**INGREDIENTS:**
Polyethylene Glycol (PEG) 4000
PR-12 Silicone Oil
Pigment (optional)

**Preparation:**

1. 2 parts PEG 4000 to 3 parts PR-12 silicone oil

2. Combine these ingredients in a glass beaker and warm them in an oven heated to 110 degrees Fahrenheit. Mixing will become easier as the mixture warms. **do not boil the mixture**

3. Let the mixture cool slowly. Stir periodically to ensure smoothness.

4. Apply a thin even coat to the surface of the leather and buff with a soft cloth.

   - For very dry stiff leather, the process can be repeated several times.

   - If the leather is badly cracked, allow the dressing to soak into the surface before buffing.

5. Periodic applications of this dressing appear to soften stiff dried leather, acting as a humectant. Always off excess dressing before crating the leather artifact.

6. Add pigments such as bone black, graphite or oxides such as iron oxide or titanium dioxide as necessary.

   - Our experiments have indicated that pigment additives should not exceed 3% of the total volume of the solution.
-Acrylic-based pigments can cause thickening or lumpiness of the leather dressing: if these must be used to obtain a desired color, make a test batch of the dressing before treating the artifact to ensure that there is no chemical reaction between the coloration and the basic dressing.

7. Store the mixture in a tightly sealed jar. The resultant mixtures form a moderately stiff paste that has a relatively long shelf life. Humidity may affect the consistency of the dressing over a long period of time.

Citation Information:
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