

From Tony Laier's Bench:

MAT OR FRAME YOUR WALLABY



YOU WILL NEED: 5" x 7" Veg-Tan (4 to 5 oz.) leather for mat, 5" x 7" backing leather, swivel knife, modeling tool, wing divider, craft knife, cutting mat, Eco-Flo™ Leather Dye (Java Brown), Black Professional Waterstain, B893 tool, fine point #3 or #4 brush, large brush #10, multi-well artist palette, eyedroppers, bowl of clean water, paper towels, Eco-Flo™ Tanner's Bond® Leathercraft Cement & glue brush.

NOTES: Always use an eyedropper to transfer dye from bottle to palette. This prevents spills and allows for proper proportions.

For fine detail work, always have a paper towel handy. After loading brush with dye, touch brush tip to paper towel to remove excess dye. This will prevent splotches of dye on your leather.



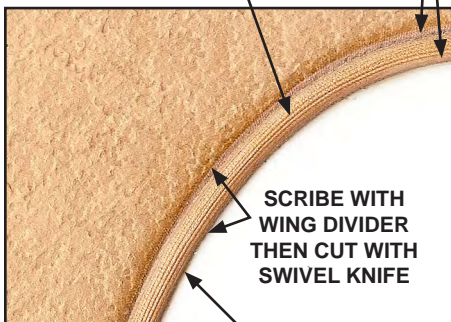
STEP 1: Use this pattern (actual size) to trace a mat measuring on outside 5" wide x 7" tall. Select either the oval or rectangle inside shape to frame your Wallaby. Trace your choice onto (cased) leather.

STEP 2: Cut the oval (or rectangle) using a swivel knife.

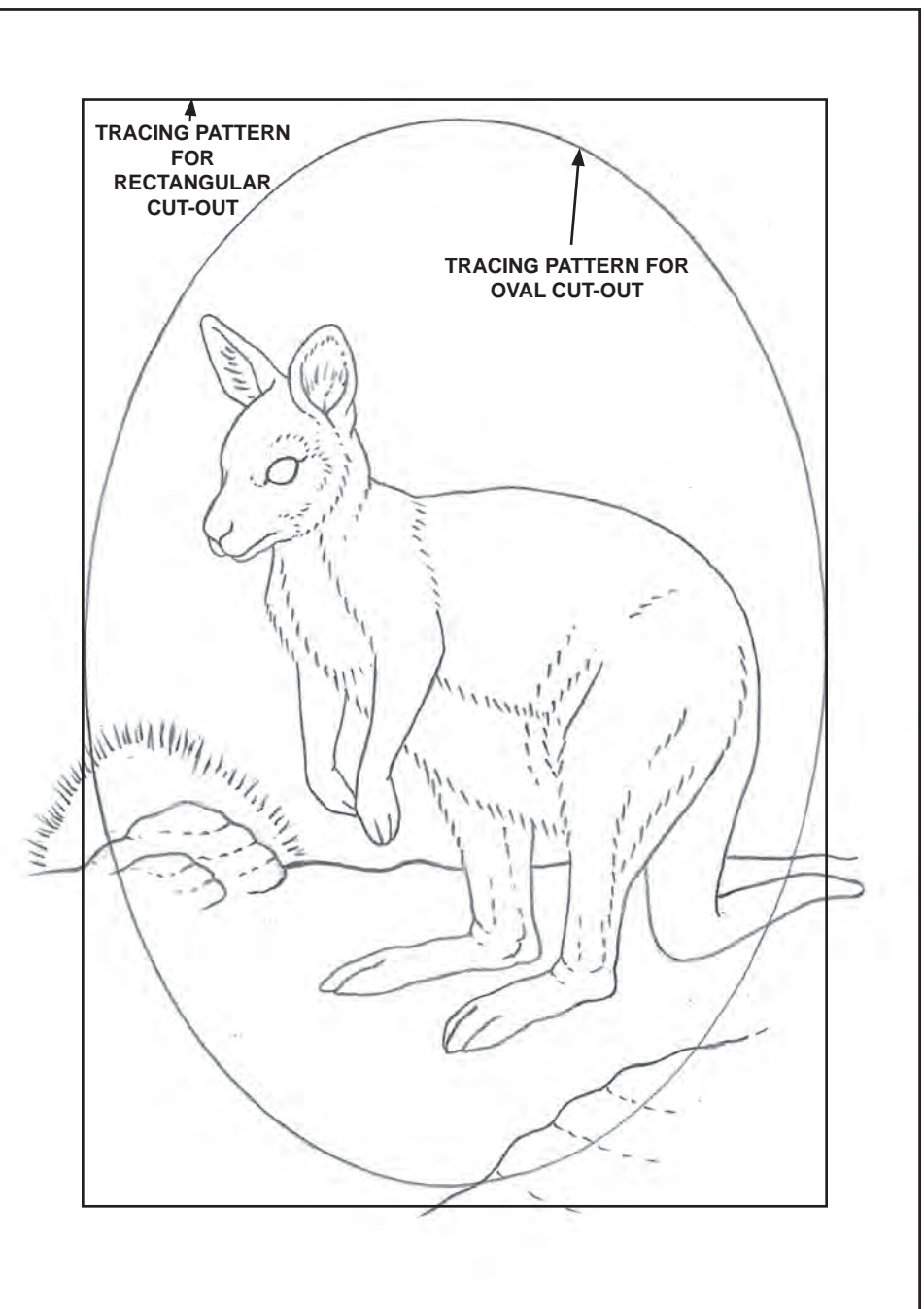
TIP: When cutting the oval, position the leather so you will be cutting around to the right (for right-handers) or left (for left-handers). Keep the swivel knife blade straight up and down.

STEP 3: Use a wing divider to scribe in a second border (5/32" from edge). Cut the border with a swivel knife. Then shape it using the spoon end of a modeling tool. Run the spoon along the outside edge and inside cut border.

STEP 4: Add texture by dragging a B893 along border.



STEP 5: After tooling is complete, cut-out center oval (or rectangle) using a craft knife and cutting mat. Use inside swivel knife cut as a guide.



MIXING JAVA BROWN COLORS:
Prepare 3 mixtures of Java Brown & water in palette.

#1 = 1/2 dye to 1/2 water

#2 = 3/4 dye to 1/4 water

#3 = full strength dye

TIP: Use a felt tip pen to mark colors on palette so you won't accidentally use the wrong mixture.

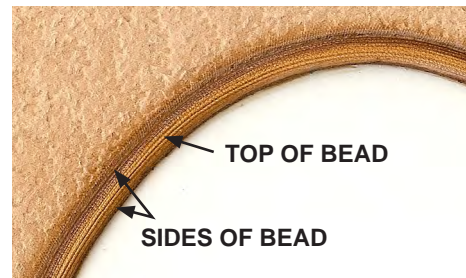
TEST the 3 mixture proportions on the oval cut-out leather. Let them dry, then adjust the dye-to-water proportions if necessary until you have light, medium & dark shades.



Be sure to have a paper towel handy to blot brush tip to remove excess dye before applying it to your leather.



STEP 6: Use mixture #1 as a base coat. Cover all of bead border evenly.



STEP 7: Carefully add mixture #2 along outside and inside edges of bead border. Work color up each side of bead but leave top of bead light #1 mixture.



STEP 8: Carefully add full strength dye (#3) along base of outside and inside edge of bead with tip of brush.



STEP 9: Using a larger (#10 brush, add Black Waterstain to outside mat area. Apply at least 2 heavy coats.

TIP: When coloring around a border such as the Java Brown trim above, begin away from that border. Then carefully work up to the border line. Never start up next to a border line.



WRONG



RIGHT



ASSEMBLY OPTIONS:

- 1) You can use this piece as a leather frame by placing your project behind it, then securing it into position with a second piece of leather (veg or lining leather). Cement pieces together with Tanner's Bond. Trim back piece after it has been cemented.
- 2) You can use this piece as the leather mat inside a standard frame.



EDGE TREATMENT OPTIONS:

- 1) Use a standard frame.
- 2) Slick the final edges and apply an Eco-Flo™ Section Lacquer (edge color).
- 3) Lace the edge. Use a pronged lacing chisel to punch slits. Then lace with your choice of many different lacing styles. (See "Lacing & Stitching for Leathercraft" Book #61906-00.)
TIP: Remember to lace twice through the 3 corner holes in each corner.



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