

Chatham County 4-H Leatherworks Club

Introduction

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Evidence of leather goods can be found from throughout history. We will be focusing on the art of leather stamping and tooling, as well as the skills needed to assemble leather items.

Stamping and tooling refers to the process of creating designs in and on leather. This practice is more common in the western culture, but is also used elsewhere and with different design aesthetics.

Prior to World War II, leather stamping and tooling was closely held in saddle shops and the only way to learn this skill was to apprentice in one of those shops. During World War II, Al Stohlman was stationed in New Guinea with the Sixth Army, and began using his pocket knife and nails to create art in leather. After the war, Mr. Stohlman began making and repairing saddles, as well as developing tools for his work. Working with other like-minded individuals, he developed tools and instructional materials for leather craft. In short, he brought this art and craft out of the saddle shops and helped make it available to all, through the approximately thirty books that he and his wife Ann had published for working with leather. Many of those books are still available and would further your skills and knowledge of leatherworking,

Mr. Stohlman's influence has been so great that the top award for the mastery of leatherwork is presented to a person each year that shows the artistry and desire to teach others how to work with leather. The Ann Stohlman award is presented annually to a promising young leathercrafter, such as, a member of a 4H Leatherworking Club, that would be nominated by their instructor for exemplary skills in leatherworking.

The Chatham County 4-H Leatherworks Club has been established to continue this mission of spreading the knowledge and love of leatherworking.

What You'll Learn

- About Types of Leather, Tannage and Usage
- About Leatherworking Tools
- How to Use a Swivel Knife
- How to Basket Stamp (Basket weave pattern)
- How to bevel
- How to tool floral patterns
- How to Color Leather
- How to sew leather
- How to lace
- Basics of pattern making
- How to mske a leather belt buckle
- How to mske a belt