BLACK SAGE DRUMS

DRUM KIT INSTRUCTIONS

This kit contains all the material needed to make a 12 inch rawhide hand drum and drum stick. You will need a scissors, a tool to punch holes in the rawhide (if not previously punched), towel to set the wet rawhide on, pencil and your creativity. Have fun and don't be afraid of the happy mistakes.

Preparing the rawhide and handle lacing

You will need a container large enough to fit your rawhide round in. Fill the container with clean cold water and let the rawhide and lacing soak for at least 8 hours. Make sure that all the hide is submerged under water.

Making the drum stick

While your hide is soaking, you can start on your drumstick.

- Using the supplied foam (2 pieces) remove the backing and wrap the foam strip around the tip of the stick, even with tip that has had the bark removed. If a dowel is supplied, place the foam long edge even with the tip of the dowel Wrap the second strip over the first. Press firmly to ensure foam strips adhere good.

- Next, cut out the round leather piece on the mark and center the foam wrapped tip in the center. Gather the leather circle just below the foam and wrapped the sinew to tie the bottom of the leather as pictured. Be sure it is tied tight to keep leather in place.

Lacing the drum

*The rawhide will be very wet, so use the appropriate work surface.

- After the hide and handle lacing has soaked and is pliable, using the tool to create holes in the hide, punch 12 evenly spaced holes around the circumference about half inch from the edge (if no holes have been previously punched). Cut the rawhide lacing in four equal pieces. These will be used to make the handle.

- Place the smooth side down, and center the frame on the hide. Using the sinew lacing, lace one hole and pull the lace thru the direct opposite holes. Use the looped end first, not the tied end. The sinew is doubled, so once thru both holes, place the tied end thru the looped end and pull to the center of the frame and pull the lacing until the hide is fairly tight and then tie off the lacing in the center of the frame. Continue lacing in a circular pattern, weaving the lace thru the opposite hole moving clockwise until all the lacing is tied off in the center of the frame.

- Once you have finished lacing all of the holes,

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Lacing the drum (CON'T)

- gather 3 strands of the sinew lacing and wrap one end of raw-hide handle lacing up and around and wrap the remaining raw-hide lacing around the 3 sinew lacing and weave thru the sinew lacing to complete the handle. Continue with the rest of the raw-hide lacing until the handle is complete. You should have 4-groups of three in a '+' pattern as pictured.

- While the hide is still wet, you can smooth out any folds and work out any kinks as best you can or you can also just leave it the way it is. You can trim the edges in a half moon shape or you can use clothes pins to keep the hide edges down until it dries. It's your drum, it's your choice. Important thing is you have fun and remember to show the drum respect. Respect to the hide, respect to the wood.

- Hang your drum to dry completely.

- **DO NOT BEAT ON YOUR DRUM UNTIL IT'S COMPLETELY DRY. DO NOT DRY BY A HEATER**

Caring for your drum

Store your drum, wrapped, face up or hang it on the wall. Keep the drum warm and dry. Keep it out of direct sunlight. Never leave it in a hot car. The natural law of skin drums is water expands and heat constricts. When it is damp, the hide will expand, thus, the sound will change. To 'tune' it, or -you can warm it up using a hair dryer about 12 inches from the drum head. Testing the tone until you are satisfied with the sound. You can clean your drum by rubbing gently with a slightly damp cloth. Keep the skin conditioned by applying small amounts of Shea Butter on the head and lacing.

Your drum is a living being, so you will want to honor its spirit with love and respect. It is important to work "with" rather than "on" your drum and it will teach you much!

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