

Good Ideas Shouldn't be a Secret

□ by Bill Gomer

Is there such a thing as "no secrets"? I sometimes think that people don't mean to have secrets; they just aren't aware of anybody who has a need for what they know!

I once visited an old rancher in northern Missouri who had a pliers pouch. It looked good and was functional. After looking it over carefully, I still couldn't figure out how it was made, as it was finished on both the back and the front. He told me that he made the pouch because he needed one. I asked him if he'd share the pattern with me. He said, "Sure, but why would you want something like this?" "Because it's neat!", I said.

In this article, I'll show you how to make the pliers pouch in such a way that even a beginner can do it. In fact, I had 45 youngsters design their own pliers pouches as a 4-H leather project. Knife cases were also made the same way. They were all beginners, and none of them failed to complete their choice of case.

I hope you'll enjoy making these as much as I did. I think that you'll have a good time. And be creative. You don't have to use the pattern I've furnished. Make up your own!

Making a Pliers Pouch

(1) Use a piece of paper about 20" x 15". Fold it lengthwise down the middle.

(2) Open up the folded paper and lay a pair of pliers on it, with the fold line running down the center of the pliers.

(3) Using a pencil, draw the outline of



the pliers.

(4) Measure how far down from the belt you want the pliers to hang. Fold the paper again at that point, just creasing it.

(5) Unfold the paper and draw around the pliers up to that line, drawing it 1/2" wider than the pliers.

(6) Draw a line where you want the opening to be. It should be about midway up the handle, where it starts to flare. Make a triangular hole. Note: the width of your pliers handle determines the top line, with the two lines coming down and converging in the center about 1/2" below the top line, forming a triangle.

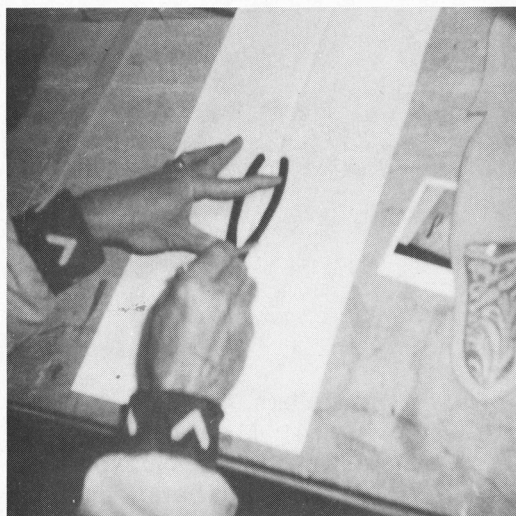
(7) Rather than cutting the triangle's points, use the largest hole on your revolving hole punch. Punch at the points and draw a straight line between them, as in the pattern.

(8) Fold the pattern in half from the belt line, allowing it to hang as far below your belt as you wish. Viewing the outline of the pliers, fold the pattern again.

(9) Cut along the line that you drew 1/2" outside the pliers. You will be cutting through four layers of paper.

(10) Unfold the second fold and look at the back of the pattern, which is now two layers. Hold it up to the light so you can see through it. Draw straight lines from the top corners of the triangle out to the sides of the paper (this will be the back of the case).

(11) From the top corners of the triangle, draw lines angling up and curving out to the same width as the bottom part



Drawing pattern on paper that has been creased.



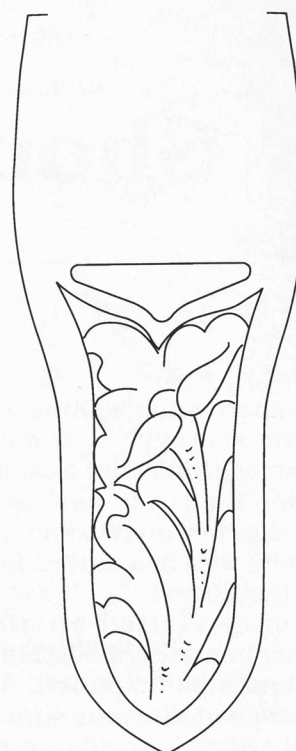
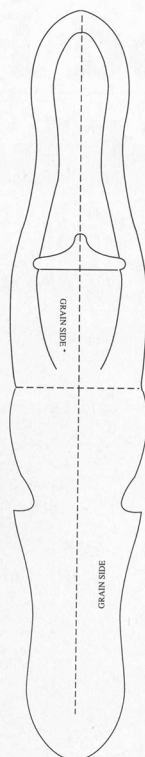
Finished pattern before triangle slit has been cut.

of the case. When you unfold it, you should have a triangle on one end and two "wings" on the other end.

(12) Lay the pattern out flat. Hold the end with the triangular hole in your left hand; take the other end in your right hand. Pass the pointed end through the triangular hole and pull it forward. This will show you what the finished product will look like.

(13) If the pattern looks like what you want the finished case to look, you are ready to transfer the pattern to the leather and cut out the case.

(14) With the grain side down, use a



Note: Full sized patterns are found in the Pattern Pull-Out Section.

French edger on the upper side of the triangle. Edge the loop portion, on both the grain and flesh sides. Do not edge the two bodies together until after they are joined.

(15) Tool the front of the case as desired. This will stretch the leather, allowing it to form a pucker and hold the pliers better.

(16) Put cement approximately 1/4" all the way around the flesh side (back) of the case portion on both pieces. Cement it together.

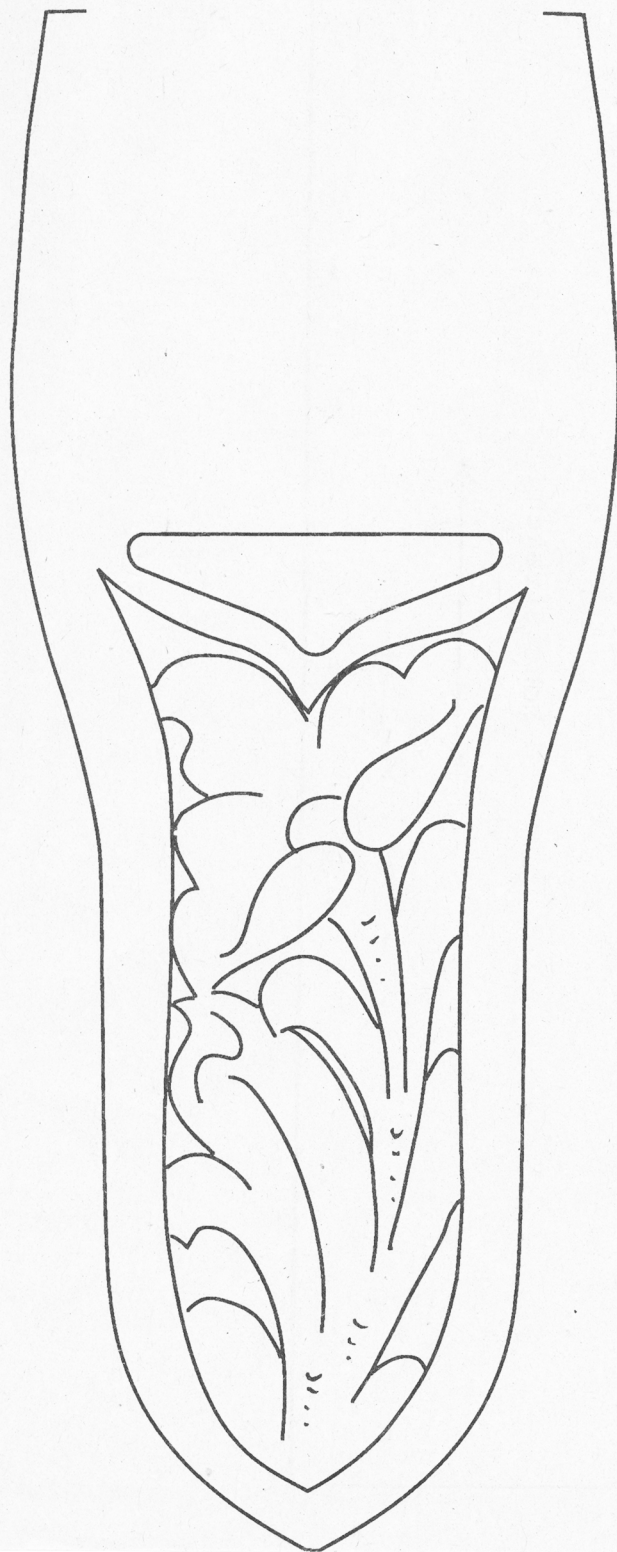
(17) Run a stitch groove around it, using a #6 or #7 stitch wheel. I used waxed linen thread and a #6 overstitch.

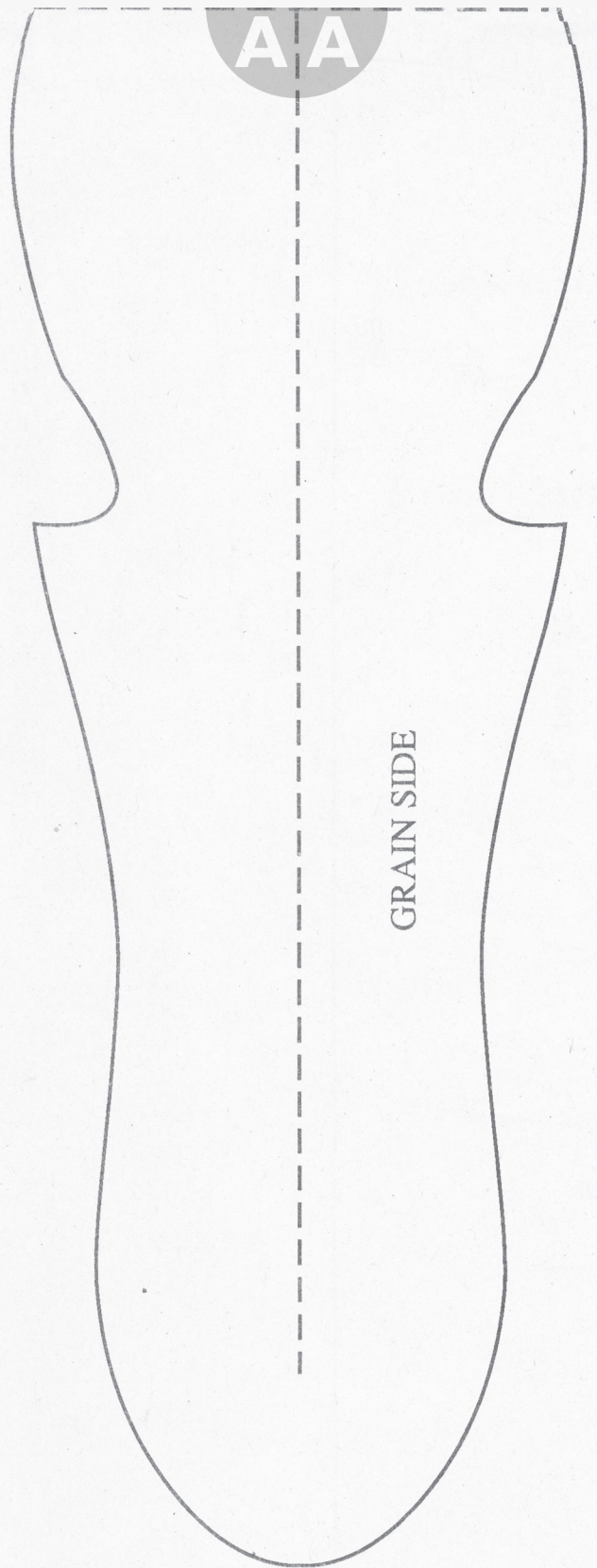
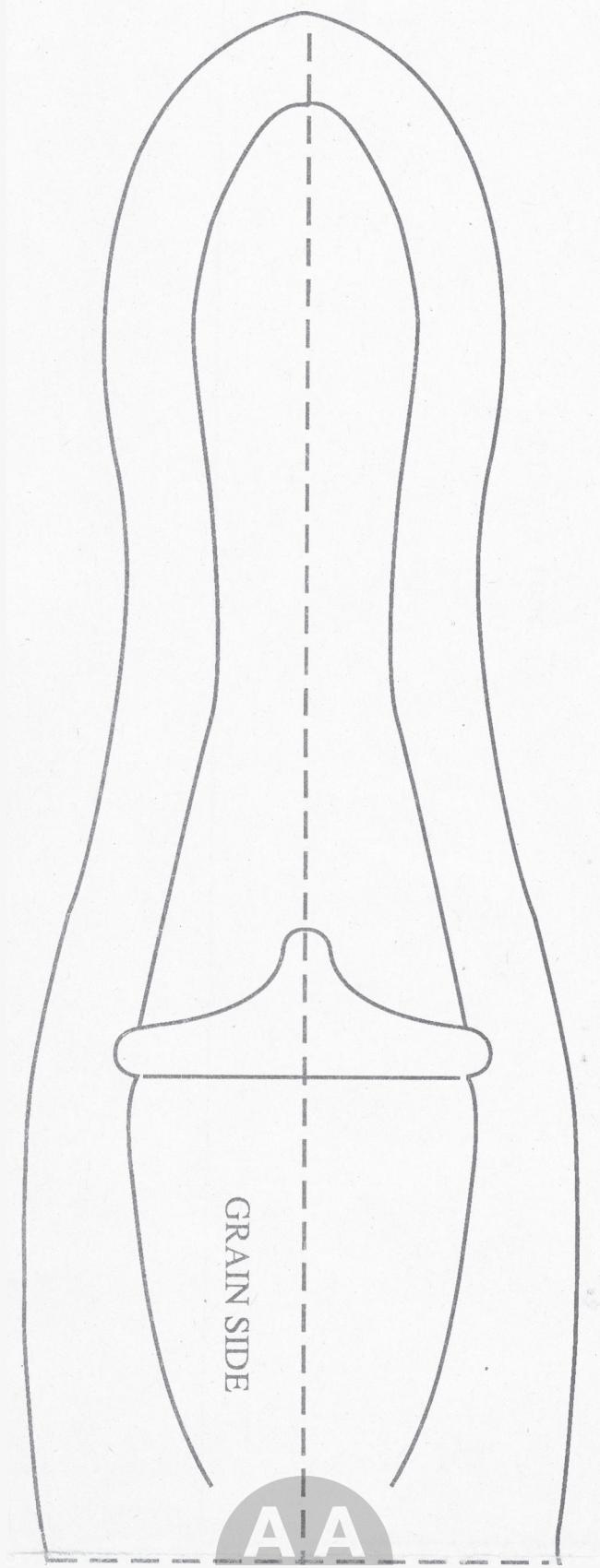
(18) After stitching, go back with the edger and edge both the front and back. I used gum tragacanth on the edge and a piece of canvas to burnish it.

(19) Open up the case and put the pliers in it. Shape it and take out the pliers. Pour water in it, then pour the water back out. Put the pliers back in and shape it again. Take the pliers out and let the pouch dry overnight.

(20) For a finish, I use a light coat of Wesson Oil (yes, I mean vegetable cooking oil!), then I use Super Sheen on top of that.

That's all there is to it. Have fun!





Cut-out and line up the "AA" circles