

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: it's incredibly strong and durable, develops a beautiful patina over time, and is naturally water-resistant (though proper care is still crucial). It's 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 color: 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:

- 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:

- 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 youve 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 threestrand 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 threestrand 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 heavyduty 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 youll be proud of Embrace the process enjoy the creativity and soon youll be crafting beautiful pieces for your horse Happy braiding

Braiding Rawhide Horse TackThe Western HorsemanSaddles, Bits & SpursAmerican Folk ArtChronicle of the HorseThe Voice of the DawnThe Jugurthine War 112–106 BCKing of the Western SaddleWestern SaddlemakingAmerican Farriers' JournalTack Buyer's GuideCreative Crafts and MiniaturesBulletin of Primitive TechnologyA Horse of Your OwnWestern Horse and Horseman's DigestThe Directory of KnotsThe Horse BreakersThe Encyclopedia of the HorseIndian Reserves in CanadaFarm Supplier Robert L. Woolery Kristin G. Congdon Frederick Matthew Wiseman Nic Fields Tim Evans Tim Evans Henry Heymering Charlene Strickland M. A. Stoneridge Mark Thiffault Clive Richardson Charles Evelyn Graham Hope Claudia Notzke Braiding Rawhide Horse Tack The Western Horseman Saddles, Bits & Spurs American Folk Art Chronicle of the Horse The Voice of the Dawn The Jugurthine War 112–106 BC King of the Western Saddle Western Saddlemaking American Farriers' Journal Tack Buyer's Guide Creative

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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

history of the abenaki indians of vermont

the fascinating story of republican rome s gruelling six year campaign against the insurgent numidian warlord jugurtha jugurtha the adoptive son of micipsa king of the numidians was initially a much respected ally of rome fighting gallantly alongside the romans during the numantine war in iberia over the course of the campaign however the ambitious and hot headed jugurtha fell in with more unsavoury company who urged him to stage a coup d etat and wrest control of numidia from the legitimate heirs to the throne although he was warned not to consort with some of rome s more crooked governing elites this advice fell on deaf ears

beginning a civil war rome's response was to decide on war to punish jugurtha for his acts of aggression among the commanders proving their worth against this formidable opponent would be quintus metellus and caius marius here classical historian dr nic fields narrates the events of a bruising six year campaign against the wily elusive jugurtha he explores how roman military performance was hampered by petty rivalries knee jerk partisanship and grubby jostling between commanders with photographs and artwork bringing the clashes in north africa to life the maps and diagrams provide context for this lengthy campaign the war constituted an important stage in the roman subjugation of north africa and the rise of the empire

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

includes american farrier's association newsletter

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

the how to of selecting and buying breeding and foaling feeding and sheltering internal and external care work and recreational uses tack and equipment front cover

the fascinating story of the horse whisperers rough riders gentlers and showmen together with masters like monty roberts exploring the evolution of horse breaking across a diversity of

cultures

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