

FORMATION OF NEW BRANCHES

It has been drawn to our attention that many groups are not aware of the fact that they can become Branch Guilds of C.S.C.L. Any of FIVE or more people located anywhere in Canada and with a sincere desire to see the status of our craft raised and maintained may apply to the Executive Council of C.S.C.L. for admission. All members of the new Branch must be or be about to become members of C.S.C.L.

Every Branch is entitled to enter the Inter-Branch competition for the Weston Trophy. All members of Branches are entitled to exhibit at the Annual Meeting of the Society; exhibit at the International Assembly of Leathercraftsmen; enter the Canadian Handicraft Guild competition at the Canadian National Exhibition; receive "Canadian Leathercraft" which is the Society's quarterly bulletin; submit articles for sale during the Society's Annual Christmas Sale and generally participate in all Society activities.

Branch members may also apply for their Associate and Fellow memberships. Since these memberships are indicative of a high degree of skill at the craft the qualifying requirements are of necessity quite rigid.

Every new Branch adds strength to the Society. Additional information will be sent on request along with membership applications and brochures.

Write to: Mrs. Nora Huyck,
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Newmarket, Ontario.

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MAKING AN ARTICLE OF LEATHER

by Nora Huyck, F.C.S.C.L.

1. Prepare pattern - (pattern refers to size and shape)
Prepare design - (design refers to decoration used)
2. Make a cardboard template (bristol board is good) for each part of article. It must be exact and true.
3. Trace design from prepared design or commercial design to tracing paper. In this way the original design is preserved. Cut the traced design to the exact shape of the template.
4. Cut out desired leather with knife.
 - a) same size as template if there will be no shrinkage.
 - b) slightly larger all around if there is danger of shrinkage.

N.B. leather is quite inconsistent regarding the amount of shrinkage to be expected. Some leathers can be preshrunk, others cannot.
5. Prepare leather to receive design.
 - a) up to 3½ oz. leather - moisten the grain side with a damp sponge. Then let it return almost to its natural colour.
 - b) heavier leathers need to be cased. Wash in lukewarm water with small amount of detergent - rinse well - stand it on side to drain, or blot off excess moisture with towel. If thinner leathers seem soiled, they can be washed in the same way. Allow leather to come back to natural colour - may take several hours; if it cannot be used right away, store in a piece of plastic. Do not leave it damp more than two or three days; it will mildew.
6. Transfer design to leather.
 - a) trace lightly the outline of template.
 - b) centre tracing paper design in this outline.
 - c) holding design in place with one hand, go over all lines of design with bent tracer.
 - d) remove design carefully starting at one corner. Trace any lines missed before the design is lifted from the leather.

N.B. Never use a pencil directly on leather. If leather is too soggy, it won't hold lines; if too dry, won't take them.
7. Tool or carve the design. Moisten only as much as necessary for good work, unless the leather has dried out completely, in which case it should be recased.
8. Colour or finish outer leather.
 - a) if any parts are to be left clear, protect them with lacquer or polish coat.
 - b) if any smaller parts are to have colours such as red, green, etc., dye them, then protect them with lacquer or polish coat.
 - c) if rest of leather is to be other than its natural colour do that next.

cont'd.

- d) put a protective finish - polish coat - over all.
 - e) if one or several shades of brown are to be used, start with the lightest and work to the darkest, then polish coat it.
9. If leather was cut larger than outline, cut it to its proper shape now if the leather is perfectly dry.
 10. Skive - all sides of each piece where two or more thicknesses come together. When it is assembled, those edges which have two or three thicknesses of leather, should have been thinned enough so that you have left a thickness equal to the original thickness of the outside piece of leather.
 11. Cement lining (if used) to leather and trim off excess lining.
 1. Leather Cement - white - good adhesive qualities.
 2. Rubber Cement - quality xxx - suitable for cementing linings - not as adhesive as leather cement.
 12. Edge crease any parts of interior.
 13. Dye any cut edges that show.
 14. Cement various parts in place.
 15. Punch for lacing - or mark for sewing.

Editor's Note: Read, "Making Articles for Sale" - Vol. VIII,
No. 4 - 1959.

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BRANCH NEWS

The Hamilton Guild played host to the Tillsonburg Guild on Saturday, November 11th. The workshop meeting was held in our regular meeting rooms starting at 2:30 p.m. Mrs. Edith Melchior conducted the afternoon session when all present made suede poinsettias. Hamilton Guild members provided a smorgasbord supper serving almost 50 persons. In the evening Mr. Frank Torry very capably handled a work session on the making of Christmas boxes. Mrs. Melchior followed with a brief period of "How to use Scraps for Christmas". Several useful items were made by those present. Coffee and doughnuts concluded the evening.

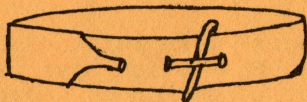
The feeling of fellowship and relaxation at the meeting made everyone feel that it had been a very worthwhile experiment. It was the general feeling that occasional mixing of Guilds would help to increase the feeling of "togetherness" that seems to be needed in outlying smaller Guilds.

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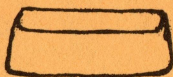
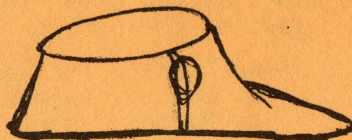
Why not make these - ideas picked up by a

### SHOP HOUND



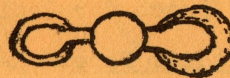
2" leather belt with unusual loop thong closing.

Peter Pan type slipper. Crushy soft glove leather - insoled with leather - inner-soled with foam. Folds flat for packing.



Travel case for jewels. Make it of soft, bright coloured leather, line with suede. Make pockets for earrings, rings and bracelets.

Bottle Opener. Medallion of leather in centre - simple design on medallion if desired. Cover metal handle with leather. Nice to the touch.




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### BULLETIN INDEX

As planned some time ago an index for "Canadian Leathercraft" is being prepared and the first section for Volume 1 - Volume 5, consisting of 4 pages will be found in the centre of this issue of the bulletin, loose, so that it can be readily added to members' past issues.

A great deal of work has gone into the preparation of this index and it is hoped that it will be found useful by members when wishing to recall certain articles or items in back bulletins.

### EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

We are very pleased to announce the acceptance of the position of Assistant Editor of "Canadian Leathercraft" by Miss Viola Harris. Viola Harris is well known to all leathercrafters having been on the executive for many years as Secretary and now is one of our Vice- Presidents. Welcome aboard Viola!



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## LEATHERCRAFT TOOLS

### KNIVES

- a) bevel point - an all purpose knife used for both cutting and skiving.
- b) long, square end blade - especially for skiving, blade is flexible.
- c) skiving (paring) knives not in common use among leathercrafters, but used in the shoemaker trade and by professional leather workers.
- d) carving or swivel knife, used to incise lines for the decoration of leather.
- e) X-acto knife with pointed blades for filigree and inlay work.

### For Sharpening Knives

- a) Carborundum - #109 or larger.
- b) Arkansas stone - harder for putting a fine cutting edge on knives.
- c) Crocus cloth - especially for putting a smooth finish on carving knife blade.
- d) 3-in-1 oil or pike oil for use on stones.

### RULERS

- a) wooden ruler with steel edge is best. Celluloid or wood alone is apt to slice off when cutting leather.
- b) steel square - must not be left any length of time on damp leather - it will mark the leather.

### AWLS

- a) scratch or stab awl - an all purpose awl, used for marking on leather and for enlarging holes for lacing.
- b) bent awl or fid - hard to get, but necessary for lacing without a needle. Better than the stab awl for enlarging holes for lacing because it is flat.
- c) diamond shaped stab awl - for making holes for saddle stitching.

### MALLET

- a) rawhide is best. It is used for setting domes, etc., as well as with stamping tools.
- b) wood is not good - too light and will become pitted with use.
- c) striking stick - for use with stamping tools instead of rawhide mallet.

### SLIT PUNCHES - used to make holes for lacing

- a) 3 prong - available in 5/64" or 3/32" - slits pushed in by hand or tapped in with a mallet.
- b) single prong same as above, used when rounding corners.
- c) plier slit punch - used where it is difficult to lay work flat for punching. It has a stop to keep the slits a uniform distance from the edge of the leather.

cont'd.



TUBULAR PUNCHES

- a) revolving plier - 6 tubes on a revolving wheel to punch 6 different size holes.
- b) drive - same sizes as revolving punch - used where revolving punch cannot reach - they are struck with a hammer.
- c) slot punch - is a drive punch, but has an oblong hole  $\frac{3}{4}$  or  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch long for punching out slots for belt buckles or hangers for handbag straps.

SETTERS

- a) dome 1. three part for segma domes 2. special setter for bird cage domes.
- b) rivet
- c) eyelet
- d) grommet

MODELLING TOOLS

- a) tracer and modeller - a bent tracer is better than a straight one - it pushes down the leather as it goes along, straight one pulls the leather.
- b) deerfoot and double line tool - the deerfoot is used much the same as the modeller, except that greater depth can be achieved with deerfoot. The double line tool is used for marking a line a very short distance in from the cut edge - or with the aid of a ruler will mark a double line.
- c) ball point embosser - small ball on one end, larger on the other, used underneath leather to push up the area to be embossed.

EMBOSSING WHEEL

a small wheel with a pattern on it, used in a carriage to roll along and decorate the edge of work.

SPACE MARKER

- a) wheel used in a carriage to mark even spaces for hand stitching.
- b) overstretch wheel does the same but goes over stitches afterwards to press them down.
- c) stitching punch used to punch holes for stitching on light weight leathers - gloves, etc.

For smoothing lacing leather

- a) wall paper roller.
- b) bone folder - also polishes lacing, important for box work and turned edges.

cont'd.



NEEDLES

- a) lacing 1. flat, two-eyed - lacing is skived, passed through both holes and cemented back on itself.  
 2. split-end - lacing skived, put between the split ends and a little prong holds it.

Both above are inclined to be thick and wide, available only in 3/32" width, substitutes are -

3. bamboo splits - cut a piece of bamboo 5/64" wide, 1 1/2" long, thin it until it will go through the slit. Sharpen one end to a point and skive it slightly. Skive the other end to form a spot to cement on the skived lace. Use household cement, allow several minutes to set.  
 4. end of lace pointed and skived - stiffened with household cement or nail polish - holes enlarged with fid and lace passed through without use of needle.  
 b) harness - for saddle stitching, blunt ends.  
 c) glover's needles have three sides - used to sew on heavy gloving leathers.  
 d) scientific needles - used for lighter weight gloving leathers.

EDGE CREASER - used to mark a line along the edge of work - especially where it is not laced. Comes in sizes 1 to 5, 1 is smallest, 5 puts a line 1/8" from edge of work.

EDGE BEVELLER - to take the sharp edge from finished work - especially belts - used on top and bottom of edge to give rounded effect.

SCISSORS - a) ordinary scissors may be used for cutting skiver and thin leathers where the cut edge will not show.  
 b) shears with a serrated edge may be used to cut both light and heavier leathers. Again, do not use scissors when the cut edge will show.

SADDLE STAMPS - for making impressions on leather - struck with a mallet when leather is damp. Leather must be on a piece of marble or equally hard surface.

LONG-NOSED PLIERS - useful for pulling lace through difficult places.

DIVIDERS - for marking circles and lines of various widths.

ROUGE BOARD - for stropping knives.

GOUGE - to gouge out a channel to make it easier to turn a piece of heavier leather around the corner of a box, etc. Makes it easier to crimp a gusset made of heavier leather.





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