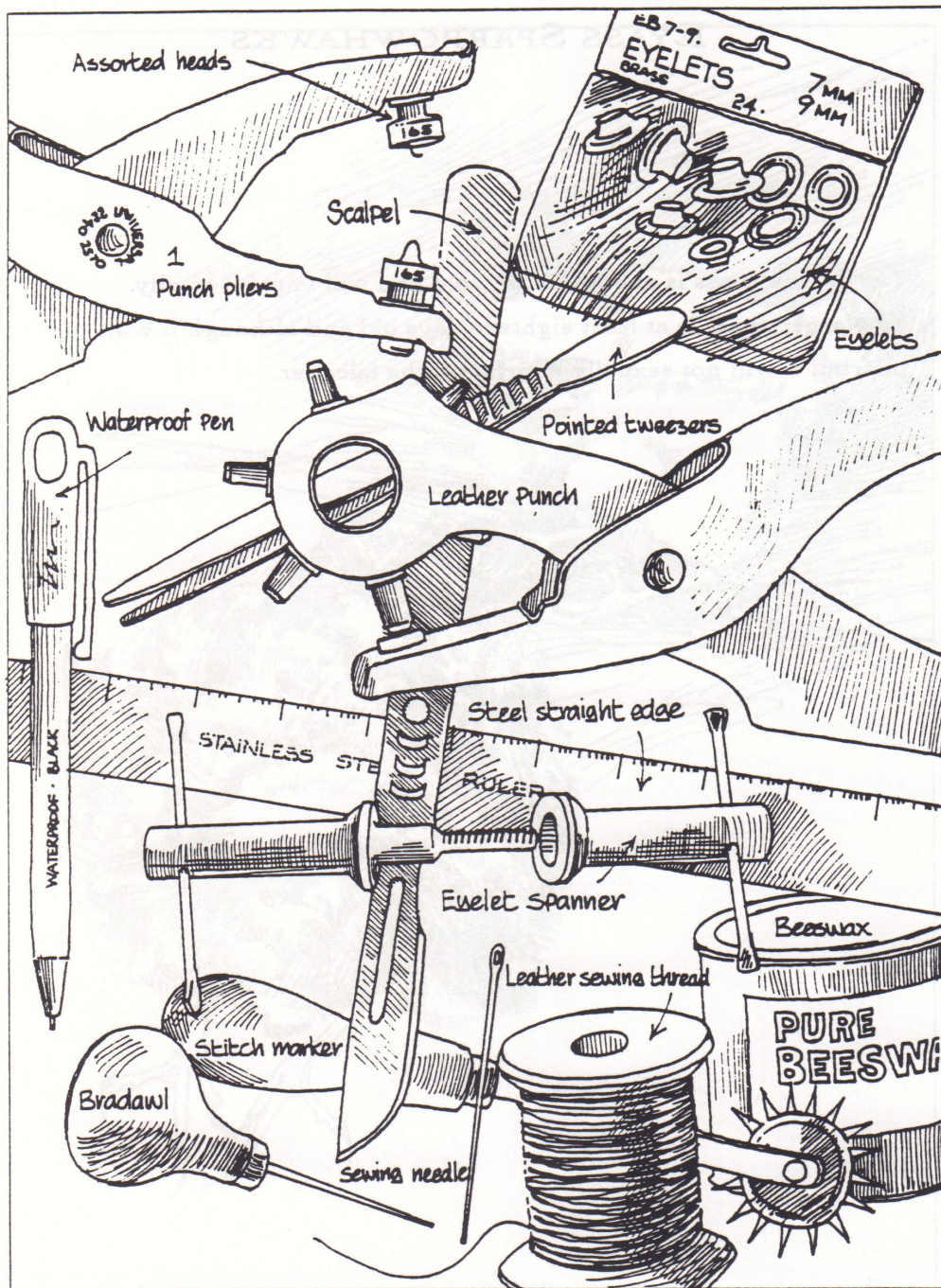


FALCONRY EQUIPMENT

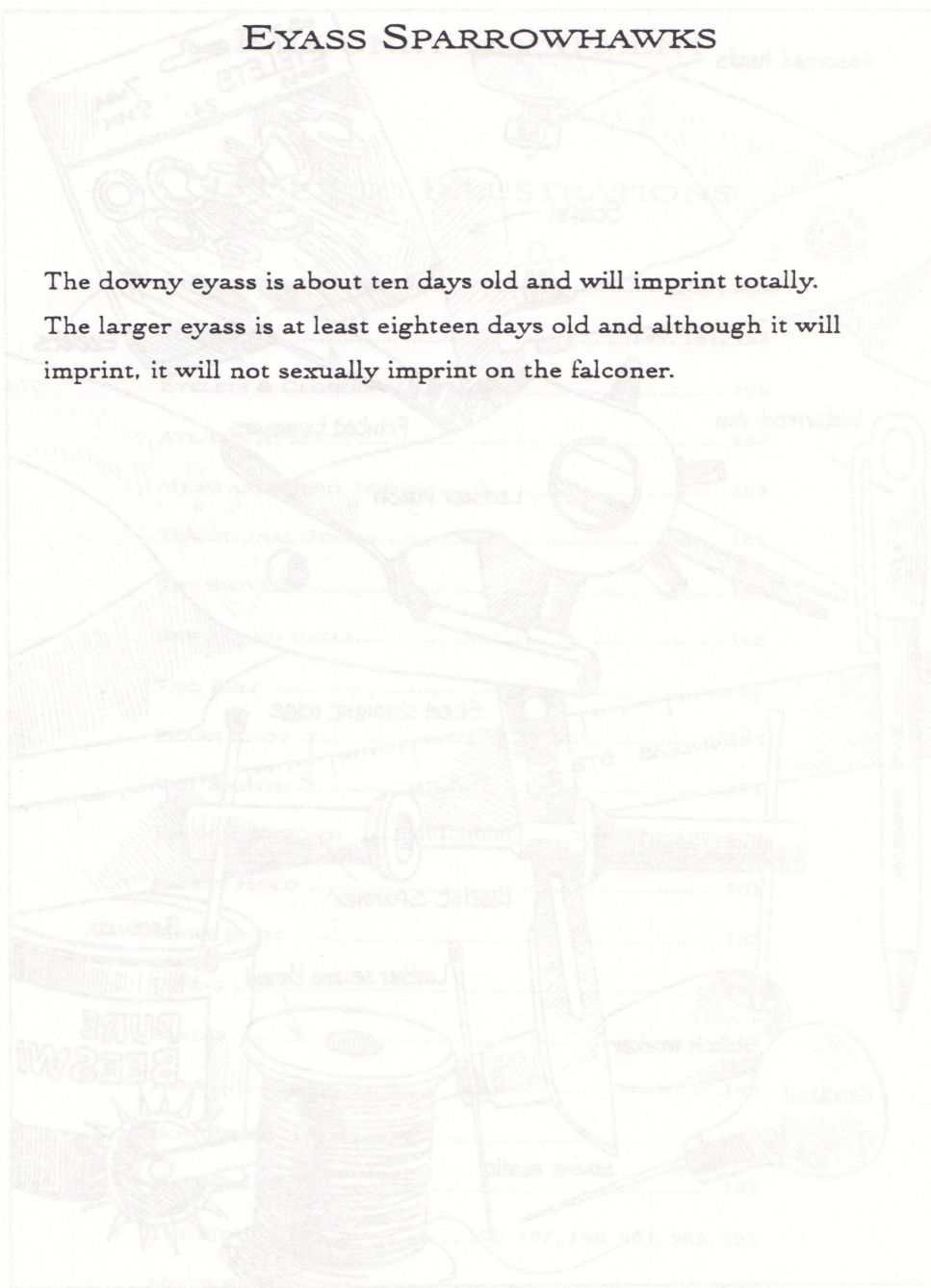
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EYASS SPARROWHAWKS

The downy eyass is about ten days old and will imprint totally.
The larger eyass is at least eighteen days old and although it will imprint, it will not sexually imprint on the falconer.



Glove 209, 211, 214, 215, 217, 219

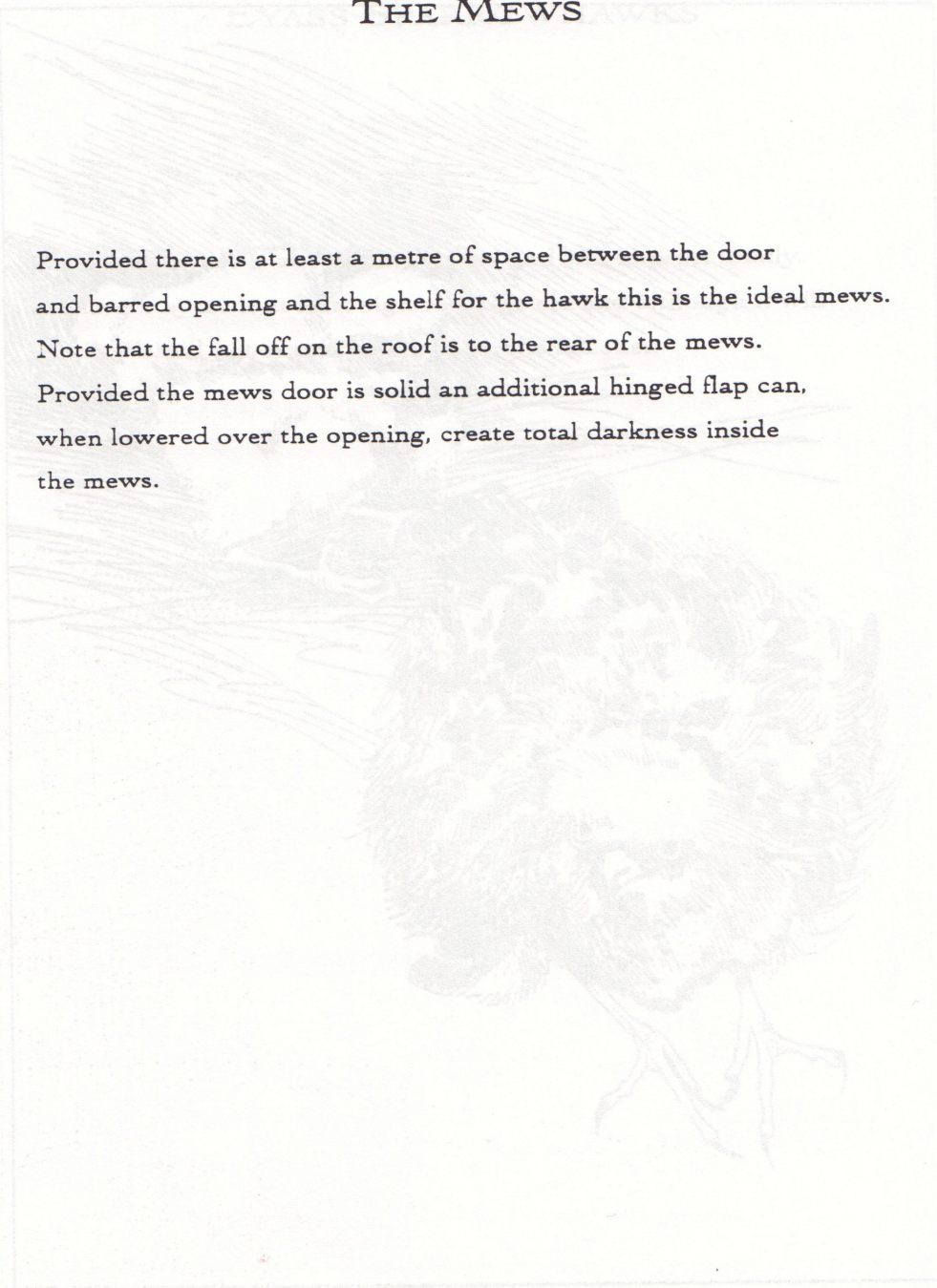
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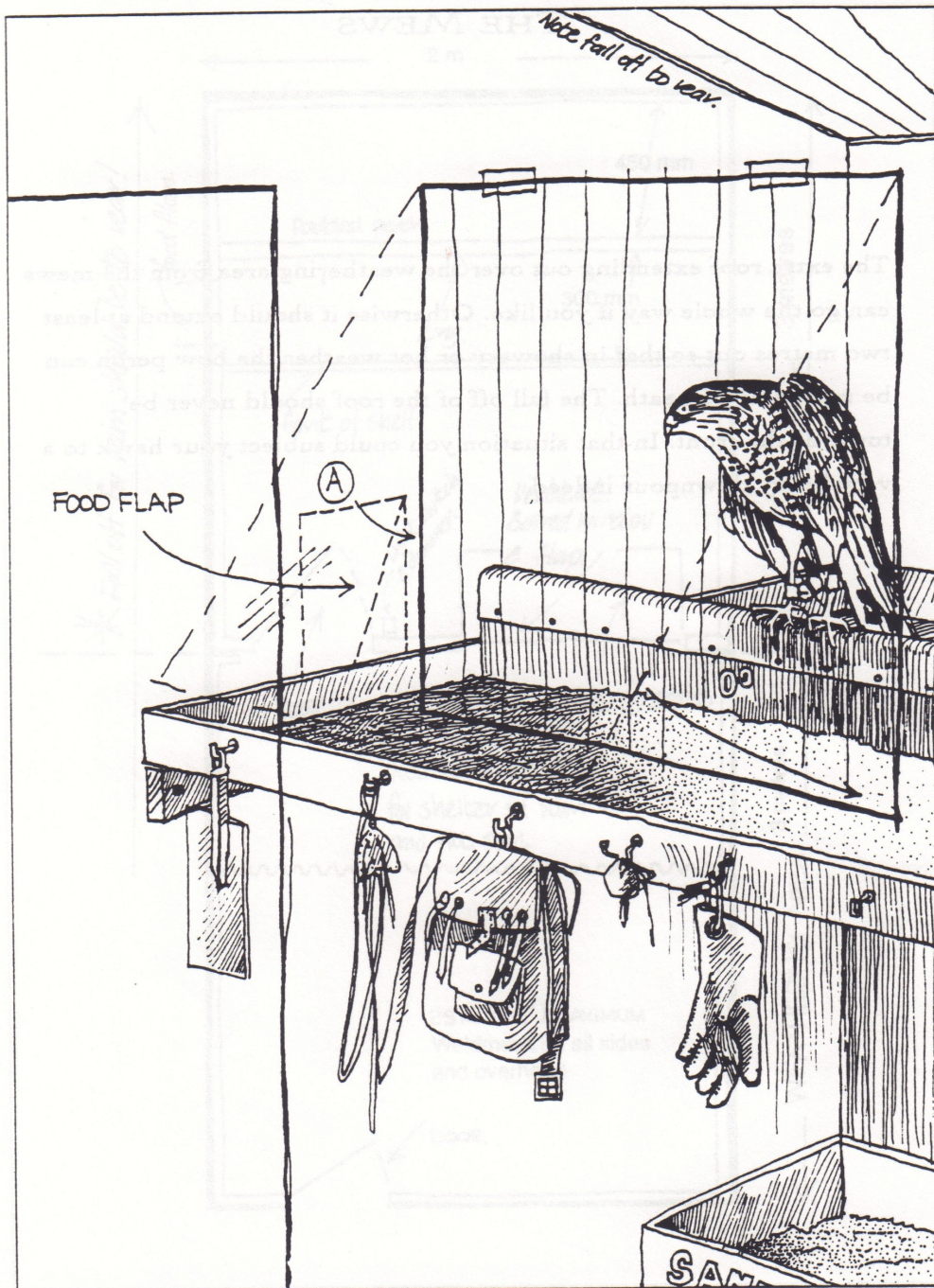


EYASS SPARROWHAWKS

THE MEWS

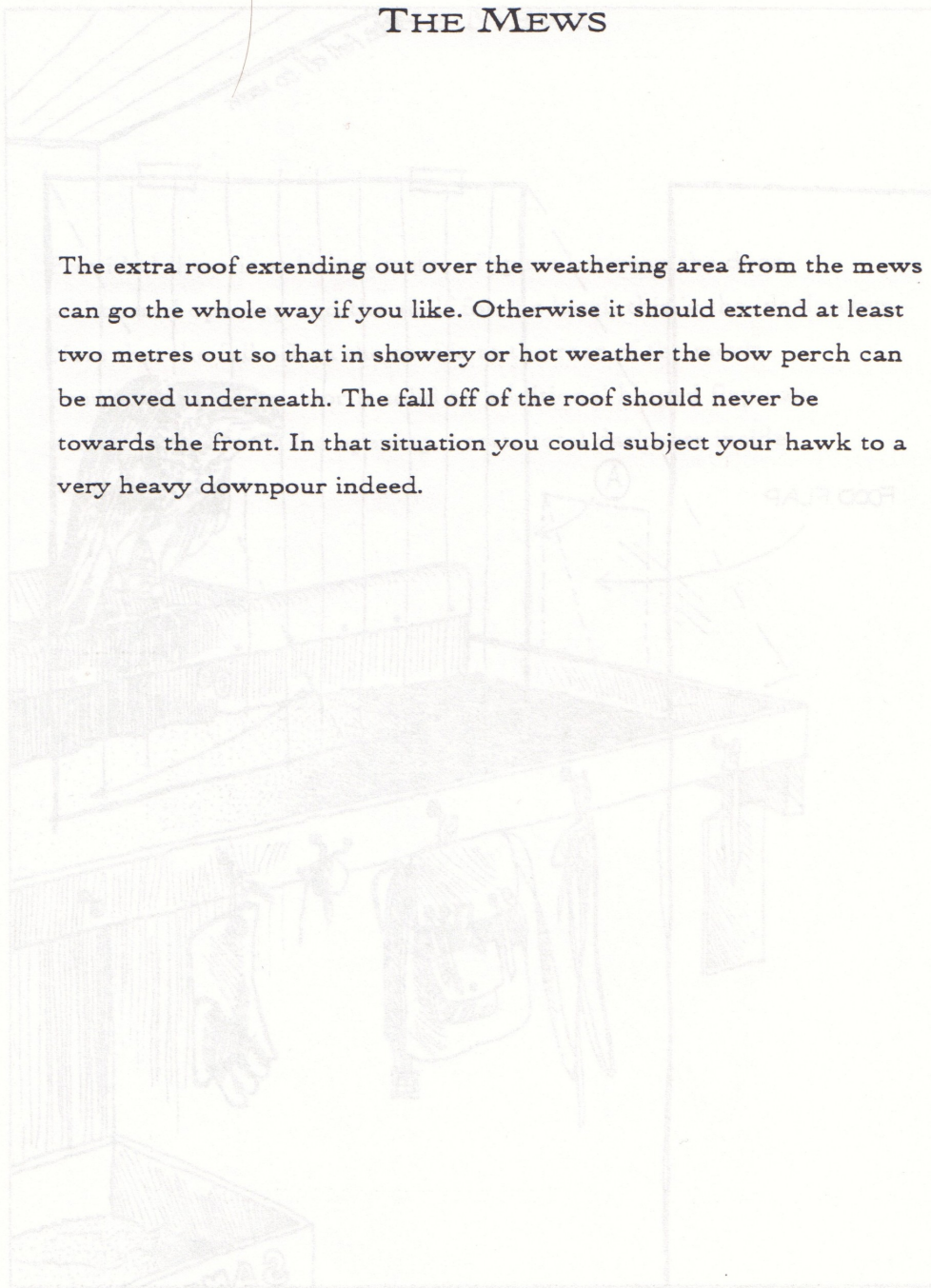
Provided there is at least a metre of space between the door and barred opening and the shelf for the hawk this is the ideal mews. Note that the fall off on the roof is to the rear of the mews. Provided the mews door is solid an additional hinged flap can, when lowered over the opening, create total darkness inside the mews.

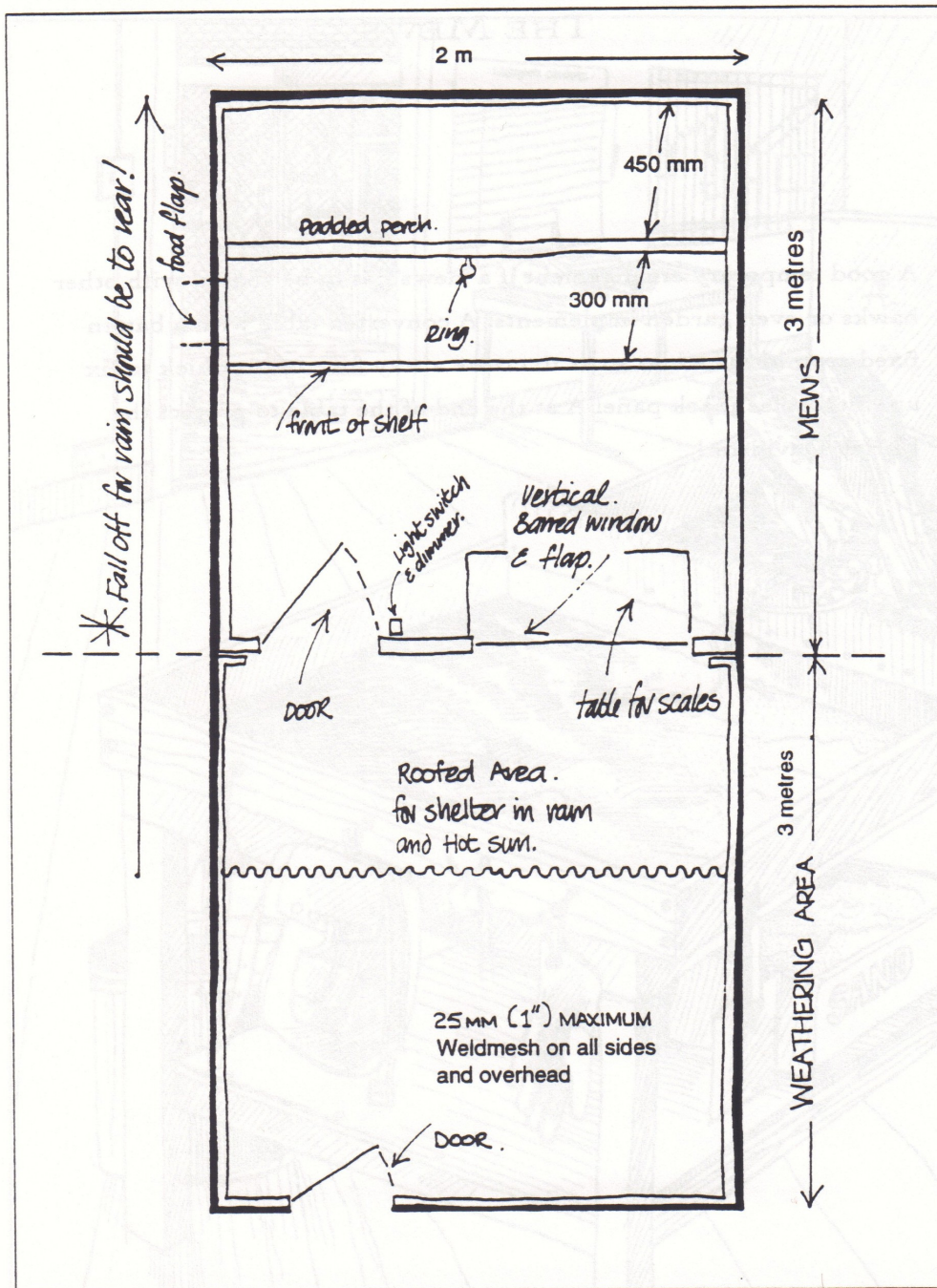




THE MEWS

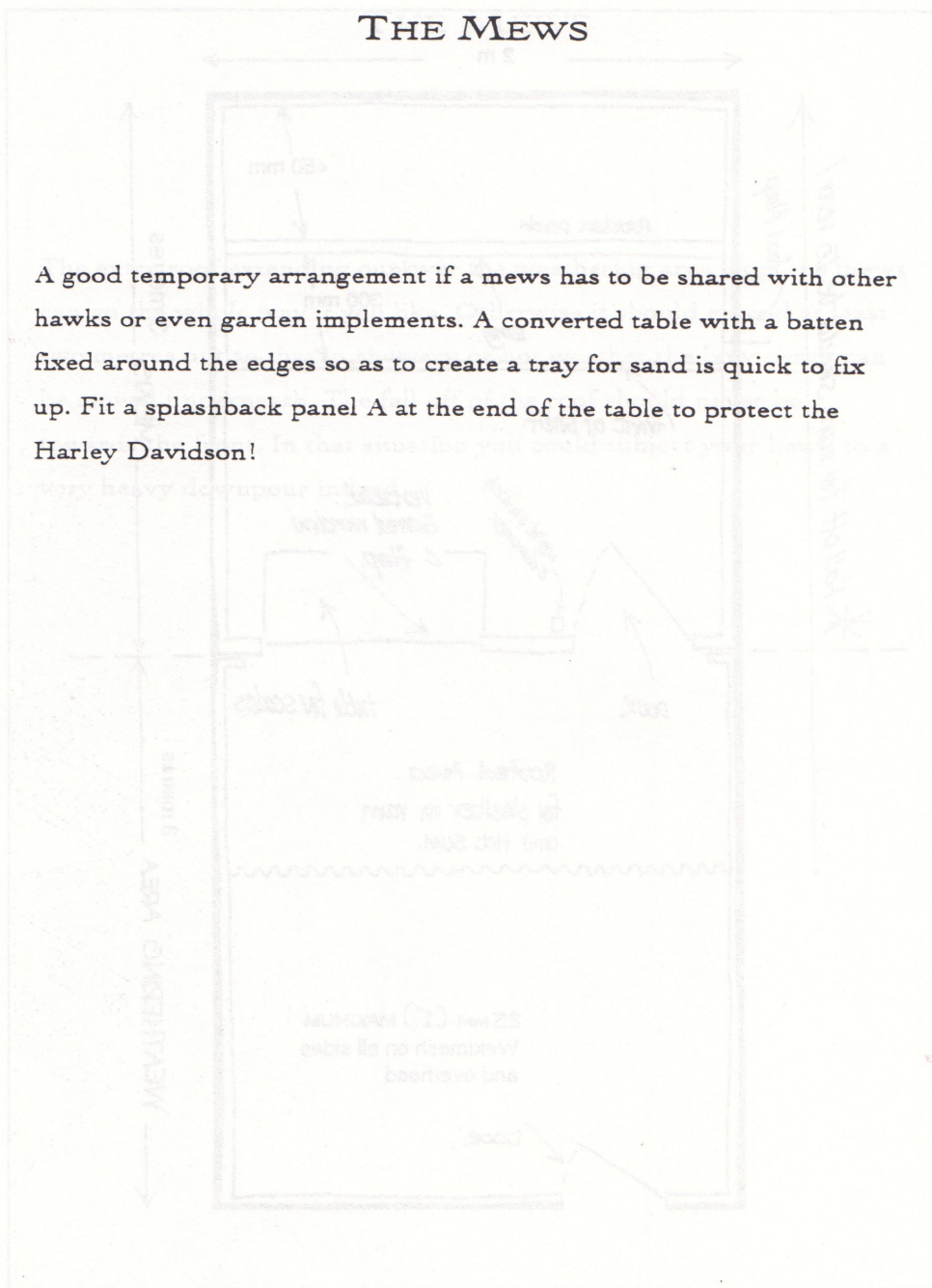
The extra roof extending out over the weathering area from the mews can go the whole way if you like. Otherwise it should extend at least two metres out so that in showery or hot weather the bow perch can be moved underneath. The fall off of the roof should never be towards the front. In that situation you could subject your hawk to a very heavy downpour indeed.

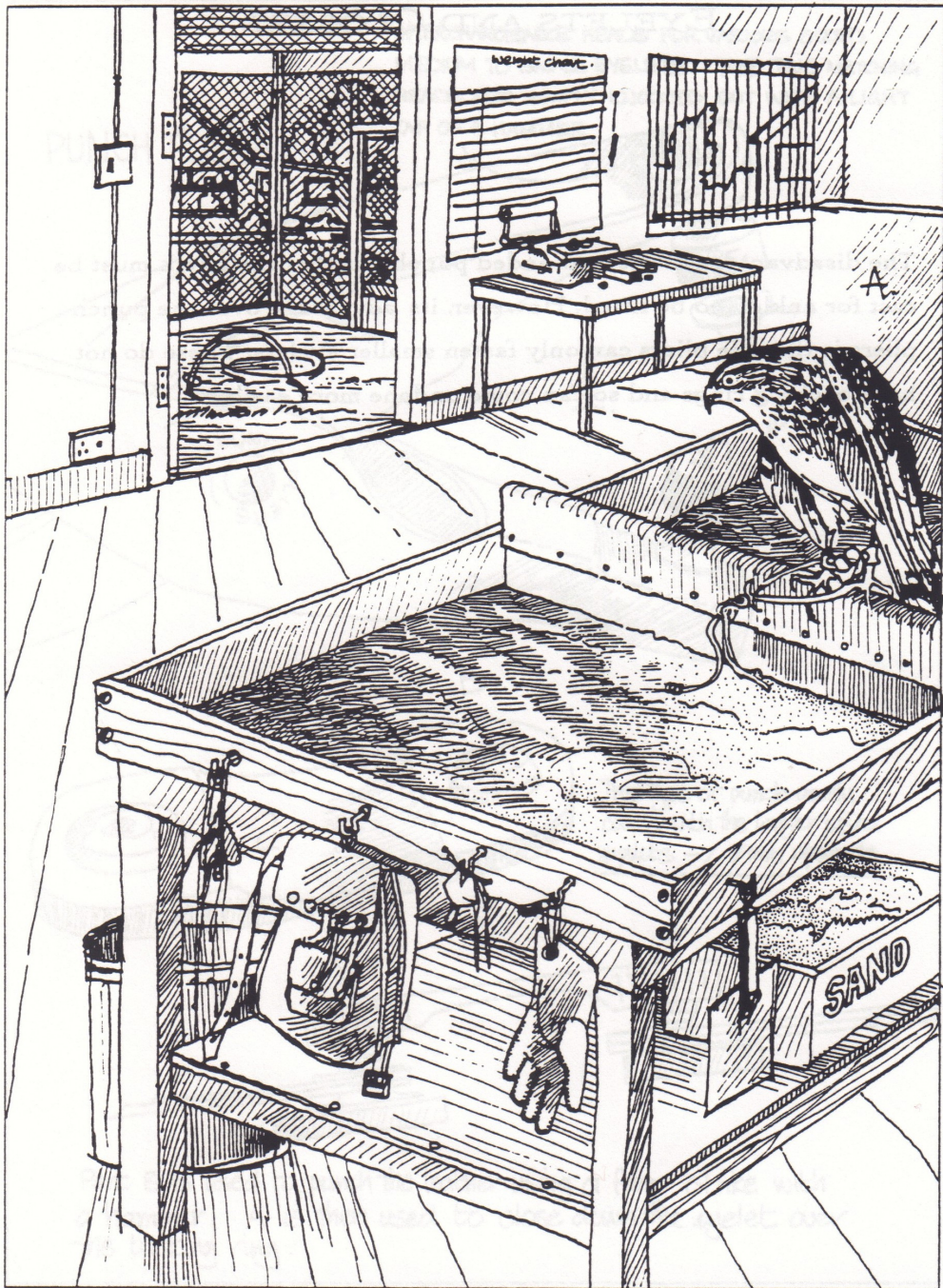




THE MEWS

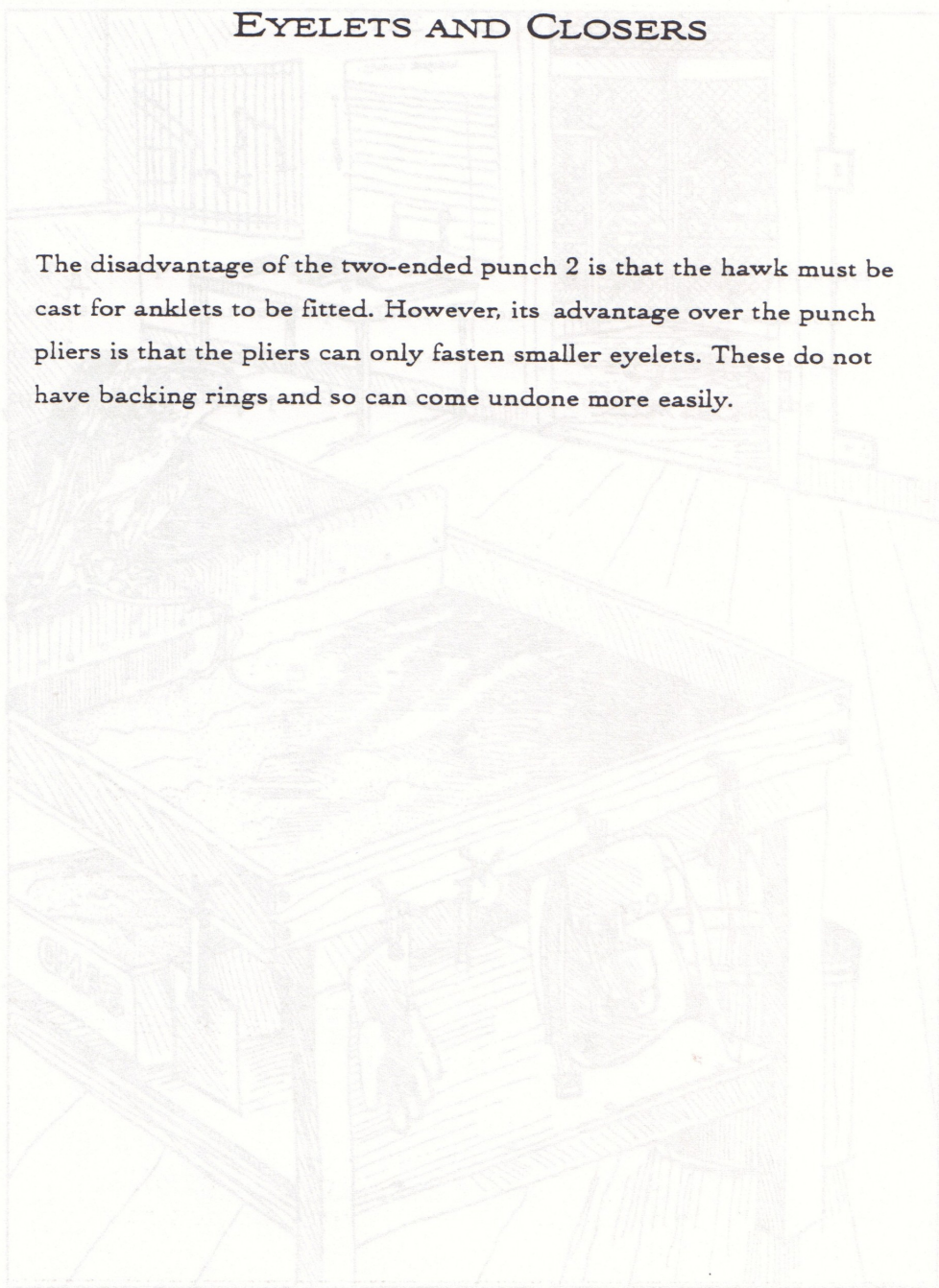
A good temporary arrangement if a mews has to be shared with other hawks or even garden implements. A converted table with a batten fixed around the edges so as to create a tray for sand is quick to fix up. Fit a splashback panel A at the end of the table to protect the Harley Davidson!

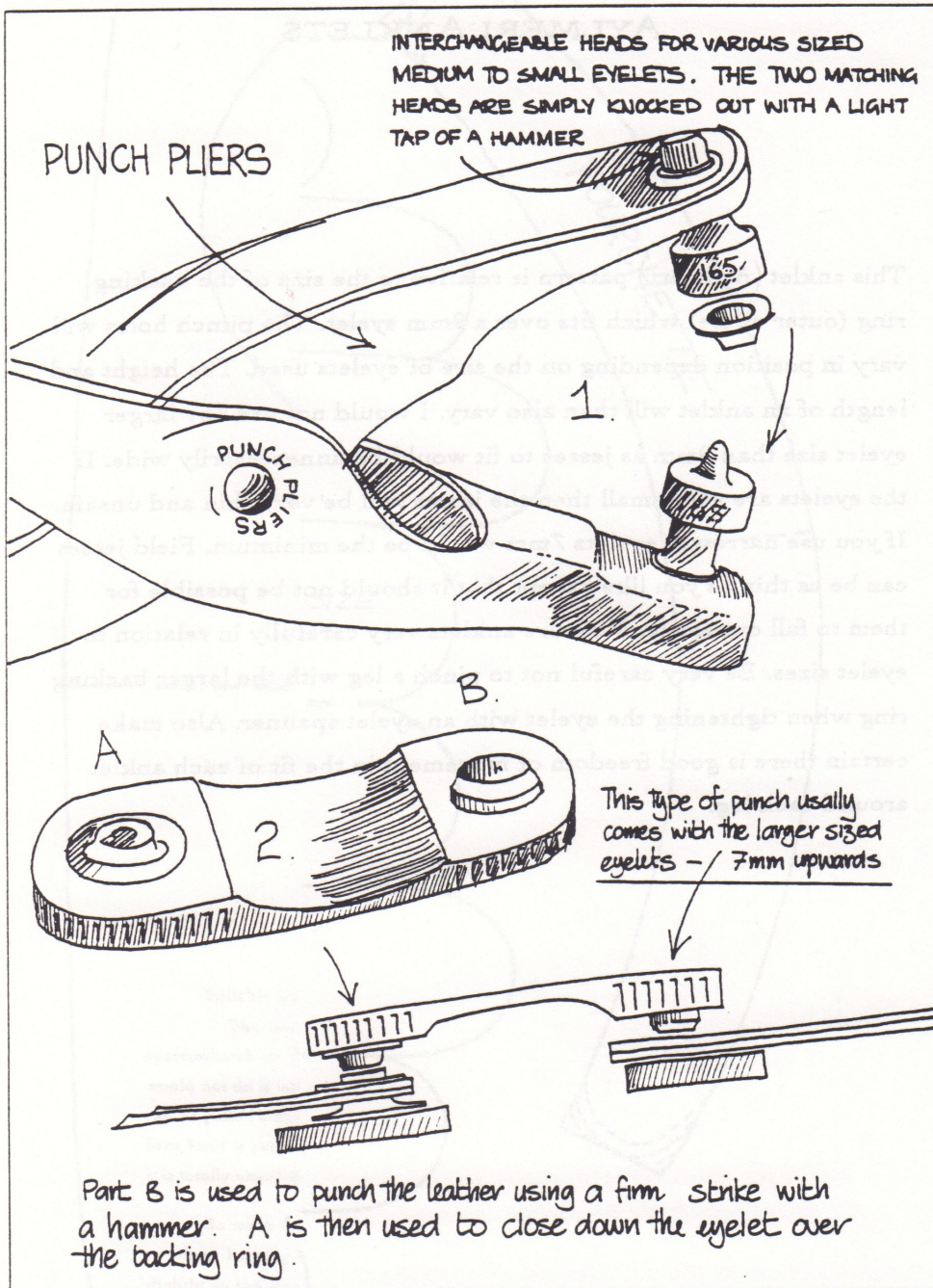




EYELETS AND CLOSERS

The disadvantage of the two-ended punch 2 is that the hawk must be cast for anklets to be fitted. However, its advantage over the punch pliers is that the pliers can only fasten smaller eyelets. These do not have backing rings and so can come undone more easily.

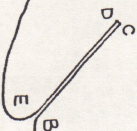




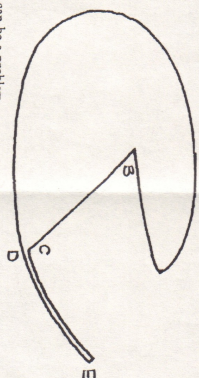
AYLMERI ANKLETS

This anklet (Aylmeri) pattern is relative to the size of the backing ring (outer circle) which fits over a 9mm eyelet. The punch holes will vary in position depending on the size of eyelets used. The height and length of an anklet will then also vary. I would not use any larger eyelet size than 9mm as jesses to fit would be unnecessarily wide. If the eyelets are very small then the jesses will be very thin and unsafe. If you use narrower eyelets 7mm would be the minimum. Field jesses can be as thin as you like except that it should not be possible for them to fall out easily. Measure anklets very carefully in relation to eyelet sizes. Be very careful not to pinch a leg with the larger backing ring when tightening the eyelet with an eyelet spanner. Also make certain there is good freedom of movement in the fit of each anklet around each leg.

(Separate)
THUMB PIECE.



THIS PATTERN IS FOR A MEDIUM TO SMALL SIZE



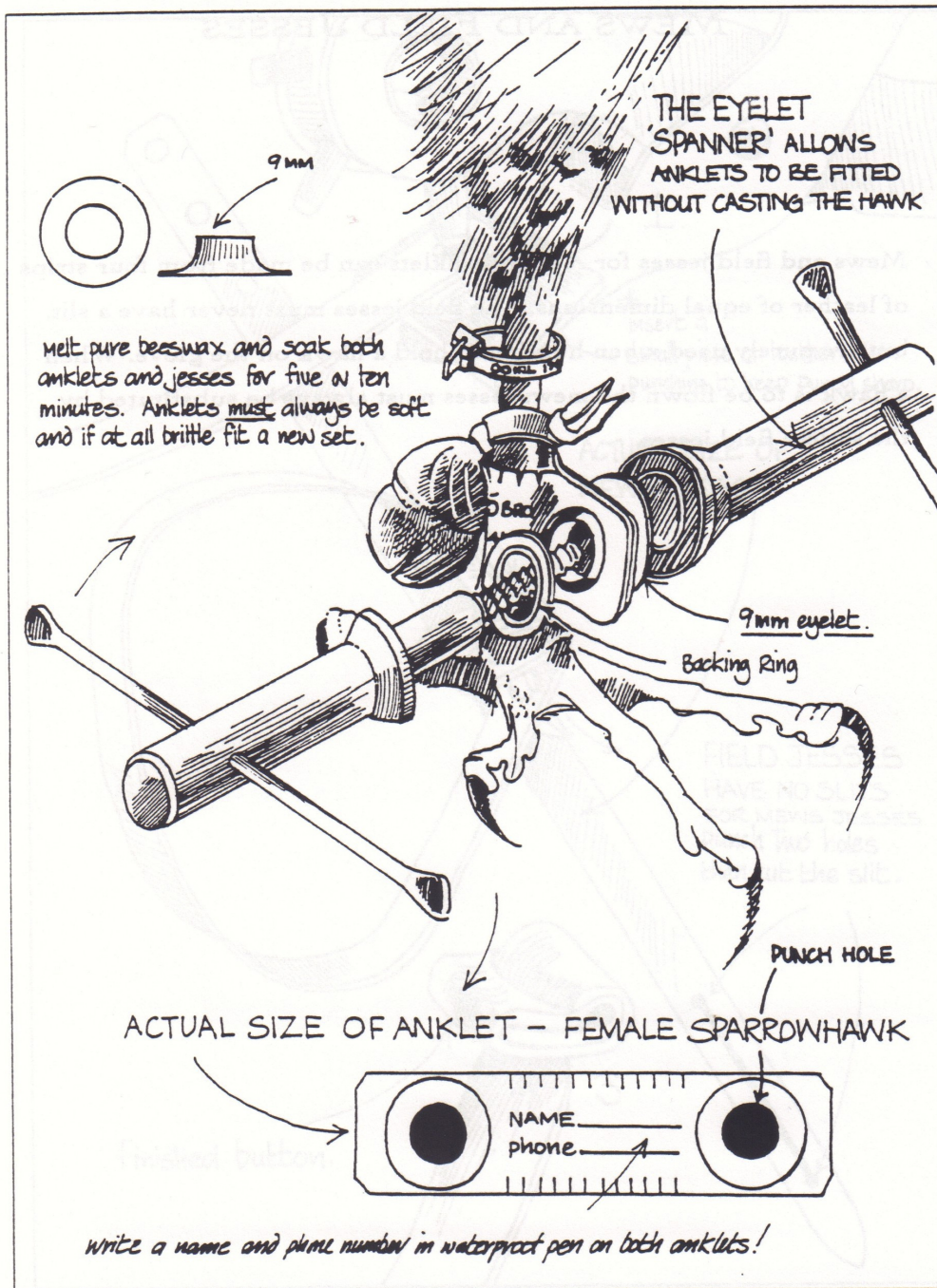
Suitable leather from which to make a glove for a sparrowhawk can be a problem. The usual problem is that most people make gloves far too heavy. The leather being too thick means the falconer cannot feel the sparrowhawk on the glove. Therefore, it is far better to err on the thin side. I have flown spurs from the bare hand with little discomfort, although I would not do it with an imprint! Another device I found to be very practical was a piece of very light leather stitched so that it formed a sleeve. This can be pulled down over your thumb and it leaves your fingers free to hold the jesses. When the hawk is not being fed, but carried during a hunt, the bare hand is perfect for control. My point is that if a glove is used which has been made for a larger hawk, like a goshawk or a peregrine falcon, then it is totally unsuitable for sparrowhawks. The level of feel that is needed to get good slips and carriage is lost through heavy leather.

So when choosing leather for a glove with which to use for sparrowhawks it should be very flexible and light. This is especially important when hunting. The hawk will react with her talons on sight of quarry or in anticipation of a slip. When your hawk stiffens and you feel her grip slightly on the glove it is a good signal that she is about to go. In that way the falconer is as ready as his hawk for an instant slip. That vital feel can mean the difference between success or failure.

Punch hole

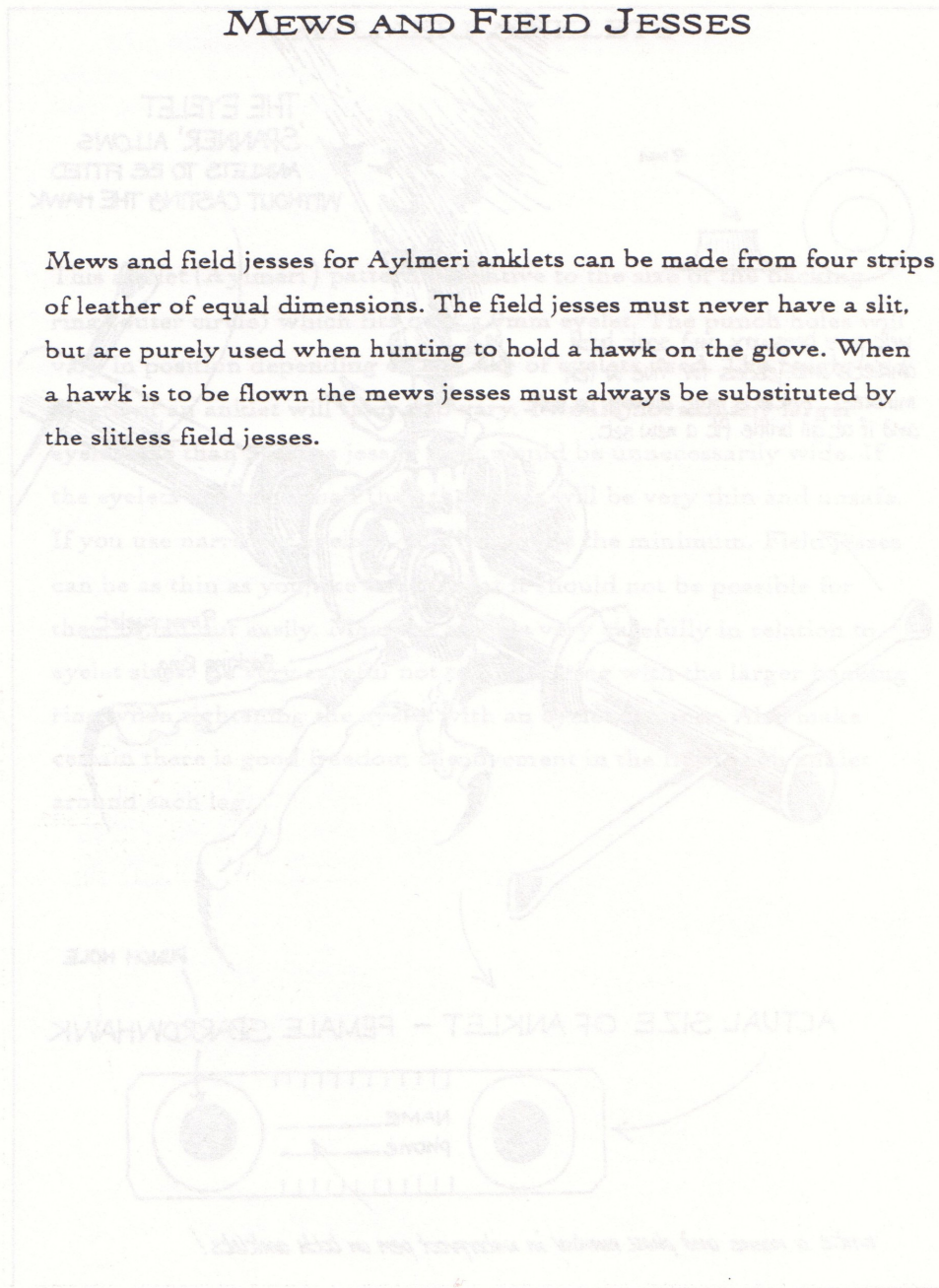


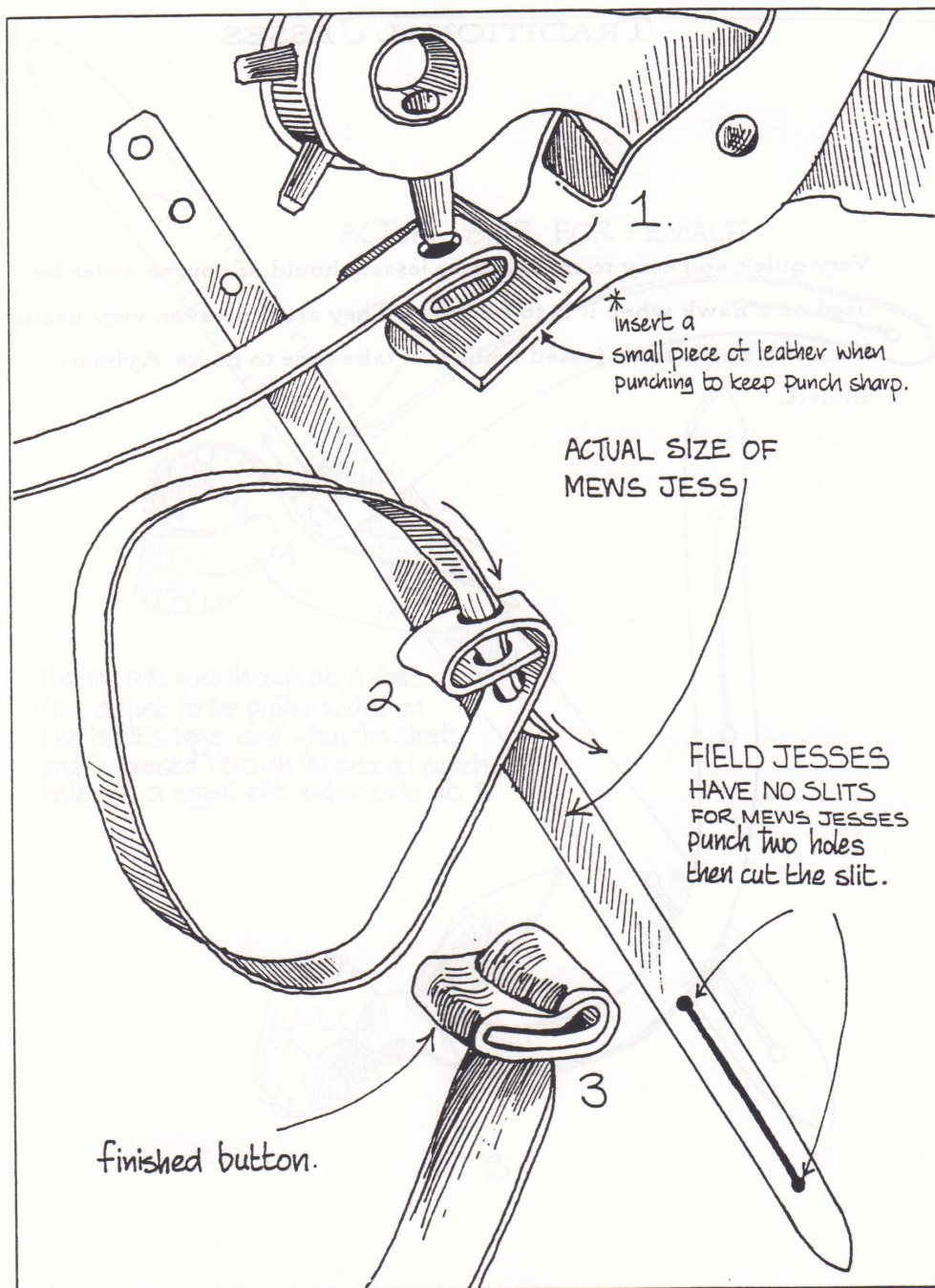
FOURCHETTE



MEWS AND FIELD JESSES

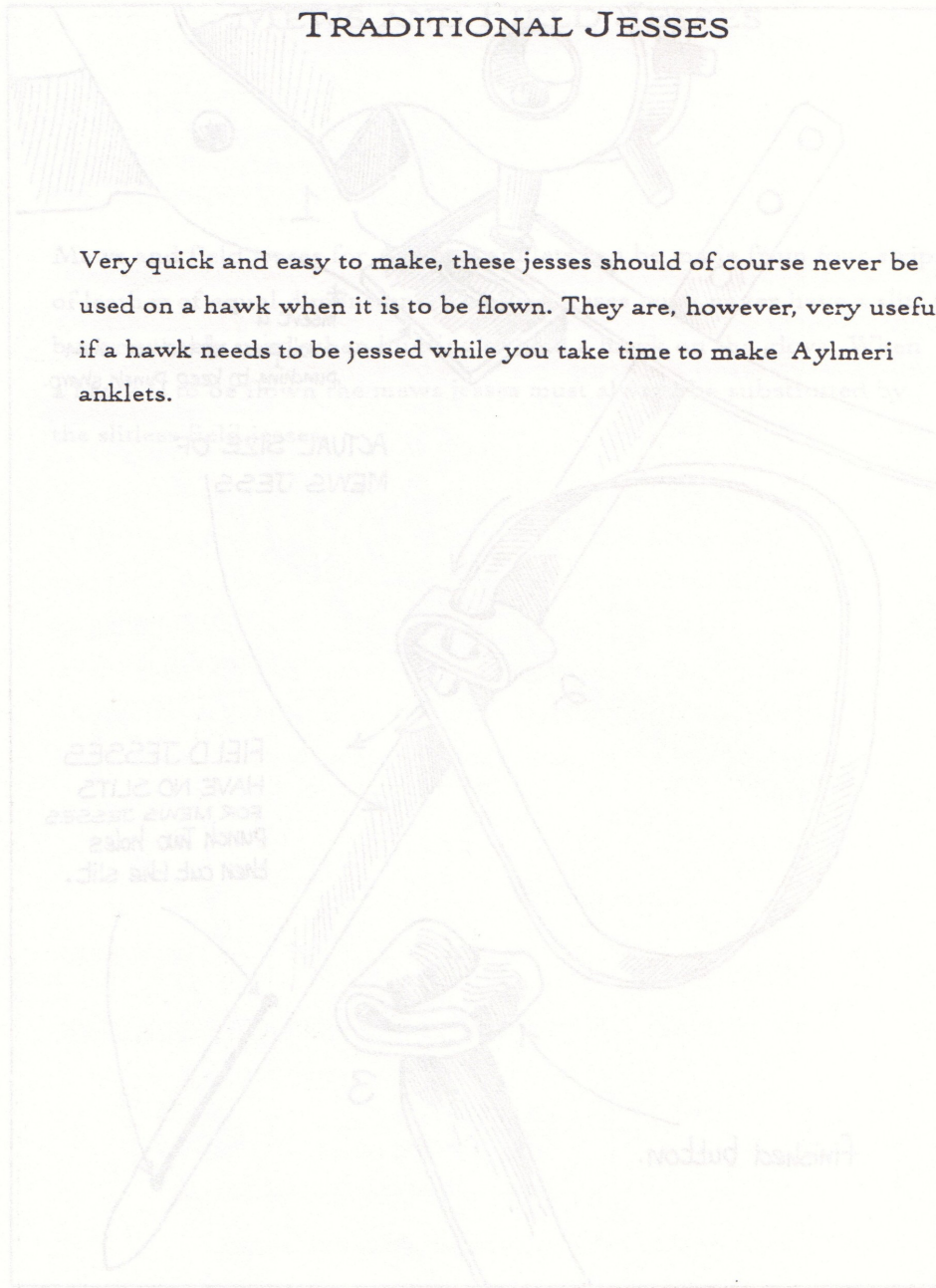
Mews and field jesses for Aylmeri anklets can be made from four strips of leather of equal dimensions. The field jesses must never have a slit, but are purely used when hunting to hold a hawk on the glove. When a hawk is to be flown the mews jesses must always be substituted by the slitless field jesses.

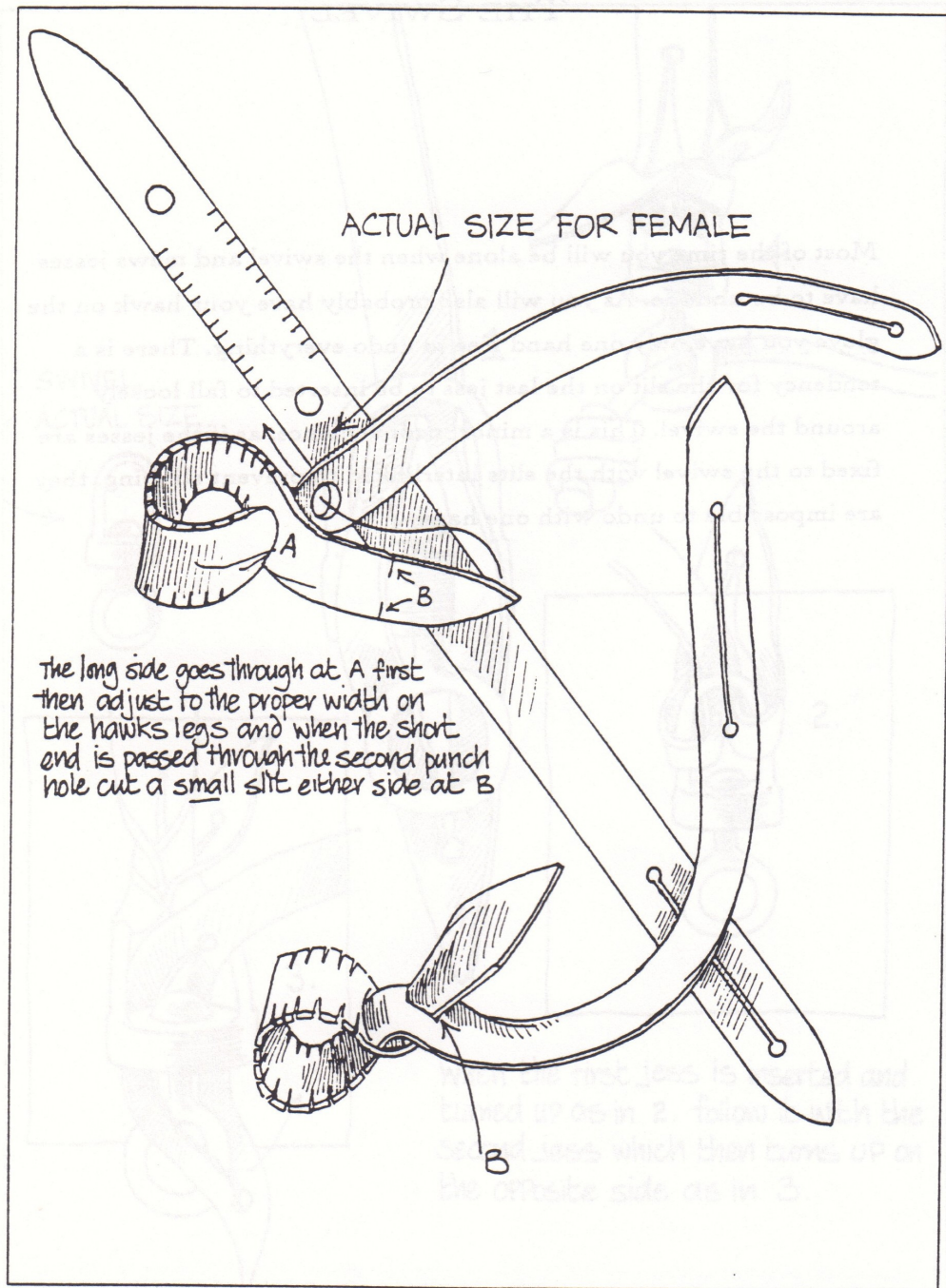




TRADITIONAL JESSES

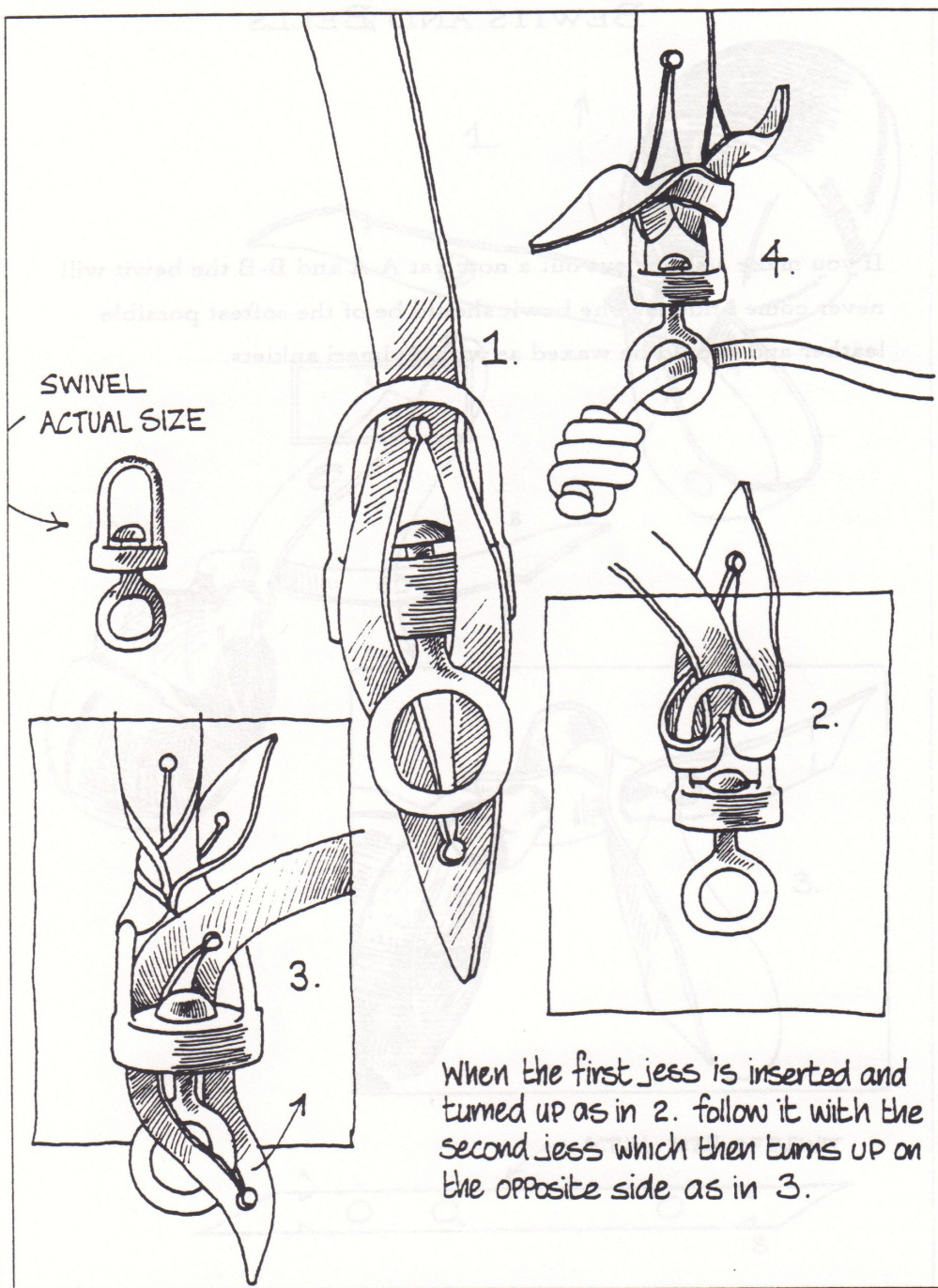
Very quick and easy to make, these jesses should of course never be used on a hawk when it is to be flown. They are, however, very useful if a hawk needs to be jessed while you take time to make Aylmeri anklets.





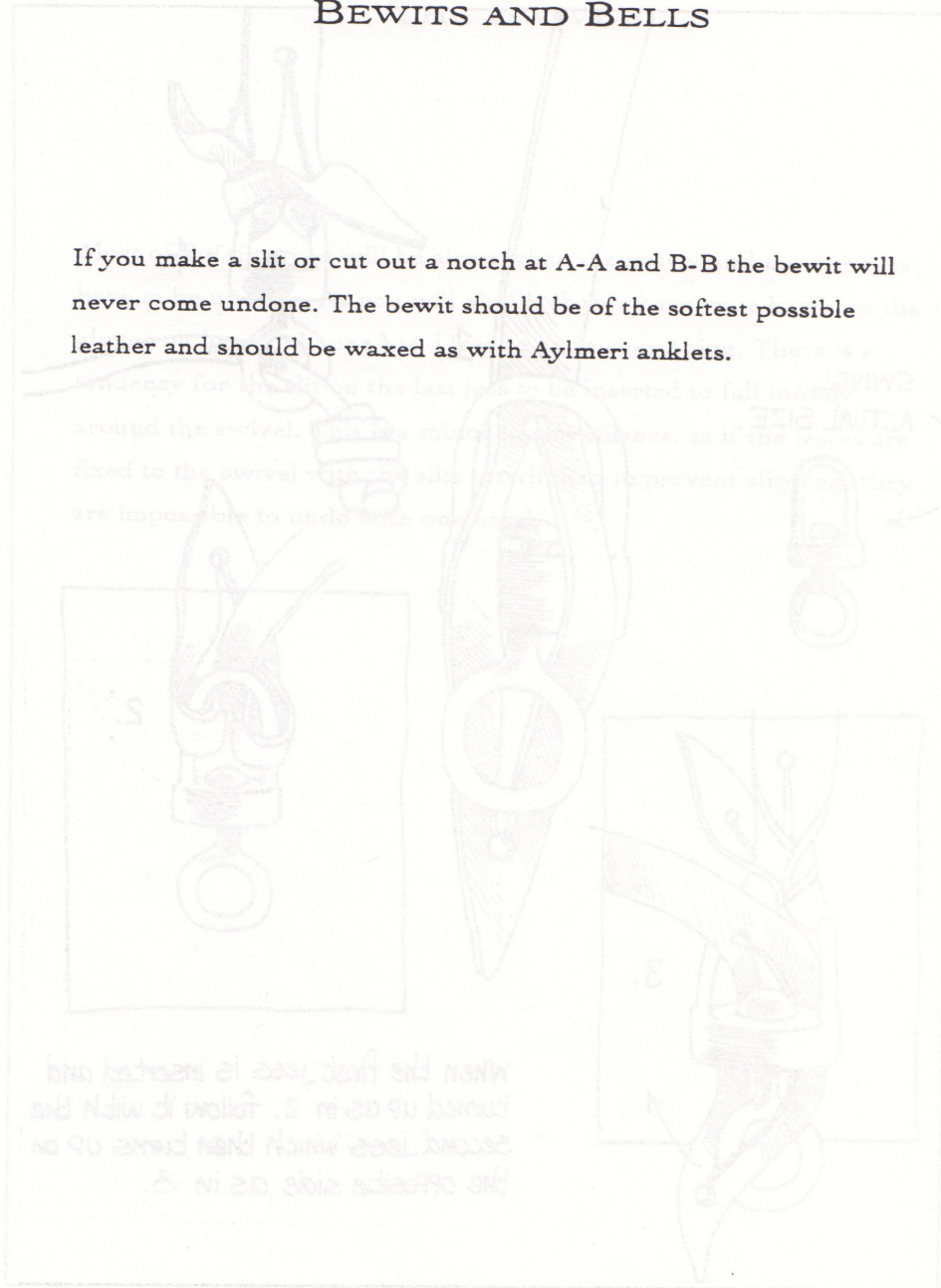
THE SWIVEL

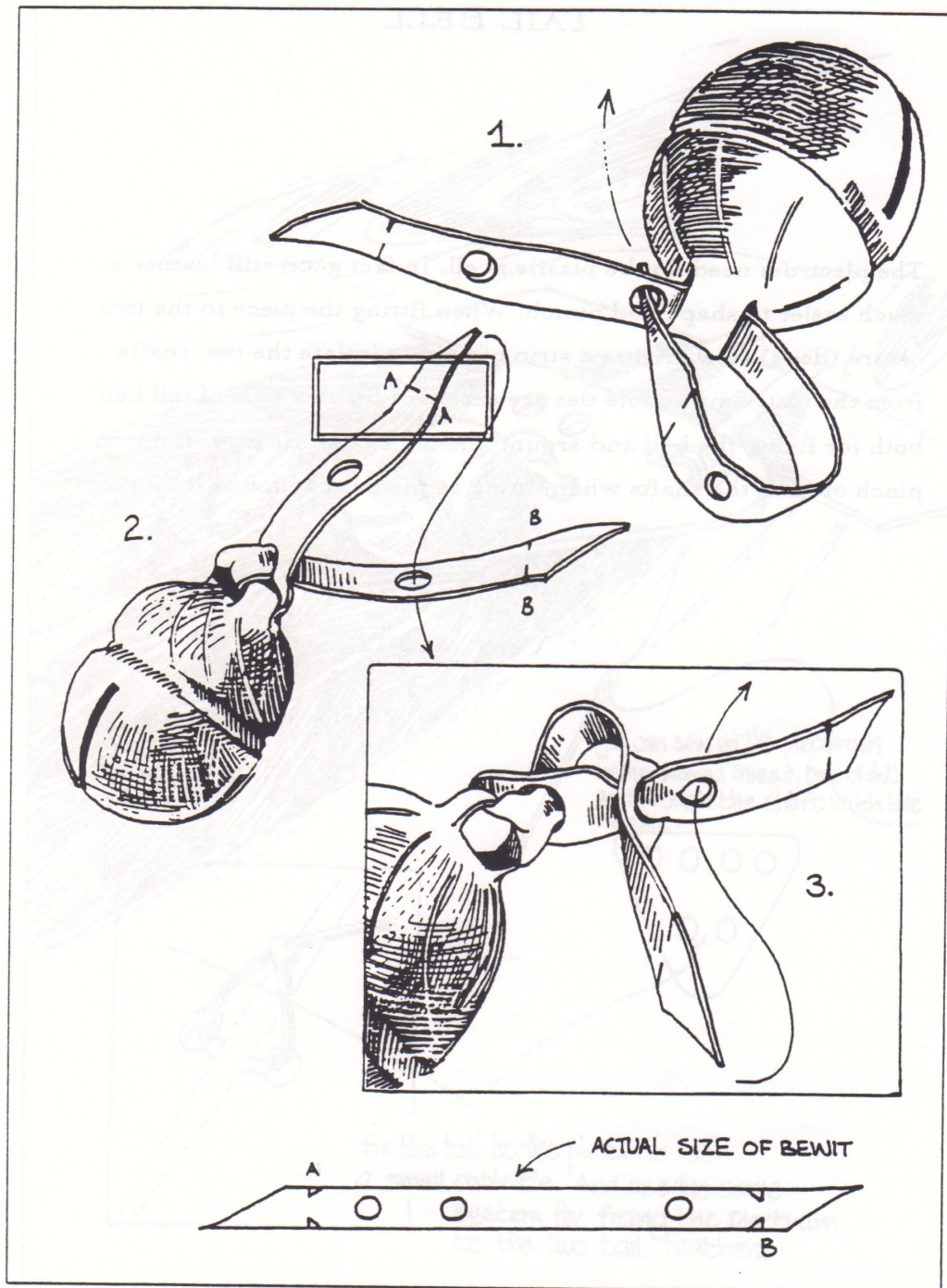
Most of the time you will be alone when the swivel and mews jesses have to be undone. As you will also probably have your hawk on the glove you have only one hand free to undo everything. There is a tendency for the slit on the last jess to be inserted to fall loosely around the swivel. This is a minor inconvenience, as if the jesses are fixed to the swivel with the slits interlinked to prevent slipping, they are impossible to undo with one hand.



BEWITS AND BELLS

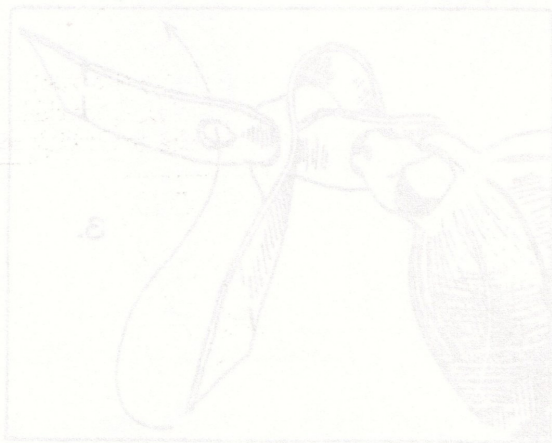
If you make a slit or cut out a notch at A-A and B-B the bewit will never come undone. The bewit should be of the softest possible leather and should be waxed as with Aylmeri anklets.

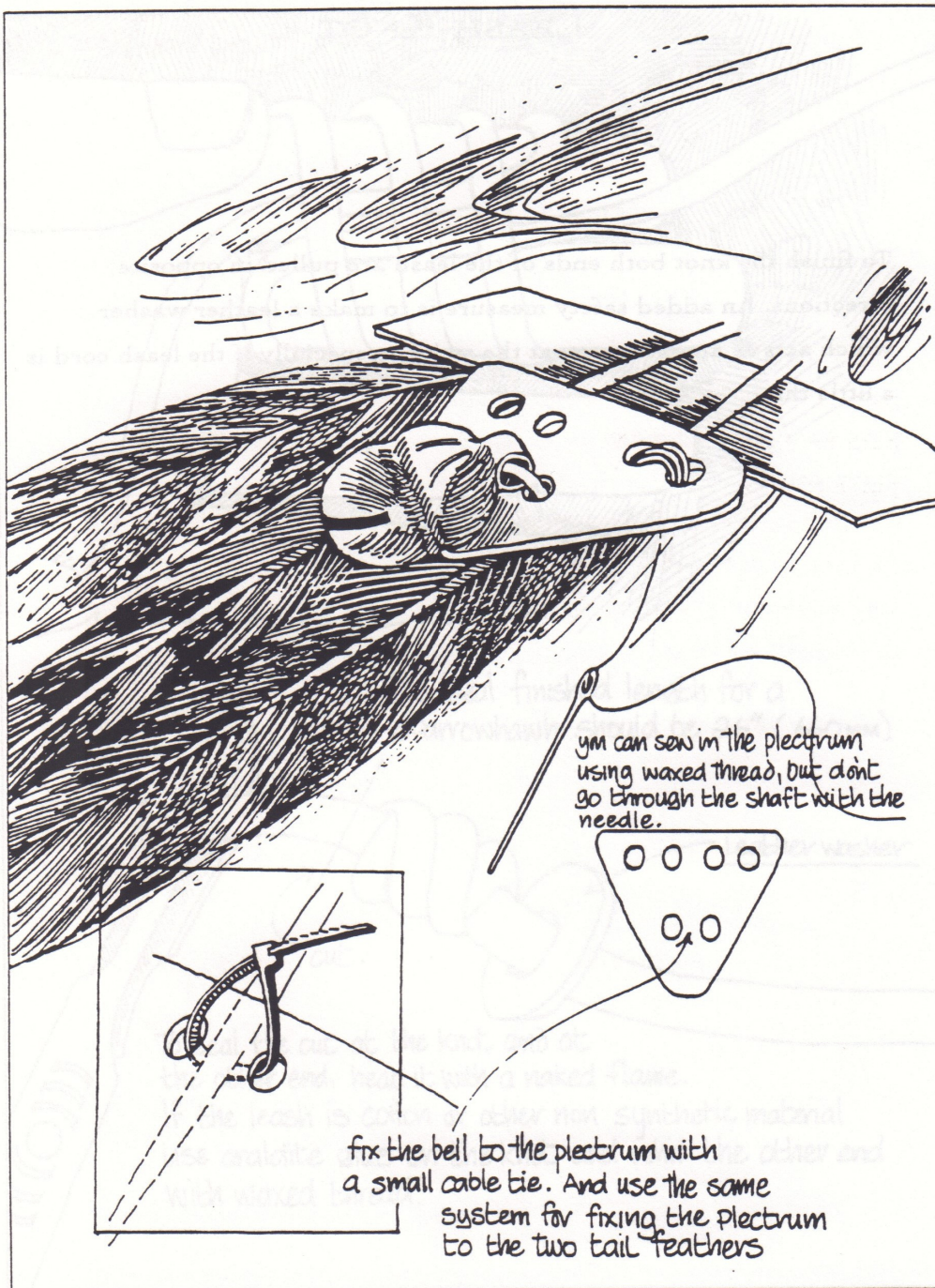




TAIL BELL

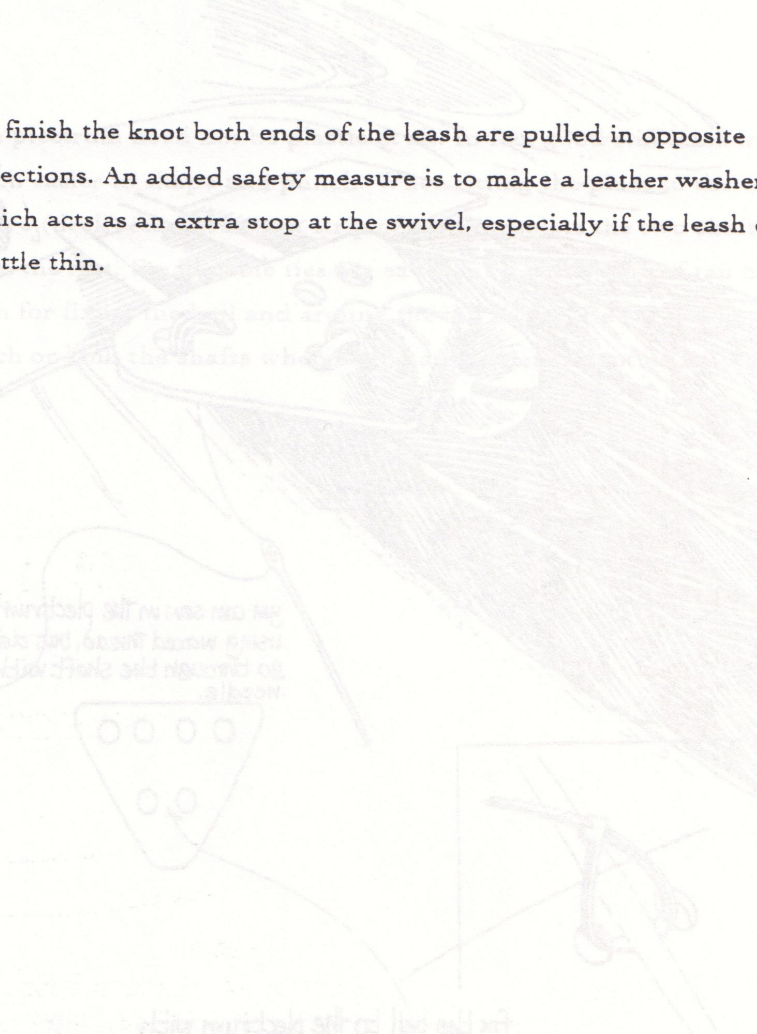
The plectrum need not be plastic at all. In fact good stiff leather is much easier to shape and punch. When fitting the piece to the two centre (deck) feathers use a strip of card to isolate the two shafts from the rest. Small cable ties are excellent for this type of tail bell both for fixing the bell and around the tail shafts. Be careful not to pinch or kink the shafts when fitting as the ties cannot be loosened.

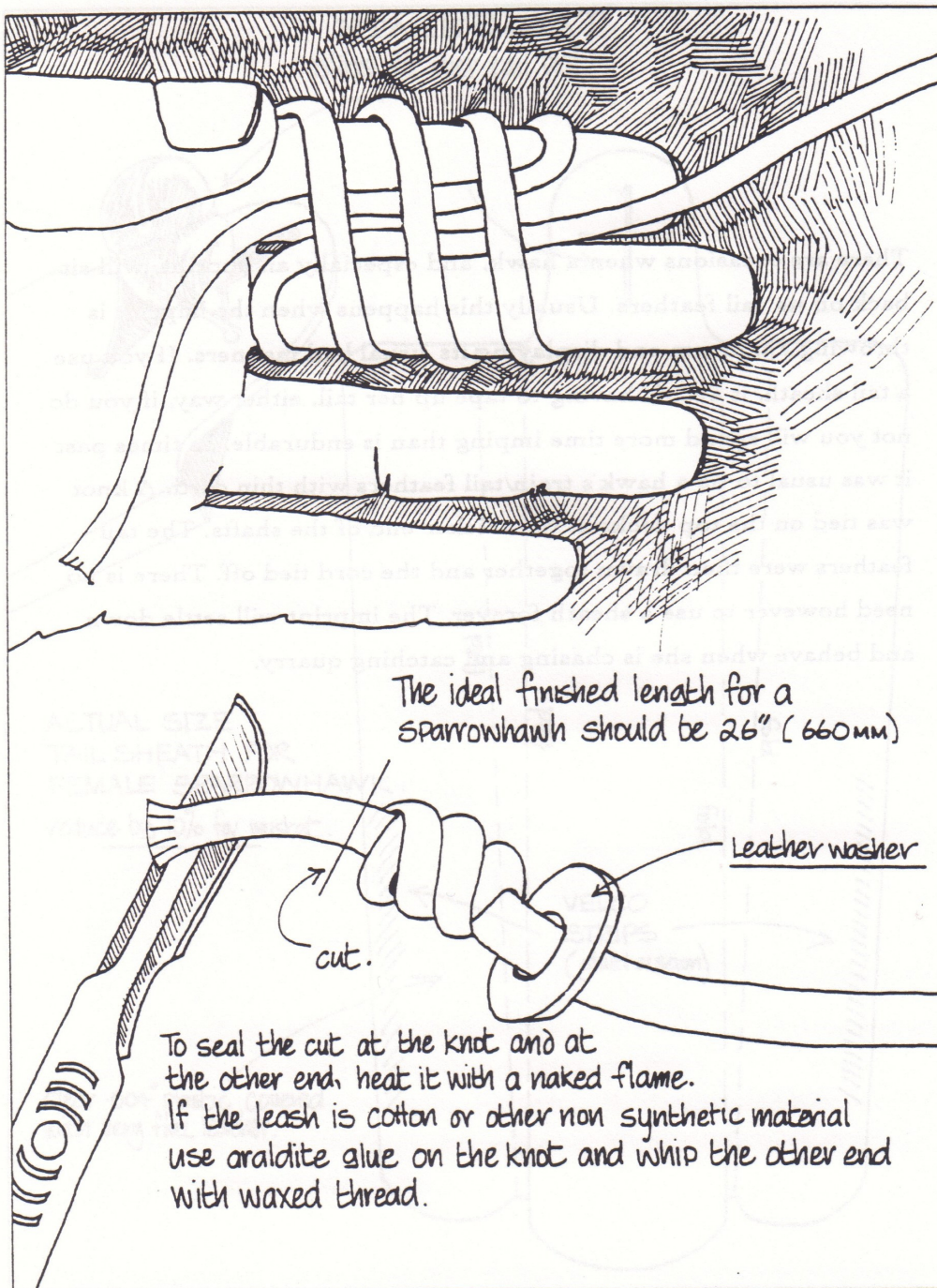




LEASH KNOT

To finish the knot both ends of the leash are pulled in opposite directions. An added safety measure is to make a leather washer which acts as an extra stop at the swivel, especially if the leash cord is a little thin.

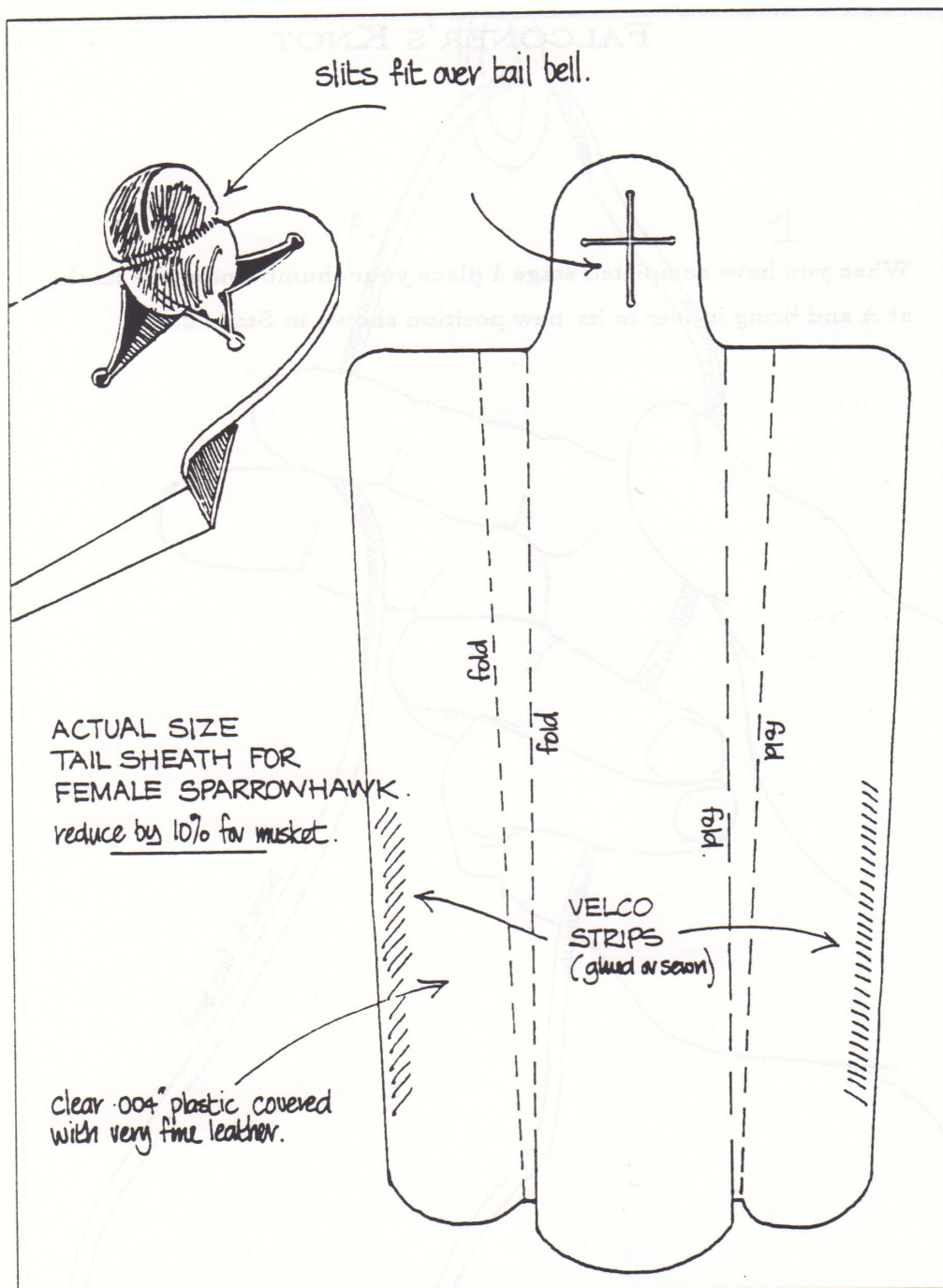




TAIL SHEATH

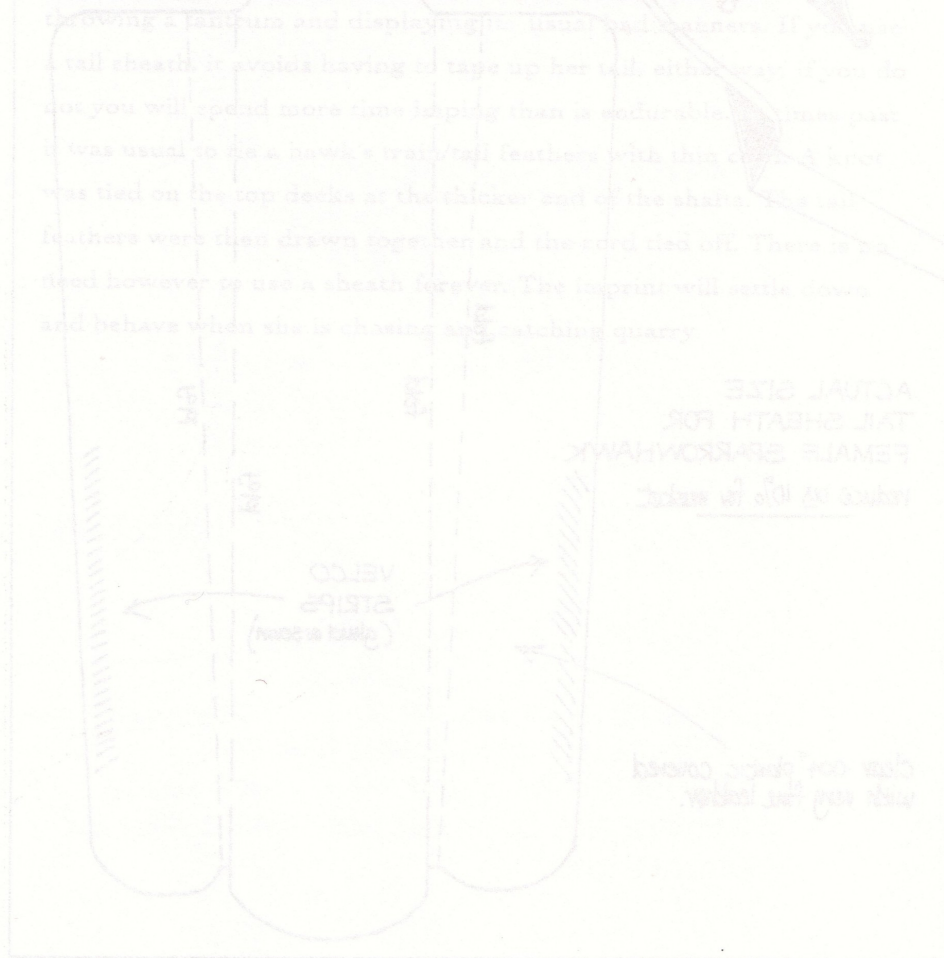
There are occasions when a hawk, and especially an imprint, will sit back on its tail feathers. Usually this happens when the imprint is throwing a tantrum and displaying its usual bad manners. If you use a tail sheath, it avoids having to tape up her tail, either way, if you do not you will spend more time imping than is endurable. In times past it was usual to tie a hawk's train/tail feathers with thin cord. A knot was tied on the top decks at the thicker end of the shafts. The tail feathers were then drawn together and the cord tied off. There is no need however to use a sheath forever. The imprint will settle down and behave when she is chasing and catching quarry.

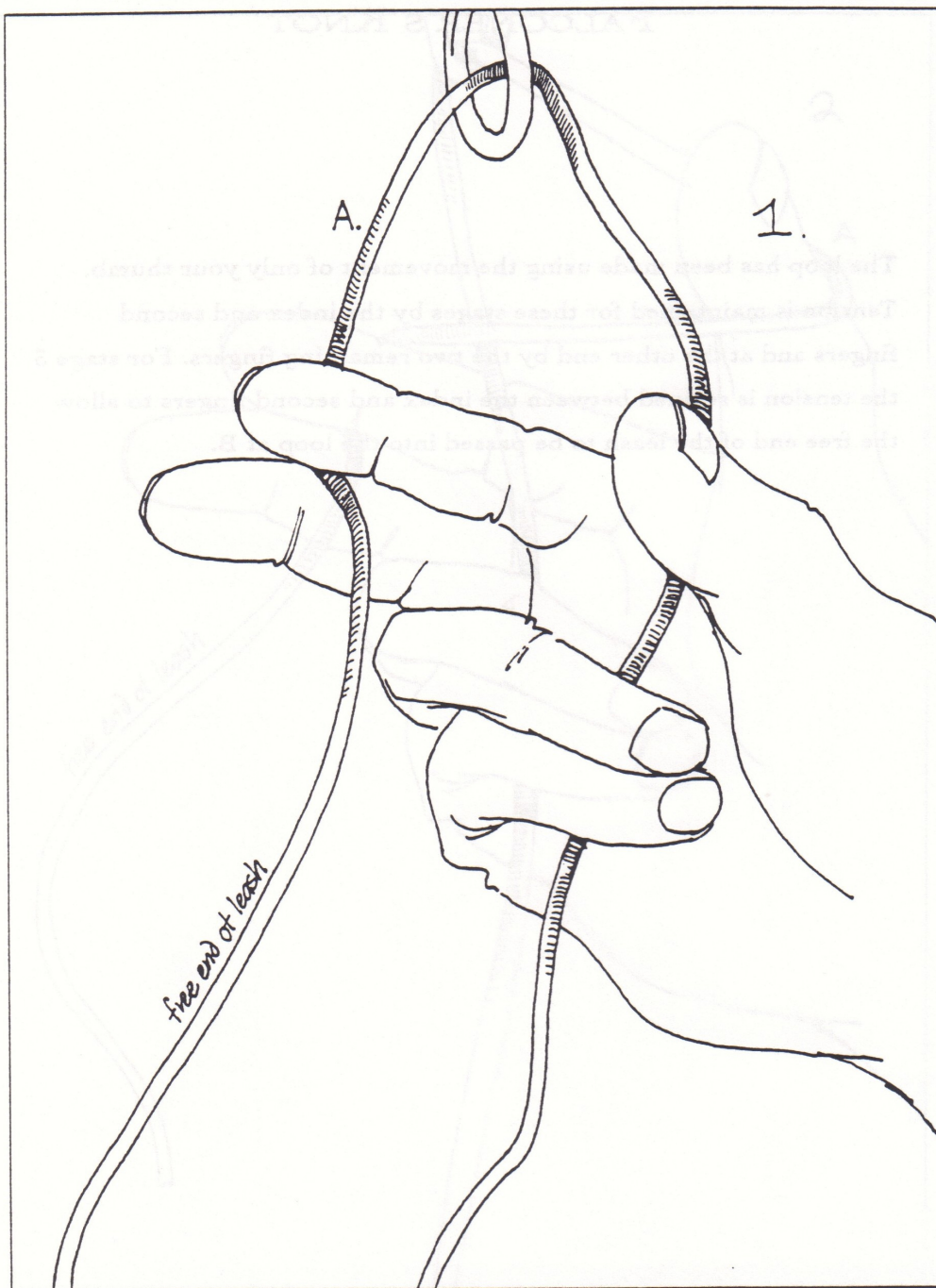
TAIL SHEATH



FALCONER'S KNOT

When you have completed stage 1 place your thumb under the leash at A and bring it over to its new position shown in Stage 2.

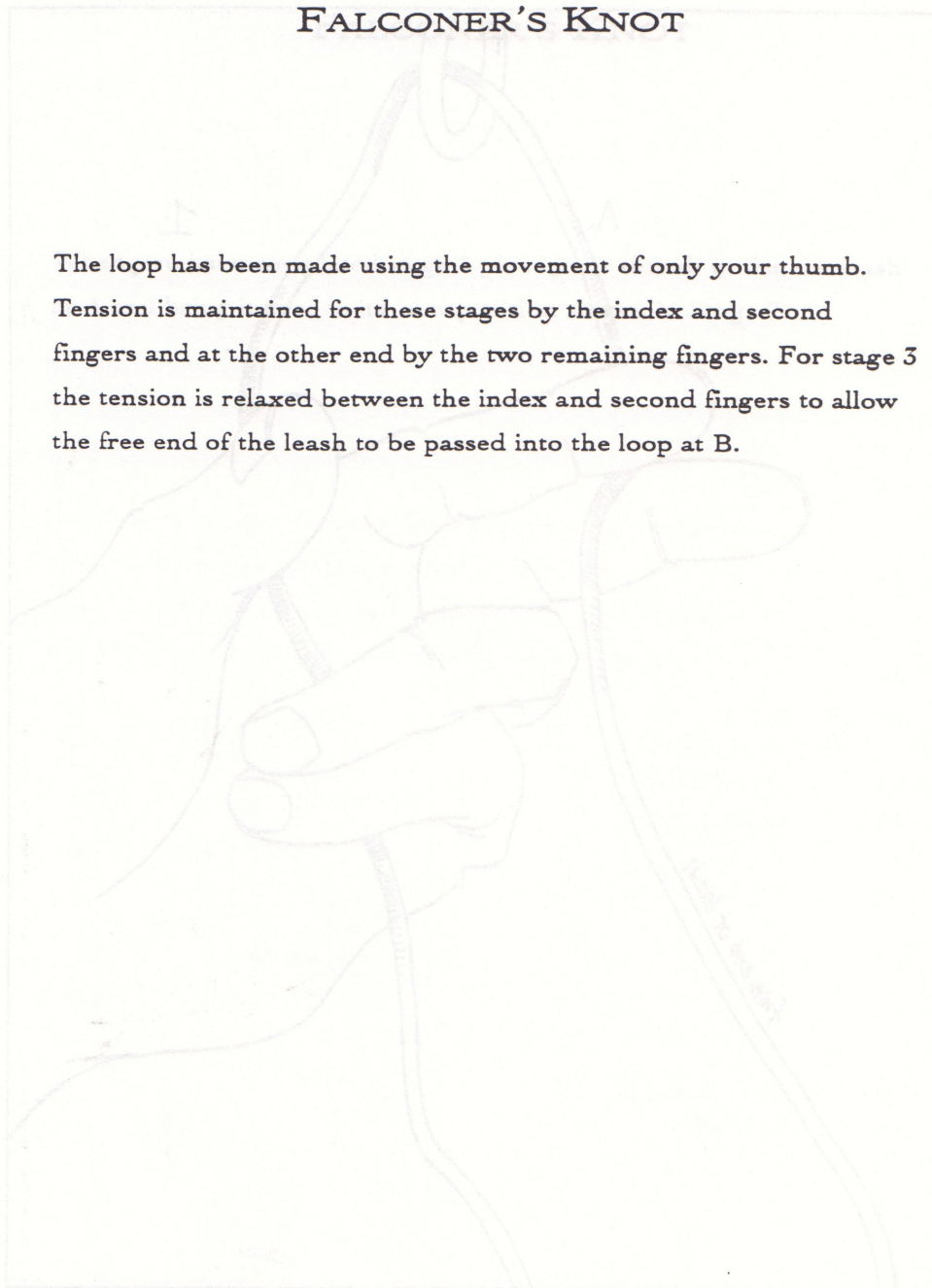


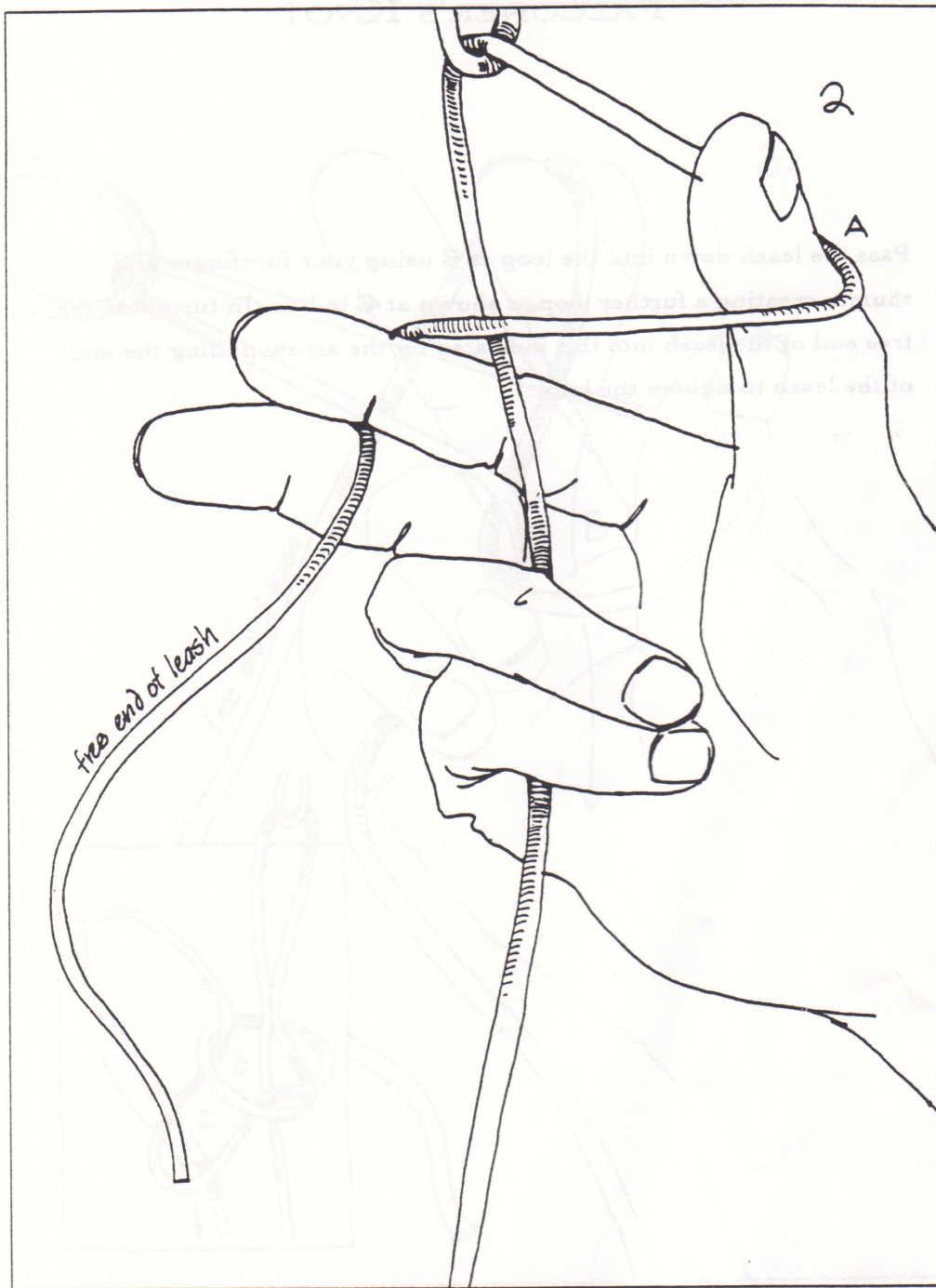


FAT CONED'S KNOT

FALCONER'S KNOT

The loop has been made using the movement of only your thumb. Tension is maintained for these stages by the index and second fingers and at the other end by the two remaining fingers. For stage 3 the tension is relaxed between the index and second fingers to allow the free end of the leash to be passed into the loop at B.

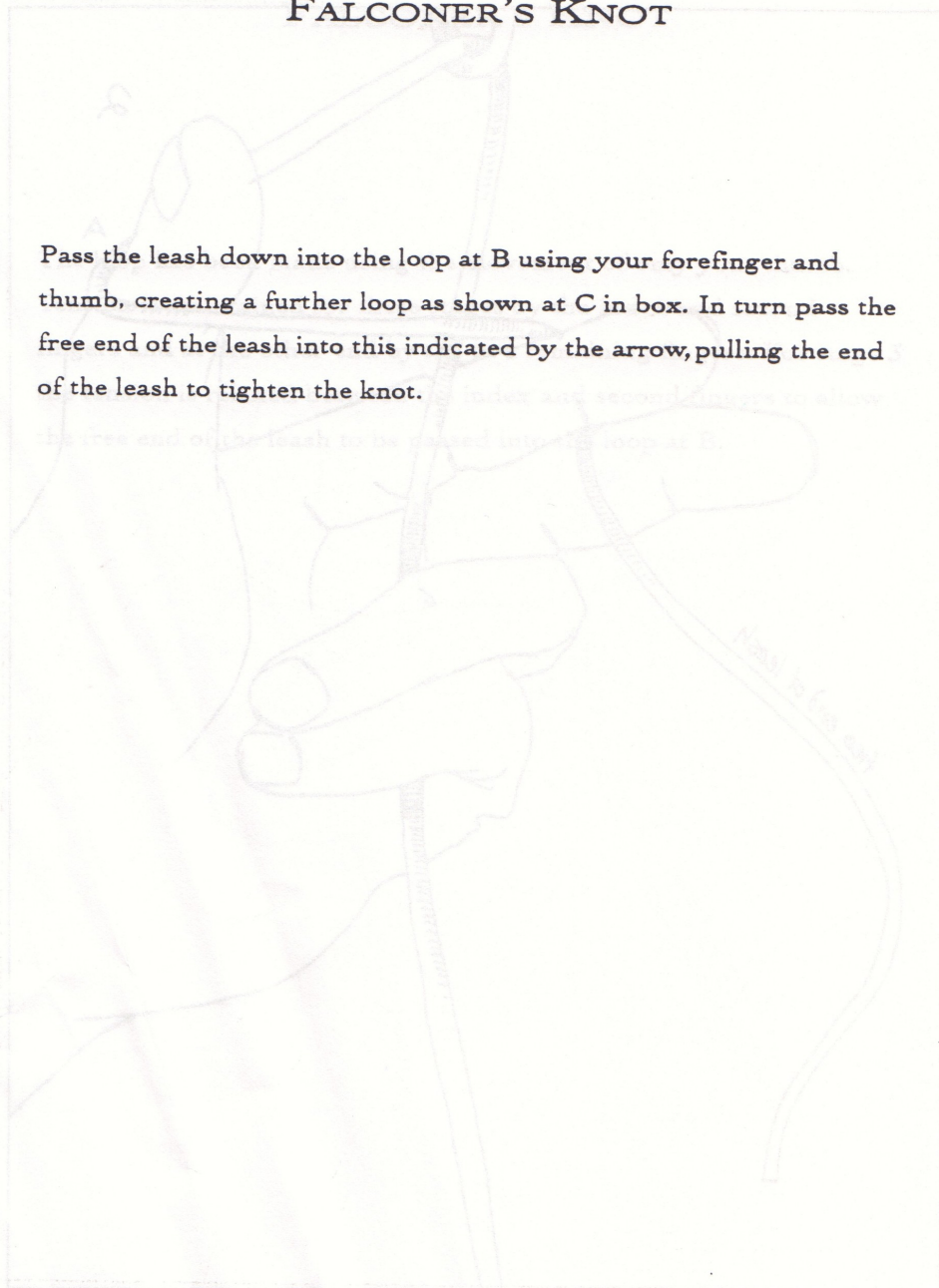




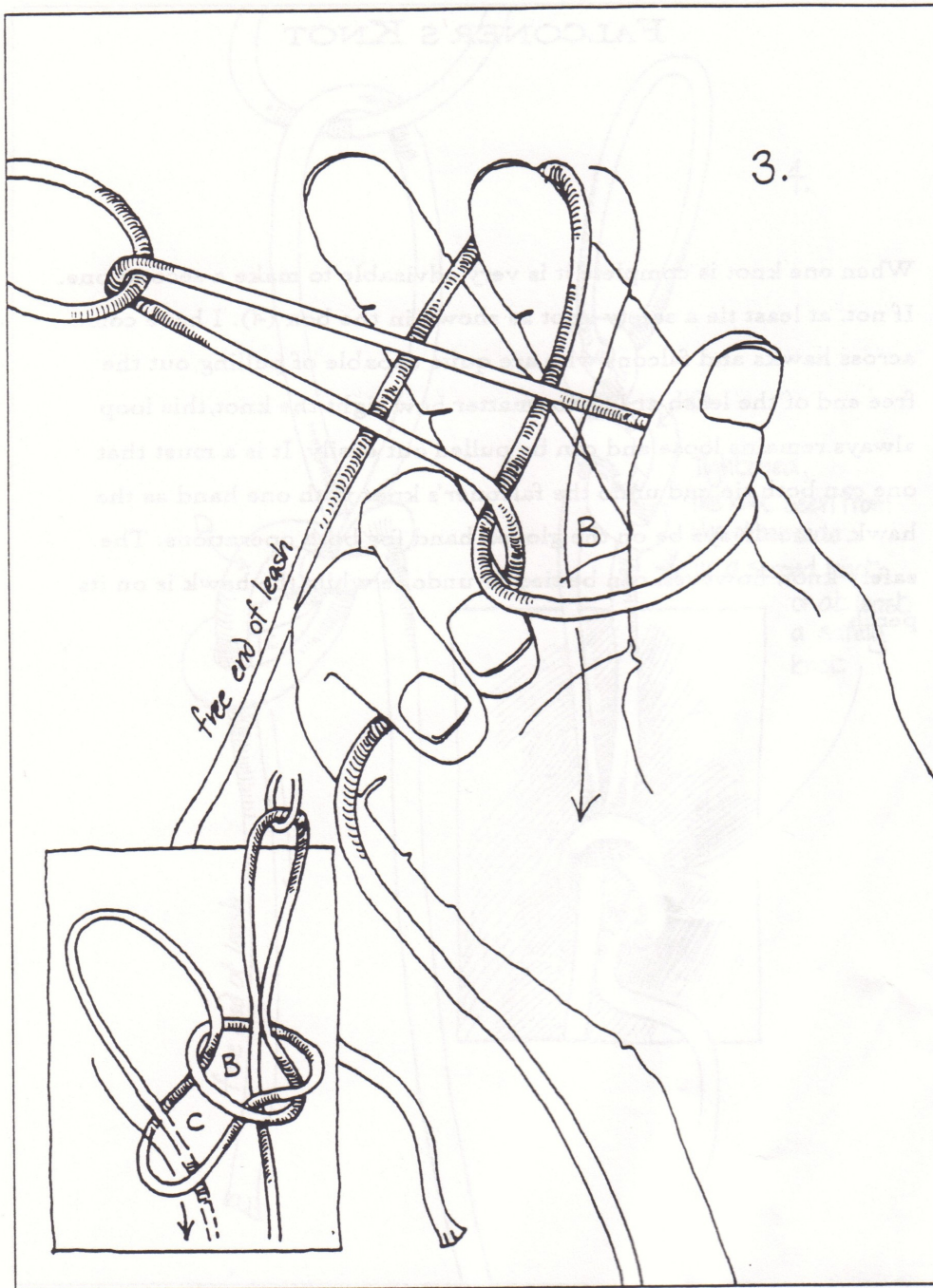
FALCONER'S KNOT

FALCONER'S KNOT

Pass the leash down into the loop at B using your forefinger and thumb, creating a further loop as shown at C in box. In turn pass the free end of the leash into this indicated by the arrow, pulling the end of the leash to tighten the knot.

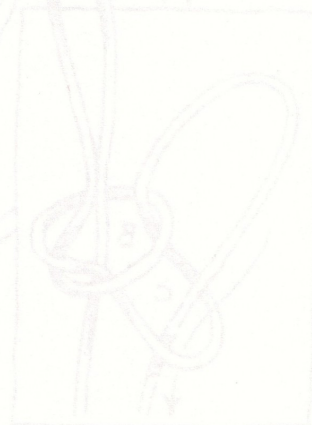


FALCONER'S KNOT

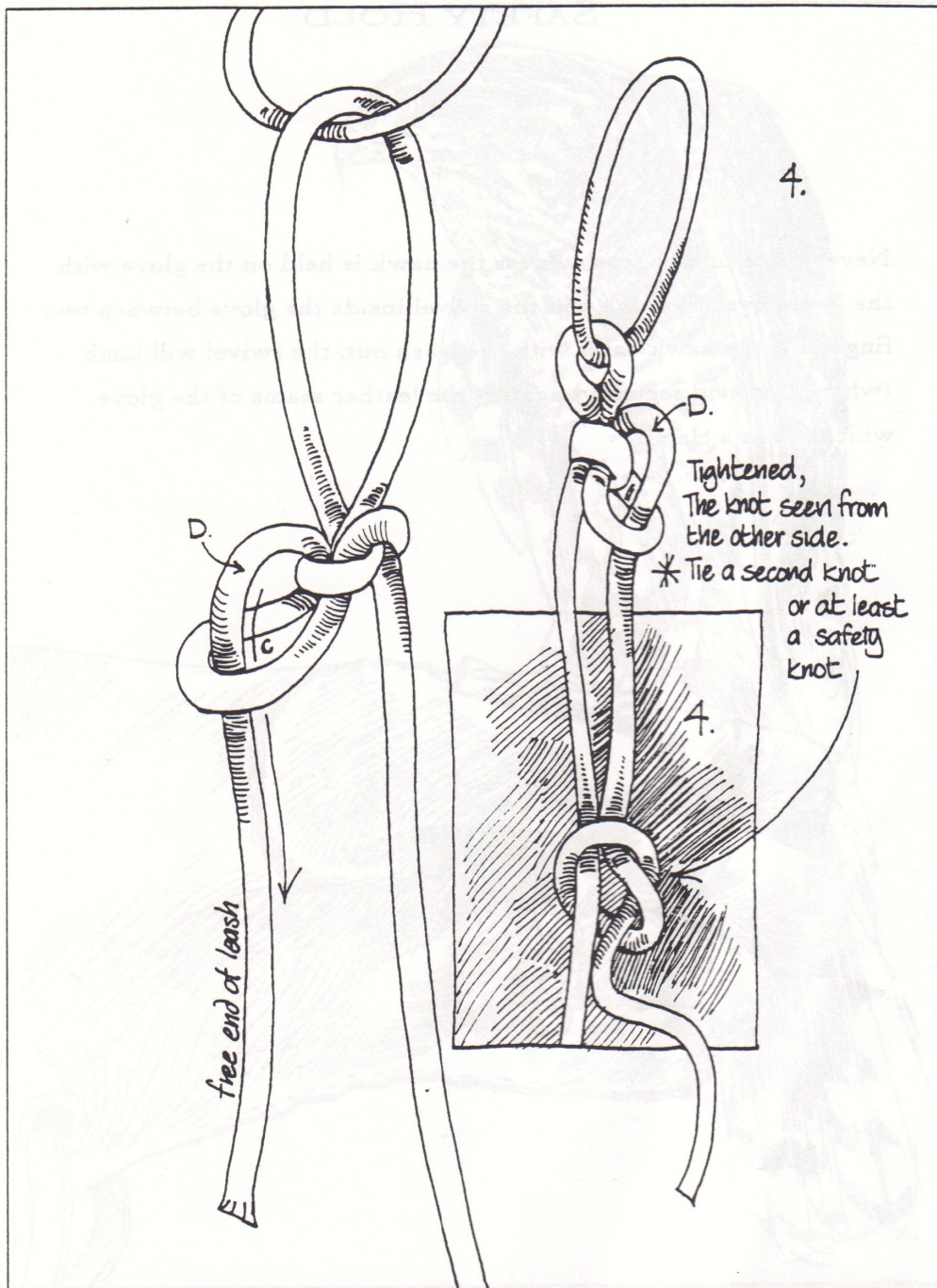


FALCONER'S KNOT

When one knot is complete it is very advisable to make a second one. If not, at least tie a safety knot as shown in the box (4). I have come across hawks and falcons who are quite capable of pulling out the free end of the leash at D. No matter how tight the knot, this loop always remains loose and can be pulled out easily. It is a must that one can both tie and undo the falconer's knot with one hand as the hawk must always be on the gloved hand for both operations. The safety knot, however, can be tied or undone while the hawk is on its perch.



FALCONER'S KNOT



SAFETY HOLD

Never tie or untie a leash unless the hawk is held on the glove with the jesses over the back and the swivel inside the glove between two fingers. If the hawk bates with the leash out, the swivel will jamb (where it is held securely) against the leather seams of the glove which act as a clamp.

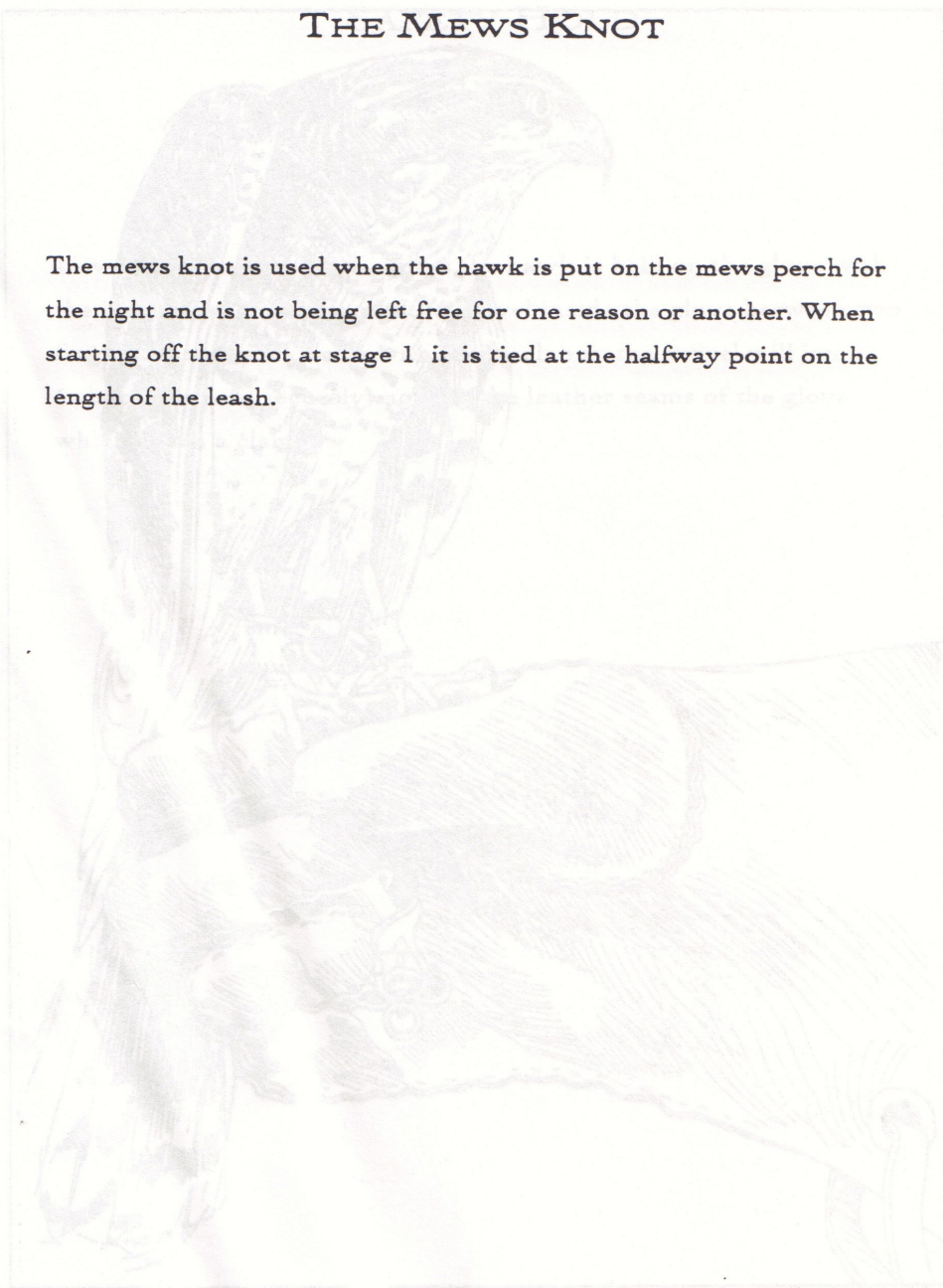




SAFETY HOLD

THE MEWS KNOT

The mews knot is used when the hawk is put on the mews perch for the night and is not being left free for one reason or another. When starting off the knot at stage 1 it is tied at the halfway point on the length of the leash.



THE MEWS KNOT

