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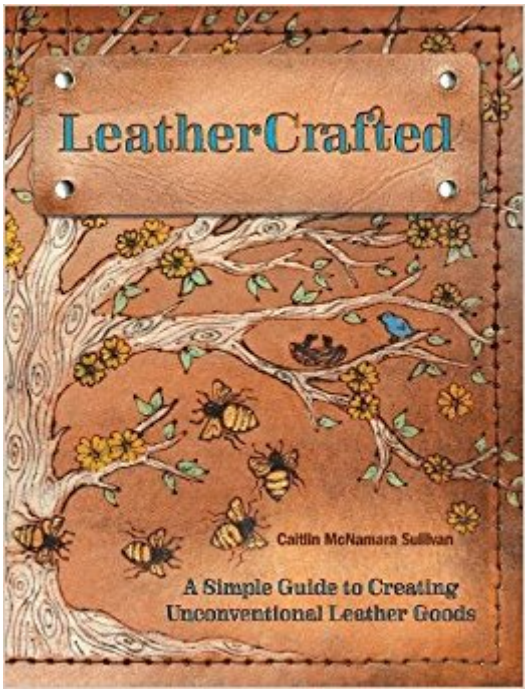
LeatherCrafted: A Simple Guide To Creating Unconventional Leather Goods



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Synopsis

Leather accessories with a modern twist!Step aside, traditional tooled leather--there's a new game in town. Caitlin McNamara Sullivan of Moxie and Oliver teaches you how to cut, punch, sew and rivet leather into one-of-a-kind accessories. Start small with a simple keychain, then build up to a belt, a wallet, phone case, messenger bag, and more!Along the way, you'll learn the secrets behind the bold, decorative designs that give these pieces their modern edge. With a focus on trendy embellishments and detailed instructions to keep you on track, LeatherCrafted is your guide to creating fashionable leather accessories--one project at a time!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Caitlin McNamara Sullivan is a self-trained artist and the creator behind Moxie & Oliver, a shop dedicated to handcrafted leather accessories. She currently lives just north of her hometown of Seattle, Washington, with her husband, two kids, two dogs and two cats. When she's not at the studio making leather goods, Caitlin enjoys working in the yard and sewing small projects for her kids and home. Find more of her work at www.moxieandoliver.com.

Confession - I know the artist and author personally for several years. We first met at a leather store in the Seattle area, and then again out on the Olympic Peninsula while we learned to make shoes which fomented a form of professional friendship. She has willingly taught me several of the techniques shown in this book. To the best of my ability I have read this book with an open and critical perspective to give as unbiased an opinion as I may. So here goes.Simply put this is an

excellent primer. Do not mis-understand. This is not a simplistic gloss over of technique leaving out important details, nor does she shy away from the fact that one can choose to use chemicals or techniques that require attention to detail. It is on the whole well balanced. While it opens with the seemingly requisite historic outline of the importance of leather, blah blah blah. I found myself actually learning a lot about Caitlin as if I didn't know her personally. Her passion for leather craft is why she includes the history. Her historic lens is defined by her passion for the medium in which she works. This sounds corny, but I found myself thinking back through my own journey as an on-again-off-again leather crafter, and frankly envy her love affair with her craft. This mixes history and her love of the craft with a gentle nudge to you he reader to get cracking. You can do this. If she as someone who started knowing nothing of the "right way" can do it, and build a business, then you can too.I had the opportunity to study with Caitlin in Spring of 2014 in her studio in a private session as I wanted to learn one of her technique. My experiences in that workshop are highly reflected in her writing style. During the introductory chapters dealing with tools, dying, patterns, carving, burning and painting, her voice shines. She walks the reader through the thought process mixing important details such as burning pens are hot for longer than you think, with hints about how to recover an error, and a conversational style about how to go about creating. She maintains a conversational style while managing a very progressive step by step process of each lesson.What I found a bit unique regarding her perspective is to encourage the reader to use a provided pattern to create a practice piece, which she promises to return to from time to time. I cannot stress how unique this is. A lot of books will say to the reader "no go and do." Caitlin takes the first step to helping the reader overcome any hesitancy by providing a starting point pattern. Photocopy the page, trace it, cut it, stamp it, carve it, burn it, soak it, dye it and in the end you have the potential for a bit of a heart felt creative masterpiece. Well ok maybe not a masterpiece, but if you follow her advice by making the practice piece and then at the recommended time step to your workspace and invest in a little creative recess, you will open a door to a brighter richer and fuller world. That sounds like a hard sell, I am telling you from personal experience and from watching Caitlin in her shop, it is a promise not a hard sell.When one gets to the last third of the book (first two are history and technique) she becomes more more mission focused. Projects are lain in a natural progression of easy and small to larger and more complex. Each project either has a pattern or sufficient information to help one create a pattern. If one has forgotten how to make a pattern--or any technique in the step-by-step guide--not to worry she has referenced important details with page numbers as part of the project summary. When outlining some of the projects she repeats some of the details found in the techniques form of the book, but more as a synopsis. If you want to detail,

the project summary has the specific portion or portions of the book to which you need to refer.If I have only one "I wish she had . . ." it would be this. Assuming you are a first time crafter the single hardest thing for you will be to the take the first step. Caitlin and I have joked about this a few times; the hardest thing for adults to do is to cut leather for the first time; to paint leather for the first time, the burn leather for the first time, to do any of the steps for the first time. She has given an excellent germ of an idea by providing and encouraging the reader to make a practice piece. And she admirably and consistently encourages the reader to go back to that piece for creative recess. What I wish she could impart is her passion and desire to help you get over the hurdle of making your first piece. It doesn't need to be perfect. It needs to be something you made. She has such a deep rooted passion to help others create that is present throughout the book. I just wish there was some way for the book to have a sole chapter on how to get over your mental block. She does it so brilliantly in person; and this book is the first I have owned with a practical effort at giving the reader the opportunity to invest in a piece that will not become something; rather it will be representative of first steps. And that dear reader is a pretty marvelous thing.All the best to you. If you buy this text--and I hope you do--promise yourself and commit yourself to making the practice piece, overcome any reservation, and go create something. It will be amazing because you made it.

I am truly enjoying this book there is lots to learn & I'm very excited that the information is bring me abreast of some of my achievements. J Duncan

Not what I was hoping for. I'm not crazy about the kitschy, entry level, kid-made-at-camp design of the projects.

Found this at my local library and liked it enough that I came to to buy a copy for myself. This book is pretty different from most leathercrafting books, so it could be exactly what you're looking fir (it was for me), but here's what you can expect to find inside:* A lot of uses of leather BURNING rather than tooling. This is NOT a book about carving or stamping!* Lots of great info about painting and dyeing* A great intro to nasic techniques, setting hardware, etc.* Most leatherworking books don't so much as mention pyrography. Most pyrography books concentrate on wood and never get into working with leather. I think this book really fills a void for that kind of info.The author seems to prefer veg-tan leather (there's even a section on selecting full hides), but what I like about using a pyrography tool instead of stamping is you could do a lot of this work on a variety of different leather types and thicknesses.The actual projects are cute, they have sort of an American folk art feel, the

author’s personal style definitely shines through. I don’t think I’d produce any of them exactly as she does, but she gives you the techniques to take these basics and run with them. This book is just a starting place, I would say it’s not for advanced leatherworkers. It makes a great reference for your shelf as you’re learning and building your own style.

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