

# MADISON STITCH

Made by Hand in Kansas City, Missouri



William Waris  
Intern



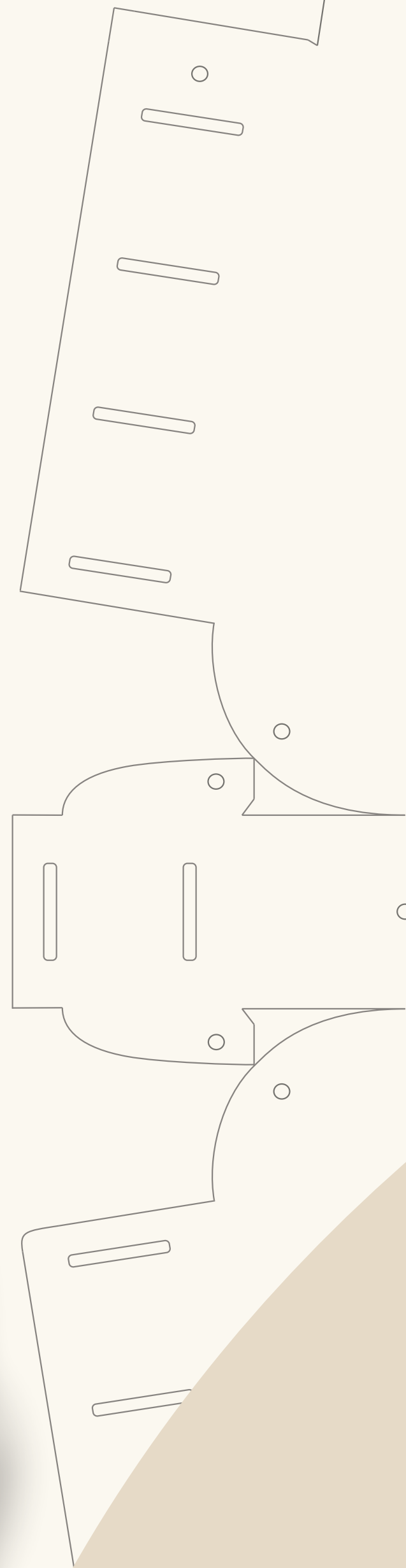
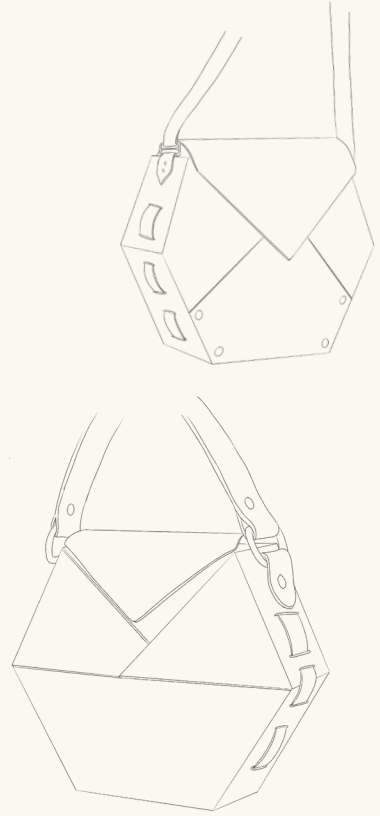
John Pryor  
Owner/Founder

## Studio Identity & Culture

Madison Stitch blends rugged craftsmanship with modern design. Specializing in durable leather goods made from locally sourced Hermann Oak leather and brass hardware.

As an intern I was trusted with meaningful work and was encouraged to contribute ideas. The firm culture is open, supportive, and deeply connected to the local creative scene.

Team members I worked along with include founder John Pryor, as well as classmate and intern Liza Sanborn and Kansas State alumni Summer Glenn and Grace Stoneburner, who all shaped this internship experience.



## My Story at Madison Stitch

I started my internship by converting existing bag designs into digital plans for Madison Stitch's DIY customers, including downloadable patterns, instructions, and videos.

Next, I took on the challenge of designing a new bag that introduced a smooth, continuous curve a first for Madison Stitch. This tested both the material's flexibility and the studio's known methods.

### Overcoming Struggles

During the design process, I experienced a sudden injury at home that resulted in the partial amputation of my left middle finger. This made prototyping difficult and raised doubts about whether I could continue the internship.

Despite the setback, I stayed committed. With the team's support, I slowly worked through the full design and production of what became the Stirrup Bag my first original product at Madison Stitch. Seeing it realized in multiple colorways marked not only a creative success but also a personal milestone in my recovery.

### Looking Ahead

My connection to Madison Stitch won't end with the internship. I plan to continue to work with the team to finalize the Hexagon Crossbody Bag, a bold take on geometric forms in leather design. I also plan to explore smaller accessories and new product lines in collaboration.

This experience wasn't just a milestone, it marked the beginning of a meaningful professional relationship rooted in trust, creative growth, and resilience.

