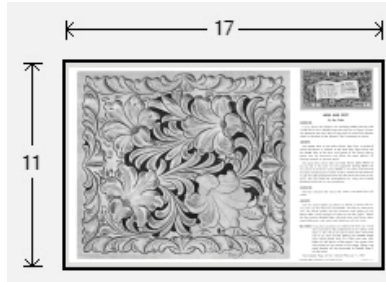




Doodle Page Digital Download

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:

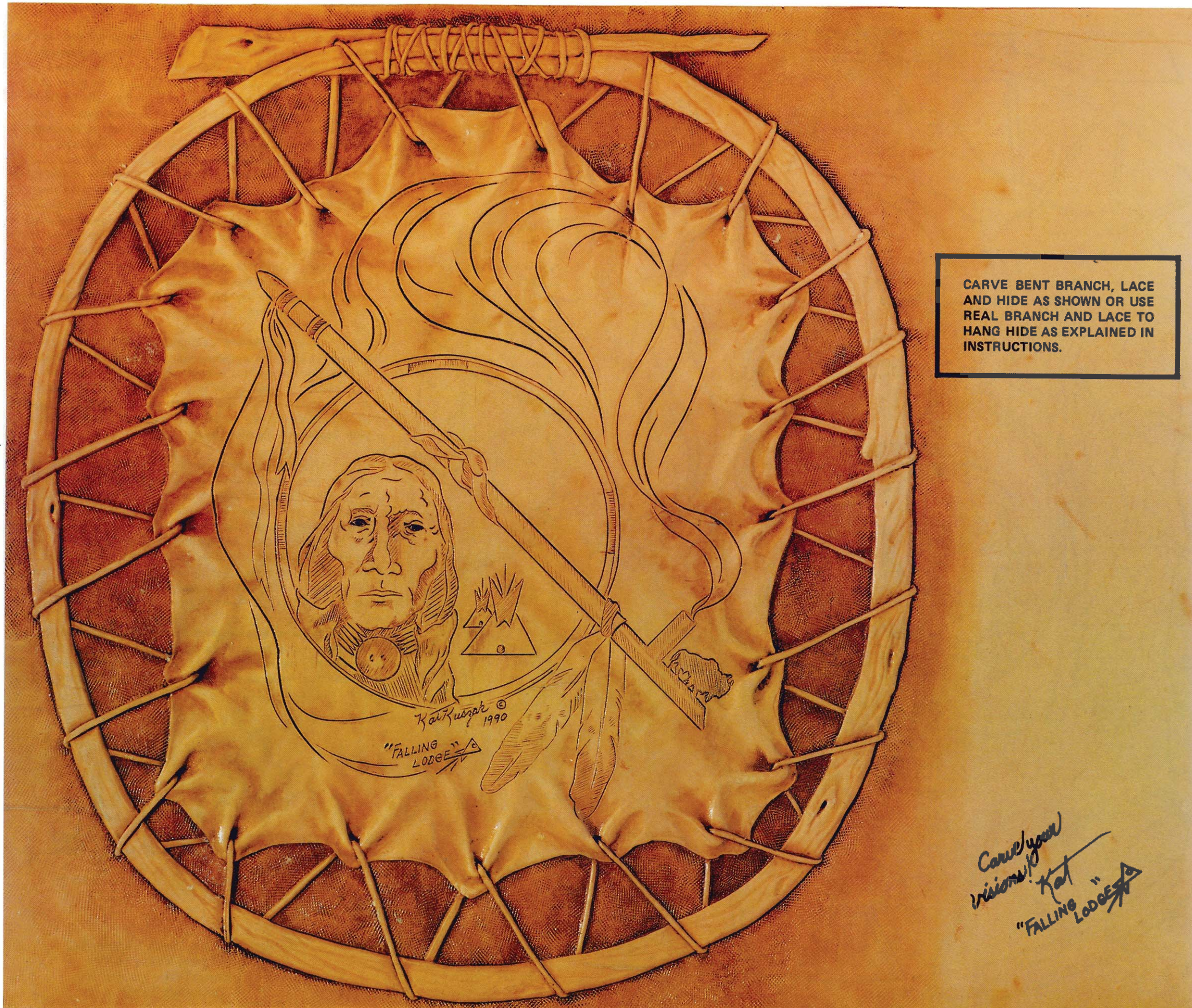
Front – full sized, front – tiled, back – full sized, back – tiled

(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.

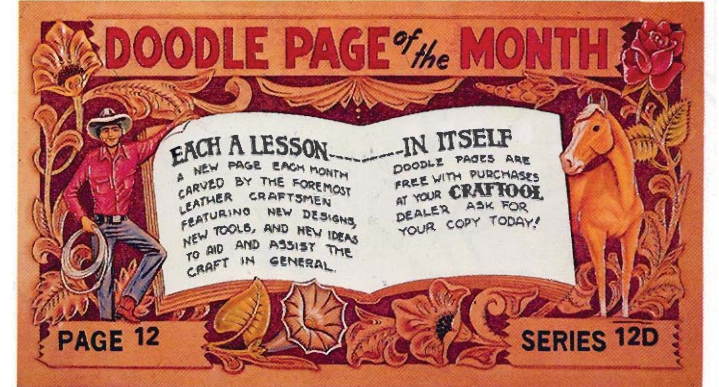


You may take this PDF file to your local print shop to have the full-size pages printed for your own personal use.



CARVE BENT BRANCH, LACE AND HIDE AS SHOWN OR USE REAL BRANCH AND LACE TO HANG HIDE AS EXPLAINED IN INSTRUCTIONS.

*Carve your
visions!
Kat
"FALLING
LODGE"*



"TOOLING A STRETCHED HIDE"

by
Kat Kuszak

As long as I can remember, I've been a pack rat. I collect all kinds of bones, fur, leather, feathers and wood pieces. Eventually, I put all of it to good use, creatively in my leather studio. I came up with this "alternative framing" idea several years ago to use young saplings, willow, or thin branches to display, or present, carvings with an old west, or Native American flavor. Next time you're pruning branches off your trees or shrubs, save the longer cuttings to use as a hoop to hold the carving. If you have access to willows growing near water, the young thin ones work great for this purpose. I use a knife to strip the bark off the rods when they're freshly cut and still green, then I soak the sticks in water overnight or longer. This makes them pliable enough to wet-form in a circle, or an oval around a canister, or any other form container of the right shape and size. Tape can hold it in place, or you can tie the ends together. If too short, I have even lashed several together with artificial sinew to get a larger hoop. Four sticks can also be lashed into a square or rectangular shape, to make a frame. Allow the hoop to dry on the form, then remove and lash together with sinew or rawhide. Rawhide lace should be worked with when it is damp, then allowed to dry. Keep any knots or ends tucked under, or hidden out of sight.

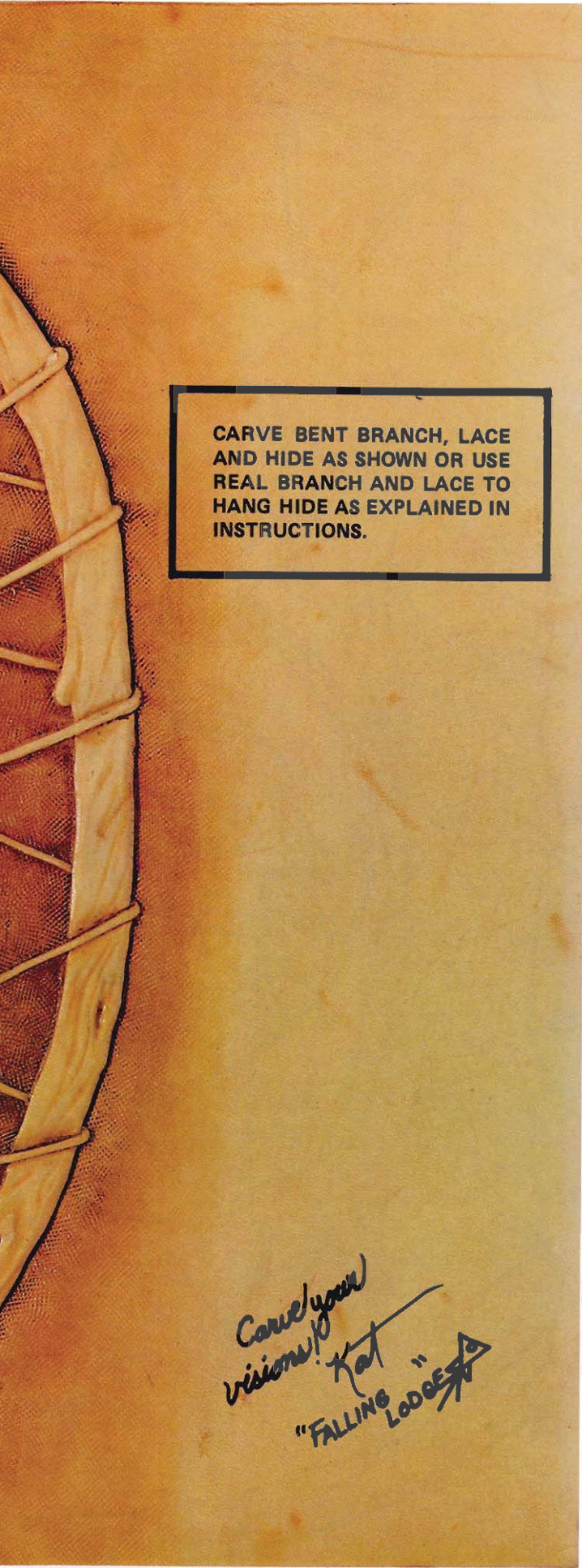
I then measure and cut my vegetable tanned carving cowhide into the shape of a hide that will easily fit inside the hoop, with room to spare. Edges "D", may be skived and angled on the back side by tilting the knife at an angle when you cut the hide. Edges can be finished and slicked smooth, or left ragged and rough for a purposely "rustic look".

At regular intervals, mark where the holes will go, keeping an even distance from the edge of the hide.

Observe the folds and wrinkles in a stretched piece of soft deerskin or other garment weight leather, and this will help you to understand the look of pulling and tension you are trying to reproduce on your carved stretched hide.

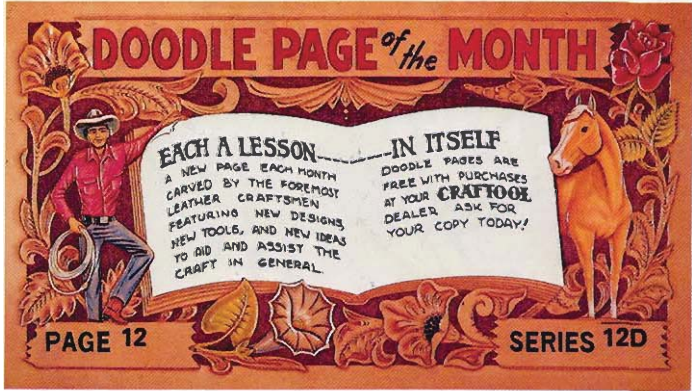
The tension between the holes where the hide is lashed to the hoop, is what makes the folds and wrinkles that you will be tooling. I sometimes tool this first, but I often carve the picture before I put in the stretches and wrinkles.





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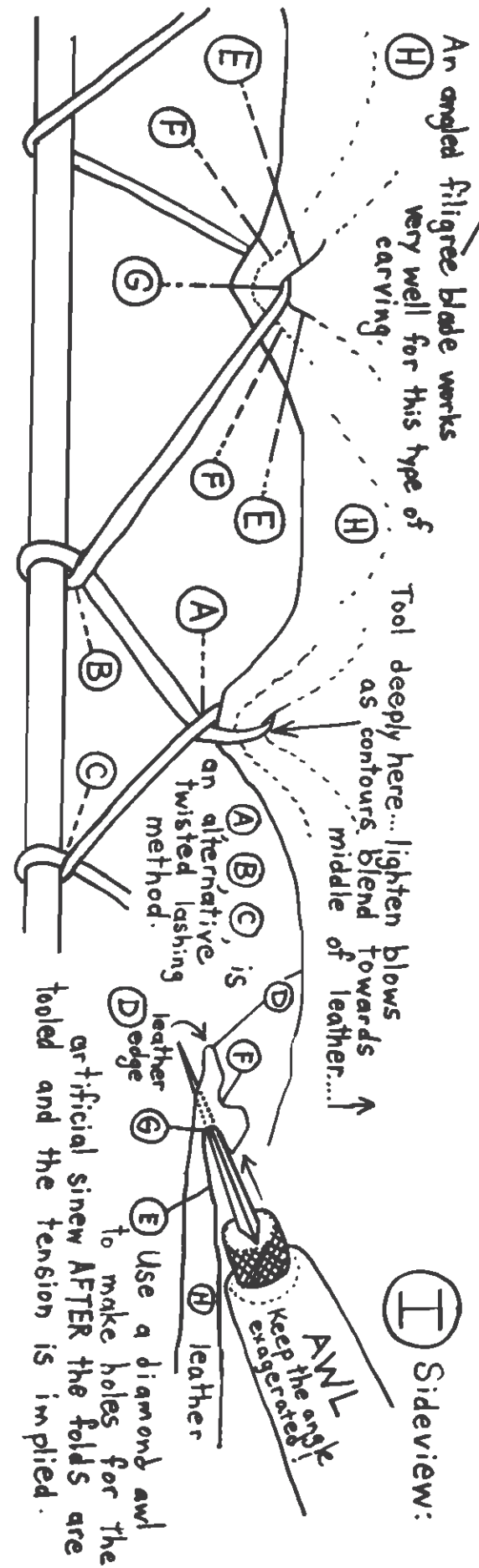
As long as I can remember, I've been a pack rat. I collect all kinds of bones, fur, leather, feathers and wood pieces. Eventually, I put all of it to good use, creatively in my leather studio. I came up with this "alternative framing" idea several years ago to use young saplings, willow, or thin branches to display, or present, carvings with an old west, or Native American flavor. Next time you're pruning branches off your trees or shrubs, save the longer cuttings to use as a hoop to hold the carving. If you have access to willows growing near water, the young thin ones work great for this purpose. I use a knife to strip the bark off the rods when they're freshly cut and still green, then I soak the sticks in water overnight or longer. This makes them pliable enough to wet-form in a circle, or an oval around a cannister, or any other form container of the right shape and size. Tape can hold it in place, or you can tie the ends together. If too short, I have even lashed several together with artificial sinew to get a larger hoop. Four sticks can also be lashed into a square or rectangular shape, to make a frame. Allow the hoop to dry on the form, then remove and lash together with sinew or rawhide. Rawhide lace should be worked with when it is damp, then allowed to dry. Keep any knots or ends tucked under, or hidden out of sight.

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At regular intervals, mark where the holes will go, keeping an even distance from the edge of the hide.

Observe the folds and wrinkles in a stretched piece of soft deerskin or other garment weight leather, and this will help you to understand the look of pulling and tension you are trying to reproduce on your carved stretched hide.

The tension between the holes where the hide is lashed to the hoop, is what makes the folds and wrinkles that you will be tooling. I sometimes tool this first, but I often carve the picture before I put in the stretches and wrinkles.



Using pear shaders or modelers of the appropriate size, tool contours "E" and "F" first. Be sure to fade the impressions and blend smoothly into area "HH" and towards the center of the leather. Again you may decide to stretch a real piece of lightweight garment leather to observe how the folds "behave". In this way your tooled tension folds will be more realistic. At point "G" where lacing or sinew goes through the leather, make deep indentations with a small pear shader, then undercut with a rounded undercut beveler or a pro-petal type tool. Be sure to matte and smooth out tool marks at "G" and "E" evenly, blending well towards center area of the leather. Do the same with area "F". The bulge that "F" forms is the fold formed by the tension of the lacing pulling and buckling the leather. This creates the impression that the lacing is "pulling and stretching" your hide shaped piece of vegetable tanned leather as it is "stretched" in the hoop frame. Use a modeler or pear shaders between lacing holes at "H" to further the stretched hide illusion. Matte and smooth these areas, till there are no tool marks and the resulting contours are subtle and smooth.

After your tooling is complete on all the holes all the way around the hide, use a diamond-bladed awl (of appropriate size) to make the holes in the hide for your lace or artificial sinew. To keep the awl hole hidden by the "undercut" at "G", keep the awl at an exaggerated angle. See illustration "I". Just be sure the awl tip does not come out too close to the edge on the underside, as your leather may rip when laced.

After the carving is complete, carve and tool your picture and complete all dye work and apply the protective finish. For this original silhouette carving of a Native American, I used Leather Glow over a Super Shene finish. Smooth and slick edges if desired, then you can use your rawhide or artificial sinew to lace the "hide" in your frame or hoop. Even the tension before you tie off, hiding any knots in the back of the hoop, or tuck in the lace ends to keep them hidden. If you start and finish lacing at the top of the hide, after tying the lace off, the excess at the ends can be left intact and used to form a hanger.

Use your imagination to hang an even number of feathers, fur strips, bones, or other "dangles" from your hoop to enhance the Native American look. This is a very rustic and appealing way to display a leather carving. I hope you enjoy it as much as I have over the years!

tandy
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H An angled filigree blade works very well for this type of carving.

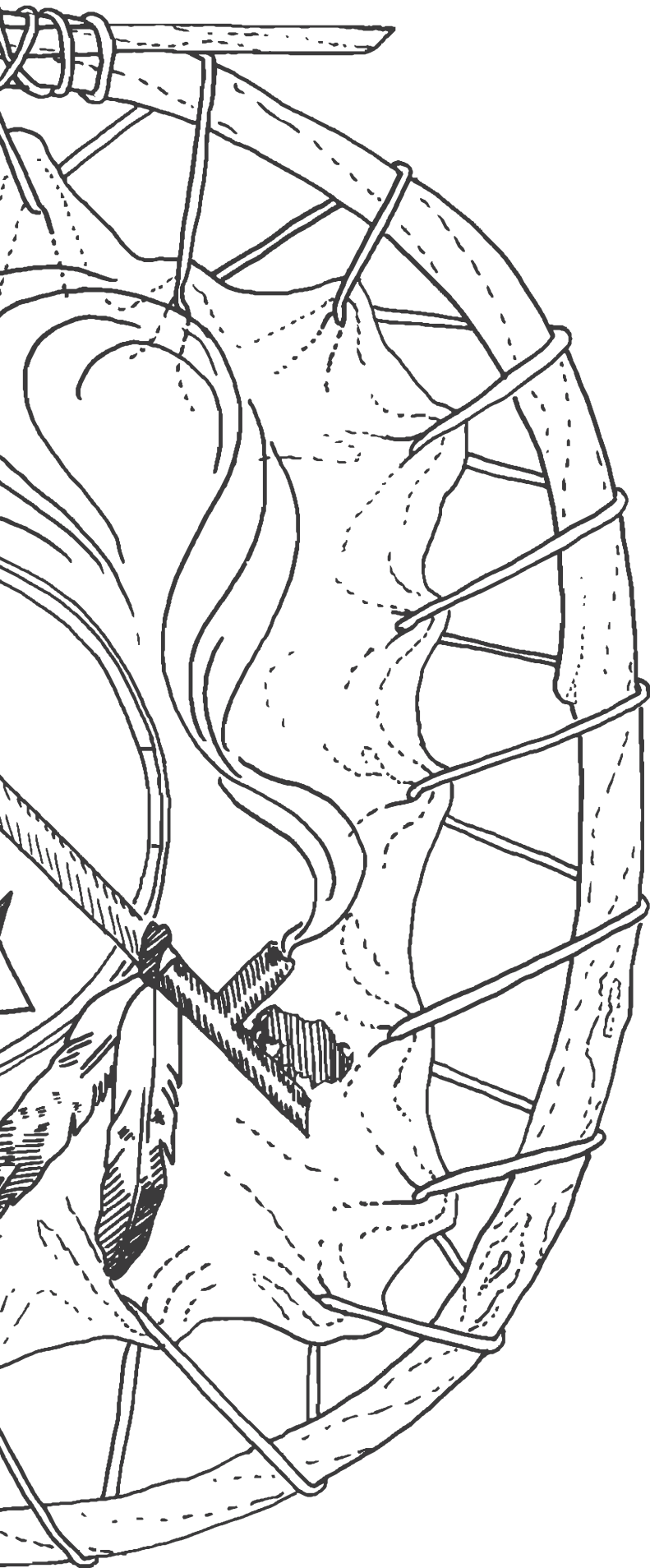
H Tool deeply here... lighten blows as contours blend towards middle of leather...

A B C, is an alternative twisted lashing method.

D edge leather
 E Use a diamond awl to make holes for the artificial sinew AFTER the folds are tooled and the tension is implied.

I Sideview:

AWL
 Keep the angle
 exaggerated!



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