

# How To Make Holsters



## Synopsis

HOLSTERS have played, and are still playing, a very important part in the history of man. And, since the making and manufacture of the first hand guns, methods for concealing, easier handling and carrying of these weapons have been devised. Trial and error being the surest way of improvement, holster making has now advanced to fill almost every need and requirement of the pistol user. Today, with the hundreds of Makes, Models, and barrel lengths of hand guns, it would be virtually impossible to reproduce holster patterns for each and every one into book form. The Holster Patterns presented in this book are a cross-section of a few of the most popular Makes and Models of the guns in use today; with alternate designs and added barrel lengths as space permits. Most of the Carving Designs presented can be altered for shorter, longer, or odd barrel lengths by adding or omitting a leaf, scroll, etc. The designs can also be used on similar holster patterns for other guns by "stretching" or "squeezing" the flowers, leaves, etc., to fit the confines of the border lines. With a little Imagination and Ingenuity, the Carving Designs in this book can be used on hundreds of holster patterns. Remember the patterns shown will also fit many other similar makes and models of guns too numerous to mention. The purpose of this book is to assist and instruct the craftsman in various methods of Holster Construction and Holster Pattern Making. Each phase is shown with clearly defined step-by-step photos and drawings. It is hoped that this book will aid the Self Taught Student, Instructor, and Professional Craftsman alike to further their knowledge of "How To Make Holsters" for Profit, Personal Satisfaction and Fun! A "special" thanks to my wife, Terry, who has devoted countless hours and painstaking effort to produce all of the photographs appearing in this book. Many thanks to Ralph Tiner . . . Sporting Goods Center, Hemet, Calif. for his willing cooperation in supplying guns and information. Thanks to Lee Kelly, U. S. Forestry Service, and many other friends who have given unselfishly of their time and assistance. To the Leathercraftsman: Thanks for your patience in awaiting the first publication of "How To Make Holsters" . . . Many Happy Hours! Sincerely, Al Stohlman

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

NOTE: These are, almost exclusively, for old style, "cowboy" holsters. There is one for a 1911, but it is in the same style and shape: Open top, low riding, trigger guard exposed. There is also a pattern for a shoulder strap holster. My nostalgia for history takes over here: This is the history of leather holsters at it's best. There are designs, tooling instructions, patterns and stitching technique. Every page is a work of art. 17 x 11 inches, which surprised me, but it has scale to size patterns in it. I want to frame the cover. 3 Stars because the holster style is very limited.

This is a great pattern book for classic holsters but is in no way a how-to book and certainly not for beginning leather workers. In fact, there's almost no discussion of techniques or how-to information presented beyond making a pattern. On the flip side, it is a great pattern book and has some classic patterns by a master leather worker and holster maker. Buy it as such and you won't be disappointed.

A bit dated, but then again, I enjoy vintage Americana. If you do and you want patterns for where to park your six-shooter or 1911, this book might be right for you. Al Stohlman is more than a little folksy, but gives great instruction on how-to, but it takes time to do it right. Bear all of that in mind and buy it if it suits you. If not, you can order a holster for way more than this flat, thin and hand illustrated treasure of a book.

A really great book, and like everything Al Stohlman has published, the directions are very clear and

precise and the illustrations are extremely helpful. Be aware that the book is geared mostly towards revolvers, and while there is some mention of automatics as well as a good guide on how to produce patterns for any handgun, all of the patterns included are for revolvers.

Excellent book with many drawings that can be directly printed onto the work piece. Well described procedures and hints, using simple yet clear language and terms. Carving instructions for particular designs include the descriptions of punches used along with motions that should be done to achieve particular effect. Great book for beginners.

Good ideas for holster work, both in shape of holster as well as carving/stamping designs. Not too detailed, so best for intermediate skill level readers.

All of the Stohlman books are informative. This one is no exception. My only issue was that the packager folded mine in half to fit the box which contained a lead mold.

Large format with full sized holster patterns including detailed illustrations of tooling. Like Stohlman's other books, this is a classic. There are patterns for single and double action revolvers and a few autos including a 1911 shoulder holster. One can adapt these patterns to fit other brands and models of handguns. Many of the patterns, including some for autos and double action revolvers, do not cover the trigger. This might pass muster in a Hollywood movie, but in real life it can be an accident waiting to happen. You can easily adapt most of these patterns to cover the trigger. I don't recall seeing any gun belts, drop holsters, or Buscadero rigs. Most are belt holsters and Stohlman gives advice on adjusting the cant to suit your preference. You can of course easily adapt a pattern to drop the holster a few inches.

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