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

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Leathercraft Projects To-Go

Ranch & Farm Leather Leather LINK BELT

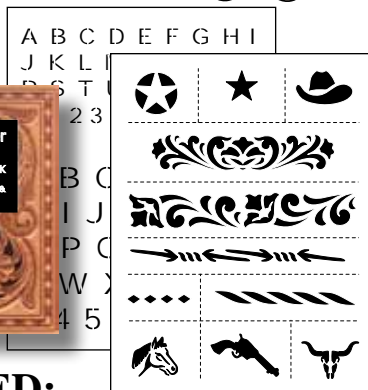
Plus A Look At "The Differences Between Ranches & Farms"

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
- Metal Rings
- 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 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 Difference Between A Ranch & A Farm?

Ranch: A ranch is the land used for raising and grazing livestock, such as cattle or sheep. A ranch may also include less common livestock such as elk, American Bison, ostrich and emu. Cattle were not native to the United States. The Conquistadors from Spain came to America in the 16th century, followed by settlers who brought their cattle and raising techniques with them.

A ranch normally includes a home, barns, corrals, sheds and various shelters or out-buildings. Ranches can vary in size. In the western United States, ranches are a combination of privately owned land and leased land under the control of the Federal Bureau of Land Management for the purpose of grazing. If the ranch includes irrigated land (or land with water available for growing crops), the ranch may also do limited amounts of farming, raising crops for feeding the animals, such as hay and grains.

Dude Ranches: These ranches cater exclusively to tourist who come to ride horses and enjoy the social activities offered by the ranch, such as organized trail rides, games, rodeo events, polo matches, picnics, barbecues, dances and entertainment. Some even offer guided hunting of native wildlife. A Dude Ranch offers to tourists a taste of the "Wild West".

Working Ranches: A working ranch normally doesn't allow tourists. These ranches are in the business of raising cattle or sheep for food and wool. Sometimes, they will allow hunters to come onto the property to hunt select native wildlife.

Farms: Areas of land including various structures devoted to the business growing and managing food (produce, grain and some animals) and fibers (cotton, etc.). Farms may be owned by a single family, a community, a business or a company. Farms vary in size.

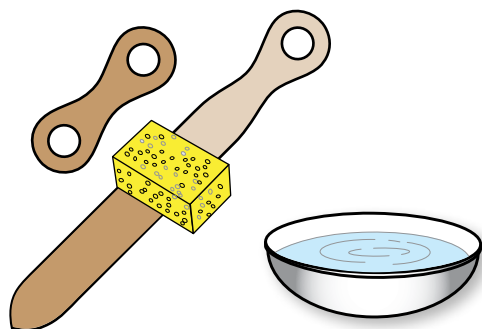
Continued ...



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: The Open Range was the prairie and desert lands from Mexico up through the western United States. “Open range” grazing was practiced where cattle and sheep were simply turned loose in the spring and allowed to roam with little supervision and no fences. They were then rounded up in the fall, driven to market or back closer to the ranches for protection during the winter. The practice of “branding” allowed the cattle owners to identify and sort the livestock.

Many ranches had the need to grow agricultural crops to feed the ranchers and the cattle. With the Homestead Act of 1862, more settlers came west to set up farms. This created conflicts with ranches over the “open range”, since farmers needed to fence off their property to prevent the roaming cattle and sheep from eating their crops.

However, the decline of the “open range” was not a result of increased farming. It was due to overgrazing. Ranches increased the sizes of their herds for economic reasons, stripping the quality of the rangeland. Plus the winter of 1886-1887 caused thousands of already stressed cattle to die. As a result, many ranchers fenced off their own land to better control the pasture land for their cattle. Better control resulted in better profit.

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.

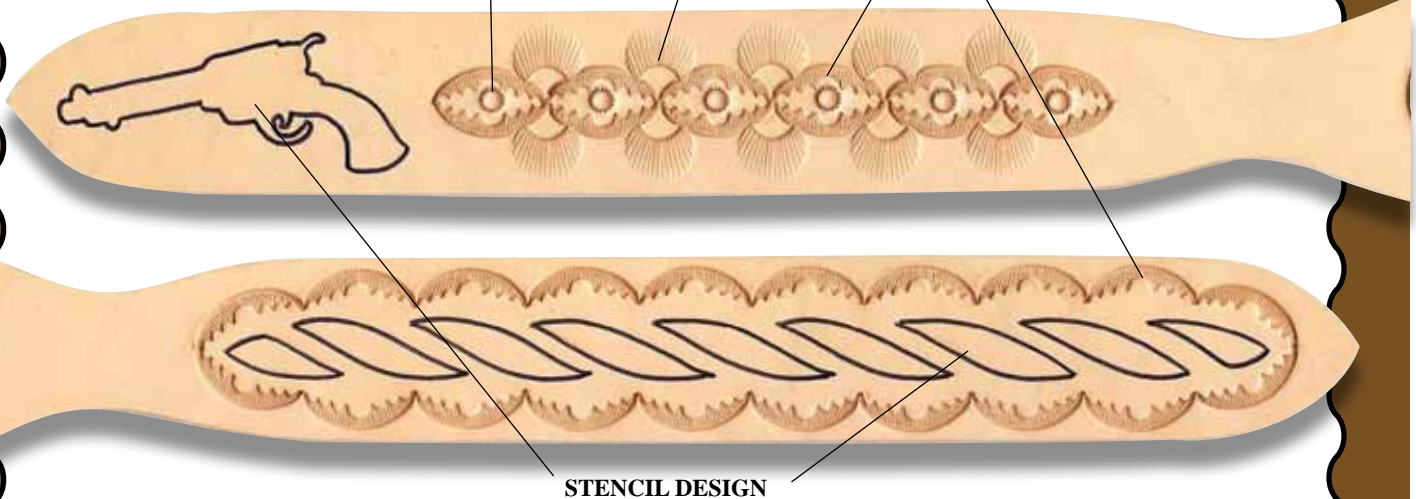
Vegetable Tanned (Veg-Tan) - Leather which has been tanned with vegetable materials that are derived from certain plants and woods, often called bark tannins.

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.



NOT SHOWN HERE



STENCIL DESIGN

COLORING HINTS:

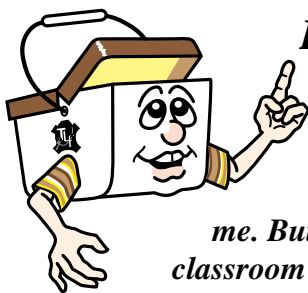
WHEN USING ACRYLIC PAINTS over All-In-One, make light colors stand out on the dark background by first painting the inside of the design with white acrylic paint. Let it dry completely (few minutes), then paint over the white with the desired color.

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 more about the origin of Ranching in other countries and the United States.
- ~ Study about some of the historic conflicts between the ranchers and farmers, such as the Johnson County War.

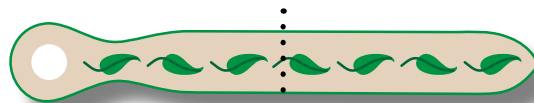


RECYCLE ME!

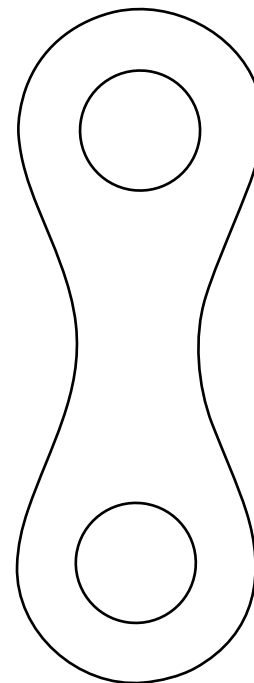
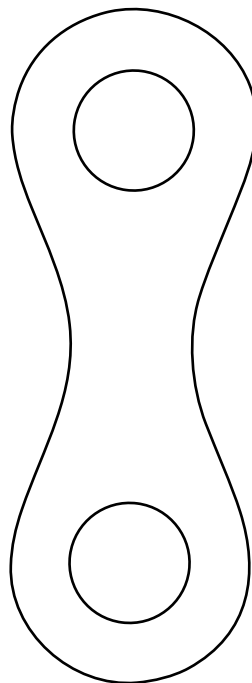
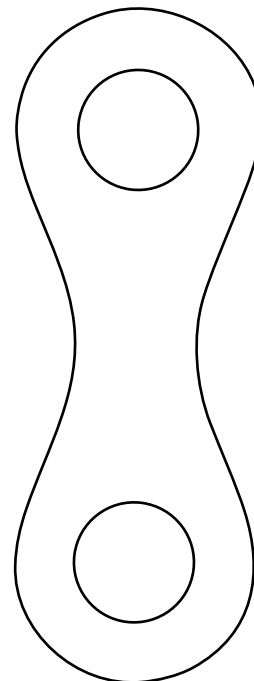
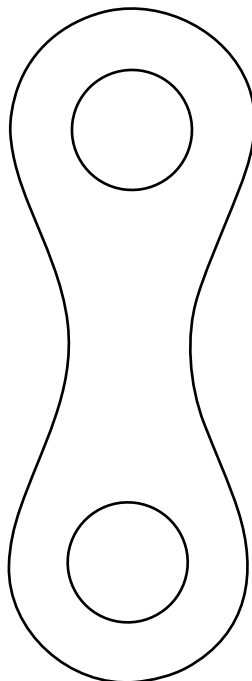
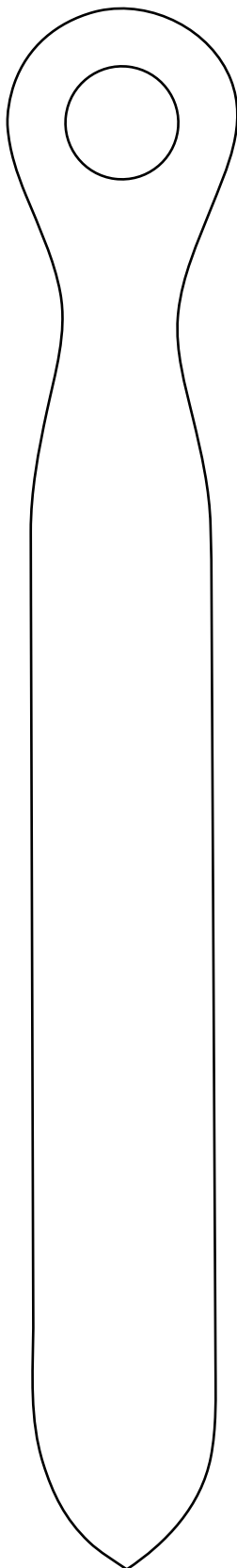
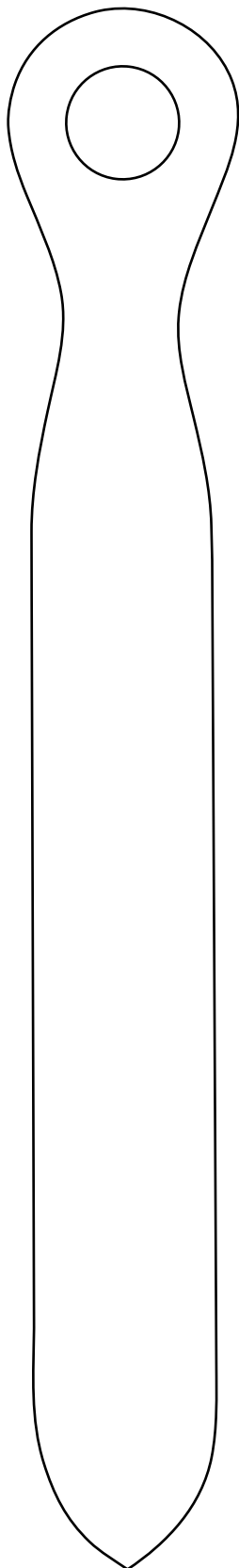
“I am your Theme Bucket - be sure to recycle me! I would like to end up in your closet with many of my friends. I could store art supplies, extra leather project parts, or even help you organize your files. Create a new label for me so I can help you find what is stored in me. But until it’s time to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



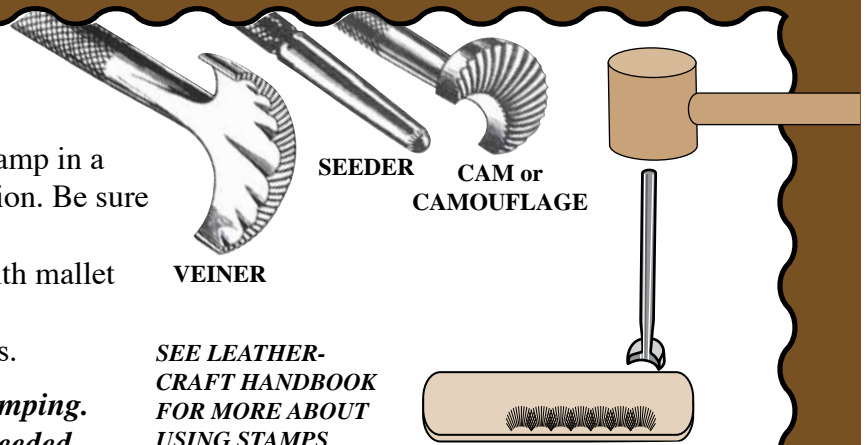
STAMPING Instructions:

(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.

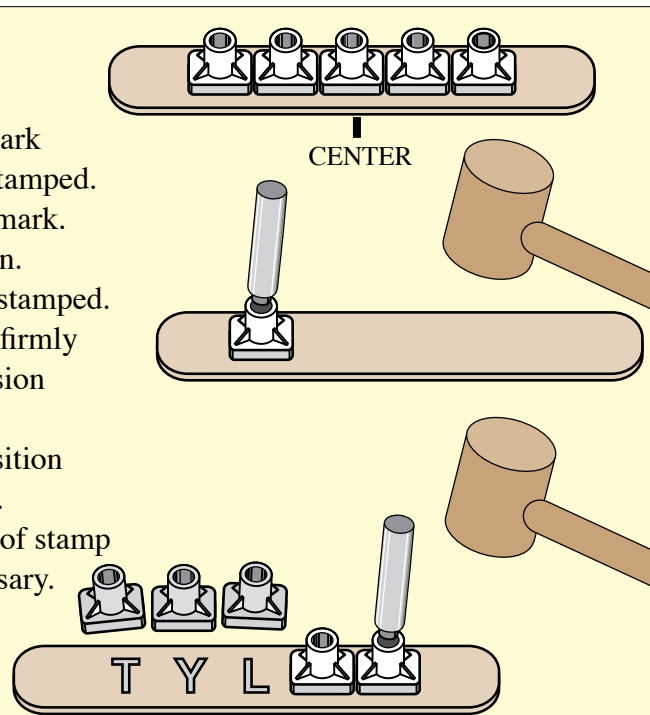
SEE LEATHER-CRAFT HANDBOOK FOR MORE ABOUT USING STAMPS



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:

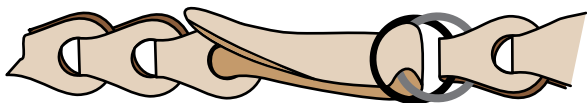
SIZE THE LINK BELT TO FIT YOUR WAIST, ANKLE OR HAT:

- 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.

