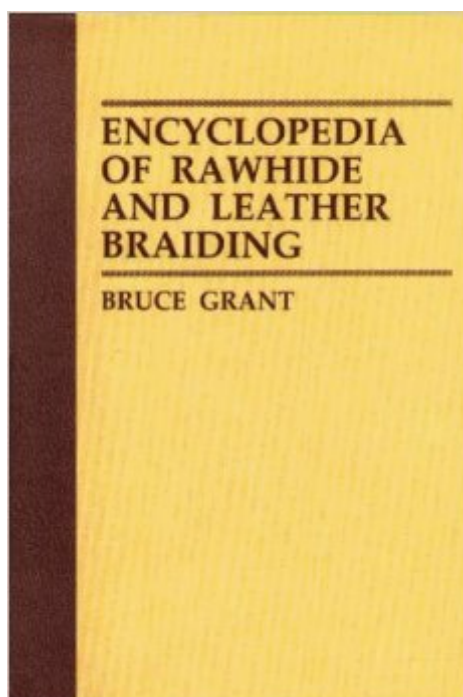


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# Encyclopedia Of Rawhide And Leather Braiding



## Synopsis

The Encyclopedia of Rawhide and Leather Braiding is the definitive work on the subject and results from the late Bruce Grant's many years of interest and experience as a braider and writer on the subject. It combines most of the material published in *Leather Braiding and How to Make Cowboy Horse Gear* with a mass of completely new material. The book's more than 350 illustrations are arranged so that the step-by-step instructions face the picture being described, making it very easy to follow. While the book is primarily for those interested in leathercraft, in nearly all cases the methods of braiding are applicable to many other materials, such as silk, cotton, plastic, catgut, or horsehair. Braidwork takes many forms, and its applications are practical as well as decorative. The combination of beauty and utility lends itself to an array of items: personal gear or clothing, working or show gear for a horse, decoration of plain, carved, or tooled leather work. Truly a book to be used as well as read, *Encyclopedia of Rawhide and Leather Braiding* provides all the information needed for this satisfying pastime.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I rate this book a close second to *The Ashley Book Of Knots*, as a must-have for serious knot enthusiasts. Less pleasing artistically, this book nevertheless delivers instructions for constructing truly beautiful and functional things. From rings, to bracelets, to hatbands to belts--they're here. Need a quirt, a whip, a lariat, a horse's headstall--they're here. How about a pair of "galooses?"--they're here. For me, the woven buttons are the most fascinating of all. Intricate and

beautifully symmetrical, these knots are easy to make by following the ingenious method that Mr. Grant explains. (I copy the pattern, match and tape the ends to produce a cylinder, then I slide the cylinder over a rolled piece of cardboard or lino- leum and pin the bites with carpet tacks.) If you like this book, and I know you will, you might want to get Mr. Grant's two other books on the subject: *Leather Braiding* and *How To Make Cowboy Horse Gear*. Enjoy. Happy birthday.

During a one year stay I had the good fortune to stumble across a second hand bookstore where the library of Bruce Grant was for sale. Among the joys for a knot friend where the Ashley book of knots, the *Encyclopedia of Knots and fancy ropework, Whips and Whipmaking*, and more notably *Leather Braiding and The Encyclopedia of Rawhide and Leather Braiding*, both by Bruce Grant. To get your first impression of the subject by the authors own copies of the books is of course a trip in itself, but as the delicious shock subsided, the books continued to shine on their own. Using drawings, rather than photographs, is a superior way to guide the reader through apprenticeship of the art. This book serves the important purpose of preserving an old craft, and it does it well; the text is clear, and the development from the simple to the more complex eases the reader over all obstacles. This is the Ashley of leather braiding.

Grant's survey of leather braiding is an essential reference for those interested in leather working, covering riatas, bosals, quartas, whips, fancy knots and more. He also covers methods of duplicating complicated knots from an extant piece. The book covers most of his volume *\_How to Make Cowboy Horsegear\_*.

Bruce Grant shared his genius with the world by writing the "Encyclopedia of Rawhide and Leather Braiding. This book has text and illustration, for how the knots and plaits are constructed. Patterns also included for items that may have been lost forever if he never wrote them down.

The best of the post WW2 books on the subject, and based on its best and closest competitors, which were also written by Bruce Grant (unfortunately listed as being written by B. Grant here on .Com). Not the easiest to use, or the most gracefully written, but clear, solid, correct, extensive, and exhaustive. The people that Grant consulted in adding to his own Newsman/Cowboy/Texas store of information on braiding and leatherwork, and their insight into the meaning of the information taken from historical sources that Grant found or that they pointed out, simply aren't available now. Additions to what Grant has to say on the subject will have to be genuine later innovations, or based

on improvements in materials. The appearance of good new examples of either will come slow. In a way, if your interest in the art is mild, this might not be the right book. You will find it hard to let the book go, whether you use it or not, and the many possibilities it presents may reproach you if you don't make a run at mastering a few of them. A lifetime book. Tops. Plain and good. Helpful and fascinating. Useful.

The process involved with some of these techniques make my eyes cross! This book is exceptionally well put together and, for someone who can get past the eye crossing, a window into a true art form. I have actually been able to make it through some of the simpler flat braids using multiple strands, but I haven't had cause to attempt the more complicated ones, and there are VERY complicated braids in this book. I also purchased a smaller book simply titled "Leather Braiding" by the same author, and much to my dismay, the things in the smaller book are included in this complete encyclopedia. This is a great aid to anyone in crafting, and not just leather-crafting. Any of these techniques and designs can easily be adapted to plastic cording or any other medium.

For lovers of leather braiding, this work is the Bible. Grant exhaustively covers a wide range of braiding techniques. His attention to detail and step-by-step instructions are superb. Sometimes his drawings are a bit primitive but they serve the purpose intended. His book covers how to make and work with rawhide, tools of the trade for leather braiding, various braid techniques such as twist braids, the Conquistador Braid (a fabulous and intricate braid for making belts, wrist bands, etc.), flat braids, round braids (for whips, etc.), various knots, and a wide range of horse tack (saddle and bridle).

Great book for the beginner all the way to the pro braider. It has great photos and diagrams and explains them very well. I hit a home run when I bought this book. Thank You . I definitely would recommend this to anyone wanting to learn braiding.

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