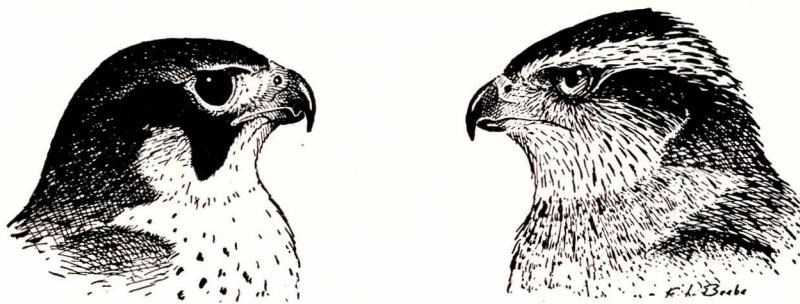


# FALCONRY

## NEWS and NOTES



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# Hints on Making Dutch Type Hoods

by ROBT. A. WIDMEIER

Since in the last several years numerous letters have poured in to the author, all asking for detailed instructions on hood-making, I have decided there must be enough interest to warrant writing a more detailed article on hood-making than I could cram into a few letters to individuals. So to anyone who wishes to read this, perhaps a small insight on how I make my hoods might prove helpful to those who wish to try hood-making.

Falconers have and will continue to argue points on hooding; how a hood should fit, be decorated etc. So to avoid any conflict I will not try to convince anyone how a hood should fit or should be made. The purpose of this article is to help those who want to try it. There are doubtless many who read this who will not agree on how a hood should be made. Since my methods may differ from others I shall beg your indulgence.

It has been noticed that the two main Dutch types are those similar to Mollen's hoods and the French way of making a hood. Mollen's hoods seem to fit well forward on the upper mandible so that the leather does not touch any of the soft parts of the mouth. The French style seems to require more cutting of the beak opening, and has to be trimmed in such a way that the soft parts of the mouth, miss the leather. When referring to the French hoods, I refer to the hoods made by Ondet, who made beautifully finished hoods. I have examined a great number of his hoods, and have been informed he did an immense amount of experimenting while engaged in hood-making. His later hoods fit some birds well, while some might not fit anything with feathers. Mollen's hoods fit well, but they were made of heavier leather than is deemed necessary, and I personally do not like colored cloth sides due to the fact that the cloth soon frays, so that a hawk will eventually snag a tendon. Colored leather is superior. Since my own efforts have been directed along the Ondet style of hood-making I shall confine and limit my writing to how I have followed his style of hood-making and design.

A few tools are required, which might be termed basic:

Leather punch, with varying sized punches, sharp Exacto blades and smooth handle, two tooling irons, small needle nosed pliers, glover's needles, or blunt nosed needles, beeswax, harness makers thread (dental floss a good substitute), small awl, small pair of dividers is handy and will be mentioned further on, leather which consists of: 1. 4 or 5 ounce cow hide; 2. A strong leather, light, for drawstraps. Trim leather, colored, Morroco goat is a good leather. It is durable, will take water, and does not tear readily. Coltskin which is colored is good, but Morroco goat has met all demands.

To make Dutch type hoods requires forms. Dutch type hoods are sewed, wetted and formed over the form.

Forms are made of wood, plaster, alba stone or metal. A plaster form should be the experimental model, as changes can easily be made on plaster, either by adding to it, or by trimming and sanding until the exact mold is accomplished through trial and error. A permanent form which has proved a good fit for the type hawk intended can then be cast in metal. Aluminum is perhaps the best, and will stand a great amount of abuse from hammering, etc., with no damage.

Let us first concern ourselves with the beginning: For example, a peregrine falcon. One hood will by no means fit every peregrine falcon that comes along. As many as thirty variations of hoods have been tried on a falcon at my place before one was found a perfect fit. This is the important thing, a hood to be worthwhile MUST FIT THE BIRD . . . looks are secondary. A nicely made hood, and other

items add to the looks of the bird, but to get the bird to take the hood that fits her best is the main item. When I mention thirty hoods, I do not mean to be misleading and say that it requires thirty molds, since several variations can be made off one form, but we can assume that at least a third of the total number of hoods tried on were individual molds. Perhaps to the naked eye it might not appear to be with too much difference from the others, yet it shows up when tried on various birds. One hood off a form might fit one falcon of average size and another the same apparent size will not stand to the same hood. The size of falcons' heads varies considerably. Therefore to make one or two forms is futile and of little use in the long run. I have known falconers who had but two or three hoods, and crammed them on every hawk that came along. The hawks would have done better not to have had any hood, than have to submit to this. Head sizes in hawks vary more than in humans. A hood can be made to fit if altered to individual birds if the mold is a good one and has fit a number of falcons over a space of time, but since no one hood will fit every hawk it will be necessary to make several molds of tried and proven design.

A Dutch type hood cannot be made properly without a form. I have seen hoods made that were never stretched over a form. They have little or no shape and as finished products were no more than at the stage that is arrived at prior to wetting and stretching over the form.

#### Steps in Making Form

I have already mentioned the materials best suited for this purpose. The beginning mold is perhaps the most difficult. There are several ways of acquiring a mold to start. Since most falconers are rather hesitant about loaning hood molds, with good reason, we will have to start at rock bottom.

Anyone wishing to make hoods, has already a basic knowledge of hoods, and their use. So, if an old hood has been satisfactory on several birds, but is at the stage of falling apart at the seams, it can be used. We know it has been used with success. It fit several falcons in the past. Since we know the future need for the same hood, we can destroy the hood in the process. But the end result will be the same hood, in size, pattern, etc., and perhaps a few variations besides.

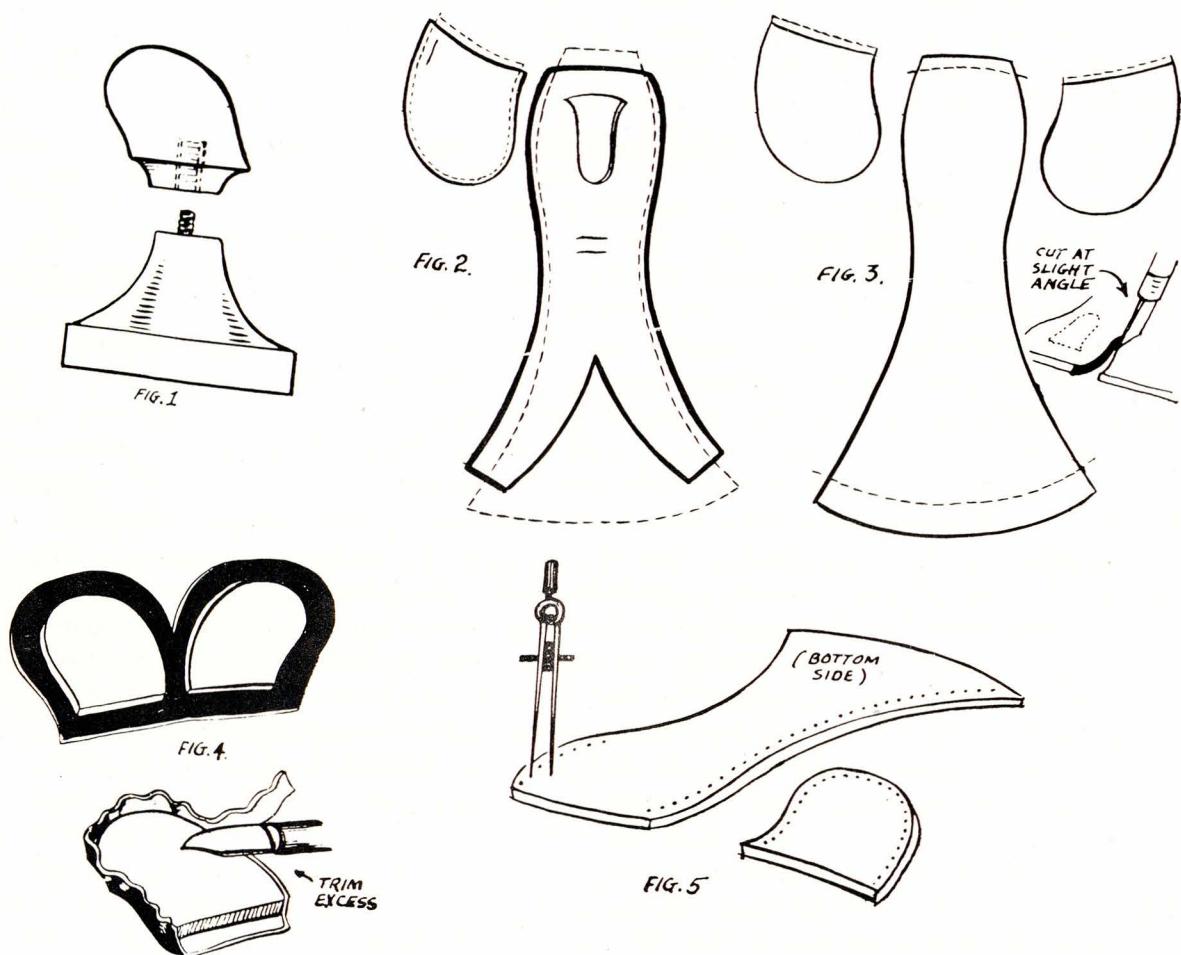
Remove the old drawstraps, the plume, and the bottom trim leather. Using Scotch tape, or similar material, carefully wrap the leather on the outside of the hood, so that it is fairly tight, but does not crush or squeeze the leather, especially in the back where it opens. Tape further at the bottom so that when plaster paris or other material is poured in the hood it will have some lap at the bottom of the mold. When you are sure there are no spots where the wet substance can leak out, press the hood to assure no distortion on sides or back.

Alba stone is superior in strength and if any future work is to be done on the mold, it works better than plain plaster of paris. A not too wet consistency is best since we do not have a great amount to pour, and helps in keeping the leather dry, and will not soak the hood through. After the plaster of paris or alba stone has dried (I usually remove within an hour) carefully peel the tape off the leather, and then with a razor blade cut the threads in the seam on both eye pieces and peel the two eye pieces and the main body off the mold. Save these as they simplify making a pattern.

You will note that the mold is roughened by the texture of the leather, and will show the flaws, where the indentations were made by drawstraps, their slits, the slits for the plume, and the beak opening. We cannot sand this down as it is, since we would be making an undersized hood. We must then add a thin layer of plaster to the whole mold to cover up the blemishes caused by our first pouring.

A thin layer is all we need, enough to fill in the rough spots. The whole hood part of the mold can then be sanded down to a smooth surface. Since the added layer of plaster will chip or peel if wetted and used as a mold, we must then make a mold of this and cast a solid one piece finished mold. Since this can be done without describing the steps let us go on to another type of mold.

After using the plaster and alba stone molds for years, I have found plastic wood can be used with far better success. This takes longer, since the first layer of wood must be thin and allowed to harden before filling in the shell with plastic wood. It requires frequent pressing of the drying wood to get a solid block, and you have to be careful lest you distort the shape of the hood. Plastic wood takes longer to dry, but when it is hard, makes a very durable finished mold, can be sanded very glossy, and does not absorb water as alba stone, or plaster.



When the inside is almost dry a matching nut or threaded cylinder can be inserted in the base, or bottom of the mold. This helps in the event one wishes to make various molds but wants to have a standard base to use. Having the screw part firmly imbedded in the main base you can change molds, by simply unscrewing the top part and switching to another size. See. Fig. 1. This would apply only to someone who wishes to carry through on hood making and desires to build up a

large assortment of hood sizes. I usually paint or scratch in a number on the mold itself, and the pattern for this hood is identified by the same number, as is the finished hood marked on the inside.

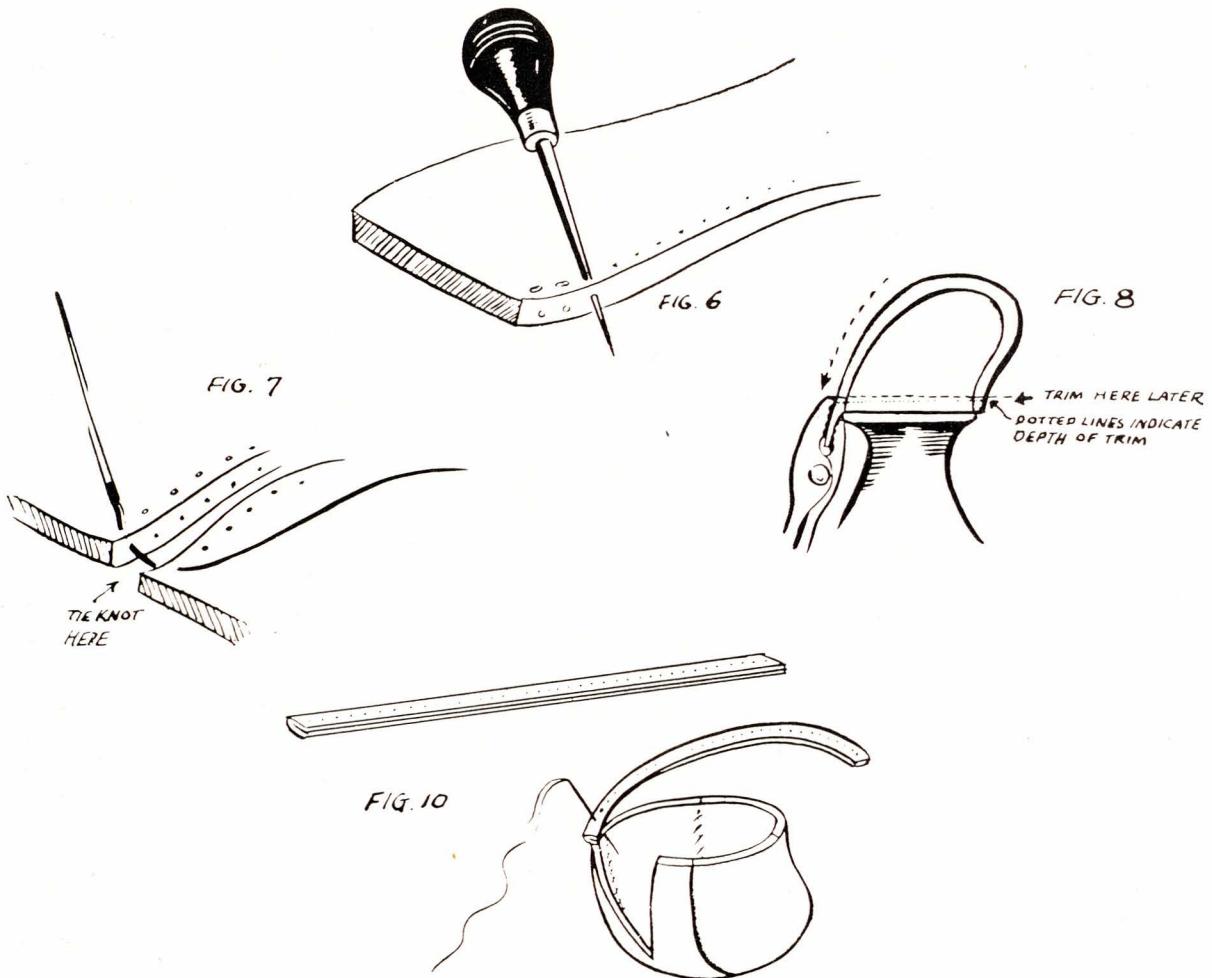
After the mold has been sanded and any distortion or blemishes have been eradicated, set it aside to dry thoroughly. Take the three pieces of the original hood, lay them down on paper or cardboard and trace them as they are. We cannot use these since this leather was cut undersized originally and through wetting and stretching over the mold when made, has increased in size. We must cut our pattern somewhat smaller, especially in back. (Note figure 2). The line drawing shows how the pieces look when laid flat. Our pattern must be cut more to the shape as shown by dotted lines. You will note that I have left a tab at the bottom of the eye piece and at each end of the main body piece. This is necessary and will be explained further on.

When we have the pattern cut, and I must add at this point, that when cut from the leather, we DO NOT CUT the beak opening, or any splits or back opening. It is one solid piece of leather as in figure 3. After you have the pattern made as suggested, trace on a good grade of hood leather (not ink). A fine needle awl will suffice. Then carefully cut at a slight bevel inwards the two eye pieces and the main body pieces. I have drawn a dotted line also on figure 3 to show the actual overall length of the original pattern so ignore this and do not put it on the leather you are cutting. We shall need this excess material as will be explained later.

If we intend to cover the eye pieces with colored leather, or colored suede, the eye piece is laid down on the reverse side of the leather and cut larger as in figure 4. You must be careful you make two different ones and not end up with two for the same side. Glue the two pieces of leather together and press (artists rubber cement) allowing both sides to dry prior to firmly pressing together. Glue must be put on the edges, and pressed together along the edges and the excess trimmed off, either with a very sharp razor blade or small scissors.

With dividers, equally measure your stitches, and get the two sides to match; otherwise one side will end up shorter than the other when sewing is completed. (Fig. 5). This is done on the under side of the leather. The same spacing is used on the eye pieces. After the pieces have been marked, I generally take a sharp awl if the leather is of the type that a glover's needle will not penetrate by itself. Take the awl and pre-punch where it will be sewed. (See Fig. 5). This is enlarged to show that the awl is pushed through at an angle. The same is done with the eye pieces. Do not make the holes too large, or you will rip the leather when you sew. There are many "dos and don'ts" in hood-making, but space limits going into that much detail. A lot will be learned by trial and error, and this is not a manual on hood-making; just hints that may prove helpful.

Thread your needles, beeswax the thread, but **tie no knot** in the long end of the thread. And here some people will disagree on how the hood should be sewed. I sew the hood, as will be explained, due to the fact that at any time, should the hood leak light, the threads can be tightened to make the hood light tight. In fact this type of sewing is by far the best because of this. Some hood-makers use a cross stitch, which looks very nice and adds class, but I have yet to see a hood sewed with this stitch that did not leak light. You cannot tighten the threads, and after the leather has dried the seams leak light badly. Since a hood to be at all effective must be light-tight, I feel that the sewing as described is best suited, but not as dressy as the x stitch.



Run the thread through the pre-punched portion of the eye piece near the bottom, and again through the main body piece (See Fig. 7) and tie a knot here and begin sewing. I have found that in taking about ten stitches on this side, and then starting on the other side simplifies matters. The sewing then finishes almost at the same time. The threads should be pulled taut, but avoid breakage, as this becomes exasperating and makes extra work. If a thread breaks you have to start over on that side, as we will need the whole thread to tighten the hood later. The harness thread is very hard to break and will take a lot of tugging to cause breakage, but it sometimes happens and one must then start over. Beeswax keeps the thread from fraying, and helps waterproof it to a degree. Incidentally, the hood is sewed from the INSIDE, and when all sewing is completed, the colored leather sides and finished leather of the body or center piece should be on the OUTSIDE. We do not have to wet and reverse it when sewed this way. Consequently we can get the threads tighter to begin, and the leather is sewed dry. The pliers previously listed help in drawing the needle through when the space becomes confined as the hood takes shape.

Now comes the wetting and stretching. Here again there is no rule to follow. A lot depends on the leather, some leather will, when wet, stretch like rubber. Other parts of the hide will budge very little, even when soaked. I have found that more stretch is given the leather if hot water is used.

Soak the inside of the hood, but do not let it soak clear through so that it penetrates the outside of the leather. Try it on the mold. You will have to use

force to get it on the mold and this is one reason why it is better not to soak clear through, as the leather has a tendency to buckle and wrinkle. If only partially wet it still retains a certain stiffness which helps to get it over the mold without too much buckle.

When you have worked the hood over the mold as much as possible with your hands and use of fingers, take pliers and pull from the back downwards on the excess leather I said to leave on the main body piece. (As shown in Fig. 8). Take the handle of the exacto knife and start rolling and working the leather downwards on the mold (the palms of the hands can be used quite well). Gradually mold and work the seams together so no thread shows, frequently pulling on the back tab with the pliers as you get the hood more and more down over the contours of the mold. It takes anywhere from an hour or two or more to get it completely mated to the mold where it fits skin tight. The seams are important, and considerable time must be spent to insure only a fine line where the pieces are butted against one another so that no thread shows. A slight amount may show as it dries, but this can be eliminated by the tightening process later on and so causes less worry than getting the leather stretched properly over the mold. Care must be used in getting the hood set properly on the mold so that it will not be off center. Marks on the hood mold itself will help prevent this. The marks can be made on the mold almost identical to the line left by the hood that the mold was cast in. Otherwise you must determine by eye and measuring to find a center and guide lines for the eye pieces. I do not suggest pulling on the excess material on the eye pieces, since in doing so there may be damage that cannot be repaired. The eye bulge is important and we do not want the bottom of the hood to be loose around the mold. Do your tugging on the back tab, and the rest with hands, fingers and by use of the round handle and its rolling action.

Any tooling, or stamping to make the hood more decorative should be done after the hood has set for several hours. When the surface of the leather starts to appear its natural shade is the best time to make impressions. Normal pressure with the tool held in the hand will depress the leather enough to hold the impression. If the leather is too wet, it will not take an impression. Having gone through the stage of fancy hand carved, and elaborate hoods, which are highly decorative, but serve more as mantle pieces than a good wearable unit, I find the less tooling on a hood the better. A certain amount tends to finish the product, but too many hood makers cannot stop once they get a few tools in their hands. They make impressions until they run out of leather. No impressions should be made on the eye piece. This is folly, since any falcon will at times scratch a hood, and the smoother the sides, the better, as there is less chance she will work a toe-hold in the leather. This slight toe-hold at times helps a falcon get the hood off; usually at the wrong time. So to begin with, confine your activities to the simple, plain serviceable hood. You can go fancier after you are adept in making a smooth unblemished hood.

Darker center pieces on a hood are better than light colored, they will not show the dirt and look a bit more handsome in contrast with the colored side pieces. Either leather dye, or some of the antique darker stains dress up the looks of a hood. Dye should be applied before wetting and molding the leather as it has a tendency to discolor the leather and work into the seams if applied after. In the case of applying antique finishes this will have to be done after the hood is made, but care must be exercised lest you get the stain on the leather covering the eye pieces. Good hood leather can be bought in certain shades of tan to dark brown, and a lighter shade will darken with age.

Leave the hood on the form for a day or two to insure proper drying. It has been my practice to remove the hood from the form the second day and allow it

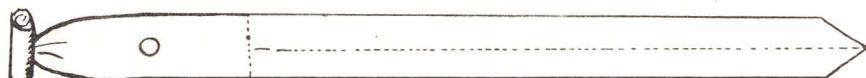
to sit untouched for another day or two. Then take the bottom stitch where you first started sewing and pull up the slack and continue doing so until you have tightened every stitch. You will be amazed that you will have as much as an inch or more of thread at the end of the hood when you finish. You may have to do this twice to insure closing any small light leaks.

Trim off the excess at the bottom of the hood and get the bottom perfectly flat. Trim the whole bottom to the height of the old hood pieces and allow enough space so you can add trim leather at the bottom of the hood without increasing the depth of the hood too much. When the hood will sit on a flat surface and is even all the way around, take dividers and measure the cut that will be made in the back to close the hood. Measure off the side where the drawstraps interlace and leave enough spare leather. If too much is cut off it cannot be replaced. Find the exact middle of the top where the two cuts will join as in figure 9 and cut the back opening. Only make this cut. If the leather is dry enough, pinch the back opening together to see if it will close evenly and see that both sides are equally balanced when held pinched.

To sew on the trim leather, take a suitable piece of light leather which should be tough and pliable, absorb water, and the color should complement the eye pieces. That is, if the eye pieces are red, then green, or blue would be a suitable color to use as trim leather. Green eye pieces would require a red trim, tan, black, etc. Bear in mind that the overall appearance of the hood should not clash; that is, if we have red eye pieces and green bottom trim, it would be unwise to use blue wool or feathers in the plume, etc.

To make a decent piece of trim leather, cut a piece longer than the outside circumference of the hood at the bottom. With a ruler, roughly  $5/16"$  wide, take a skiving knife and thin it down so the material is not too thick when doubled. Now glue the surface, allow to dry and fold double length. Here again use your dividers and pre-punch the length of it at the pin points (Fig. 10). Start at one end of the hood and sew the trim to the bottom of the hood. You can pull it fairly tight. When the end is reached tie it. Trim off the remainder and you have your trim.

FIG. 11



SKIVE AND GLUE THIS AREA AND FOLD.  
(THIS IS THE UNDERSIDE OF DRAWSTRAP)



FIG. 12

At this point, with your finger dipped in water, wet the inside of the hood where the threads are, wet the trim leather also, until it is workable. Put the hood over the form, again making sure it fits tightly. With either the handle or a small hammer gently tap where the threads have been wetted. This will take any little bumps out of the threads and the leather and will prevent light leaks. Now take the handle and work the trim leather around the bottom of the hood to a uniform thickness. Either square it along the bottom, or roll it. But take out any small imperfections along the trim, and smooth the threads holding the trim so that it will be hard to feel them later with the finger from the inside.

After the trim has set and dried, you may antique the center piece of the hood or wax the outside. I do not like leather lacquers on hoods, they make the hood appear too glossy and cheap. A light coating of wax makes the hood resistant to water, and a good creme will be the only necessary cleaner when the hood becomes soiled. As an afterthought, let me advise now against using artificial heat of any kind to dry a hood while it's on the mold. The leather becomes stiff and will crack. A good Dutch type hood should hold its shape and still be pliable.

In reference to drawstraps, the ones that are doubled are superior to the single thickness drawstraps. They stick out on the sides, and do not flop or hang when a hawk shakes her head. They are easier to find with your lips and consequently avoid fumbling when it's necessary to draw the straps on a hawk that is trying to rid herself of the hood by shaking her head just after being hooded. Long drawstraps are a nuisance, as are ones that are too short. So it's necessary to find a happy medium in length. Doubled drawstraps are glued. Do not slop glue on the braces as they retard smoothness of draw. The braces should not be too loose, nor too tight; a certain amount of friction is of course necessary to avoid the tendency of a hood to come open on a hawk's head. Doubled drawstraps have less tendency to slip than the single brace, however, bear in mind that doubled drawstraps must be skived so that the result is no thicker than a single one. In putting drawstraps on the hood, punch holes rather than cut slits in the braces. This acts more like a drag, and holds better than braces cut with slits. The hole must be of sufficient diameter so the brace will come through it without a tug of war. I usually wet the extreme end of the brace prior to knotting, the knot pulls tighter, and does not come undone. Wetting or dampening the leather where the drawstraps come out of the hood and pressing the leather helps compact this area avoiding an unnecessary bulge in this area. It helps give the hood a more finished look.

The beak opening is next. Do not cut too large, as a hood should be individually fitted. Bevel the cut on the inside. A good idea on cutting a beak opening might be to make a pattern of stiff material slightly undersized, and trace the outline on the hood for placement. In this way you can determine exactly where the beak opening is to be placed. The weakest point on a hood is at the bottom of the beak opening. Allow enough here so the hood will not buckle. One reason for the trim is to stiffen the bottom of the hood, plus the fact that it gives the finishing touch to the hood. At this point it might be worthwhile to inject another thought. Dutch type hoods should be left OPEN when not in use. I have at times seen Dutch hoods not in use closed. The result is that the hood assumes the closed shape and will not expand readily enough to permit easy passage over the bird's head. So to avoid a narrowed and constricted hood, leave it open when not in use. The only time the hood should be closed is when it is on a hawk's head!

Plumes are a necessary feature of a hood. They serve as a decorative part of the hood, but the main purpose is as a "handle" to use in easing it over a hawk's head. There can be many variations on plumes, I have seen them from a skimpy two or three feathers, leather tabs, to plumes that were almost man sized feather

dusters. Others have plumes shooting skywards to abruptly fall in a wreath about a hawk's shoulders. They may all have their uses. I'm inclined to believe the hood and plume should all tie into one uniform unit. Some falconers like an immense amount of wool, others like silk in place of wool. This is individual preference. The main objection now to too much wool is that hawks usually catch their talons in the wool and fray it, causing the wool to come out as if it were shedding. A leather tab on a hood serves best on a wild caught hawk.

I had an old haggard falcon here that was so horribly hood-shy from her previous owners errors that she had learned every trick in the book on how to unhood herself. She at once knew when hooded where the plume was, and as fast as she was hooded she reached up and wrapped a foot around the plume like a midget taking off a cap, and thus would unhood herself. On a spoiled hawk like this a leather tab was essential rather than a plume, as she was quite bewildered when the range was made and she could not unhood herself.

The plume should be a balanced item, blending with the rest of the hood. Hack feathers, or feathers off brightly colored roosters are good; solid colors, or mixtures according to taste. I use a tuft of badger hair as a starting point. Contrive to keep the feathers of uniform length, it has a more balanced effect than feathers of varying lengths.

The plume is composed of several groups of feathers, each group bound individually. Bind first one group, and then another, until you have a well balanced plume from any angle. Take a strip of leather and fasten one end as you will note in figure 12, insert the tab end through the two (small) slits cut on the top of the hood, and see again contrive to center the cuts, so the plume will not sit too far back on the top of the hood, nor too far forwards. Pull the tab through until the base of the plume rides snugly on the leather of the hood. To make a dressier plume, take few strands of wool and lay underneath the tab in the direction of the cuts, then bind the tab to the plume. Take additional wool, wrap it around your fingers of the hand and take a bobby pin, insert the wool in this and pull the wool half way through the slits. Wire the wool to the plume and trim the excess wool with a scisor, and your hood is almost completed. One further step may prove an advantage. Wet the inside of the plume where it passes through on the inside of the hood, press it upwards to smooth it so that no knot rides on the hawk's head. I realize I have only covered the bare essentials of hood-making, but with practice I'm sure most falconers can make hoods. I'm sure this article, as confusing as it is, will contain a few hints that will enable them to acquire some skill in the art of hood-making.

I mentioned before that variations can be got from a single mold. This can be done by making deep, shallow, or medium hoods, various sized neck openings, and in the way the initial cut is made at the bottom of the hood. You can make short, medium, or long hoods off one mold by changing the cuts at the bottom. By making, say, six hoods off each mold, and graduating to another mold, making a pattern, mold, etc. you can build up a suitable collection of hoods.

A few skulls help in determining how a hood fits, and to a certain extent mounted hawks. The true test comes in trying the hoods on live hawks. Often many hanges, and many hoods have to be made on one mold to perfect the mold, pattern and shape so that a hawk will accommodate it without raising the roof. Here again is where learning by doing is the only way. I have never seen a Dutch type hood that would fit close to fifty percent of the hawks it was tried on. So for a falconer to write and say, "I have a peregrine, please send me a hood," is like a man writing and saying, "I'm a man send a suit of clothes to fit, but I do not know my size." Therefor, the only way falconers are going to be satisfied

is to start making their own to fit the individual bird. Sure it's work, but anyone not wishing to expend time should not be active in falconry. The common complaint most falconers make about Dutch type hoods is:

1. They haven't seen or had any that fit their hawks. I believe I have given a verbal illustration as to why a particular hood will not fit every falcon, so unless a hood-maker is adept at assuming what weight, sex and size a bird is, he cannot even come close to sending a hood that will fit a hawk. Most hood-makers have what they call, large, average and small. Unfortunately, this is not enough coverage, as most falcons fit in between the so-called average hood sizes. But to some people a hood is a hood, and it goes on the hawk's head whether it fits the hawk or not. Many hoods have to be tried and fitted to a falcon to actually find the right hood, and here again, two hoods of fifty might be close, but not quite the hood. So an individual hood made solely for this bird will be the outcome.

I don't think it practical for a falconer to have less than a hundred or more hoods of varying sizes if he wants to be able to fit most birds that fall into his hands. Sometimes, even this amount seems small when a particular falcon appears hard to fit.

The making of Dutch type hoods can while away many hours during the off seasons of hawking. Give it a try if you want to accomplish a worthwhile and useful project and keep your hand in on hawking. The manufacture of hoods to those who cannot, because of circumstances or conditions beyond their control, keep a hawk, would benefit not only their future birds, but give nearby falconers a chance to acquire a supply of hoods at a later date.

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## Notes on Hunting and Feeding Activities of Peregrine Falcons in South Texas and Mexico

by WM. S. JENNINGS

These notes are taken from records observed during the period October, 1949, through the present, and are presented merely as items of interest for those who enjoy watching the skill and beauty of duck hawks in flight.

In November, 1949, I was engaged in goose trapping and banding activities in the coastal marshes and rice fields of southeast Texas. While lying in a blind watching great clouds of waterfowl which had been frightened from feeding activities, I casually noted that occasionally one duck would suddenly break out of the circling mass and frantically plummet toward the earth. Upon closer observation it was noted that these frantic individuals were closely pursued by a duck hawk. After a few minutes of close observation five duck hawks were counted flying around in the circling mass of ducks and geese. They constantly passed within a foot or two of ducks that they easily could have captured, yet they did not do so. Occasionally a hawk would single out one individual from a flock and press the attack all the way to the ground. There seemed to be no attempt on the part of any of the hawks to actually catch the individual they were pursuing. Could they simply have been playing or exercising?

Only one bird, a snow goose, in the flock of thousands was actually observed to be struck. This bird was struck in the back by a hawk when it accidentally crossed the flight path of the circling bird. There was no chase and the falcon did not press the attack. The goose did not appear to be hurt although a few feathers were knocked from its back.