

# LEATHERCRAFTS

## POW WOW 2004

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### WHAT DO YOU NEED?

#### BASIC SUPPLIES:

- ❖ Spray bottle with water or container and sponge
- ❖ Poly board or marble slab for pounding
- ❖ Hand towel
- ❖ Wooden or rawhide mallet
- ❖ Stamping tool handle
- ❖ Stamping tool tips
- ❖ Leather sheen
- ❖ Swivel knife
- ❖ Modeling tool

#### STAMPING TOOL HEADS:

The tips of the stamps are inserted into the steel handle. Combining just a few tips can make many different patterns.

#### MALLETS:

A rawhide mallet is heavier and more durable than a wooden mallet. Rawhide is worth the investment if it is to be used extensively but it is 3-5 times expensive as wood. Wooden mallets are fine for beginners.

#### YOUR WORK AREA:

You need a solid smooth surface to work on. A 12"x12" piece of marble is ideal but a piece of masonite, compressed wood or poly board will do fine. Fold a hand towel under your pounding surface to cut down on noise.

## **PREPARING THE LEATHER:**

Leather must be prepared before stamping. Spray it with water from a spray/mister bottle or wipe both sides of the leather with a moistened sponge until it appears uniformly damp on both sides. This will soften the fibers enough to accept the impression of the stamps. Allow the leather to dry slightly before working; it will lighten to a pink color. The leather's inner core should be wet but its face should be dry. If it is too wet, the stamped impressions will not be sharp. Never bend or fold your project while it is still wet, as the impressions will fade.

## **HOW TO STAMP:**

Grasp the handle with three fingers and the thumb and place the stamp in the desired location. Hold the handle straight up, resting your wrist and elbow on the table. Apply just enough downward pressure on the stamp to keep it from bouncing up after striking. Hit the end of the handle sharply with the mallet, holding the mallet parallel to the leather.

It is better to hit the stamp too lightly than too heavily. You can always reseal and hit a stamp again, but there is no way to correct too deep an impression.

## **COLORING AND FINISHING:**

Leather may be colored with paints, penetrating dyes or colored permanent markers. It also can be finished with oils, waxes, acrylics or lacquers to achieve an endless variety of colors and finishes. Be sure your leather is clean and dry before finishing your project.