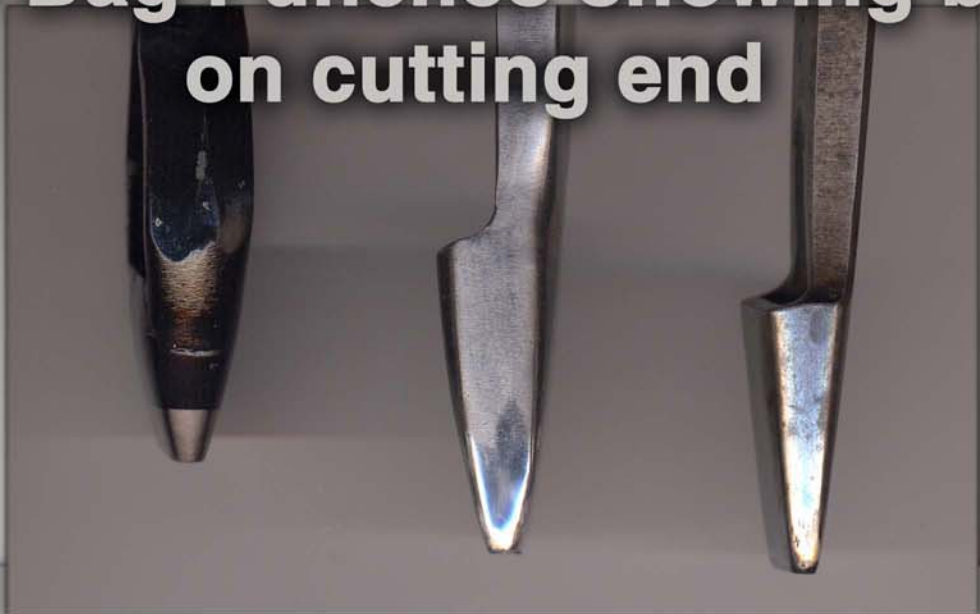


Three Bag Punches showing bevel on cutting end



- 1. 1. Modern Osborne, 7/8"
- 2. 2. Modern Dixon, 3/4"
- 3. 3. Old Osborne, 5/8"

CATCH HOOK

A "catch hook" is a handy device for some handstitching applications where a machine lock stitch look is required.

A catch hook is made from a machine needle which are used in a needle/awl stitching machine. Buy the smallest size available. The sample shown in this picture is a Groz-Beckert® size #160 for an American Shoe Machine #5. The needle straight from the package is shown to the right of one in the awl haft.



ACTUAL
SIZES
SHOWN

You'll notice that the needle out of the wrapper is heavier than the one in the awl haft. To work best it's necessary to thin down the sides of a standard needle. A slimmer needle slips through machine holes easier.



To slim down a standard needle out of the wrapper, *carefully* grind down on a 100 or 120 grit stone wheel, slowly, so as not remove the temper from the needle. Then take out the scratches from the stone on a hard felt wheel coated with a 240 grit. Then polish on another hard felt wheel coated with 555 grit. Do NOT try to polish on a muslin rag wheel as the loose threads will snag the hook and break it!

Mount hook into an awl haft with a chuck as shown. That way if the hook breaks, a new one is easily replaced in the awl haft.

Edge Creaser

©Verlane Desgrange 2004



Showing
shape
of end
of creaser

Showing
edge of strap
that has been
creased. Crease
looks like a line
that runs down
edge. Gives a more
finished look to any
strap. Even loops
should be creased!

Crease leather
when damp for
best results

Crease



Common Edgers

Actual size



Small



Medium small



Medium



Large

©Verlane Desgrange 2003



Side view, showing ideal shape; a shape that allows easy use on curves or straight lines

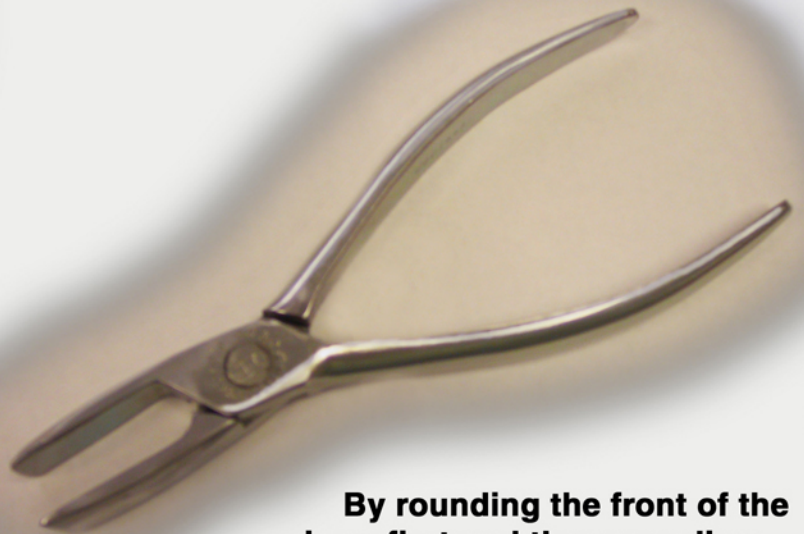
How to *fix* store bought cattle pliers



©Verlane Desgrange 2004



Pliers as they arrived from the store: jaws with very sharp edges and not well polished. Sharp edges will leave ugly marks on your leather, marks that will be very difficult to remove later, if at all. Box joint also had very sharp edges, a potential safety hazard.



By rounding the front of the jaws first and then rounding all the edges, the pliers became better. Then a final polish with a de-burring wheel took off the sharp edges on the box joint. The same de-burring wheel was used for the final polish on the jaws to give a good smooth finish. That way you can crimp damp leather without fear of permanently marring it. Compare the photos of before and after to see a visible difference.

After

Homemade slickers

©Verlane Desgrange 2005



**Plate
glass**

(actual sizes)



**Textured
plastic**

Note bottoms of both are slightly curved to avoid "railroad tracks" on damp leather. Leather handle contact cemented on to material.

Round knife held in correct position in hand: end of handle in palm with blade protruding just beyond fingertips. This length of handle gives the most control over the knife. The maximum pushing power is in the soft spot in the palm of your hand. If the knife handle sticks out beyond that soft area in the center of the palm of you hand, you're not getting the best use of your knife.



©Verlane Desgrange 2003

**Correct length of round knife
in the hand**

Wooden creasers (actual size)



Old Osborne Lignum Vitae (two views)



Vera Wood creasers made by Verlane Desgrange



Sharpening an edger with a Dremel tool

View of topside of typical edger

Direction of rotation

1. Make a stropping wheel from shoe soling. Cut out 1/2" circle and reduce thickness to about 6-7 oz. Punch hole in center to match screw top mandrel on Dremel tool. Attach to mandrel and make sure leather disc is firmly set.

2. Turn Dremel on to a medium speed and coat disc with wax based jeweler's rouge.

3. Hold edge tool to rotating disc as shown above. Wheel must always rotate AWAY from you. Polish underside of edger right up to the edge to get a good sharp edge. Do not try to polish "inside" (or top) of edger, as disc will get caught in narrow groove on top. Your edger should be sharp now.