



International Internet Leathercrafters' Guild

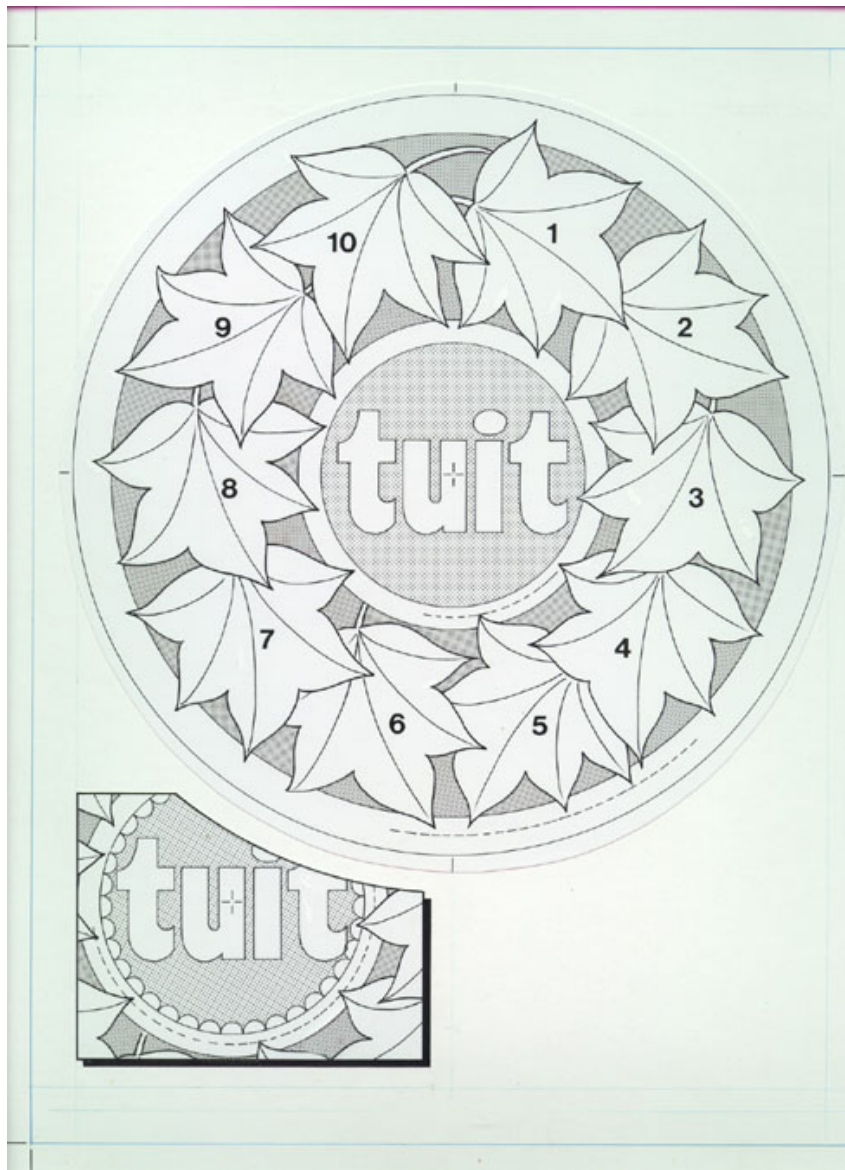
I FINALLY GOT AROUND TO IT

by Peter Main, Australia

Most of us have known a time when it was hard to get that special project done. With Peter Main's help, we can all learn how to get around to it. Thanks, Peter!



Finished Round Tuit



Round Tuit Pattern

Now if you're going to get around 'tuit' - here's how to do it. The leather used for leaves, center background, and the word 'tuit' is 3-4 oz. The inner and outer circle framing is 6-7oz. and the background to the leaves is Morocco, colored light blue.

Cut all leathers oversize. Mount Morocco to board with contact adhesive, this is a permanent bond. Mount other leather to artboard with a rubber cement, as they have to be removed later. Moistened leather well, and wait; when it starts to regain its original color the tracing can commence. Trace the leaves and 'tuit' individually. Number each leaf and extend stems, these will be trimmed during assembly. Cut outline of leaves with an angle blade; lean the blade a little to give a slight undercut. Double bevel with the F897 and smooth out with a modeling tool, also give the leaf detail. Cut the word 'tuit' with with a fine angle blade, keep the blade upright and do not undercut. Use a modeling tool to round the edges.

Scribe the center background area (3" diameter) on 3-4oz oversize leather, and background with an A800. If the background and has gone over the line re-scribe the circle, make sure the center point goes right through the leather. The leaves, lettering and background should be allowed to dry thoroughly.

The center framing has a scalloped inside edges, using a half round punch. This punch a [along with eight other sizes] was made from an old set of Tandy round punches. Moisten the 6-7oz. Leather, and scribe circles lightly. If using a half round punch, carefully mark around the inside circle and adjust spacing as necessary. With the leather still mounted on the board, punch around the circle. If you not having a scalloped edge, cut around in the circle with a knife. Leave the center in position and use a pear shader [P233] around scalloped edge. If the edge is plain, a camouflage tool can be used.

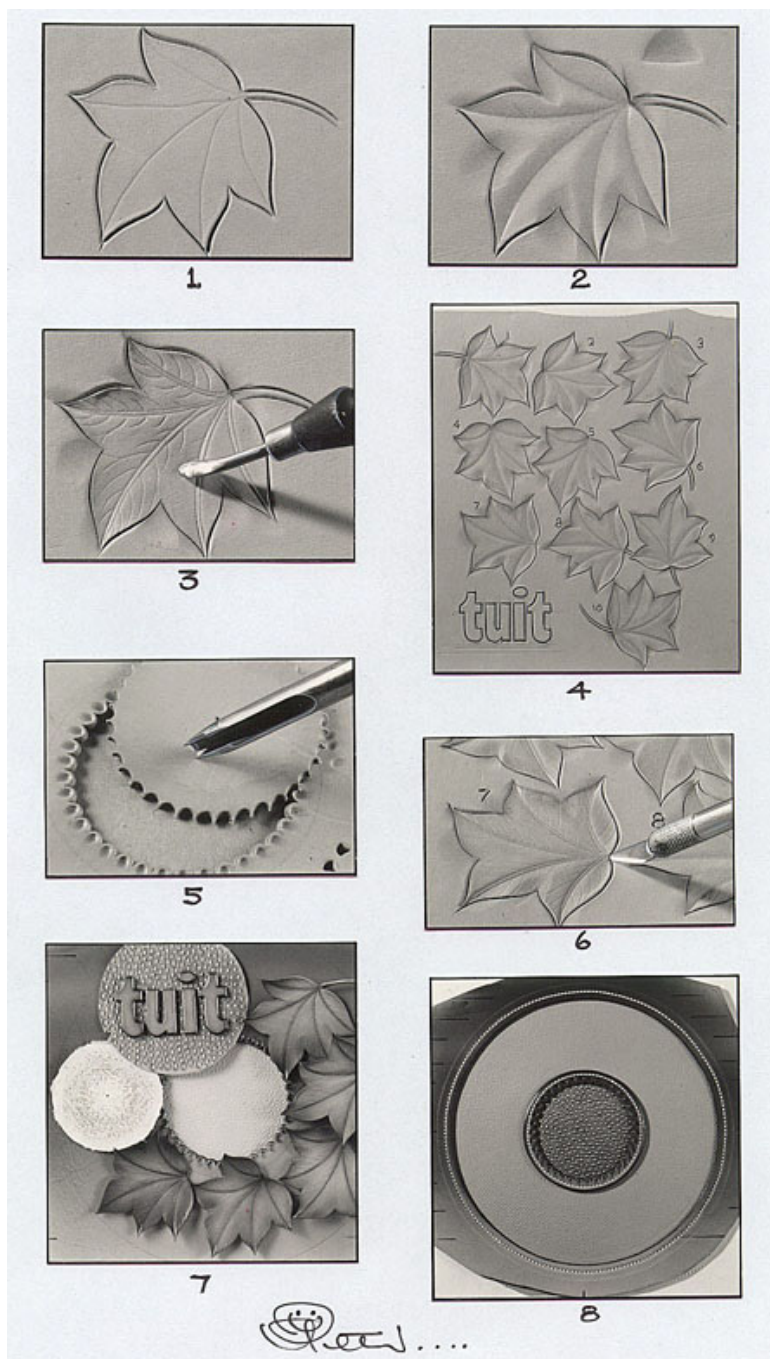
Carefully peel the cardboard from the leather and remove all traces of rubber solution with a pick-up eraser. With a sharp pointed craft knife, cut out the leaves. Hold the knife at about 45 degrees (as shown), cut out towards the point of the leaves and number each one on the flesh side for identification. The word 'tuit' is cut out with the knife held vertically, take your time with this. Now cut out the center background circle slightly oversize, skive around on the flesh side (about 3/8" in) to a feather edge.

By this time you should have leaves, letters and scraps of leather all over your workbench. The 'round tuit' has been colored by air brush with just a little Sable brush work on the veins of leaves. It can be colored by all brush work; 'Coloring Leather' by Al and Ann Stohlman shows shading techniques in detail. You will also find 'step-by-step' instructions in my book 'Australian Leather Carving' Careful observation of the color photo should make it all clear. All pieces are finally sprayed with Tandy super shine. Spray light coats, otherwise you'll have a high-gloss finish that looks more like plastic than leather.

Now to put it all together; firstly the center. One more piece of leather is required; cut a circle 2 1/4" diameter from 3-4oz leather and skive all round to a feather edge. This is a plug that should now be cemented to the flesh side of the center background piece. The background is positioned within the scalloped circle and glued into place. The center section [3 1/8"diameter] complete with background can now be cut out, as can the inside edge [6 7/8" diameter] of the outer circle. Edge, dye dark brown and burnish. Super Sheen can be brushed on as a finish to these edges.

Mount inner and outer circles onto a light blue background, note the darker coloring is to the top. Use dividers for accurate positioning, and sew both circles [through cardboard backing] with white thread for contrast. Tape the tracing pattern across the top edge and trace leaf positions. Trace slightly inside the pattern and roughen these areas to ensure good adhesion. The leaves are glued in place with white glue, Tandy Leather Weld will work well. Start with leaf No. 1 and continue to leaf 5, then leaf 10 to leaf 6.

Using the tracing as a guide to assemble in position, continue assembly leaf by leaf until complete. The word 'tuit' is also traced undersize on the background, use a rule to assist alignment. The glue should be allowed to dry thoroughly before the completed 'round tuit' is finally cut out. When it is trimmed and edged, dye dark brown, burnish, and brush on some Super Sheen for shine when you get 'around to it'.



Round Tuit Storyboard
(captions below)

Round Tuit Storyboard Captions

1. Outline of leaf slightly undercut.
2. Beveling complete using F897
3. Leaf smoothed out and detail added with a modeler.
4. Leaves and Tuit complete, note the leaves are numbered.
5. Center cut out with a half-round punch.
6. Leaves are cut out with a craft knife angled to around 45 degrees.
7. All part complete ready for assembly, note dome shaped plug is shown.
8. Background sewn to art board - note center lines are marked, also horizontal lines; these lines assisted in spraying the graduated color evenly.

