

Braiding Rawhide Horse Tack

Braiding Rawhide Horse Tack The Art of Braiding Rawhide Horse Tack A Comprehensive Guide So you're looking to delve into the world of braiding rawhide horse tack Fantastic This ancient craft is both rewarding and beautiful resulting in durable stylish and uniquely personalized equipment for your equine friend While it might seem daunting at first with patience and practice you'll be crafting stunning bridles reins and more This comprehensive guide will walk you through the process from selecting materials to mastering the braids Why Choose Rawhide Rawhide offers several advantages over other materials its incredibly strong and durable develops a beautiful patina over time and is naturally water-resistant though proper care is still crucial Its also pliable enough to be shaped and braided allowing for intricate designs However it requires more preparation than some synthetic materials Gathering Your Materials Before you begin gather the following Rawhide Choose high-quality rawhide specifically designed for braiding Thickness will depend on your project thinner rawhide is suitable for reins while thicker strands are needed for bridles Consider the colour natural dyed brown or even black are all popular choices Suppliers often sell pre-cut strips saving you prep time Braiding Board or other flat surface This helps keep your braids neat and even A smooth flat piece of wood or even a large sturdy cutting mat will work Sharp Knife or Razor Blade Essential for trimming and preparing the rawhide A very sharp blade ensures clean cuts preventing fraying Heavy-Duty Needles and Thread For stitching your finished braids together Use strong waxed thread to prevent breakage Rawhide Dressing optional This helps condition the rawhide making it more pliable and increasing its longevity Measuring Tape Accurate measurements are crucial for consistent braiding Clamps or Binder Clips To hold strands in place during braiding Preparing the Rawhide 2 Proper preparation is key to successful braiding If you're starting with whole rawhide strips they will likely need to be soaked and scraped This process softens the rawhide making it easier to work with Soaking Submerge the rawhide strips in clean cool water for several hours or even overnight The soaking time depends on the thickness of the rawhide Scraping After soaking gently scrape the rawhide using a dull knife or a specialized rawhide scraper to remove any excess flesh or fat This process cleans and smoothes the surface ensuring a consistent braid Cutting Once scraped cut the rawhide into the required lengths and widths using your sharp knife or razor blade Aim for consistent widths for even braids Basic Braiding Techniques Several braiding techniques can be used for rawhide tack each resulting in a unique look and feel Let's focus on two fundamental braids 1 The Three-Strand Braid This is the most common and easiest braid to master Preparation Take three strands of rawhide of equal length and thickness Secure one end with a clamp or binder clip to your braiding board Braiding Cross the right strand over the center strand then cross the left strand over the newly formed center strand Repeat this process consistently crossing the outer strands over the center until you reach the desired length Securing Once finished firmly secure the end with a clamp or by stitching it tightly Visual Imagine plaiting your hair this is the same principle The right strand goes over then the left and you repeat 2 The Round Braid or Turks Head Knot This braid is more intricate and produces a rounder thicker braid It usually requires more experience While a detailed explanation exceeds the scope of this entry numerous online tutorials visually demonstrate the process Assembling Your Tack

Once you've mastered the braiding techniques you can start creating your tack. This often involves combining multiple braids, adding buckles, and stitching components together. This requires patience and attention to detail.

3 Example: Creating Simple Rawhide Reins

- 1 Braid three strands of rawhide using the three-strand braid technique.
- 2 Once braided, measure and cut the reins to your desired length, allowing extra length for attaching buckles.
- 3 Attach sturdy buckles to either end of the reins using strong stitching.

Prepunched holes in the rawhide make this step easier.

Maintaining Your Rawhide Tack

Proper care extends the life of your rawhide tack.

Cleaning

Wipe clean with a damp cloth after use. Avoid harsh chemicals or excessive water.

Conditioning

Periodically apply a rawhide dressing to keep the rawhide supple and prevent cracking.

Summary of Key Points

Rawhide braiding requires patience and practice but results in strong, durable, and beautiful tack. Proper rawhide preparation is crucial for easy braiding. Mastering basic braiding techniques, the three-strand braid, is a great starting point. Assembling tack involves combining braids, adding hardware, and stitching components. Regular cleaning and conditioning will extend the life of your rawhide tack.

FAQs

- 1 Where can I buy rawhide for braiding? Specialty leather and tack shops, online retailers specializing in leather crafting supplies, and some saddleries carry rawhide suitable for braiding.
- 2 How do I prevent my rawhide braids from fraying? Use a very sharp knife for clean cuts and consider sealing the ends with a rawhide sealant or even a dab of beeswax.
- 3 What type of thread should I use for stitching? Use heavy-duty waxed nylon thread or a strong linen thread designed for leatherwork.
- 4 How do I add buckles to my rawhide braids? Use strong stitching, ideally with a stitching pony, to ensure even tension. Prepunched holes are helpful.
- 5 Can I braid rawhide myself even without prior experience? Absolutely! Start with simple projects like reins and gradually progress to more complex items like bridles. Online tutorials and practice are your best friends.

4 With dedication and the right techniques, you can create stunning and functional rawhide horse tack that you'll be proud of. Embrace the process, enjoy the creativity, and soon you'll be crafting beautiful pieces for your horse. Happy braiding!

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here is an instruction manual for the novice worker in rawhide unlike many other works on the subject this book assumes no previous knowledge or experience

the reader is shown in drawings and photographs every step of the procedure starts with a fresh cowhide continues through cutting strings and braiding and ends with finished reatas bosals hobbles or reins along the way the author discusses the needed tools and implements which the beginner can make for them out of readily available materials by following the directions in this book the chapters on braiding provide simplified techniques for producing a number of basic patterns which may be modified or enlarged upon to yield endless variations users or collectors of braided rawhide will value this book for its demonstration of what to look for when buying an article how to care for it and in a historical vein how each item was produced in the past for those who collect use or aspire to learn how to make your own cowboy horse gear dont miss woolerys book western horseman

folk art is as varied as it is indicative of person and place informed by innovation and grounded in cultural context the variety and versatility of 300 american folk artists is captured in this collection of informative and thoroughly engaging essays american folk art a regional reference offers a collection of fascinating essays on the life and work of 300 individual artists some of the men and women profiled in these two volumes are well known while others are important practitioners who have yet to receive the notice they merit because many of the artists in both categories have a clear identity with their land and culture the work is organized by geographical region and includes an essay on each region to help make connections visible there is also an introductory essay on u s folk art as a whole those writing about folk art to date tend to view each artist as either traditional or innovative one of the major contributions of this work is that it demonstrates that folk artists more often exhibit both traits they are grounded in their cultural context and creative in the way they make work their own such insights expand the study of folk art even as they readjust readers understanding of who folk artists are

discusses 53 folklore apprenticeships set up by the apprenticeship program of the nevada arts council which range from saddlemaking and shoshone beading and baskets to thai classical dance and scottish bagpipng

the saddle has become an american icon wranglers rely on saddles every day but discerning outsiders favor them for image enhancement and self expression thus saddles turn up in paintings films even advertisements for cigarettes and automobiles in the marketplace of western memorabilia they have great value saddles sometimes intricately and exquisitely carved are no longer merely cowboy paraphernalia at their most elaborate they have a highly developed aesthetic in america saddlemaking can be regarded as one of the most complex and distinctly regional of western crafts one of the most famous saddlemakers is donald l king of sheridan wyoming his sheridan style saddle one of the finest of all western saddles in craftsmanship and beauty is commissioned regularly for championship rodeo trophies and is prized by collectors the son of an itinerant cowboy king was immersed in the traditions of ranch life and crafts from an early age today he is acknowledged as the creator of the most influential style in western leathercraft his intricate hand tooled works bear his signature emblem the wild rose and other floral elements by the 1960s saddle aficionados had discovered him and king s saddlery became the center of a large community of saddlemakers within the following twenty years king had so profoundly influenced the aesthetics of his craft that he began to create saddles that were art objects for collectors galleries and museums this fascinating study of the sheridan saddle and its creator not only highlights king s contributions but also traces the origins of the western saddle to its roots in mexico and spain timothy h evans former wyoming state folklorist is coauthor of the

wyoming folk arts handbook

tack buyer s guide helps the equestrian consumer find the best buys among the thousands of pieces of tack and accessories displayed in the average tack shop includes detailed descriptions of types of equipment uses cost and how to determine correct fit and quality charlene strickland best selling author and tack specialist interviewed more than 150 tack experts including manufacturers retailers importers distributors repair specialists and successful riders to write this book

includes american farriar s association newsletter

reprint of a 1976 book old army press with a new introduction by daniel n vichorek this book introduces the reader both to the life and to the gear of the authentic 1880s cowboy using information gathered from interviews with men who actually rode the range trying to correct some misconceptions surrounding the cowboy that have been prevalent in modern media rickey also author of 40 miles a day on beans and hay describes their clothes hats coats pants gloves chaps even underwear arms and equipment guns ropes bed rolls and gear saddles bridles brands incorporating dozens of sketches by dale crawford 10x7 annotation copyrighted by book news inc portland or

loyal to the land is a sweeping history of one of the united states largest working ranches the big island of hawaii s parker ranch dr bergin chronicles the ranch from its establishment on two acres purchased for ten dollars by john palmer parker to the years following world war ii and the beginning of a new era of family ranch management under parker s grandson richard smart in this wide ranging and insightful book illustrated with more than 250 historical photos dr bergin first discusses the important hispanic vaquero roots of ranching in hawaii he then relates the histories of the five foundation families providing rich and detailed information on key members who contributed to the ranch s success the balance of the book examines every aspect of parker ranch development management labor improvements and diversification of livestock veterinary and animal care programs and the ranch s role and influence on the big island and the state

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Introduction

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