



## Digital Downloads

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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.

**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.

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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.**

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

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*Leathercraft  
Projects To-Go*

# Environment Theme Natural Leather LINK BELT

*Plus A Look Into "The Study  
of Our Earth's Ecology"*

**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 assemble the project.

## MATERIALS LIST

All Supplies Needed to Complete  
12 Leather Link Belt Projects:

- Pre-Cut Veg-Tan Tooling Leather Belt Parts
- Stamping Tools, Handles & Mallets
- Metal Rings
- Sponges & Sheep Wool
- All-In-One Stain / Finish
- Cova Color® Acrylic Paints
- Brushes
- 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

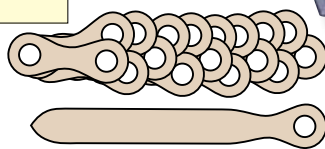
## CLASSROOM TIME:

Minimum of 4 Sessions:

Sizing & Design = 45 minutes

Case & Stamp = 45 minutes

Color & Assemble = 90 minutes



## GETTING STARTED:



### SESSION 1 - Design:

- Copy the 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 page 6 instructions, project parts & one mallet.
- Share stamps and stamp handles.
- Follow the Leather Preparation and Stamping Instructions on the next pages.

### SESSIONS 3 & 4 - Color & Assembly:

- 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.
- Copy and hand out Instructions (page 7) along with metal rings (2 per belt).
- 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.*



## What Is The Study Of Ecology?

Ecology is the scientific study of the relationship between all living things to each other and to what's around them. The word ECOLOGY comes from the Greek words meaning "study of the household." Through time the word has come to be used for a broader, larger meaning: "the study of the earth". Ecology includes how living things interact with each other, and with their environment such as the climate and soil.

Ecologists are scientists who study ecology. Some ecologists are specialized in their study, meaning they study a specific species of animal or just a particular environment. Other ecologists study many different species and how they interact with nature. There are many species and environments still to be discovered.

**Did You Know:** A natural rainforest plays a large part in the well being of our earth? The forest is not only the home to thousands of animals and organisms, but also the source of thousands of medicines used to help cure sickness and diseases. Trees help to create the air we breathe.

**What is "global warming"?** Global warming is the increase in the average temperature of the Earth's near-surface air and oceans. Human activity since the industrial revolution has caused damage to the atmosphere and the protective ozone layer around earth allowing harmful radiation to get through. This increases the temperature of our oceans, melting the earth's ice caps, causing damage to our land and human life.

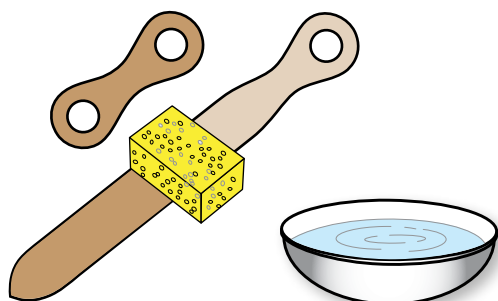
**What does "going green" mean?** Going green means actively working to protect our wilderness, animals, cleaning up industrial pollution that not only hurts the air we breath, but poisons the water we drink. These poisons kill all animals, those living in the water and those who drink it. These poisons pollute the ground we grow our food in, thus transmitting harmful chemicals into our bodies.

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:* “Earth Day” was first celebrated on April 22, 1970. Before that time, protecting our earth’s natural resources was not an important political or cultural effort. By 1990, Earth Day went global with over 200 million people in over 140 different nations participating. This participation is great, but the work to cleanup and save our earth is still ahead of us.

#### *Fun ways to get in touch with our earth:*

- Look up at the night sky at the moon and star constellations (or clouds in the daytime).
- While blindfolded, try to correctly identify different objects from nature (flowers, leaves, berries, etc.) using your other senses: touch, smell and hearing.
- Walk through a forest and identify the different sounds and smells.
- Share your favorite special place in nature by describing it based on your five senses: sight, smell, touch, sound and taste.
- Collect 12 small objects found in nature. Take an empty egg carton and go on a scavenger hunt finding the items. Then write about them describing their importance to nature.

The project for this lesson is to make a leather link belt decorated to reflect the beauty of our environment.

### 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.

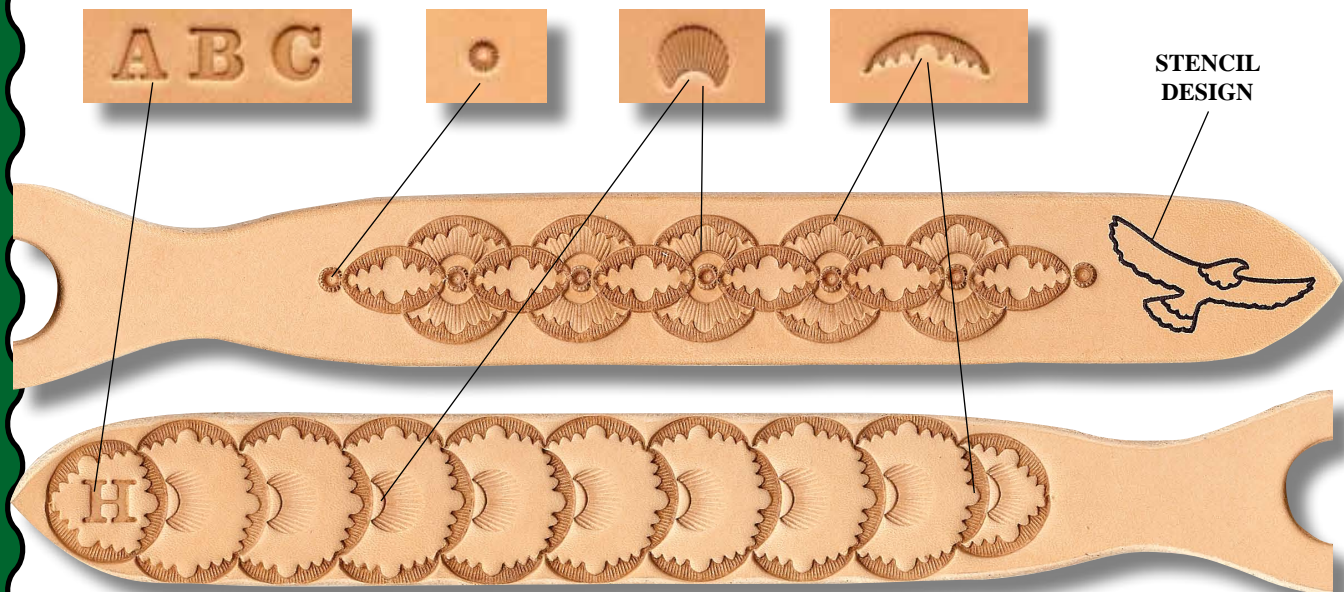
**Staining** - Adding color to the leather using different types of stains and paints.

**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 Cova Colors & Sharpie Pens or apply All-In-One Color Stain & Finish over the entire project. Then go back and add additional color.



### COLORING HINTS:

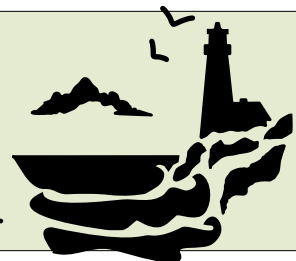
**WHEN USING ACRYLIC PAINTS** over All-In-One, make light colors stand out on the dark background by first painting the inside of the design with white acrylic paint. Let it dry completely (few minutes), then paint over the white with the desired color.

**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.

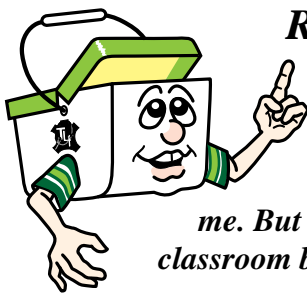


### CLASSROOM EXPANSION IDEAS:

- ~ Study the different ways we can help our environment.
- ~ Study and compare the daily activities of our ancestors to ours and see who was living more earth friendly.
- ~ Discuss the changes in our environment over the last 100 years.



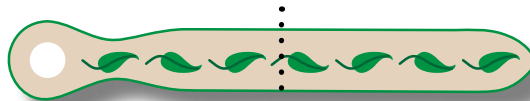
### RECYCLE ME!



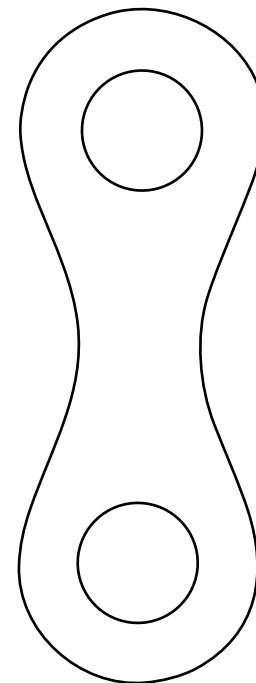
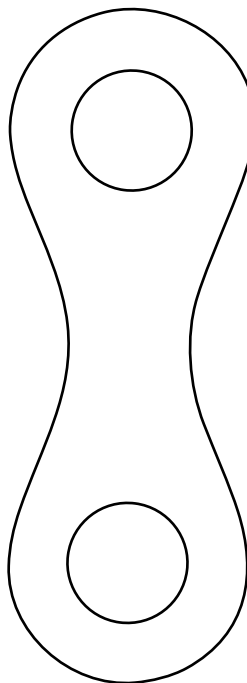
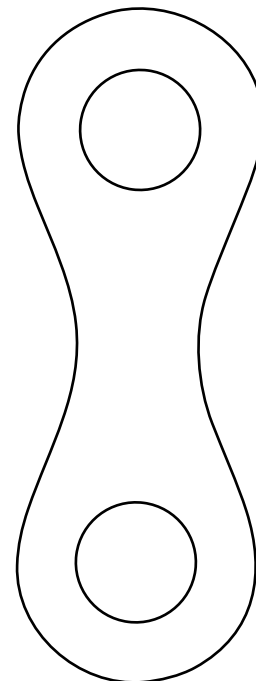
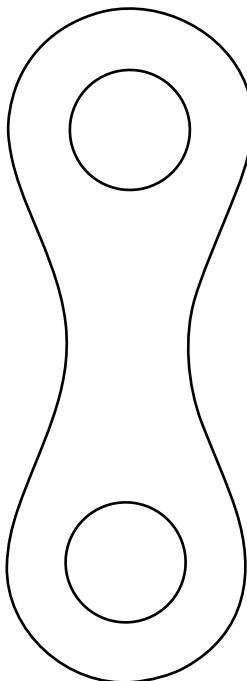
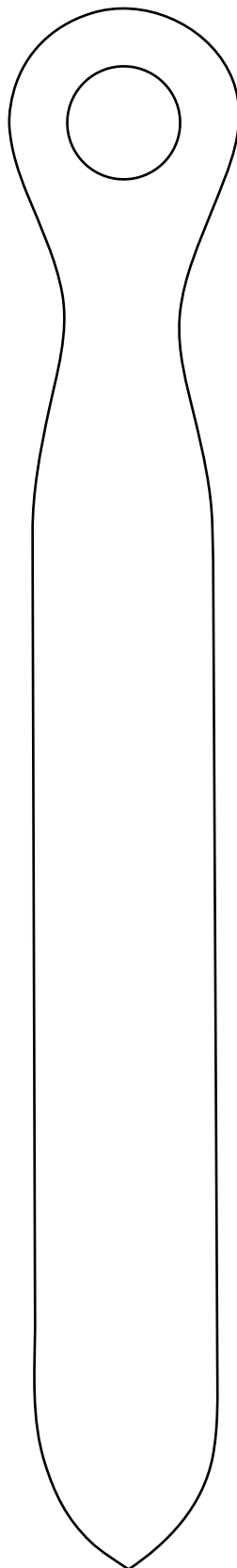
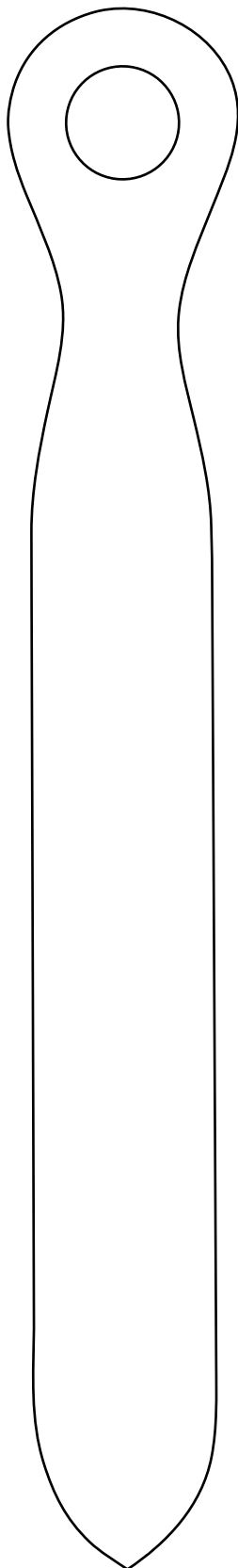
*“I am your Theme Bucket - be sure to recycle me! I would like to end up in your closet with many of my friends. I could store art supplies, extra leather project parts, or even help you organize your files. Create a new label for me so I can help you find what is stored in me. But until it’s time to 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, cut apart on dotted lines and hand out to students.



**NOTE:** After the belt is fastened through the rings, only about one-half of the billet front will be visible, along with the backside of the billet end. Be sure to have students plan their designs accordingly and apply to both sides of billet.



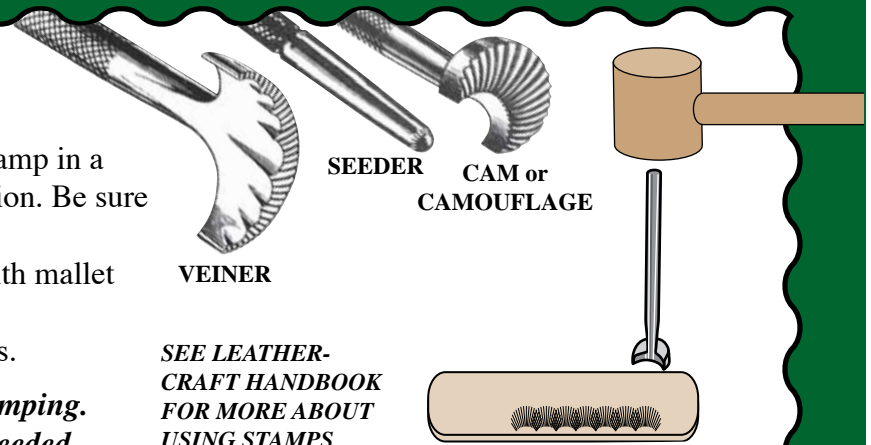
## STAMPING Instructions:

(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.**

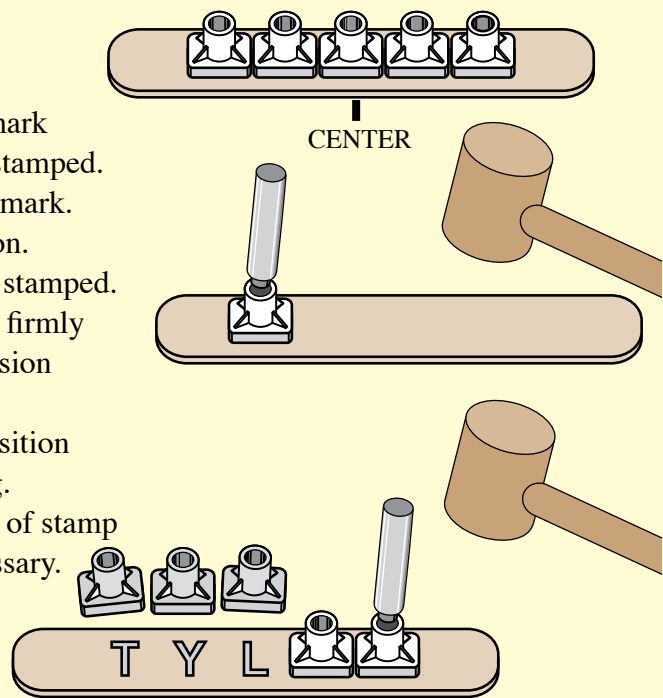
SEE LEATHER-CRAFT HANDBOOK FOR MORE ABOUT USING STAMPS



## 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.**

## SIZING & ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS:

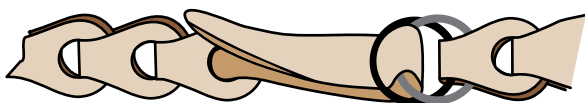
### SIZE THE LINK BELT TO FIT YOUR WAIST, ANKLE OR HAT:

- 1) Put link belt or band together following the steps below. Notice how the links overlap so if designs are being put on the links, they can be placed so they will show.
- 2) Add as many links as necessary to fit your waist, wrist or a hat.
- 3) Then take the belt (band) apart again and stamp and color designs on all parts before final assembly.

### ASSEMBLING THE LINK BELT:

- 1) Take one link and squeeze one end and push it through 2 rings.
- 2) Pull link half way through the rings and fold over aligning the big holes in both ends.
- 3) Take another link, squeeze one end, and push it through the aligned holes in the first link. Continue to the last link.
- 4) Squeeze the end of the billet with the large hole and push it through the last links' aligned hole.
- 5) Turn the tip of the billet up and push it through its own big hole in its end.
- 6) Pull billet through the hole.

### FASTENING THE BELT:



- Slip billet up through both rings.
- Loop billet over edge of top ring only and slip back under top ring.
- Pull tight.

