

The

LEATHER CRAFTERS

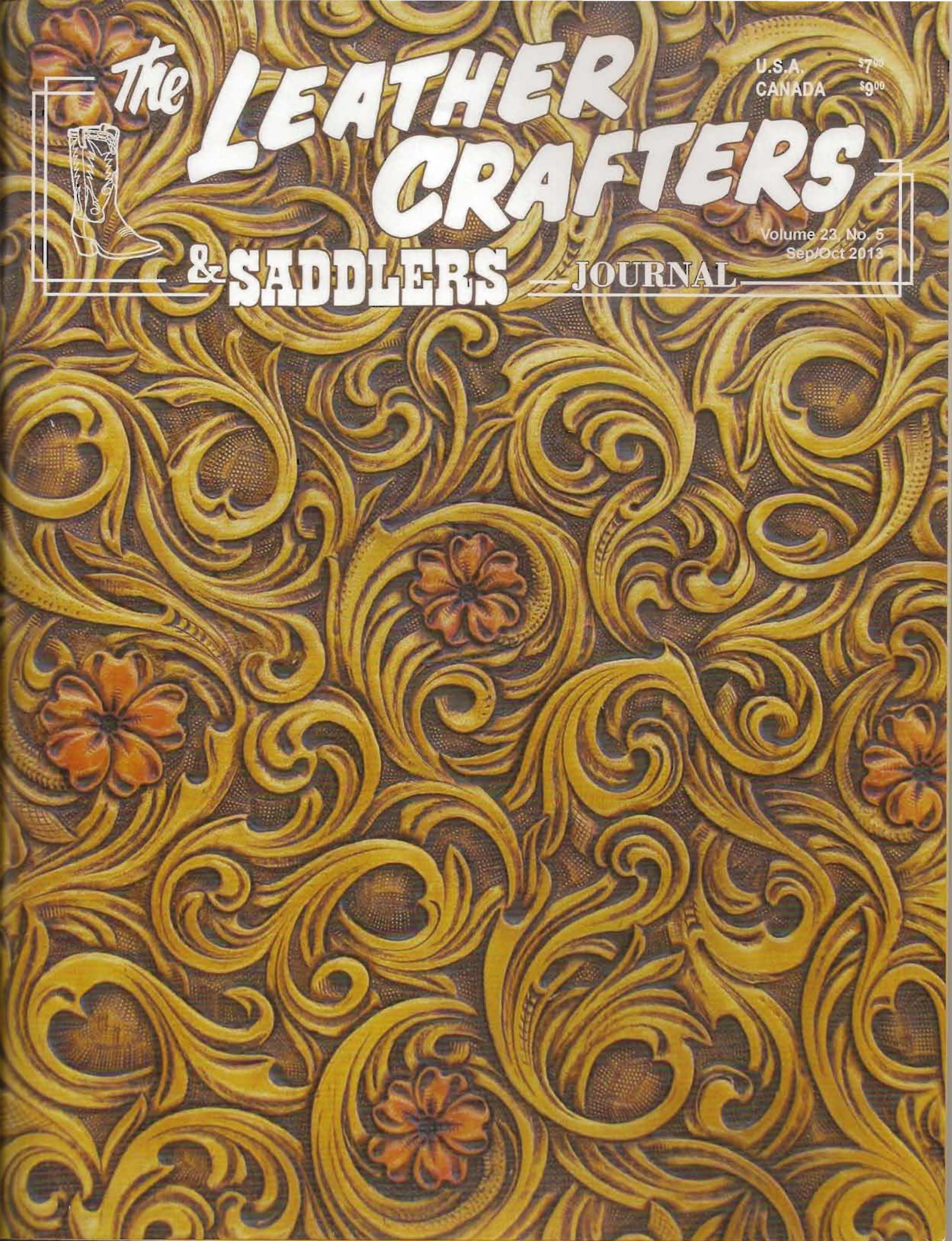
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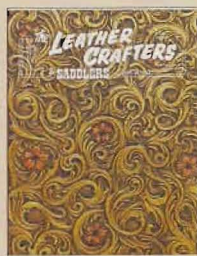
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ABOUT THE COVER: CARY SCHWARZ

Cary Schwarz used a highly diluted wash of red dye and isopropyl alcohol for the color on the flowers, light Neatsfoot oil, then mahogany antique. This is detail from this year's TCAA saddle at the Cowboy Crossings exhibit held at the National Cowboy Museum in Oklahoma City (www.tcowboyarts.com). Check www.caryschwarz.com for Cary's blog, education opportunities and instructional DVDs.

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Leather Bathroom Tissue Cover

By Antonio Gualtieri



MATERIALS LIST:

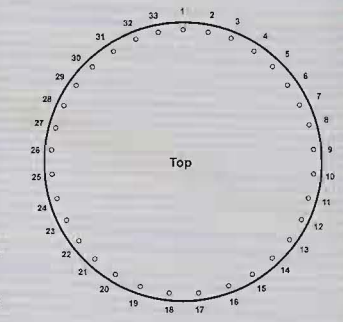
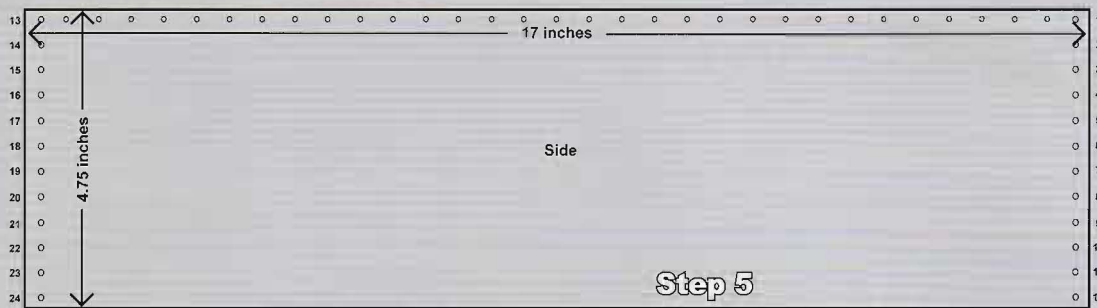
Lightweight tooling leather
Carving/stamping tools of your choice
Head knife
Transfer paper
Stylus
Handle/knob (optional)
Lace punch
Dyes/finishes of your choice
Lace (8 feet of 1/8 or 3/32-inch width)

Step 1: Design your cover. Decide on a pattern/design that matches your room's decor, and consider whether or not you'd like it to have a "handle". Among the handles/knobs I considered were using a butterfly drawer pull, using a small wood draw pull as the center of a larger flower that I might carve on the top, or making a butterfly out of leather and putting a spacer between it and the top. I decide to make mine by cutting out a butterfly from a piece of 3/4" wood and painting it. Also, decide if you want to color/stain any of it, and if you'll be lacing the bottom along with the side seam.

Step 2: Draw your pattern on the transfer paper. The pattern size/area should be a maximum of 4-1/4 inches X 16-1/2 inches (this will leave an area for the lacing holes).

Step 3: If desired, buy or make the handle/knob. I traced out a butterfly on a 2-1/2 x 2 x 3/4 inch piece of wood. I then cut out the butterfly using a scroll saw. When that was complete, I drew a 5/8 inch circle on the center of the bottom. I then went to the band saw and reduced the thickness of the handle to 1/2 inch except for the circle – this area would be a spacer to lift the butterfly above the top. I then drilled a pilot hole in the center for a woodscrew to be used to attach the top to the holder. Once that was completed, I made 2 antennas from a 6 inch piece of 24 gauge black wire. I rolled one end

Recently, I noticed that we did not have very much toilet paper in our guest bathroom, noting there was really no place, other than on top of the tank, to store a spare roll. But, I knew my wife would not like it just sitting there in the open. So, I came up with the idea of making a hand-tooled leather cover for it that matched the decor of the room and wallpaper. In many ways this is a very easy project. The hardest part was deciding on the pattern and creating it. I spent a lot less time cutting, tooling and finishing the cover than I did trying to decide on a pattern and a handle.



Step 5

of each 3 times and removed 1/4 of the insulation from the other end of each. Then I drilled two very small holes in the head of the butterfly and put the antenna wires in. Then my granddaughter Alexis painted the butterfly.

Step 4: Cut the two pieces of leather. See **Pattern Pull-Out**. The side is a 17 x 4-3/4 inch rectangle and the top is 5-3/8 inch circle.

Step 5: Punch holes for lacing. For the top, I punched 33 lacing holes, each 1/2 inch apart. The 33 holes for the top of sides are also 1/2 inch apart. Just make sure they match the top cover. For the ends of the sides I punched 12 holes 3/8 inch apart, starting from the bottom. You will need to punch both ends of the rectangle. Additionally, if you do decide to use a handle or knob on the cover, you may need to punch a small hole in the center of the top piece.

Step 6: Case your leather and transfer the design onto it.

Step 7: Tool your design.

Step 8: Apply any dyes and finish.

Step 9: Lace the side ends together. I used 3/32-inch lacing but 1/8-inch will work, especially for the top. You could cross stitch rather than whipstitch the top. Begin with the sides. Cut 36 inches of lace and lace the side ends together using a cross stitch-type pattern. Pull the lace through hole #1 from the flesh side. Leave about 3 inches on the flesh side in order to tie it off latter.

Step 10: Cross over to hole #14, then to hole #2 on the flesh side. Be sure to pull the lace tight and keep the lace from twisting.

Step 11: From hole #2, cross over to hole #15 and so on, until you get to hole #24.

Step 12: Now put the lace through hole #12 on the flesh side, back to hole #24 on the grain side and then back to hole #12 on the flesh side.

Step 13: Cross over to hole #23, then to hole #11 on the flesh side and so on until you have gone through hole #13.

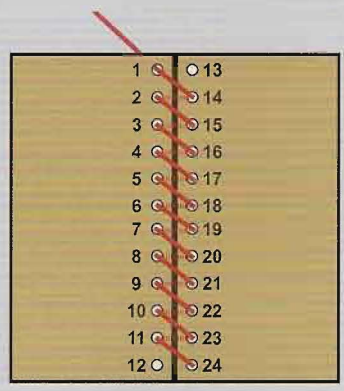
Step 14: Go through hole #1 on the flesh side and back through hole #13 again. At this point you can tie off the lace and trim the ends.



Step 7



Step 8



Steps 9-11



Steps 12-13

Steps 9-13



Steps 15-18

Step 15: Lace the top to the side panel. Using 60 inches of lace, whipstitch the top to the sides (48 inches will be enough, but working with 60 is easier). I started by pulling the lace through hole #13 of the side from the flesh side, leaving about 4 inches on the flesh side in order to tie it off later. Cross over to hole #2 in the top.

Step 16: From flesh side, come through the first opening in the top of the side. Again, be sure to pull the lace tight and keep the lace from twisting.

Step 17: Cross over to hole #3 in the top and so on until you reach hole #1 in the side. Tie off the lace and trim the ends.

Step 18: Attach a handle if you decide to have one.

Your cover is now ready to conceal the extra roll. Have fun creating your own design. ↑

Tony Gualtieri learned to do leather craft in high school in 1958 and has been doing it as a hobby on and off ever since.

[Editor's Note: To compliment this project, you might consider making a matching toilet seat cover! Check out Vol. 14 No. 2, Mar/Apr 2004 of *The Leather Crafters & Saddlers Journal*, p. 54, "Make Your Own Toilet Seat Cover", by George Hurst.]



PENDLETON LEATHER SHOW

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Pendleton, Oregon

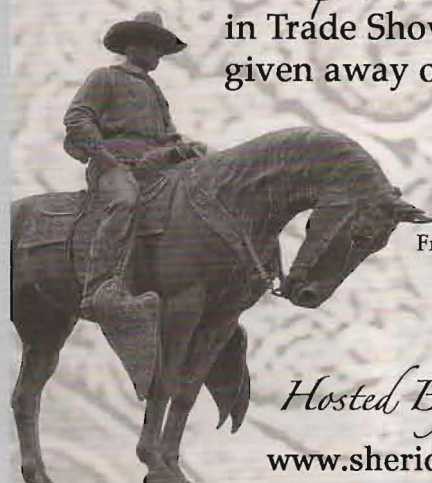
More information:

www.pendletonleathershow.com


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