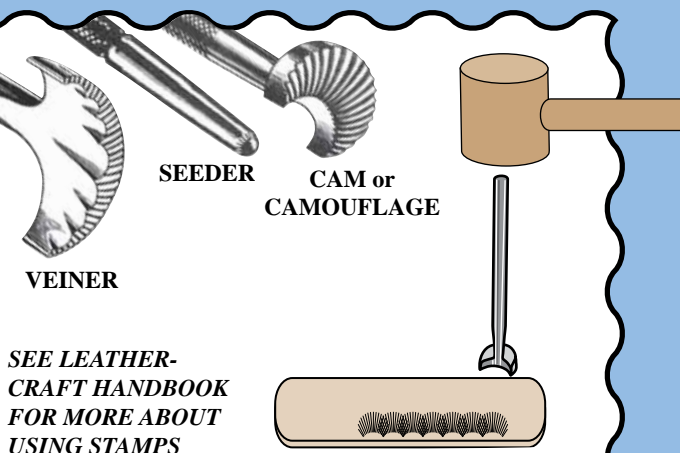


## STAMPING Instructions:

(Shown here on a leather strip.)

- 1) After leather has been cased, hold stamp in a vertical (straight up and down) position. Be sure stamp is facing the desired direction.
- 2) Strike handle end of stamp firmly with mallet to leave a deep impression.
- 3) Repeat with same or different stamps.

**Be sure to keep leather damp while stamping. Reapply water lightly with sponge as needed.**

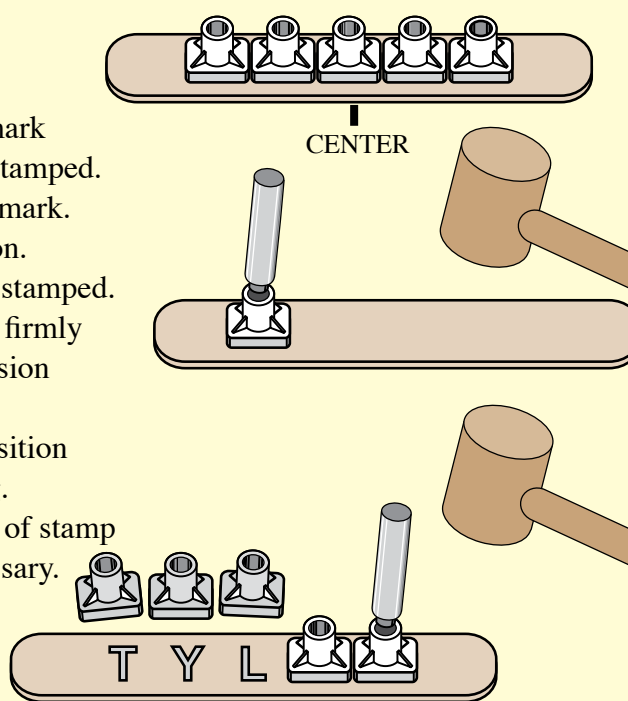


SEE LEATHER-CRAFT HANDBOOK FOR MORE ABOUT USING STAMPS

## STAMPING Alphabets:

(Shown here on a leather strip.)

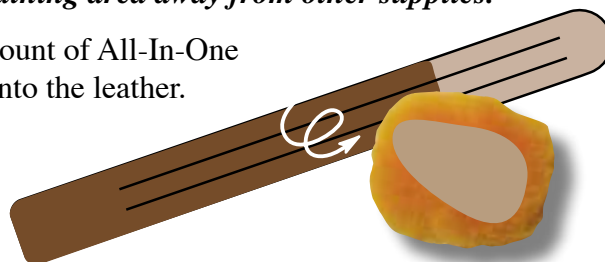
- 1) To stamp two or more letters in a row, first mark the center of the space where letters will be stamped.
- 2) Place stamps side by side, centered over the mark. Be sure stamps are facing the correct direction.
- 3) Remove all stamps except the first one to be stamped.
- 4) Insert stamp setter in top of stamp and strike firmly with mallet. Repeat if necessary until impression shows clearly in the leather.
- 5) Place 1st stamp back over its impression. Position 2nd stamp next to the first for proper spacing.
- 6) Remove 1st stamp. Insert stamp setter in top of stamp and strike firmly with mallet. Repeat if necessary.
- 7) Repeat with rest of letters.
- 8) Allow project to dry completely before applying All-In-One Stain & Finish.



## STAINING THE LEATHER:

*You will be using All-In-One Stain & Finish which is a color and finish combined for speed. Be sure to work quickly and in a special staining area away from other supplies.*

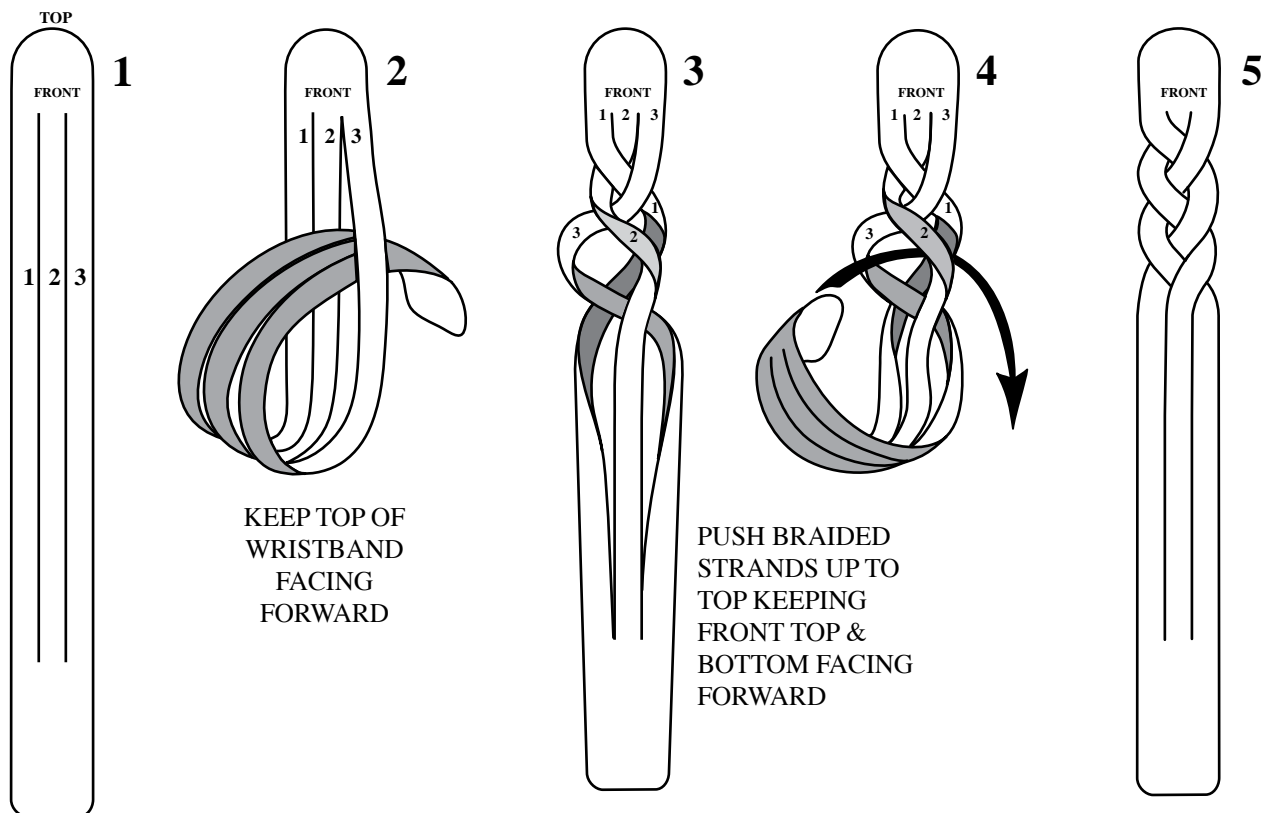
- 1) Shake bottle well. Transfer a liberal (heavy) amount of All-In-One onto a piece of sheep wool, but never directly onto the leather.  
NOTE: Only one coat is needed.
- 2) Then apply to leather quickly, rubbing in a circular motion until color is even and all cuts and impressions are full of stain.
- 3) Remove excess with a clean piece of sheep wool. Then, buff to a mellow gloss with a clean piece of sheep wool.



**OPTION: After stain is dry, come back and add more color using colored markers or classroom acrylic paints.**



## MYSTERY BRAIDING INSTRUCTIONS:



- 1) Be sure project is completely dry before starting to braid. Mentally number strands starting left to right: 1, 2 & 3
- 2) Holding wristband with rounded end at top as shown above, pass bottom end between strands 2 & 3. Pull bottom back down.
- 3) Go to top (front of leather facing forward) and position strand 1 over 2, strand 3 over 1, and strand 2 over 3.
- 4) Open space between strands 2 & 3 and pass bottom end of strip between strands 2 and 3. Pull bottom back down.
- 5) Work with strands until all are flat, facing forward and spaced evenly. This completes one mystery braid.
- 6) Repeat Steps 1 through 4 one more time if desired.

### 7) TO ATTACH HOOK & LOOP FASTENER:

- Lock hook & loop parts together.
- Peel paper off of one side.
- Position sticky side on underside of front end. Press firmly to adhere.
- Peel paper off other side of fastener.
- Wrap band around wrist. Press hook & loop sticky side onto the band. Press firmly to adhere.

