



## Digital Downloads

This PDF package has been put together to give you options when it comes to printing. Some PDF file downloads may contain some documents larger than an 8-1/2" x 11" image. Pages and patterns that are larger than 8½x11 have been provided in two formats:



**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.

**Tiled:** The tiled pages give you the option of printing the larger patterns at home. You print the tiled pages and then assemble them to make the larger patterns.



**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.

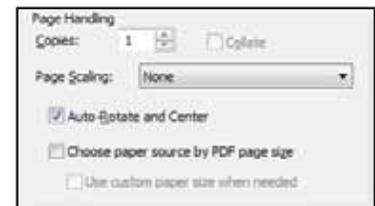
**Doodle Page PDF files** are typically laid out as follows: Front – full sized, front – tiled, back – full sized, back – tiled (Some Doodle Pages do not have backs).

**eBook PDF files** contain 1 (one) full eBook. All pages in the PDF are full sized. This means that you may have to take the PDF to a print shop for certain oversized books if your home printer cannot print the larger pages.

**Craftaid PDF files** contain 1 (one) full Craftaid pattern or Craftaid pattern pack that has been converted into a tracing pattern. All pages in the PDF are full sized. This means that you may have to take the PDF to a print shop for certain oversized Craftaid patterns if your home printer cannot print the larger pages. **NOTE: These digitized patterns do not include any of the physical plastic templates (Craftaids) that may be mentioned, nor does the purchase of this PDF file imply a promise to receive any physical plastic templates (Craftaids).**

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

Please note: When printing on a home printer, use the settings seen on the image to the right in the Page Handling area of the Adobe Reader print dialogue box. If your printer is cutting edges off, set "Page Scaling" to "Shrink to Printable Area". This will, however, decrease the size of the pattern a very small amount.



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

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*Leathercraft  
Projects To-Go*

# Communication Theme Leather MOUSE PAD

*Plus A Look At "How  
We Communicate"*

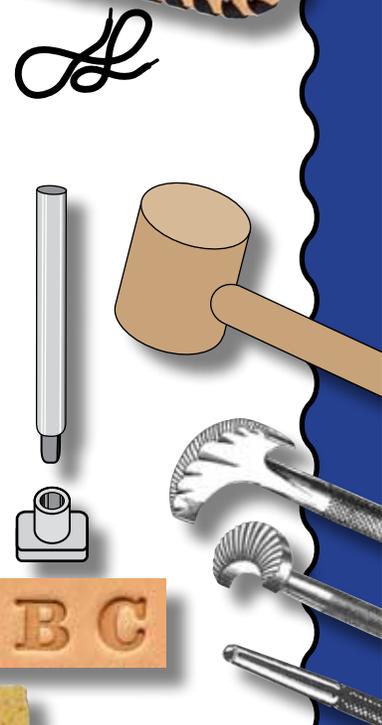
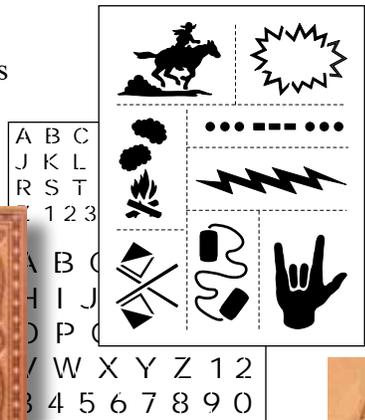
**OBJECTIVE:** Students will learn about the theme while creating a useful and decorative leather project. Lesson includes history and new vocabulary words. Creativity, math and dexterity skills will be exercised to design, personalize, color and then assemble the project.



## MATERIALS LIST

**All Supplies Needed To Complete  
12 Leather Mouse Pad Projects:**

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



## YOU WILL or MIGHT NEED:

- Pencils For Planning & Scissors
- 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  
 Stitching = 45 minutes



## GETTING STARTED:

### SESSION 1 - Design:

- Copy blank template on page 5, cut stencils apart on dotted lines and hand out 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. Have paper towels and a plastic trash bag handy for spills.
- Hand out to each student: Copy of p. 6 instructions, project leather part & 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 & Cova Colors. Use plastic palettes, plates or wax paper for mixing paints.

### SESSION 4 - Stitching:

- Copy & hand out Instructions (page 7) along with cord.
- Practice assembly steps before class. Demonstrate the steps.

### **ABOUT THE PROJECT:**

*The leather used for this project is 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 and stamps.*

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



## How Do We Communicate?

Communication is a learned skill and there are two major categories: Auditory (verbal) methods such as speaking, singing and tone of voice. Second there is nonverbal or physical methods of communicating such as body language, sign language, touch, eye contact, use of writing and other symbols.



Communication is also the articulation (or expression) of a message through different media whether it be verbal or nonverbal. Historic media included smoke signals, letters by pony express, telegraph using Morse Code, telegrams, printing press handbills and newspapers, early telephones with party lines, and radio. More recent ways include radar, sonar, television, movies, satellites, cell phones, recorders, CDs, DVDs, computers, the internet and mental thought wave responders.

Most people are born with the ability to talk. However, the use of this ability must be learned. Words, tone of voice and volume must be learned. Some people are born deaf, so their ability to talk must be learned differently from those who hear, using sight and touch. Communication most often relies on learning to read, comparing and exploring with ones senses: sight, touch, taste, smell and hearing.

**Did You Know:** The ancient Egyptians communicated to their people and enemies by constructing large intimidating temples and tombs decorated with carvings and picture writing called hieroglyphics. These were symbols communicating their strength and lasting power.

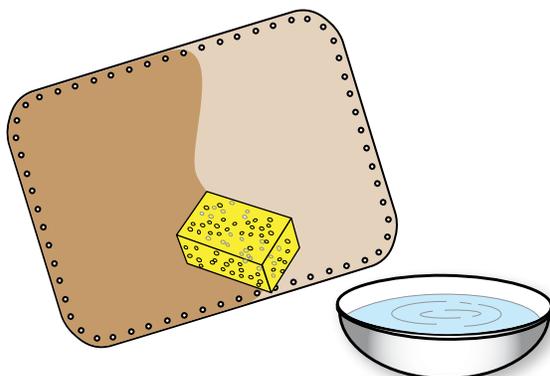
Hundreds and thousands of symbols have been used throughout history to communicate messages without using words. In medieval times, large churches were covered with carvings, stained glass picture windows and paintings which were used to communicate religious teachings because most of the population that attended services couldn't read.

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:** Animals of all forms communicate between themselves and with others through response to touch, the sun and climate. Have you ever heard that you can tell if winter is over and spring has begun by watching the trees bud and flowers bloom? This is a form of communication.

**Did You Know:** Commanders of ships communicated by means of flags, lanterns, lights and the infamous “warning signal” which usually meant a “cannon shot across the bow”. When coming close to land, a light house’s mirrored lanterns communicated the position of the coast line to the ship. In times of emergency, flares are used to communicate the need for help and to mark a location for rescue.

**Did You Know:** Air traffic controllers communicate with aircraft by means of radar and radio transmissions. Once on the land, the landing crew communicates with the pilots using flags and arm gestures.

Our ways of communication continue to expand with new technology. It is our human job to learn how to interpret the messages better and respond appropriately to the communication.

## 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.

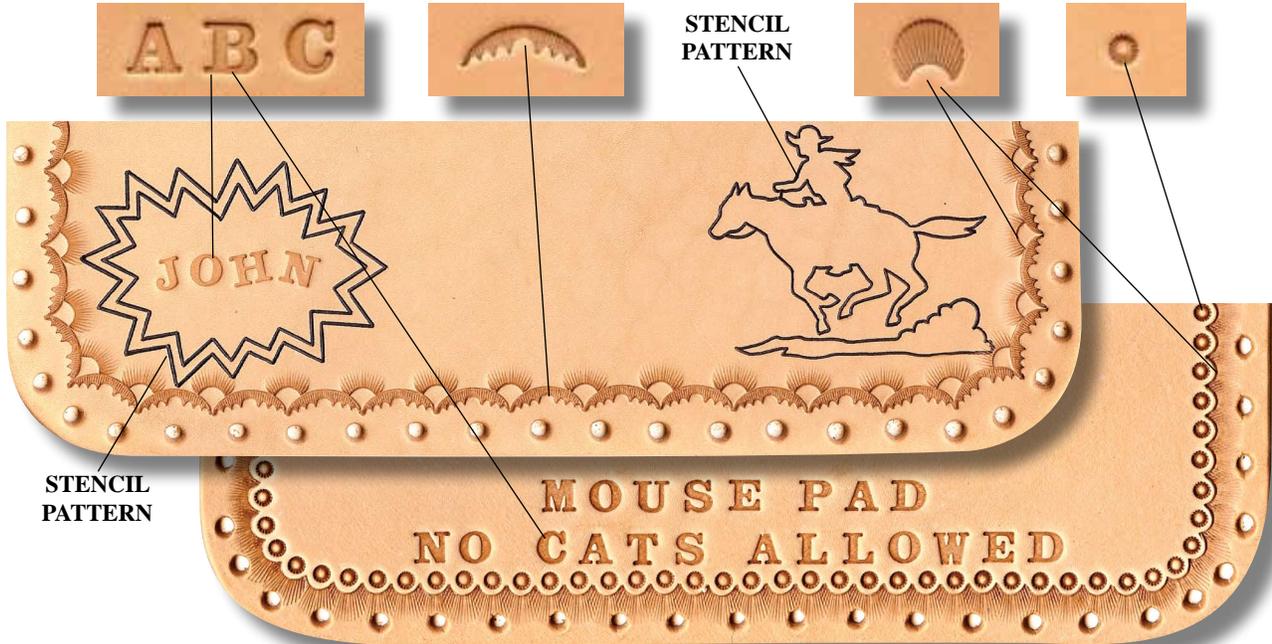
**Staining** - Adding color to the leather using different types of stains and paints.

**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.



### COLORING HINTS:

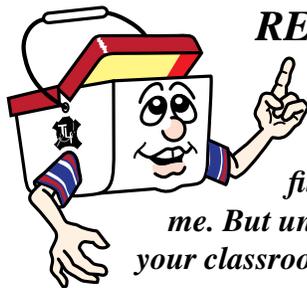
**WHEN USING ACRYLIC PAINTS** over All-In-One, make light colors stand out on the dark background by first painting the inside of the design with white acrylic paint. Let it dry completely (few minutes), then paint over the white with the desired color. *If a lighter shade of the All-In-One is desired, apply a coat of All-In-One to the entire piece of leather, then use a damp clean cloth to wipe off as much as desired.*

**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:

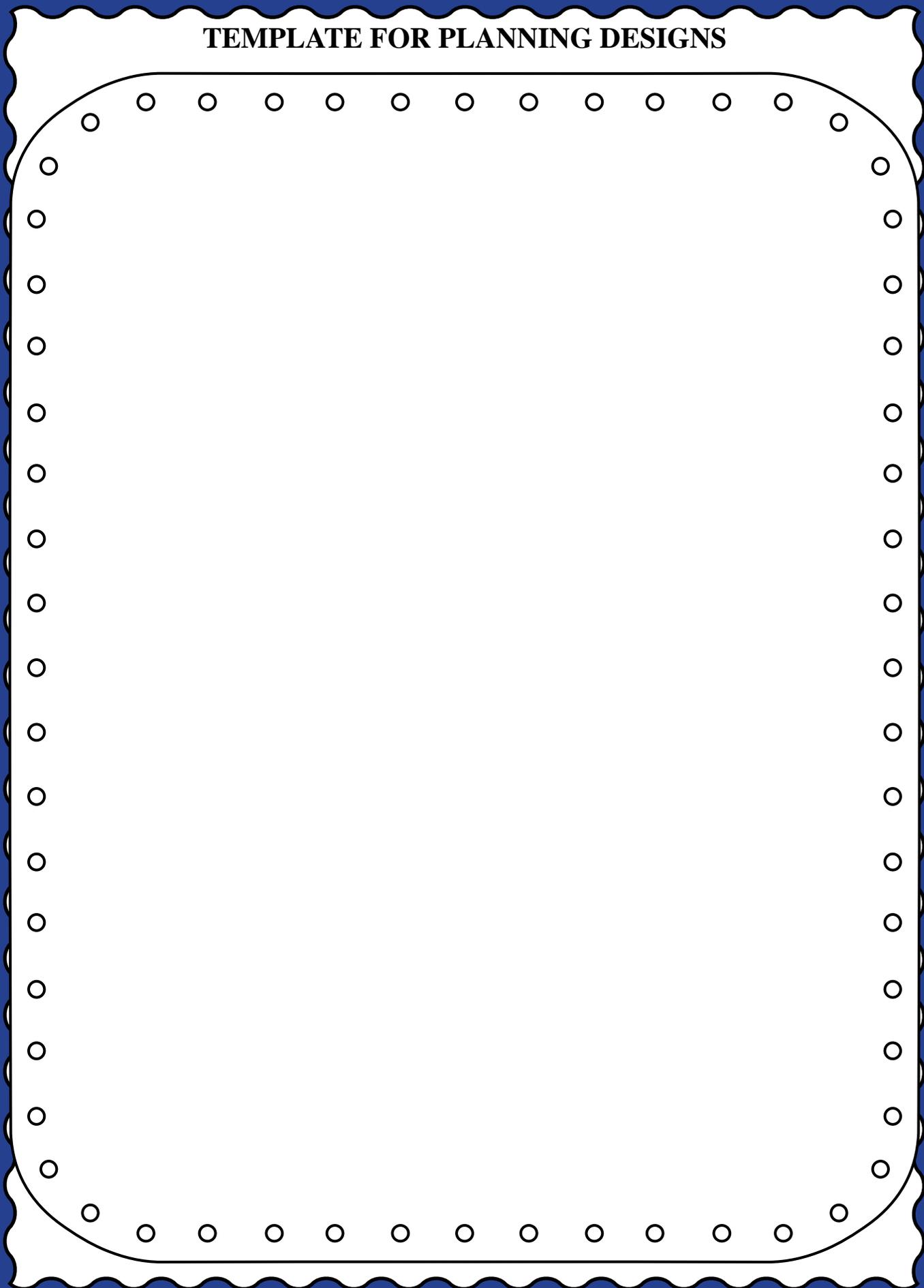
- ~ Study the use of symbols, flags & Morse Code used for communication.
- ~ Study the oldest and newest forms of communication used by the students' ancestors and families.



### 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."*

# TEMPLATE FOR PLANNING DESIGNS



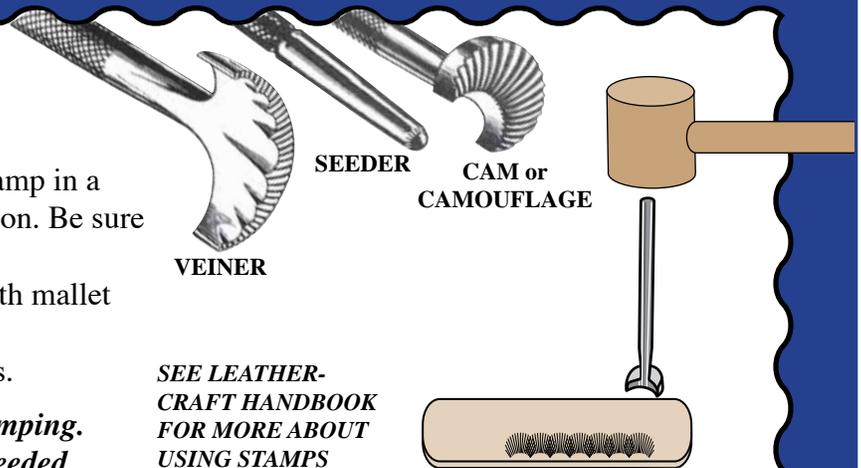
## STAMPING Instructions:

(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.**

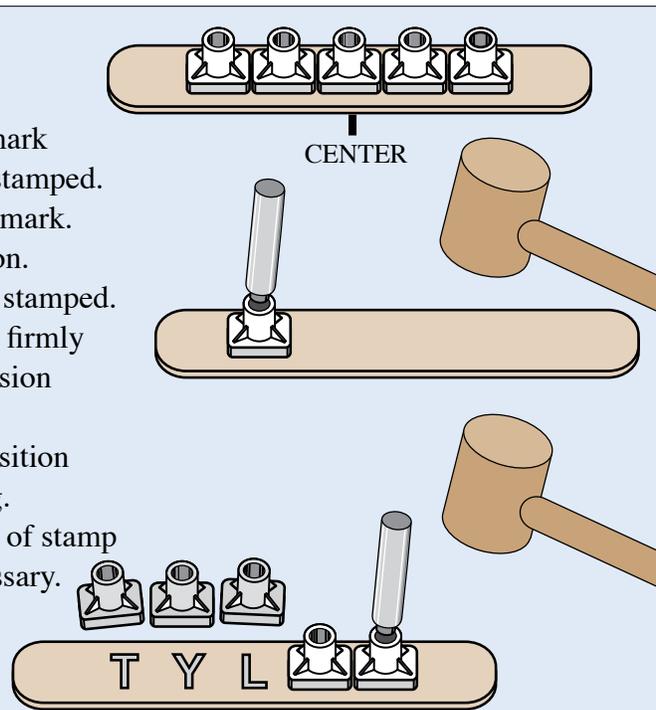
SEE LEATHER-CRAFT HANDBOOK FOR MORE ABOUT USING STAMPS



## STAMPING Alphabets:

(Shown here on a leather strip.)

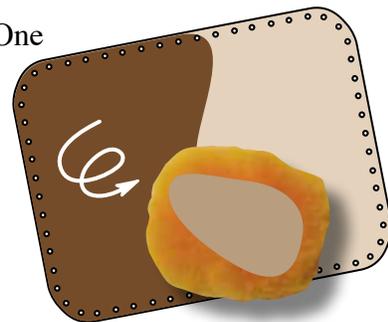
- 1) To stamp two or more letters in a row, first mark the center of the space where letters will be stamped.
- 2) Place stamps side by side, centered over the mark. Be sure stamps are facing the correct direction.
- 3) Remove all stamps except the first one to be stamped.
- 4) Insert stamp setter in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



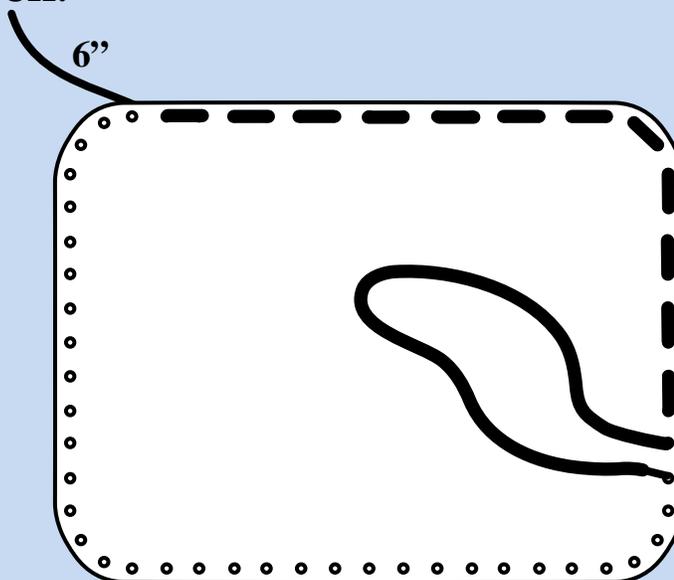
**OPTION: After stain is dry, come back and add more color using colored markers or acrylic paints.**

## STITCHING INSTRUCTIONS

*Decorate mouse pad and be sure project is completely dry before stitching.  
Select the desired stitching style and follow the instructions.*

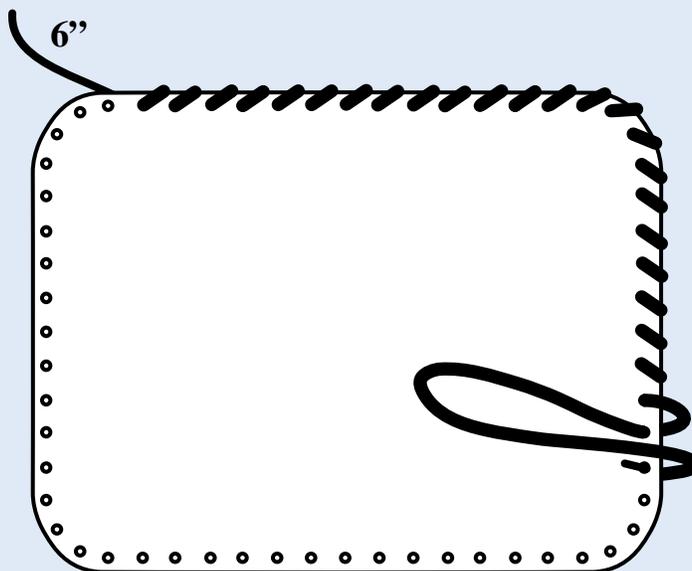
### TO DO THE RUNNING STITCH:

- 1) Begin on back side of pad in upper left corner.
- 2) Stitch up through first hole. Pull cord through hole leaving 6" of cord to tie off later.
- 3) Stitch down through next hole. Continue stitching in and out to last hole.
- 4) At last hole, tie ends of cord in a knot on backside of pad and trim off excess cord.



### TO DO THE WHIP STITCH:

- 1) Begin on back side of pad in upper left corner.
- 2) Stitch up through first hole. Pull cord through hole leaving 6" of cord to tie off later.
- 3) Stitch over edge. Then stitch up through next hole. Continue stitching to last hole.
- 4) At last hole, tie ends of cord in a knot on backside of pad and trim off excess cord.



### STITCHING HINT:

*When stitching, keep the cord flat - do not twist it.*