

# Tri-Cities Leathercraft Group (TCLG)

## Information Sheets

Revision: 7/29/19

Desert Leathercraft LLC

[www.leatherbigbookcovers.com](http://www.leatherbigbookcovers.com)

[stelmack@nwlinc.com](mailto:stelmack@nwlinc.com)

## Table of Contents

Tanning methods.....	2
Types of Leather.....	3
Leather Alternatives.....	3
Leather & Sewing Machine Suppliers.....	4
Pendleton Exhibiting Vendors (first Fri/Sat/Sun in November).....	5
Leather On-line Resource Help.....	6
Magazines.....	6
Suggested Starter Tools.....	6
Books.....	7
Tandy Books by Al Stohlman.....	7
Desert Leathercraft LLC.....	8

Location of this [sheet](#):

<http://leatherbigbookcovers.com/training/Tri-Cities%20Leathercraft%20Info%20Sheets.pdf>

# Tanning methods

(from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leather>)

Tanning processes largely differ in which chemicals are used in the tanning liquor. Some common types include:

- **Vegetable-tanned leather** is tanned using tannins extracted from vegetable matter, such as tree bark prepared in bark mills. It is the oldest known method. It is supple and light brown in color, with the exact shade depending on the mix of materials and the color of the skin. The color tan derives its name from the appearance of undyed vegetable-tanned leather. Vegetable-tanned leather is not stable in water; it tends to discolor, and if left to soak and then dry, it shrinks and becomes harder. This is a feature of oak-bark-tanned leather that is exploited in traditional shoemaking. In hot water, it shrinks drastically and partly congeals, becoming rigid and eventually brittle. Boiled leather is an example of this, where the leather has been hardened by being immersed in hot water, or in boiled wax or similar substances. Historically, it was occasionally used as armor after hardening, and it has also been used for book binding.

- **Chrome-tanned leather**, invented in 1858, is tanned using chromium sulfate and other chromium salts. It is also known as "wet blue" for the pale blue color of the undyed leather. The chrome tanning method usually takes approximately one day to complete, making it best suited for large-scale industrial use. This is the most common method in modern use. It is more supple and pliable than vegetable-tanned leather and does not discolor or lose shape as drastically in water as vegetable-tanned. However, there are environmental concerns with this tanning method, as chromium is a heavy metal.

- **Aldehyde-tanned leather** is tanned using glutaraldehyde or oxazolidine compounds. It is referred to as "wet white" due to its pale cream color. It is the main type of "chrome-free" leather, often seen in shoes for infants and automobiles. Formaldehyde has been used for tanning in the past; it is being phased out due to danger to workers and sensitivity of many people to formaldehyde.

- **Chamois leather** is a form of aldehyde tanning that produces a porous and highly water-absorbent leather. Chamois leather is made using marine oils (traditionally cod oil) that oxidize to produce the aldehydes that tan the leather.

- **Brain tanned leathers** are made by a labor-intensive process that uses emulsified oils, often those of animal brains such as deer, cattle, and buffalo. They are known for their exceptional softness and wash-ability.

- **Alum leather** is transformed using aluminum salts mixed with a variety of binders and protein sources, such as flour and egg yolk. Alum leather is not actually tanned; rather the process is called "tawing", and the resulting material reverts to rawhide if soaked in water long enough to remove the alum salts.

- **Rawhide** is a hide or animal skin that has not been exposed to tanning. It is similar to parchment, much lighter in color than leather made by traditional vegetable tanning. The skin from buffalo, deer, elk or cattle from which most rawhide originates is prepared by removing all fur, meat and fat. The hide is then usually stretched over a frame before being dried. The resulting material is hard and translucent. It can be shaped by re-wetting and forming before being allowed to thoroughly re-dry. It can be rendered more pliable by 'working', i.e. bending repeatedly in multiple directions, often by rubbing it over a post, sometimes traditionally by chewing. It may also be oiled or greased for a degree of waterproofing.

# Types of Leather

(from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leather>)

Today, most leather is made of **cattle hides**, which constitute about 65% of all leather produced. Other animals that are used include **sheep**, about 13%, **goats**, about 11%, and **pigs**, about 10%. Obtaining accurate figures from around the world is difficult, especially for areas where the skin may be eaten. Other animals mentioned below only constitute a fraction of a percent of total leather production.

**Horse hides** are used to make particularly durable leathers. Shell cordovan is a horse leather made not from the outer skin but an under layer found only in equine species called the shell. It is prized for its mirror-like finish and anti-creasing properties.

**Lamb** and **deerskin** are used for soft leather in more expensive apparel. Deerskin is widely used in work gloves and indoor shoes.

**Reptilian skins**, such as **alligator**, **crocodile**, and **snake**, are noted for their distinct patterns that reflect the scales of their species. This has led to hunting and farming of these species in part for their skins.

**Kangaroo leather** is used to make items that must be strong and flexible. It is the material most commonly used in bullwhips. Some motorcyclists favor kangaroo leather for motorcycle leathers because of its light weight and abrasion resistance. Kangaroo leather is also used for falconry jesses, soccer footwear, and boxing speed bags.

Although originally raised for their feathers in the 19th century, ostriches are now more popular for both meat and leather. **Ostrich leather** has a characteristic "goose bump" look because of the large follicles where the feathers grew. Different processes produce different finishes for many applications, including upholstery, footwear, automotive products, accessories, and clothing.

In Thailand, **stingray leather** is used in wallets and belts. Stingray leather is tough and durable. The leather is often dyed black and covered with tiny round bumps in the natural pattern of the back ridge of an animal. These bumps are then usually sanded to expose the white to highlight the decoration. Stingray rawhide is also used as grips on Chinese swords, Scottish basket hilted swords, and Japanese katanas. Stingray leather is also used for high abrasion areas in motorcycle racing leathers (especially in gloves, where its high abrasion resistance helps prevent wear through in the event of an accident.)

For a given thickness, **fish leather** is typically much stronger due to its criss-crossed fibers.

# Leather Alternatives

(from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leather>)

Many forms of artificial leather have been developed, usually involving polyurethane or vinyl coatings applied to a cloth backing. Many names and brands for such artificial leathers exist, including "**pleather**", a portmanteau of "plastic leather", and the brand name **Naugahyde**. **Bonded leather** is made by shredding leather scraps and leather fiber, then mixing it with bonding materials. The mixture is next extruded onto a cloth or paper backing, and the surface is usually embossed with a leather-like texture or grain.

# Leather & Sewing Machine Suppliers

## **Tandy Leather Factory**

<https://www.tandyleather.com/en/>

## **Brettun's Leather**

<https://www.brettunsvillage.com/leather/hideindex/>

## **Hide House**

Leathercraft <https://hidehouse.com/>

## **Oregon Leathercraft**

<http://oregonleatherco.com/>

## **Macpherson Leather**

<http://www.macphersonleather.com/>

## **Weaver Leathercraft**

<https://www.weaverleathersupply.com/>

## **Maverick Leathercraft**

<https://maverickleathercompany.com/>

## **Pendleton Leather Show (First Weekend in November)**

<https://www.pendletonleathershow.com/>

## **Leather Hide Store**

<https://www.leatherhidestore.com/?q=servlet+StoreFront>

## **The Leather Guy**

<https://theleatherguy.org/>

## **Knotty Linda (Kangaroo Lace)**

<https://www.knottylinda.com/leather-lace/>

## **Springfield Leathercraft**

<https://www.springfieldleather.com/>

## **Sea Leather Wear (Fish Leather)**

<https://www.sealeatherwear.com/>

## **American Leather Direct**

<https://aleatherd.com/>

## **Leather Sewing Machine Co.**

<https://www.leathermachineco.com/>

COBRA Class 18 Compound Needle Feed (Triple Feed) Walking Foot (like a Phaff 1245) \$1.8K

COBRA Class 17 Walking Foot (like a Consew 206-RB5) \$1.5K

COBRA Class 4-S Compound Needle Feed (Triple Feed) Walking Foot (like a Juki TSC-441) \$2.6K

## **Toledo Industrial Sewing Machines**

<https://www.tolindsewmach.com/cowboy.html>

**Leather Sewing Machine Threads**

[https://www.thethreadexchange.com/miva/merchant.mvc?Screen=CTGY&Category\\_Code=industrial-thread](https://www.thethreadexchange.com/miva/merchant.mvc?Screen=CTGY&Category_Code=industrial-thread)

**Leather Sewing Hand Stitching Threads**

[https://www.jsrz.com/HighStrengthSewingThread/waxed\\_hand\\_sewing\\_thread.html](https://www.jsrz.com/HighStrengthSewingThread/waxed_hand_sewing_thread.html)

## Pendleton Exhibiting Vendors (first Fri/Sat/Sun in November)

Barry King Tools	307-672-5657	<a href="http://www.barrykingtools.com">www.barrykingtools.com</a>
Bee Natural Leathercare	360-891-7178	<a href="http://www.beenaturalleathercare.com">www.beenaturalleathercare.com</a>
Bork Saddlery Hardware	541-276-5207	<a href="http://www.borksaddleryhardware.com">www.borksaddleryhardware.com</a>
Brett Bronson	406-293-2032	
Douglas Tools	307-737-2222	<a href="#">Douglas Saddle Co</a> on Facebook
Fine Leatherworking	415-800-2978	<a href="http://www.fineleatherworking.com">www.fineleatherworking.com</a>
Frog Jelly Leather	817-969-5150	<a href="http://www.frogjelleyleather.com">www.frogjelleyleather.com</a>
Gomph Hackbarth Tools	520-642-3891	<a href="#">Gomph Hackbarth on Facebook</a>
GRS Engraving	800-835-3519	<a href="http://www.grstools.com">www.grstools.com</a>
Hamley's Saddle Academy	541-278-1100	<a href="http://www.hamleyco.com">www.hamleyco.com</a>
Hansen Silver	209-847-7390	<a href="http://www.hansenwesterngear.com">www.hansenwesterngear.com</a>
Hermann Oak Leather Co.	800-325-7950	<a href="http://www.hermannoakleather.com">www.hermannoakleather.com</a>
JBLD Leather School	509-899-4556	<a href="#">JBLD Leather Designs</a> on Facebook
Joe Meling 23	360-600-6038	<a href="http://www.twentythreeplus.com">www.twentythreeplus.com</a>
LaceMaster	208-884-3766	<a href="http://www.lacemaster.com">www.lacemaster.com</a>
Leather Machine Co.	866-962-9880	<a href="http://www.leathermachineco.com">www.leathermachineco.com</a>
Leather Wranglers	505- 269-8563	<a href="http://www.leatherwranglers.com">www.leatherwranglers.com</a>
Maverick Leather	877-845-0080	<a href="http://www.maverickleathercompany.com">www.maverickleathercompany.com</a>
Oregon Leather Co.	800-634-8033	<a href="http://www.oregonleatherco.com">www.oregonleatherco.com</a>
Red Ox Brand Tools	307-272-8585	<a href="http://www.redoxbrand.sagecreeksaddles.com">www.redoxbrand.sagecreeksaddles.com</a>
Shop Talk!	435-529-7484 x470	<a href="http://www.shoptalk-magazine.com">www.shoptalk-magazine.com</a>
Steel Stamps Inc.	208-345-2550	<a href="http://www.steelstampsinc.com">www.steelstampsinc.com</a>
The Tooling Bench	435-586-9591	
Tandy Leather		<a href="http://www.tandyleatherfactory.com">www.tandyleatherfactory.com</a>
Trahide Co.	305-238-8060	<a href="http://www.trahide.com">www.trahide.com</a>
Wayne Jueschke	775-738-6344	
Weaver Leather	800-932-8371	<a href="http://www.weaverleather.com">www.weaverleather.com</a>
Van Amburg Leathers	208-785-0800	<a href="http://www.vanamburgleathers.com">www.vanamburgleathers.com</a>

## Other Discovered Vendors

**Grey Ghost Graphics (Stamps, Templates, Transfer Sheets)**

<http://www.greyghostgraphics.com/>

**Bob Beard (Stamping Tools - Black Crack)**

<http://robertbeardtools.scalabledata.com/catalog.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/ProSeriesTools/>

**Ohio Travel Bag (Fasteners, Handles, Buckles, Zippers, etc.)**

<https://ohiotravelbag.com/>

Harbor Freight (Cheap Tools, Gloves, etc.)

<https://www.harborfreight.com/>

**REDURAN® Hand Cleaner (Removed leather dye from hands)**

<https://www.organicdye.com/dyes/reduran/>

**Talas (Bookbinding Supplies)**

<https://www.talasonline.com/>

**Wawak (Leather Tape)**

<https://www.wawak.com/Garment-Construction/Tapes-Ribbon/leather-vinyl-hemming-tape-60-yds/?sku=TPE14>

**Ebay Letterpress Type (used)**

[https://www.ebay.com/sch/i.html?\\_nkw=letterpress%20type%20&ssPageName=GSTL](https://www.ebay.com/sch/i.html?_nkw=letterpress%20type%20&ssPageName=GSTL)

**Arion Press Type (New Letterpress Type, ask for Bruce)**

<https://www.arionpress.com/mandh-pricelist-ordering>

**C.H. Holderby Industrial Sewing Machines (Local Sales and Repair Service, ask Ernie)**

<https://www.chholderby.com/>

# Leather On-line Resource Help

## **Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op (Main Website)**

<http://pslac.org/>

## **Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op (Facebook, search for PSLAC)**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/579402962214064/>

## **Leather Worker Forum**

<https://leatherworker.net/forum/>

## **Tandy Leather YouTube Instruction**

<https://www.youtube.com/user/TandyLeatherFactory?blend=21&ob=5#p/u/32/41gFibhYaMO>

## **Various Leather YouTube Tutorials**

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=leather+tutorial](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=leather+tutorial)

## **Binding Magazines**

<http://www.johan-potgieter.com/bin02.html>

## **General Leathercraft Search**

[https://www.google.com/search?](https://www.google.com/search?q=leather+craft+instructions&rlz=1C1CHFX_enUS715US715&oq=leather+craft+instruction&aqs=chrome.0.0j69i57.7863j0j4&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8)

[q=leather+craft+instructions&rlz=1C1CHFX\\_enUS715US715&oq=leather+craft+instruction&aqs=chrome.0.0j69i57.7863j0j4&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8](https://www.google.com/search?q=leather+craft+instructions&rlz=1C1CHFX_enUS715US715&oq=leather+craft+instruction&aqs=chrome.0.0j69i57.7863j0j4&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8)

# Magazines

## **Leather Crafters and Saddlers Journal**

<https://leathercraftersjournal.com/>

## **Shoptalk!**

<https://shoptalk-magazine.com/>

# Suggested Starter Tools

## **Basic Tools**

- Utility Knife
- Square

## **Carving/Tooling**

- Swivel Knife
- Rawhide or Polyester Hammer
- Modeling Tool
- Beveler, Backgrounder, Pear Shader, Seeder
- Hard Surface (granite stone, go to stone counter top store ask for off-cuts or broken stone )
- Rubber Mat (Art Carpenter Hardware, ask for conveyor belt) 21 W Columbia Dr, Kennewick, WA 99336 (509) 586-3508

## **Sewing**

- Awl or Diamond Prong Punch
- Harness Needles
- Beeswax

## Coloring

- Antique Dye
- Acrylic colors

## Finishing

- Matte Acrylic
- Skidmore's Waterproofing Bess Wax

...or... an entire Starter Kit

### Tandy Basic Stamping set (\$39.99)

<https://www.tandyleather.com/en/product/basic-stamping-set>

### Tandy Deluxe Carving Set (\$69.99)

<https://www.tandyleather.com/en/product/deluxe-carving-leather-set>

### Tandy Basic Hand Stitching Set (\$39.99)

<https://www.tandyleather.com/en/product/basic-handstitching-set>

### Tandy Deluxe Hand Stitching set (\$89.99)

<https://www.tandyleather.com/en/product/deluxe-handstitching-set>

## Books

### Tandy Books by Al Stohlman

The Art Of Hand Sewing Leather Book

<https://www.tandyleather.com/en/product/the-art-of-hand-sewing-leather-book>

Leathercraft Tools Book

<https://www.tandyleather.com/en/product/leathercraft-tools-book>

Stohlman Step by Step by Peter Main

<https://www.tandyleather.com/en/product/stohlman-step-by-step-by-peter-main>

Belts Galore Book

<https://www.tandyleather.com/en/product/belts-galore-book>

Coloring Leather Book

<https://www.tandyleather.com/en/product/coloring-leather-book>

Pictorial Carving Finesse Book

<https://www.tandyleather.com/en/product/pictorial-carving-finesse-book>

Figure Carving Finesse Book

<https://www.tandyleather.com/en/product/figure-carving-finesse-book>

The Art Of Making Leather Cases

<https://www.tandyleather.com/en/product/the-art-of-making-leather-cases>

# Desert Leathercraft LLC

**Leather Big Book Covers**

<https://aaleatherbigbookcovers.com/wp/>

**Types of leather**

<http://leatherbigbookcovers.com/training/Tutorial--Leather%20Selection%20Article.pdf>

**Starting Your Own Leather Business**

<http://leatherbigbookcovers.com/training/Tutorial--Business%20Considerations%20Article.pdf>

**Embossing Letters in Leather**

<http://leatherbigbookcovers.com/training/Tutorial--Typography%20in%20Leather%20Article.pdf>