



Doodle Page Digital Download

This PDF file contains 1 (one) Doodle Page. The PDF has been put together to give you options when it comes to printing. Pages and patterns that are larger than 8½x11 have been provided in two formats:



1) 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. All full size Doodle Pages are 11x17



2) Tiled

The tiled pages give you the option of printing the full sized Doodle Pages at home. You print the tiled pages and then assemble them to make the larger patterns.

The Doodle Page PDF files are typically laid out like this:

Front – full sized, front – tiled, back – full sized, back – tiled

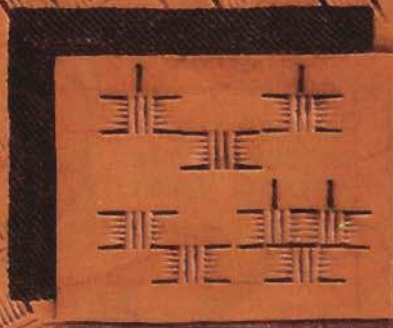
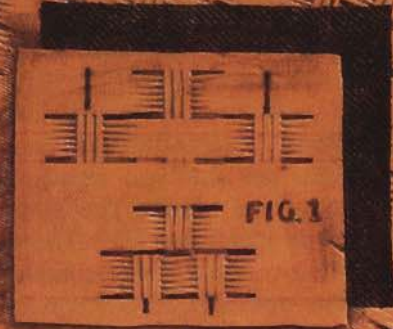
(Some Doodle Pages do not have backs)

Please note: When printing on a home printer, the edges may get cut off. To avoid this, make sure “Page Scaling” is set to “Shrink to Printable Area” in the Adobe Reader print dialogue box. This will decrease the size of the Doodle Page a very small amount.



You may take this PDF file to your local print shop to have the full-size pages printed for your own personal use.

CURVES



CURVES

by Bill McKay

Of all the stamping tools I have in my collection, one of the most often used is the basketweave stamp. I would have to guess that it is used in well over half the leatherwork that I do. From purses to cases, holsters to saddles, the uses of this tool are, it seems, endless.

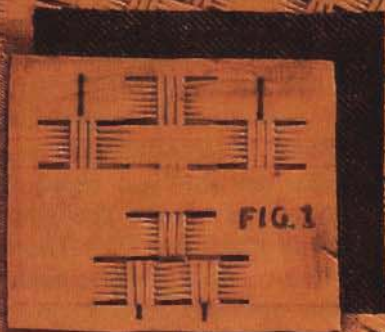
A year or so back, I was impressed to see a Doodle Page with the technique that uses the tool in such a manner that the piece appears to be covered in a solid coat of arrowheads. I had seen a saddle tooled that way, at a western art show, and I was very happy to realize that someone else, out there, was able to appreciate the very special effect that it gave the piece.

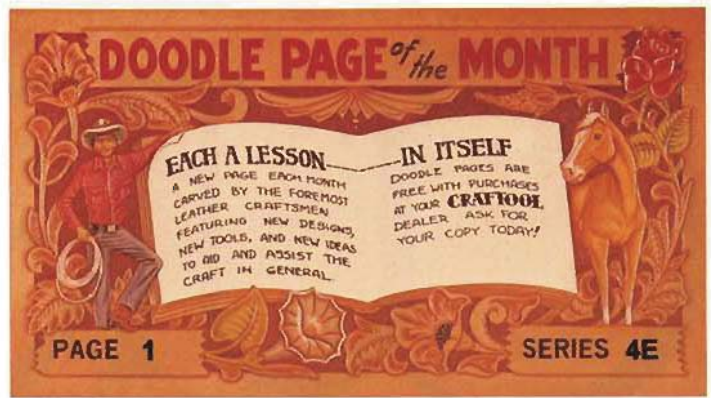
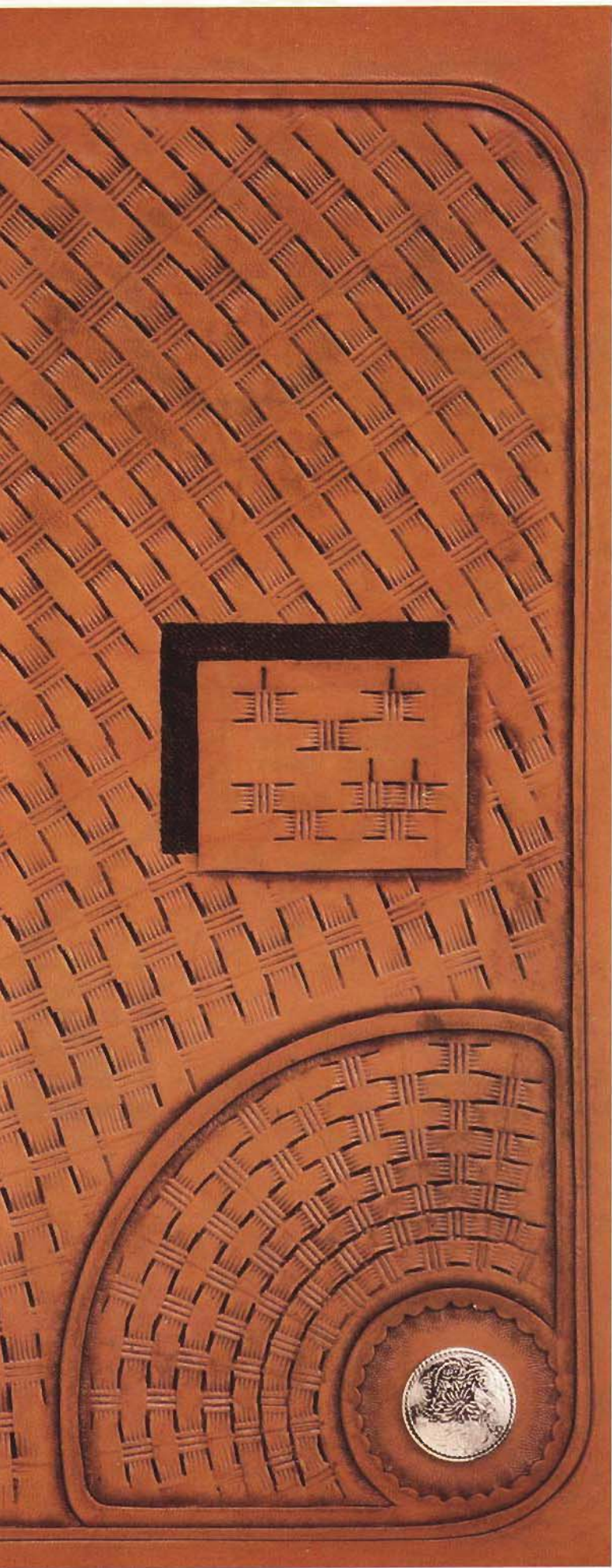
Well, for those of you who enjoy this tool as much as I do . . . (actually, I'm getting too old and feeble minded to carve and tool leather) . . . here's one more "how to" on using the basket stamp to dazzle your friends and neighbors. Let's make a curved basket weave!

The first thing that we need to recall is some basic simple geometry. As you may recall, from high school, . . . (Gee! Was it that long ago?) . . . a curve is part of a circle, and every circle has a center. From the center to the edge is called the radius, and that is where we begin. Your design may have the center of the curve in the corner, such as this sample, or it may be in the middle of the piece you have designed. Once you decide where you want the center of your curve, draw a line out to the point where you want your curve to stop.

Now, at this point you will have to do a few simple calculations. First, grab a piece of scrap leather from your supplies, and after casing it, mark a light line on it. Using the stamp of your choice, make an impression, with the edge of the stamp, on the line. Now, make another image on the opposite side of the line so that the center weaves almost overlap. Now, move the stamp over and do the same thing and you will have tooled a nice little "reference" piece to keep handy for future use. Next, do the same thing again, only this time move the two impressions as far from the middle of the single stamp as you can, leaving only the very ends of the stamps touching ever so

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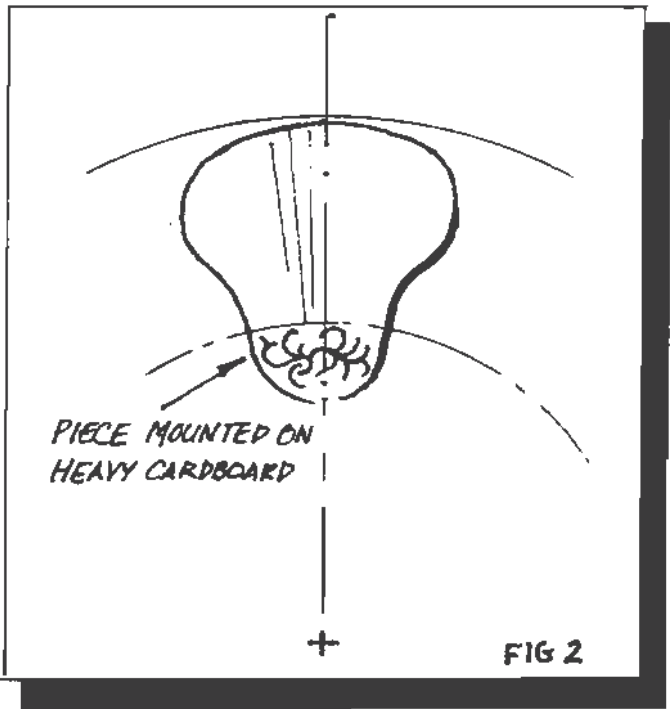
ONCE YOU DECIDE WHERE YOU WANT THE WIDEST WEAVE...

... AND THEN DETERMINE THE NARROW POINT...

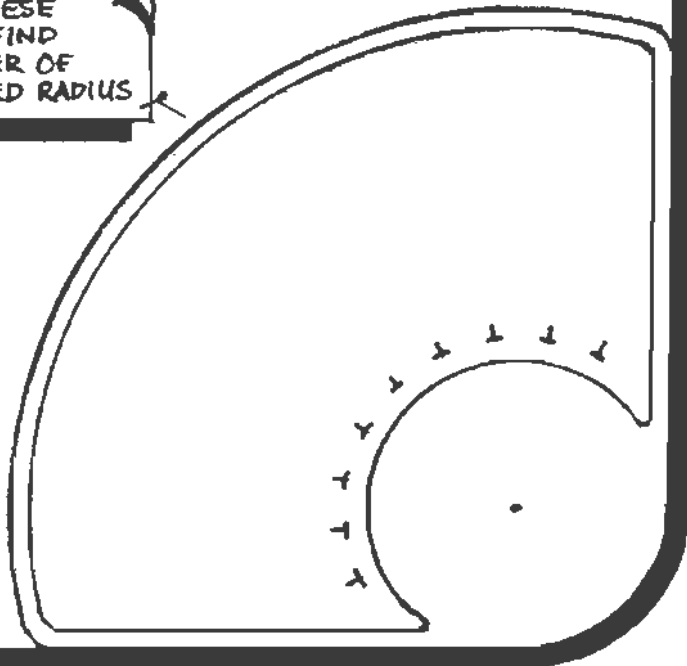


... YOU CAN THEN EXTEND THESE LINES TO FIND THE CENTER OF THE DESIRED RADIUS

JUST AS I HAVE DONE HERE, YOU CAN USE THE NATURAL CURVE OF YOUR DESIGN TO ESTABLISH THE CURVE OF THE BASKETWEAVE EFFECT.



FOR A GENTLE CURVE, YOU CAN MOUNT YOUR WORK ON A HEAVY CARDBOARD. THIS WILL LET YOU CENTER YOUR RADIUS POINT WELL AWAY FROM THE ACTUAL TOOLING SURFACE.



slightly. You should now have a pair of basketweave images that look like the ones in the square marked "FIG. 1". This is a sample of the maximum and minimum "spread" that you can obtain using your chosen basketweave stamp. NOTE: Each stamp will have its own spread "limits", and just as an aside, the angled basketweave stamps won't work with this technique.

On this particular piece, the center point of my curve is at the lower left hand corner, where the two lines come together. From that point, I made a line to the furthestmost point on the panel, which is obviously the upper right hand corner. Now, using dividers, I simply set them to the maximum spread, as indicated on my sample in Figure 1, and mark that distance by the line, where it reaches the upper corner . . . the one furthest from the center of the curve. You then want to draw a line from that mark back to the center. You'll now have a very narrow "sliver" running across the entire area you wish to "basketweave". Finally, setting your dividers to match the minimum spread, you need to find the place along this little sliver where the width is the same as the setting on your dividers. That is the point, along the radius of your curve, where you want to start your basketweave. If you try to begin any closer to the center of your curve, your basketweave will look more like a basket crunch. Another thing to keep in mind is that the closer to the center you start your curve, the closer to the center your maximum spread will be. The small design, in the lower right hand corner, illustrates this. The center point is actually the center of the concho, and the outer edge of that small quarter-circle is the maximum spread line for that stamp. If most of your pattern consists of a design you've tooled, then you do not need to be as concerned with the minimum and maximum spread of the stamp you choose, unless it is a very small stamp such as the X500.

Here are a couple of final points. If you want a gentle curve to your pattern, to cover a large area, and you can't achieve this by locating the center point of the piece itself, simply mount your work on a piece of heavy cardboard, and locate the center of your desired radius on the board, as shown in Figure 2. Finally, the further apart you can make your minimum spread, the nicer your curved basketweave will look when finished.

This technique will work well from filling a corner, all the way up to creating a full circle. The only thing to keep in mind, with a full circle, is that the slivers should be divided equally, and evenly, around its entire diameter. Try practicing this style, a few times, on scrap leather, and in no time you will have everybody commenting on how "unusual" your work is. As long as they do not mention how unusual you are, just consider it a compliment, like I do.

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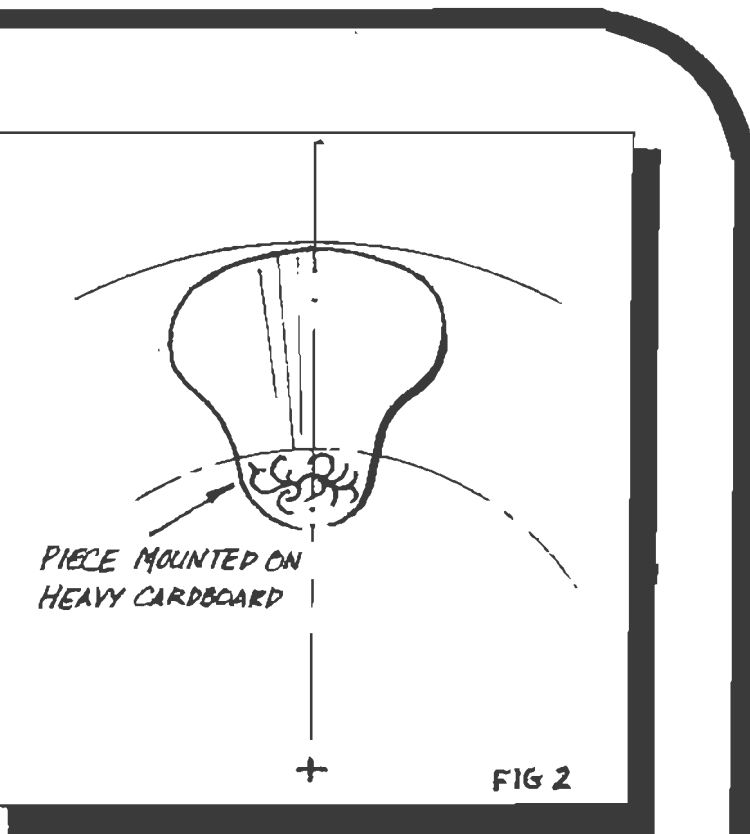
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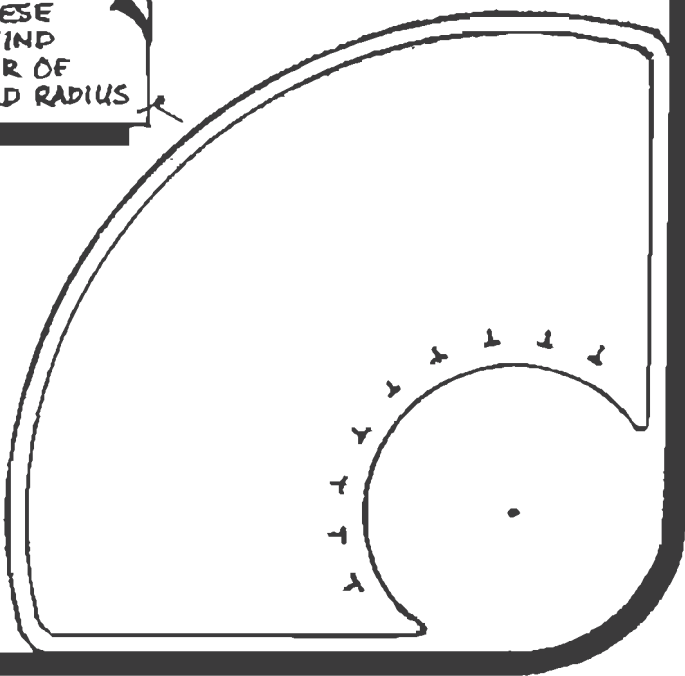
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