

# Chapter 3

## STEPS FOR A 2-PIECE SOFT LEATHER BEADED SHEATH

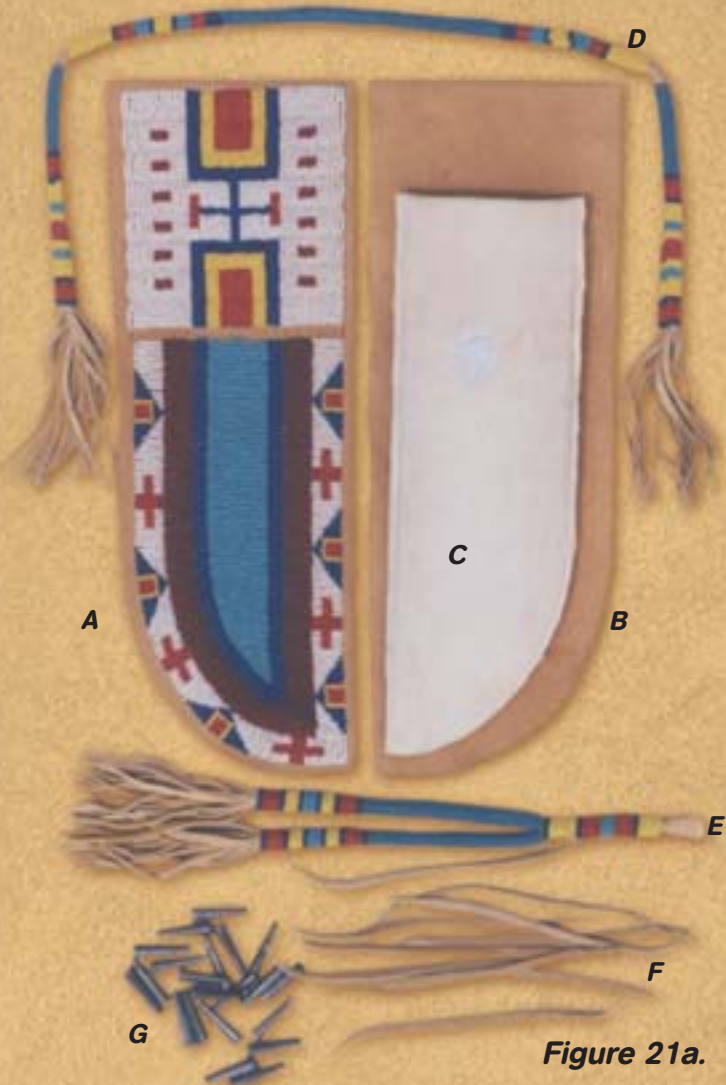


Figure 21a.

### PARTS

Fig. 21a shows the parts of the 2-piece, covered sheath:

- Full beaded front panel with top of leather folded under and glued in place.
- Back side of sheath
- Rawhide/stiff leather insert
- Decorative strap
- Decorated drop
- Short (4"-5") leather thongs for tin cones
- Tin cones

### ASSEMBLY

These are the basic steps of assembly, which are the same as for the one-piece cover, except for the previously sewn-together straight side. Details are shown in the figures accompanying the text in the next section.

- Fig. 21b: Using lazy stitch technique, apply beads to the lower part of the front leather panel (Fig. 22a & 22b).
- Fig. 21c: Apply lazy stitch to the top part. Note the

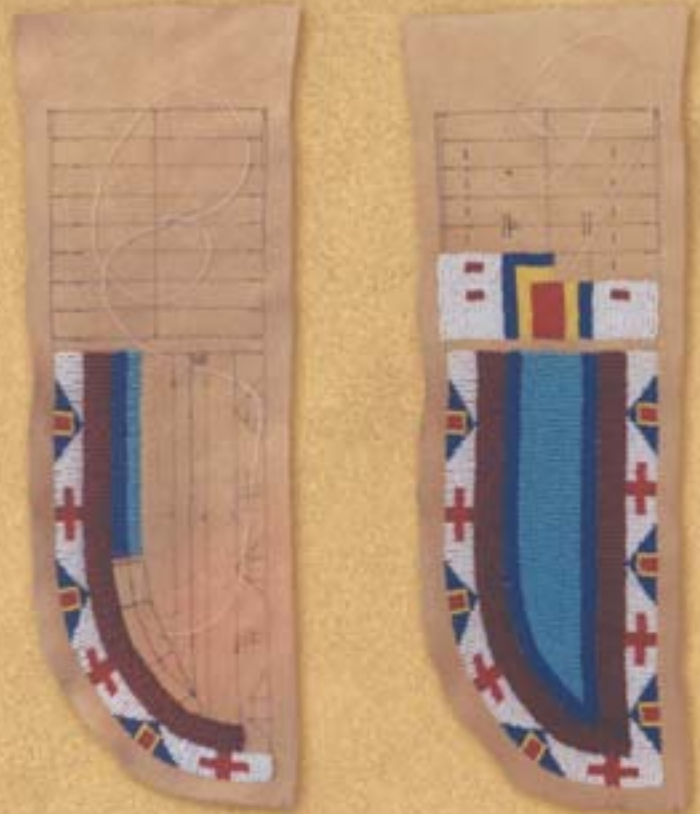


Figure 21b.

Figure 21c.

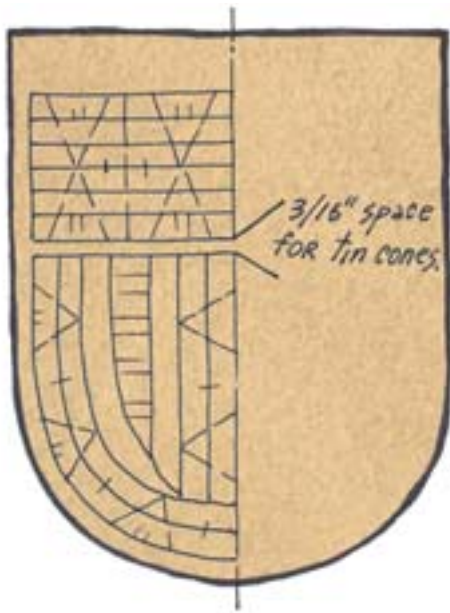
space left for tin cones decorations. When finished with the beading, fold under the remaining leather at the top and glue down (See Fig. 22b).

- Using a whip stitch, sew together the front and back of the soft leather cover down their mutual straight sides.
- Using an awl, insert thin leather thongs (Fig. 21a, Part f) for attaching the tin cones. See Fig. 44 & 45.
- Make the rawhide insert from either one or two pieces. For one-piece see Fig. 24, 25 & 26. For two-piece see Fig. 27a. Glue may be used to help hold the edges together during assembly.
- Place the rawhide insert inside the folded, beaded cover (Fig. 29a). Use a whip-stitch to sew both sides together along the curved edges of the soft cover. (You may have some excess soft leather on these edges, so trim it first. However, leave just enough to accommodate the stitching.) Start stitching at the bottom tip and incorporate the decorated loop (Fig. 21a, Part e & Fig. 29a).
- Sew the ends of the decorative strap to either side of the top of the sheath (Fig. 21a, Part d & Fig. 39a).
- Attach the cones by using one of the methods illustrated and described in Fig. 46 - 49 to secure them to the thongs.

# CONSTRUCTION & ASSEMBLY DETAILS

## BEADWORK

Several authentic variations in beadwork layout can be used and are shown in the following illustrations.



**Figure 22a.** Layout of the bead lanes with design elements marked. In this example, insert the thongs for tin cones after beading but before sheath assembly.

## BEAD LAYOUT VARIATIONS

The numbers on the patterns below indicate the order in which rows are beaded. Arrows show the direction of the stitching.

- Top is folded under if using soft, thin leather. For thick leather, cut off top of the leather, square above the beadwork.

- Using a whip stitch with beads strung on each stitch, "wrap" the top of the sheath with beadwork or leave plain.



**Figure 22d.** One side beaded.



**Figure 23a.** Both sides beaded, each with a different design.



**Figure 23b.** Top part beaded on back side.



**Figure 23c.** Back side partially beaded with small design elements.



**Figure 22b.**



**Figure 22c.**



Fully beaded sheath from the Reddick Collection.

## RAWHIDE/STIFF LEATHER INSERT

The original leather insert was often made of rawhide; however, it can be made from stiff, tanned leather or even bark. The insert keeps the sheath from bending, as well as securing the knife.



Figure 24.



Figure 25.

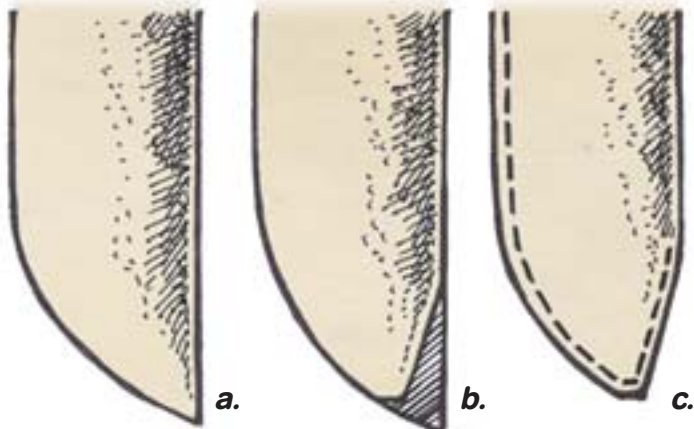


Figure 26.

Fig. 24: The dimensions for one side of the insert are the same as for the front beadwork area. (b= beadwork). Add the mirror image of those dimensions to make a full pattern.

Fig. 25: The rawhide piece is folded in two, then the curved sides are joined by sewing together using a whip or running stitch. Glue can be used to help secure these edges during stitching. (\*Note the second short line of stitching. This is optional but will provide for a tighter fit of the knife handle.)

Fig. 26: In this example, the bottom tip of the folded rawhide gives a sharp point. However, some knives have the tip more in the center. For these knives, you can modify your insert by starting with the pattern above, as follows:

- Folded insert
- Cut off the lower tip according to your knife's shape
- Sew up the insert

## TWO-PIECE INSERT

If your knife handle is positioned along the center line of the blade, such as for a dagger, you could make a two-piece insert. Simply cut two matching pieces of hard leather or rawhide and sew them together along both sides. (Also see Fig. 34a & 34b.)



Figure 27a.

*Top Views of Knife Handles Positioned in Sheaths*



Figure 27b.



*Fully beaded sheaths made by the author. Note: Both of these sheaths include rawhide inserts.*