

Colorado State University

Colorado
State
University

Extension



Guide for 4-H Leathercraft Judges



LEATHER JUDGING SUGGESTIONS

Swivel knife cuts should be smooth with no undercutting, unless a special effect was desired and notations made.

Pearshading and beveling should be smooth and not choppy, unless a special effect was desired and notations made.

Check all tool impressions, it should be distinct and not blurred.

Check for neatness of antiques and dyes.

Overall appearance should be neat Also check for neatness of the insides. No glue smudges, no pulled or stretched liners.

Backsides of belts, buckles, coasters, ect. should have a finished appearance. There should be snaps for the buckle end and holes in the billet end, if appropriate.

Ballpoint pen marks should not show.

Watch for bulkiness of wallets.

Utility items should function properly.

Garments should not show signs of wear.

Check that folds have not cracked.

Filigree — Make sure cuts touch to prevent pull back of edges. No bits of fuzz should show, cutting should be clean and even.

Lacing — Should be smooth and even, kept in a straight line. Check for neatness of holes. Lace should be hammered down to lie flat. Ends should be hidden, multiple laced corners (consistent number of stitches in the corner), also check inside Lace.

Saddle stitching. Check for neatness of stitching holes. They should be in a straight line. Stitches should be uniform and be the same length. Stitches should be recessed in a stitching groove,, ends should be well hidden. Thread should be kept clean. Check inside stitches.

Buck stitch - Should be hammered down, again check for neatness.

Edges - All exposed edges should be burnished smooth. Run your finger along the edges to check for smoothness.

* To ensure the integrity of this organization, we request of its

members and its judges to refrain from making derogatory comments on the results of the judged competition on the show floor.

SOME THINGS JUDGES MAY BE LOOKING FOR

ENTRIES MUST NOT SHOW SIGNS OF WEAR OR USE.

Swivel knife cuts should be smooth with no undercutting, unless a special effect was desired.

Pearshading and beveling should be smooth and not choppy, unless a special effect was desired.

Back sides of items, other than framed hung pictures, should be cleaned and finished.

All exposed edges should be beveled & smooth unless a special effect was desired. Edges of dark liners should be dyed and finished.

Stitching should be recessed into a stitching groove and should be evenly spaced & of uniform tension. Thread should not be dirty.

Lacing should be smooth and of even tension. Ends should be hidden and laced corners should be consistent (sequence of stitches per hole should be equal in all corners, and in the case of 2 or 3 color lacing, color sequence should also match in all corners).

Buckstitching should lie flat. Know the difference between a true buckstitch and a running stitch.

Utility items should function properly, (ie Billfolds should fold flat and insides should not wrinkle or bend. Edges and corners should meet evenly. Boxes and lids the same. Book covers should remain open or closed when put in those positions).

Dye work should be tidy and should not completely obscure leather — working techniques. Use of acrylics or cover color should not completely obscure the grain of the leather.

Ballpoint pen marks should not show.

No glue smudges.

No stretched, pulled or wrinkled linings.

Backsides of belts, buckles, coasters, etc should have a finished appearance.

All BELTS must have a buckle attached. If the buckle requires holes in the billet to be functional, they must appear on the billet end.

Check that FOLDS have not cracked.

On filigreed work, make sure the piece retains its structural integrity. Cut out areas should be clean and even.

JUDGING GUIDELINES FOR COMPETITION

Note: You should have a copy of the competition class and judging guidelines to refer to while judging. The competition committee will supply you with these.

All items WILL be critiqued in writing. These critiques should be constructive; such as suggestions for improving specific techniques or possibly why the item did not qualify to be judged.

You should judge the quality of work instead of subject matter which is strictly a matter of personal taste and has no bearing on the ability of the competitor to do leatherwork.

Also keep in mind that choice of colors is a personal taste, however the method of application can be considered in judging.

If you feel unqualified to competently judge any specific categories, please notify the head judge or competition committee chairman of the host guild immediately. Likewise, any categories in which you feel more comfortable than others should be noted to the above.

If you feel that you will be influenced in any way FOR or AGAINST a piece by anything other than the quality of the work, please have the courtesy to excuse yourself from judging that class. Also notify the head judge immediately so that you can be replaced in that class.

Under no circumstances will a judge change any item into another class or category unless it is approved by the agent.

When you have completed judging all the classes, please check with the agent to make sure that you judged all the items and everything is correct before you leave.

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