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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 Adventure Leather TURTLE POUCH

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

OBJECTIVE: Students will learn to stamp and assemble leather turning it into a useful and decorative project. Lesson includes history and new vocabulary words. Creativity, and dexterity skills will be exercised to design, personalize, color and assemble the project.

MATERIALS LIST

All Supplies Needed To Complete
12 Turtle Pouch Projects:

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

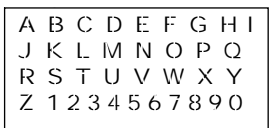
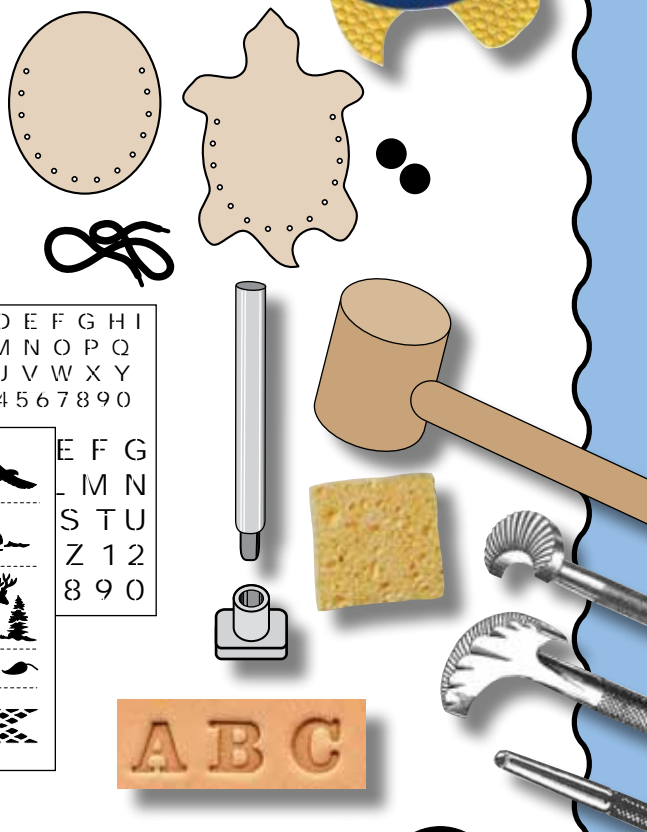
YOU WILL or MIGHT NEED:

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

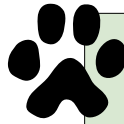
CLASSROOM TIME:

Minimum of 4 Sessions:

- Design, Case & Stamp = 90 minutes
- Color the Projects = 45 minutes
- Assembly = 45 minutes



GETTING STARTED:



SESSION 1 - Design:

- Copy blank templates on page 5, cut apart on dotted lines, along with stencils and hand out with pencils to plan 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. 6 instructions, project parts & 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 on page 7 along with cord and fasteners.
- Practice assembly steps before class. Demonstrate the steps.

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

The leather used in 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 the 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 . . .

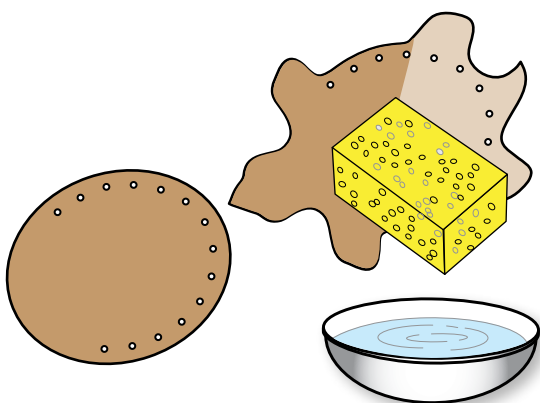




LEATHER PREPARATION:

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 make a leather Turtle Pouch decorated with camping theme designs and alphabets.

VOCABULARY:

Cowhide - The hide from a mature bovine (cow).

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

Grain Side - The hair side of the leather with the hair removed. This side may be tooled.

Running Stitch - A very historic lacing technique where the lace is stitched in and out of a row of holes.

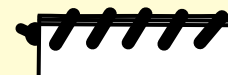


Tanning - The process using tannins to change a fresh animal hide into leather.

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

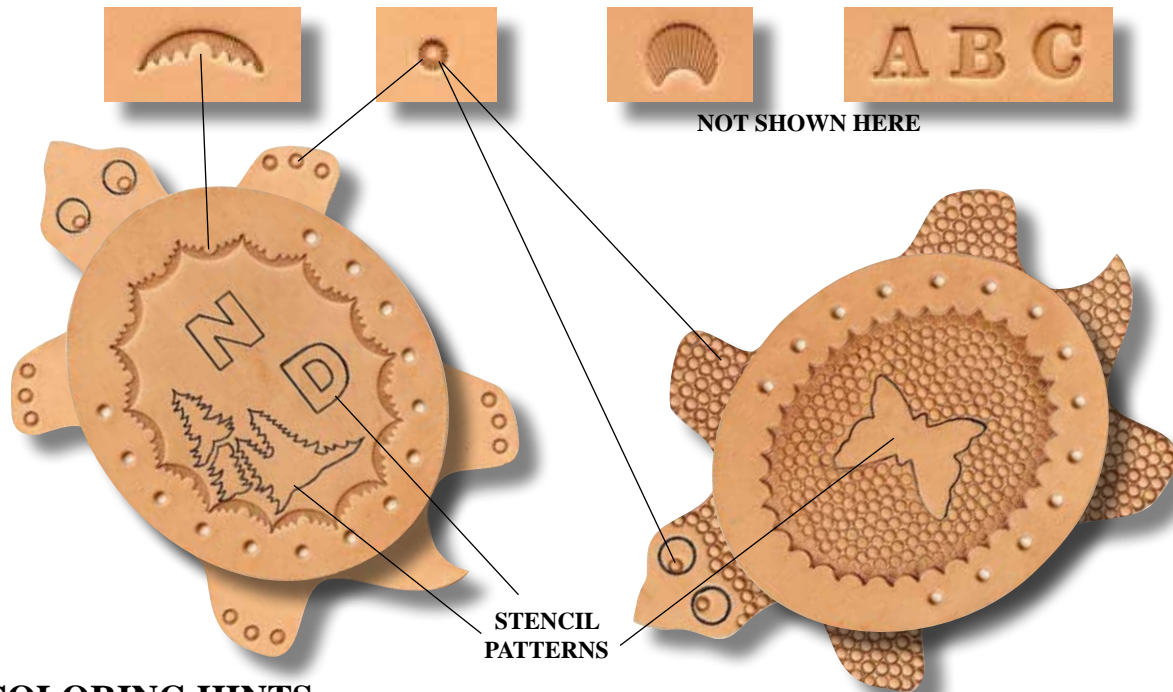
Vegetable Tanned (Veg-Tan) - Leather which has been tanned with vegetable materials that are derived from certain plants and woods, often called bark tannins.

Whip Stitch - A very historic lacing technique where the lace is taken over the edge of the leather and then into the next hole.



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.



COLORING HINTS:

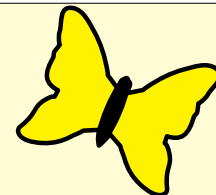
WHEN USING ACRYLIC PAINTS over All-In-One, make light colors stand out on the dark background by first painting the inside of the design with white acrylic paint. Let it dry completely (few minutes), then paint over the white with the desired color.

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.

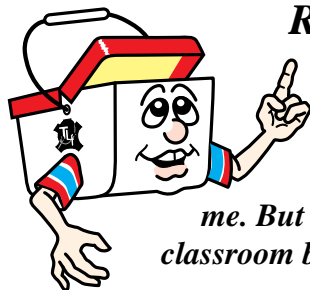


CLASSROOM EXPANSION IDEAS:

- ~ 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!

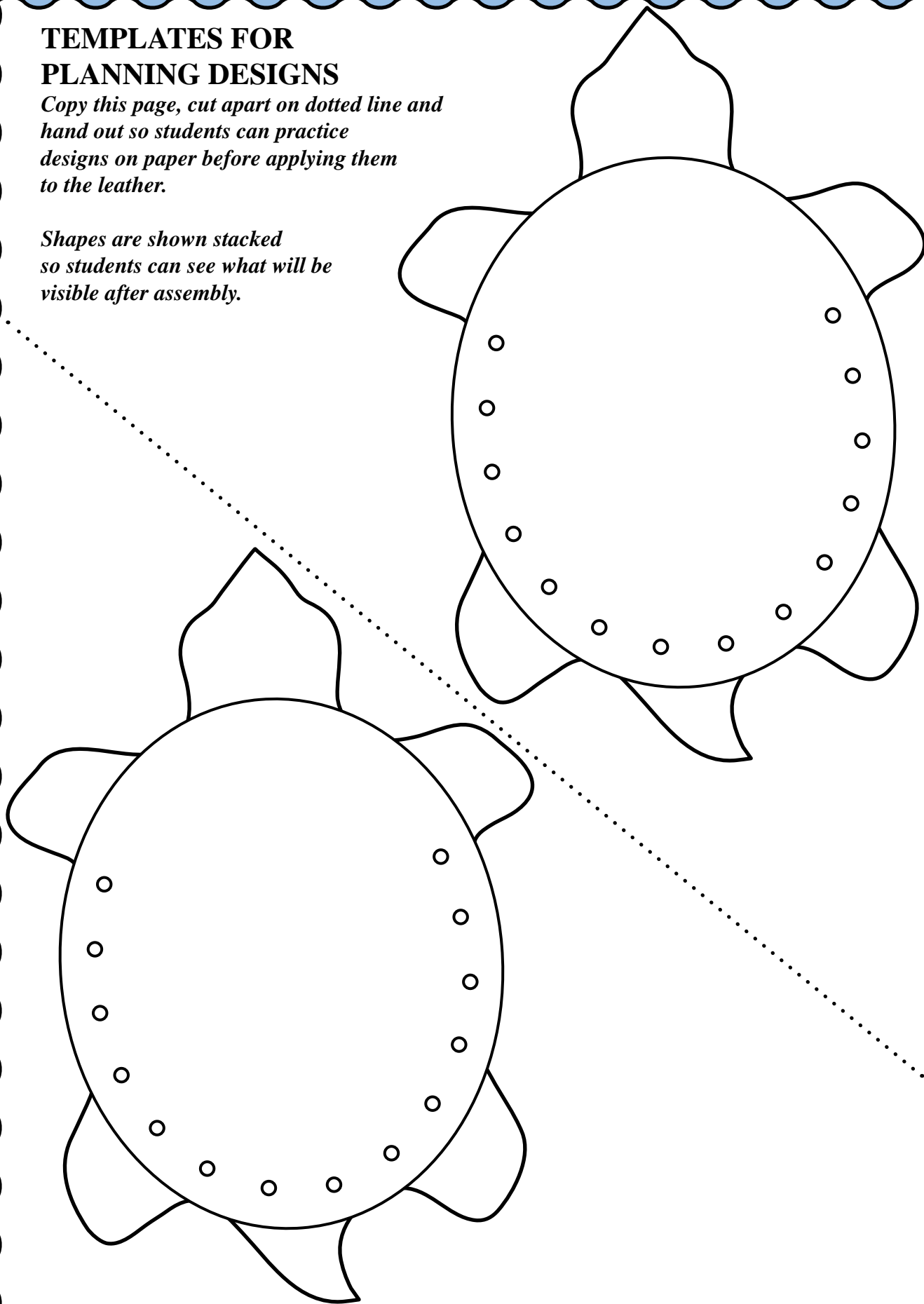


"I am your Theme Bucket - be sure to recycle me! I would like to end up in your closet with many of my friends. I could store art supplies, extra leather project parts, or even help you organize your files. Create a new label for me so I can help you find what is stored in me. But until it's time to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

TEMPLATES FOR PLANNING DESIGNS

Copy this page, cut apart on dotted line and hand out so students can practice designs on paper before applying them to the leather.

Shapes are shown stacked so students can see what will be visible after assembly.



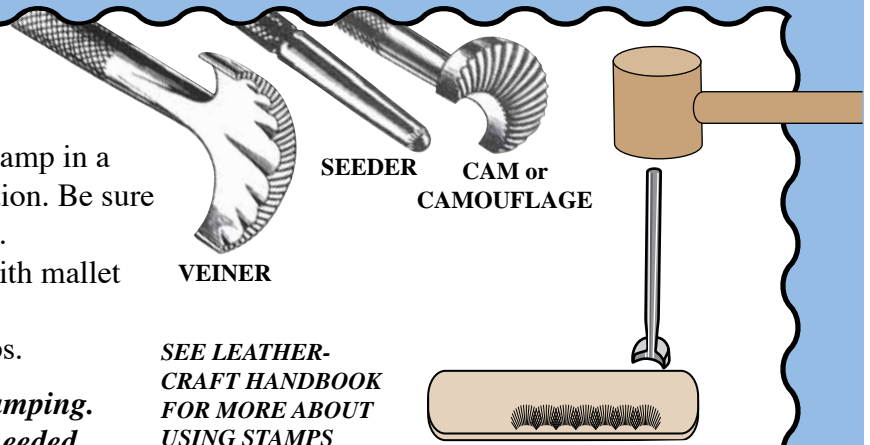
STAMPING Instructions:

(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.

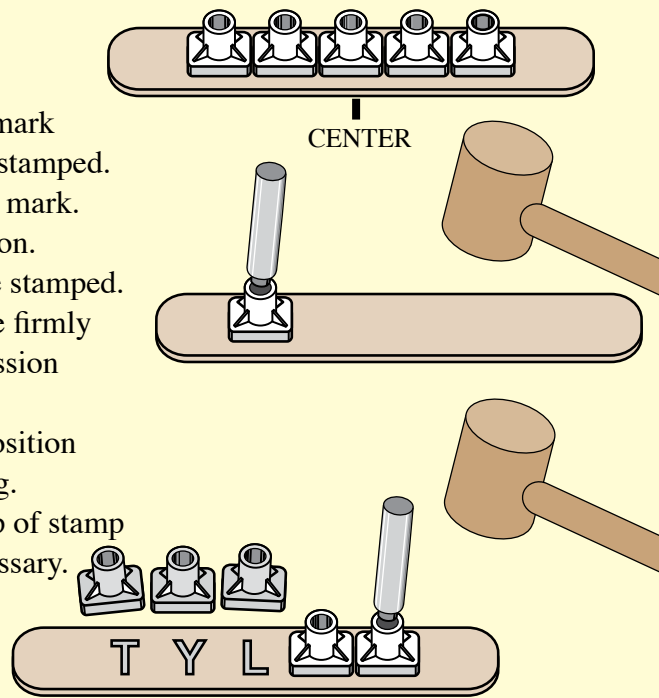
SEE LEATHER-CRAFT HANDBOOK FOR MORE ABOUT USING STAMPS



STAMPING Alphabets:

(Shown here on a leather strip.)

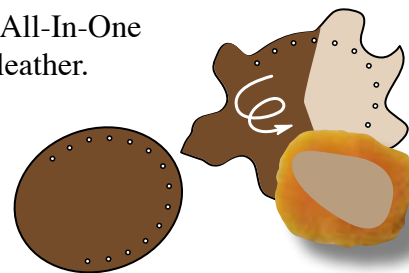
- 1) To stamp two or more letters in a row, first mark the center of the space where letters will be stamped.
- 2) Place stamps side by side, centered over the mark. Be sure stamps are facing the correct direction.
- 3) Remove all stamps except the first one to be stamped.
- 4) Insert stamp setter in 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.

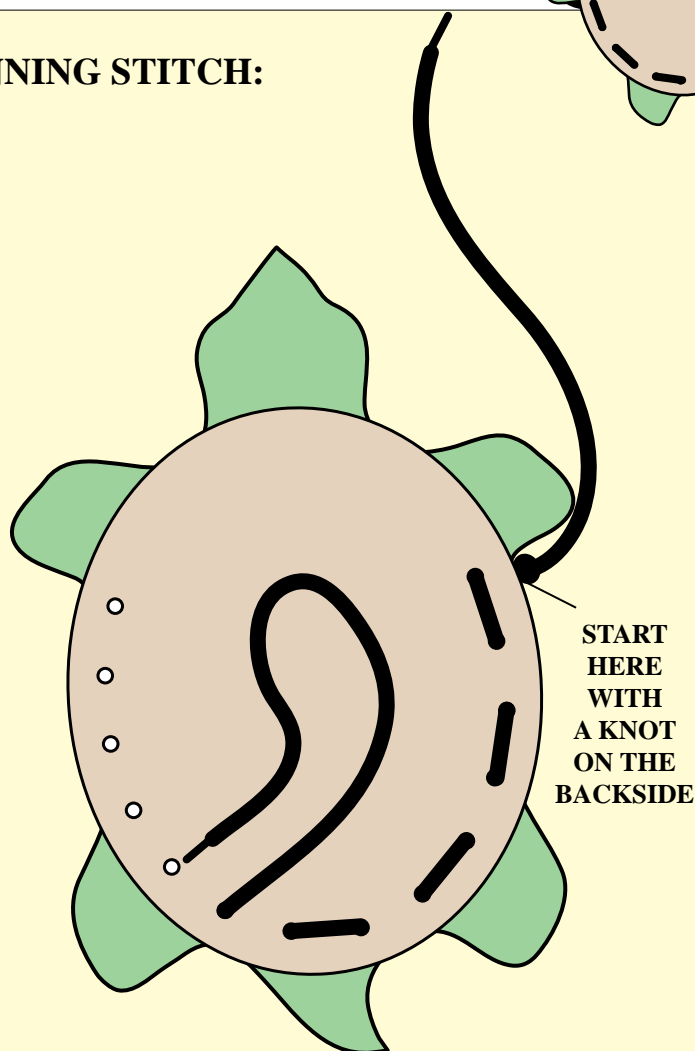


ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS:

Be sure parts are completely dry before assembly.

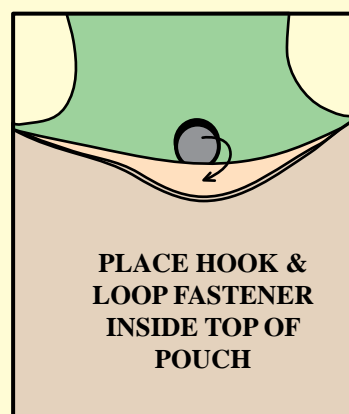
To Assemble Using The RUNNING STITCH:

- 1) Leave desired length of cord for a necklace or handle (up to 2 ft.) and then tie a knot in the cord.
- 2) Place oval shape over body shape aligning holes.
- 3) Begin stitching through top hole on the backside of the body. Push tip of cord up through first aligned holes.
- 4) Stitch down through the next aligned holes in both parts
- 5) Continue stitching in and out around project to last hole.
- 6) At last hole, tie a knot in cord close to last hole.
- 7) For a neck cord, tie both ends of cord together in a knot.
- 8) Trim off excess cord.



To Attach HOOK & LOOP FASTENER:

- Peel paper off one side of joined hook & loop parts and position inside the top of the pouch between parts. Press to secure.
- Peel paper off other side of hook & loop.
- Press parts together to secure.



HINTS: *Keep cord flat while stitching. Try not to twist cord. To keep cut cord ends from unraveling, put a drop of classroom white glue on end and let dry.*