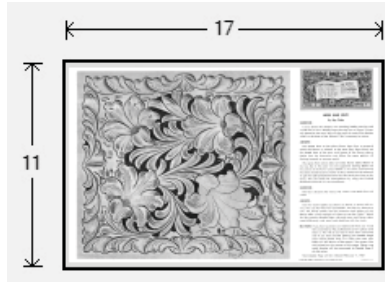




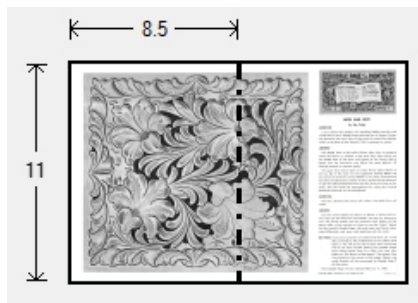
Doodle Page Digital Download

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

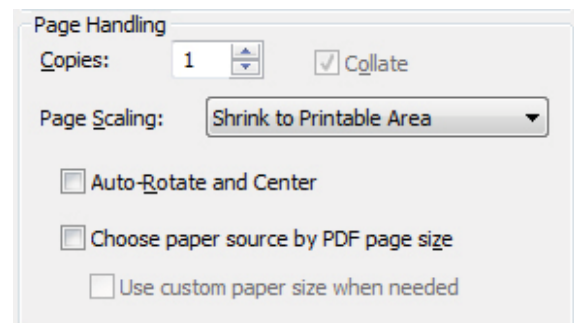
The tiled pages give you the option of printing the full sized Doodle Pages at home. You print the tiled pages and then assemble them to make the larger patterns.

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

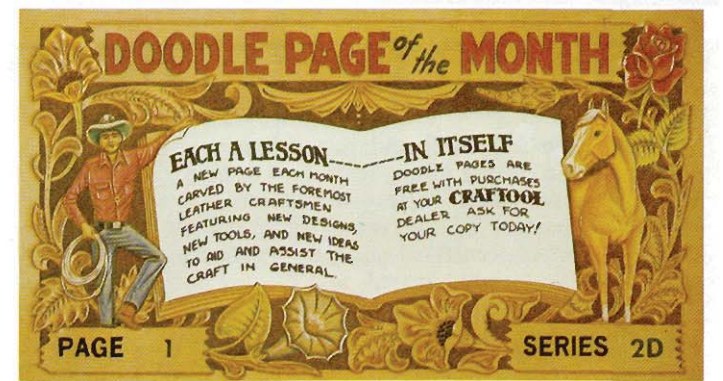
Front – full sized, front – tiled, back – full sized, back – tiled

(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.



THE SECRET OF THE SWIVEL KNIFE

by BEN MOODY

Almost anyone can hold a stamp with one hand and hit it on the top with a mallet in their other hand.

The swivel knife is the tool that needs to be mastered to become proficient as a true Leathercarving Craftsperson. It takes more time to master the knife but by practicing the Six Basic Strokes, your early frustration will soon turn to smiles.

Sure you're going to feel pretty awkward at first for here is a tool that requires you to do several things at one time but it's not that hard to do.

The first secret to successful use of the swivel knife is to have the leather properly "cased". Cased is the term applied to the dampening of the leather to make it soft and easy to carve.

To case the leather, go over the flesh (rough) side a few times with a wet sponge. Turn the leather over and do the same thing to the grain (smooth) side. Distribute the water as evenly as you can.

How wet? A good rule of thumb is: Make the leather damp all the way through, but not soaking wet. Your knife should glide through the leather and the cut should pop open clean.

As soon as the leather begins to return to its natural color, begin carving. Practice will make you a good caser.

And now, the Six Basic Strokes cut with a swivel knife. To cut a perfectly straight line, use a ruler to guide the blade. Other than a straight line, every other cut you make is going to be a variation of one or more of the Six Basic Strokes.

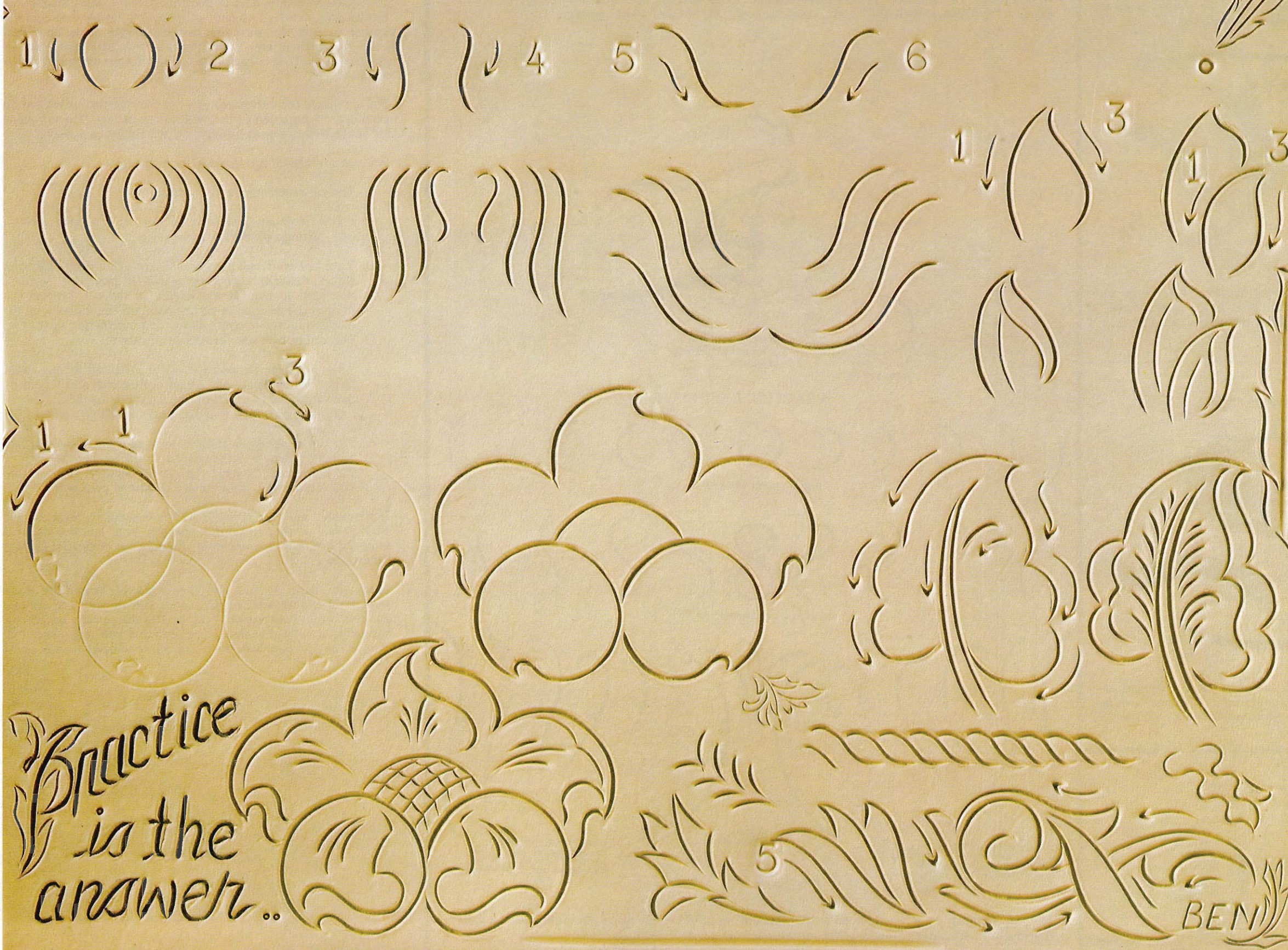
These strokes can be mastered more easily than you now imagine. Let's start with numbers 1 and 2. Press the point of the blade farther most from your body into the leather and as you pull it towards you, turn the blade with the thumb and second finger. Practice first by doing easy curves from the top to the left and down (1). Then from the top to the right and down (2). Develop enough speed to make these smooth and graceful.

Your best friend at this time is several pieces of scrap because practice will enable you to master the operation. It's not as important just to see "how many" cuts you can make as it is to see how smooth your finished cuts look. After awhile try more sweeping curves. A few minutes with each stroke and your confidence will grow by bounds, as will the beauty of the cuts.

Strokes number 3 and 4 are sometimes called the lazy "S". The stroke is started by turning your knife just before you start the cut to enable making the short curve at the top of the S (3) or

Continued on back

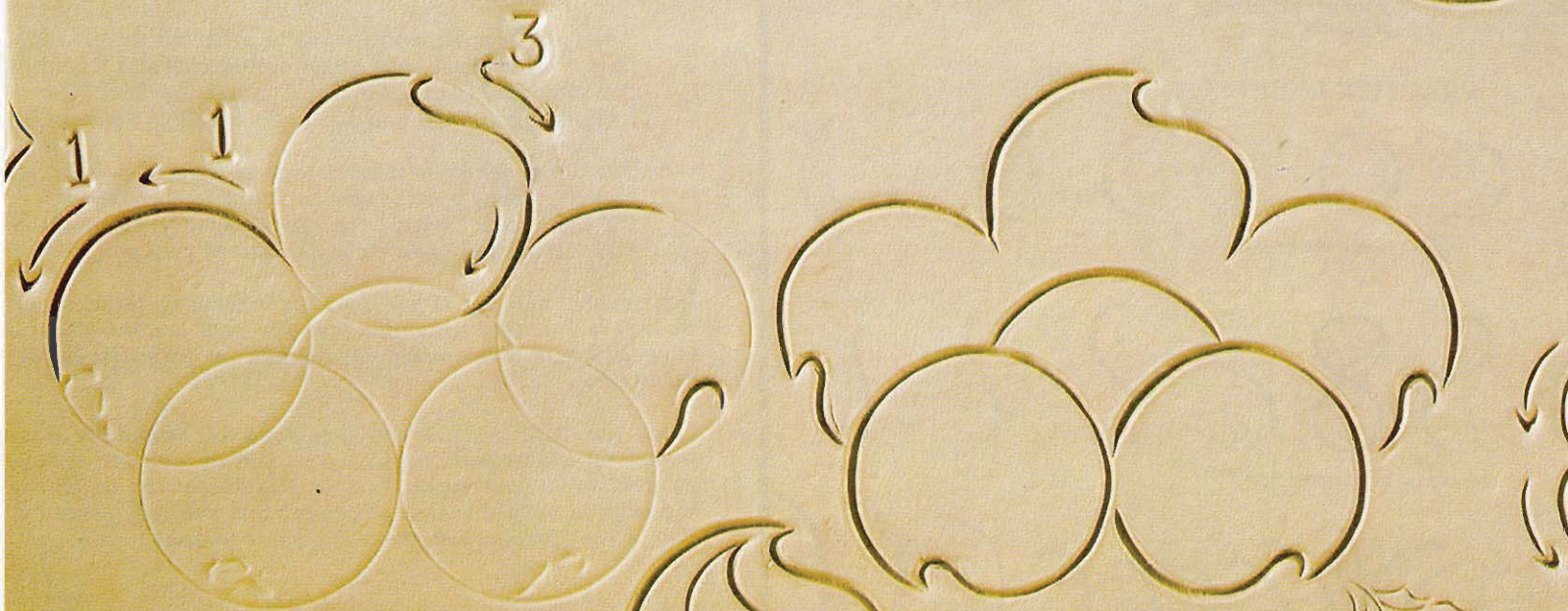
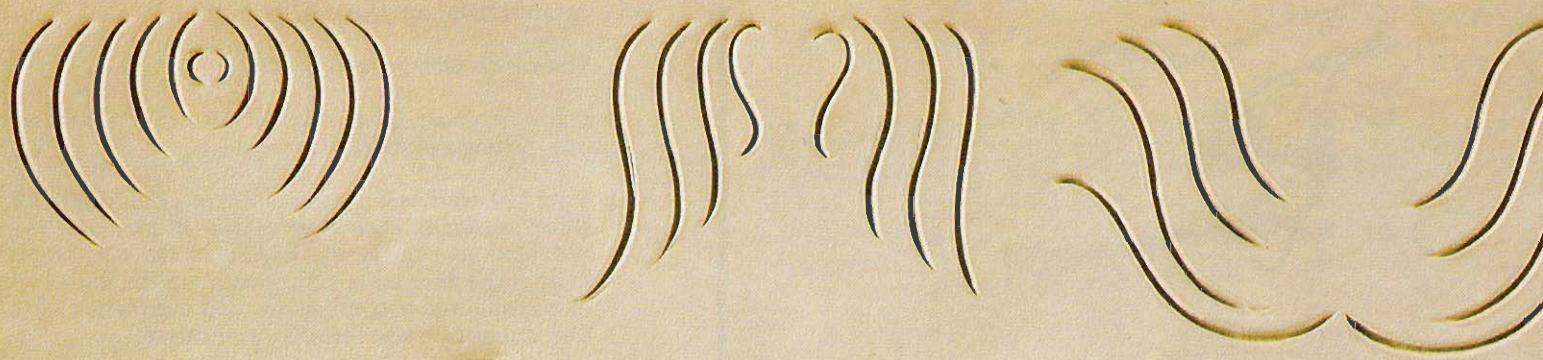
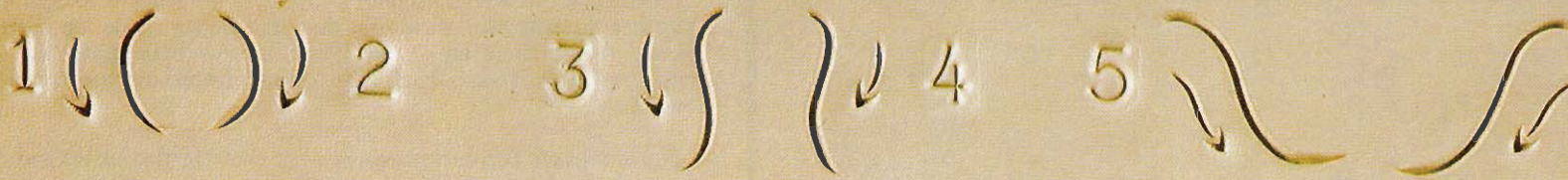
SIX BASIC STROKES DOES IT ALL



Practice is the answer..

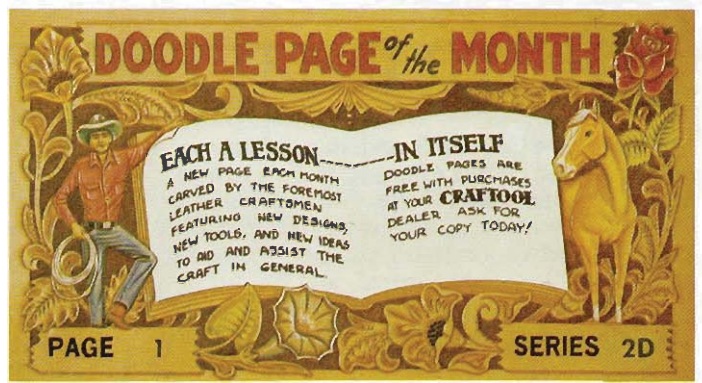
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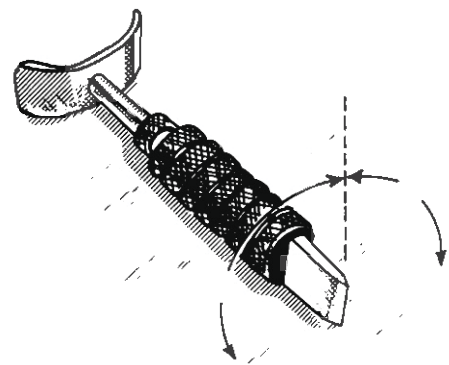
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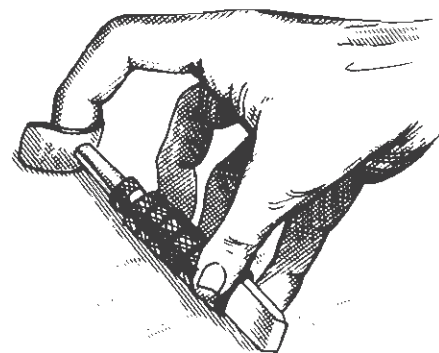
HOW TO HOLD THE SWIVEL KNIFE

To enjoy the real thrill and rich satisfaction which leather carving offers, learn how to hold and use your swivel knife (see illustration). Acquiring control of the swivel knife takes patience and concentrated practice. Learn to relax. Be comfortably seated, and be sure to have excellent lighting to avoid eye strain and alleviate shadow from your working area. Prac-

tice a few light curves, trying to maintain an even depth throughout cuts. Proper cutting depth for outlines of designs is one-third the thickness on heavier leathers and one-half the thickness on lighter leathers. Use your free hand to hold the leather. Turn the leather often to keep the cuts coming toward you.



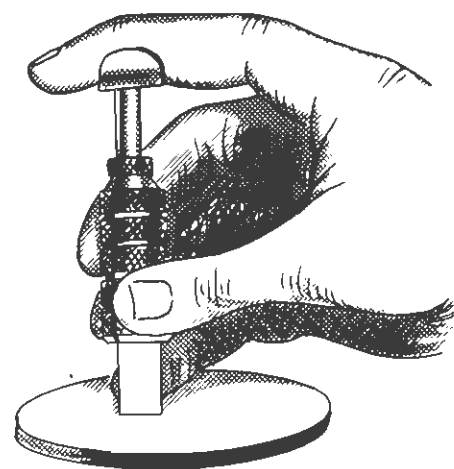
1. Place knife on bench with length of blade straight up and down at 90° angle to bench.



2. Place index finger in yoke, the thumb at lower part of barrel, little finger against blade, and second and third fingers on opposite sides of barrel.



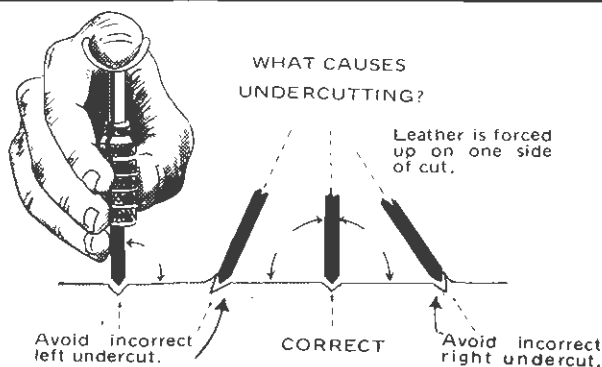
3. Hold knife upright, resting hand on bench with blade on practice leather. Do not set blade on metal or any hard surface which might damage the cutting edge.



4. Move second and third fingers forward to grasp the barrel more firmly. Fingers are now in correct position. Knife is tilted forward in use.

UNDERCUTTING

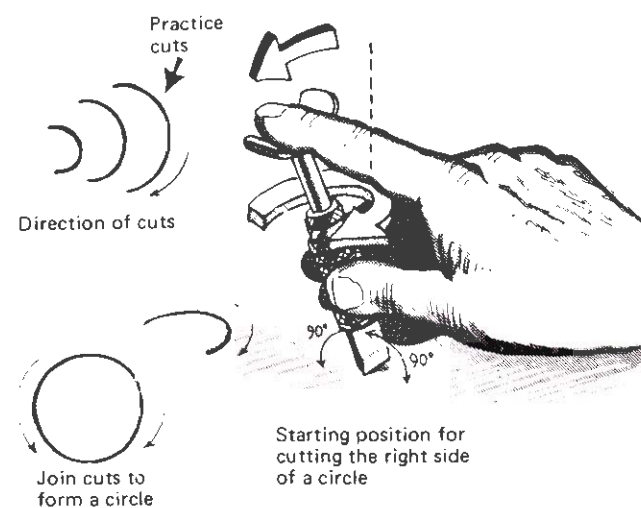
FRONT VIEW



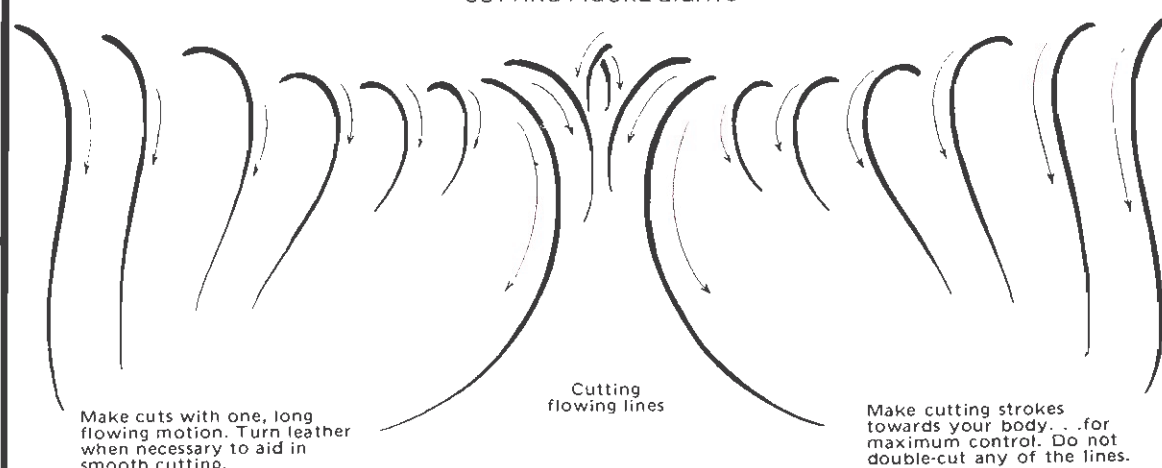
One of the common errors in using a swivel knife is undercutting . . . caused by leaning the hand to the left or right while cutting. Remember to always keep the blade perpendicular to the leather. Never go over cuts a second time.

PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE

In most instances, the student favors cutting or turning the knife in one direction. He will usually practice in that direction. It is important, however, to practice cutting in all directions . . . and especially in the direction that is most difficult. It is obvious that this will require the most practice. Proficiency with the swivel knife can only be obtained with practice.



PRACTICE EXERCISES



NOTE: Depth and length of cuts are made with one motion. Do not re-cut any lines to make them deeper or to correct their flow. Practice for this control.

reverse S (4). Practice cutting the top sweep smaller than the bottom sweep. Then reverse your cutting, do the top curve larger than the bottom one. Remember, number 4 is only the opposite cut to number 3, so all you do is reverse the line you're cutting. Now that you have done numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4, take a look at the basic leaf on the right side of the picture made with number 1 and number 3. You'll see this leaf many times on leather.

Strokes number 5 and 6 are a little different from number 3 and 4. Originally this stroke was given as a long lazy S with its second curve more sweeping than in numbers 3 and 4. Most teachers of Leathercraft now find no fault in allowing the student to turn the leather to whatever direction they can better guide the swivel knife from. Therefore, I feel there is now little difference in numbers 3, 4, 5, or 6. Each have 2 distinct opposite curves to the stroke.

The sharpness (or curvature) of either one of the curves can be extended or shortened to the need of the pattern. The variations are limited only by your imagination and ability to perform.

Here are a few more tips that may be helpful:

1. There is no substitute for practice.
2. Proper moisture content in the leather can make smooth, easy cutting a pleasure.
3. Your best work will come if you relax. Don't force speed; it comes naturally. On long sweeps it may very well be necessary to stop in the middle of the cut, keeping the knife in the line you're cutting and turn the leather a bit for more comfortable continuation and completion of the cut. This can be true also for very small curves.
4. "Overcuts" (or Decorative Cuts as some call them) should be cut lighter than your design outline cuts and should be done freehand (without tracing a pattern for them). They'll look more graceful if you don't have to follow a pattern.
5. The top of the knife must be kept adjusted so that the line you are cutting is perpendicular to the leather. The top of the knife must "swing" around the curve as you turn the knife or you will "slice" under on part of your cut.

Don't expect miracles. If you're willing to seriously practice your work, it will quickly reveal that you did. Your practice also will soon distinguish your work from others. It's as distinctive as your handwriting.

Learn the Basic Strokes and the world of beautifully done projects in leather will become a great part of your life. As you progress from your simple belt or billfold pattern to carving beautiful pictures in leather, remember that you only needed to learn 6 Basic Strokes with the Swivel Knife to make it all happen.

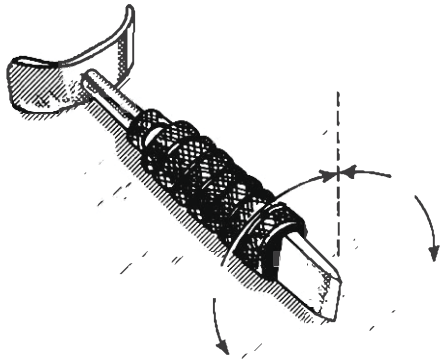
Best Wishes

Ben Moody

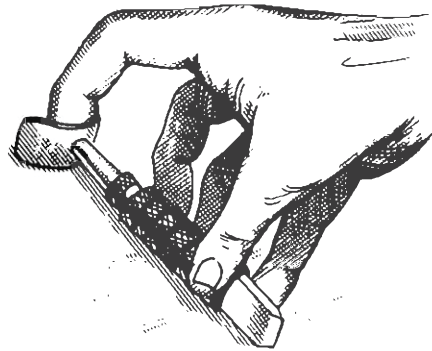
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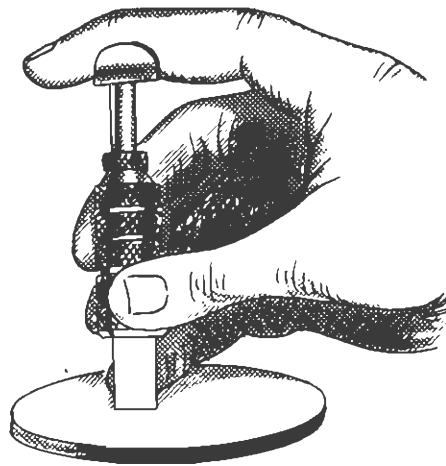
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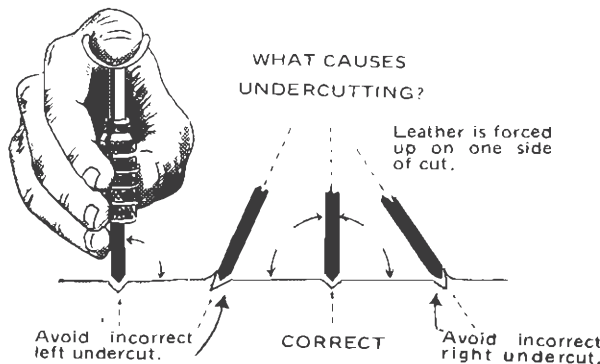


Make cuts with one, long flowing motion. Turn leather when necessary to aid in smooth cutting.

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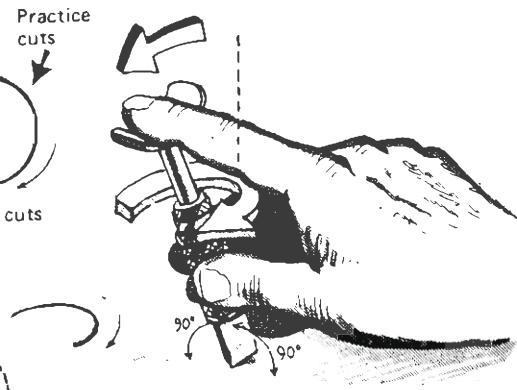
FRONT VIEW



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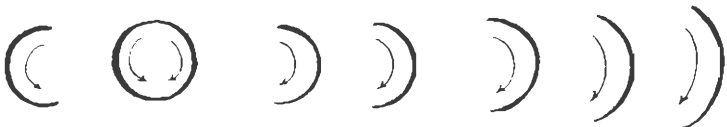
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Starting position for cutting the right side of a circle

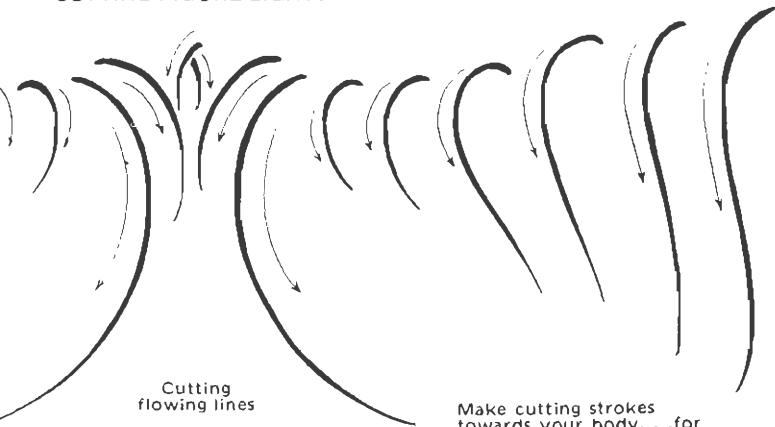
PRACTICE EXERCISES



CUTTING CIRCLES



CUTTING FIGURE EIGHTS



Cutting flowing lines

Make cutting strokes towards your body . . . for maximum control. Do not double-cut any of the lines.

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