

Bustle Building the White Bow Way

By Bob Hamman, MM White Bow

Edited by MM Boy Helper & MM Little Willing Talker

There are many ways to build a bustle and this is only one. Our objective is to provide instructions that are detailed enough for anyone in a remote location, without assistance, to build a quality bustle. The bustle will be portable (by folding up), attractive, yet sturdy when worn. Making the bustle portable by removing the center “dowel spikes” and folding the “U” of feathers both protects the bustle in transit and storage & takes up less room in vehicles or troop trailers when transporting, thus folding the bustle is important. There are variances you can easily make from these instructions, but the basics and some of the “tricks” we have learned are included. A “trailer” is not included as a part of these instructions, but can be easily added if desired, however a longer back board should be used (8”). It is strongly suggested that you take the time to read through the instructions before starting. Also, be sure you have all the materials available before you start and the tools you will need.

Materials List:

You may use a “kit” bustle ordered from the Inner Circle Trading Company, (816) 262-0964, www.innercircletrade.com, or the camp store, but you may wish to add to the kit the items listed under the “non-kit” items at the bottom of the material list. This “demo” bustle was prepared from individually purchased items and not from a kit. This method may be more economical for groups where the “kits” may be economical for individuals.

Items included in a Super Deluxe Traditional Bustle Kit (Missouri River brand):

36 imitation eagle wing feathers* (we used “turkey wing spikes” in the “demo bustle”)
1 oz. 5-6” fluffs (base)
5 ¼ x 8” x ¼” plywood base*
(longer for a trailer-we used a 5” x 6” base)
4” beaded rosette
4” leather disk
6” x 60” broadcloth* (for the trailer)
(12) 3/16” x 18” dowels
(3) 5/16” x 18” dowels (1 for the trailer*)
(2) 6” x 8” white buckskin*
2 white buckskin thongs*
½ oz. white horsehair

4 pieces 2” x 2” fur*
4 hawk bells*
3/8” striped ribbon*
(3) 18” shoelaces
2 yds. simulated sinew*
1 spool thread
glue
2 swivel snaps
(2) ¼” eye screws
3 rolls of colored electrical tape
(1) 14” wire (we used clothes hanger wire in the “demo” bustle)

*not used in this “demo” bustle

Non-kit items used in this “demo bustle” not included in a Super Deluxe Bustle Kit:

Roll of waxed cord or string
100 zig zag split shot (fishing weights)
2 additional packs of fluffs for two more colors
(½ oz. base fluffs & ½ oz. tip fluffs)
Wire hanger (only if you are not using a kit)
Large needle
(2) 27” shoelaces (unless you use the 18” in the kit)
(2) 10” lengths of oiled thong or laces for belt loops
Tools Needed: Cutter and pliers to cut and bend the wire hanger; electric or manual drill and drill bits to drill the holes in the back board, the dowels in the end of the feathers for the wax thread & in the end of the dowels for the “spikes.” A saw will be needed to cut out the back board and to cut off the dowels.



Note: When choosing colors, it is preferred that you use light colors next to dark colors as they “show” better, whereas a dark color next to a dark color tend to blend into one another, especially from a distance. Many choose to repeat one of the center piece colors on the tips of the feathers for tip fluffs. The “demo bustle” chose white turkey wing spikes (although standard wing feathers can, and often are, used), red tip fluffs, and yellow, orange, & red fluffs for the center piece with red, orange & yellow electrical tape often referred to as “Oklahoma” colors.

PREPARING THE FEATHERS

I. Making the Fletching Uniform

The objective is to make all the feathers look identical with identical tips, fletching length, tab length & the same overall length. You will generally end up with 26-38 “cloned” feathers for your bustle. The sample bustle has 34 and the “kit bustles” come with 36, while others come with less. If you are using wing feathers (often wider than “spikes”) and shorter overall length, you may use as few as 26 feathers. Wing feathers are used more often than wing “spikes” in tribal bustles.

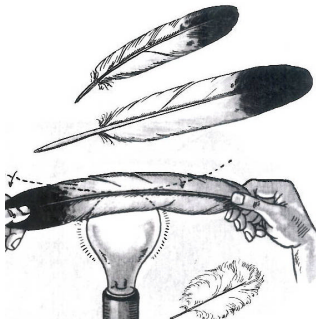
If you use “wing feathers” you would **not** “strip” one edge of the wing feathers as you would a “spike,” but use the whole feather with both sides of the fletching in tact. So you would skip the instruction to strip the top side of the fletching when using standard wing feathers.

We HIGHLY recommend that you “straighten” your feathers. Instructions on how to straighten feathers is not included as they can be found elsewhere. You can use either an iron or a light bulb to straighten your feathers. Although time consuming, by straightening your feathers the bustle turns out more attractive and uniform. A past “Make Talk” article by Connor Elliott shows the straightening of feathers.

NOTE: If an iron is used to straighten the feathers, it is advisable to have an adult perform this task due to the potential to be burnt on the iron.



BE SURE TO USE SUNGLASSES IF USING A LIGHT BULB TO STRAIGHTEN FEATHERS!



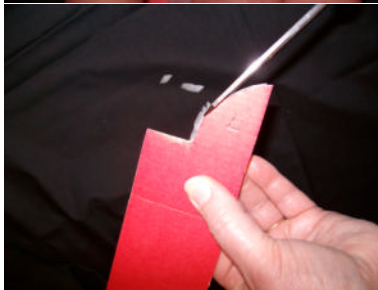
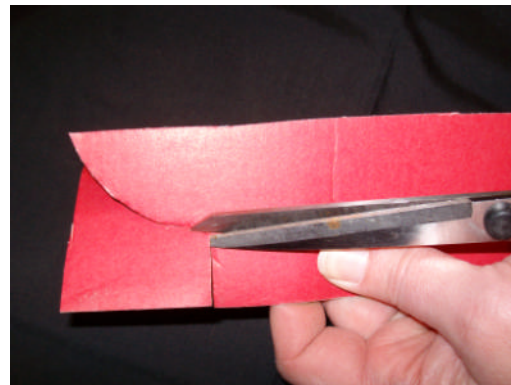
-
- From “curved” to “straight.”



Begin by sorting your feathers into “lefts” and “rights.” Each feather has a natural “curve” & you need to have the curve go “up” when the rounded

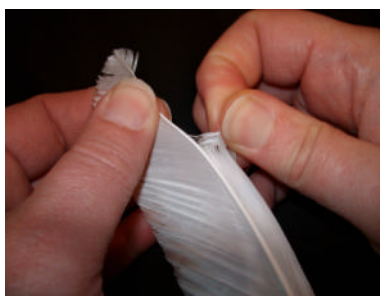
side of the shaft or quill is toward you (up). The shaft of the feather will be referred to as the “quill” and the “feathery part” referred to as the “fletching.”

Make a card board pattern for the end of the feather with a pattern for the left and another pattern for the right (or just flip your pattern). Then cut all the ends of the feathers to match the pattern. This gives you a nice consistent look for all feather ends.



Now strip the side of the spike with very little fletching on it. Just start near the top and pull down and discard the fletching torn off. Be careful at the top as the feather is quite fragile there. Even though we have taken all the fletching from the top down, you can leave a 1/2 inch or so, as it gives the tip fluffies more to be glued onto & support when you glue your tip fluffs on the feather later in the process.

Consequently, you can start about half an inch or so down from the top to strip off the narrow side of the feather. Only do this when using *spikes*... **DO NOT STRIP**



**THE FLETCHING
WHEN USING
REGULAR WING
FEATHERS.**



Line the feathers up on a table or on the floor with the tips that you just cut all even. (Hint: use a long board against the tips to “bump” them all even).

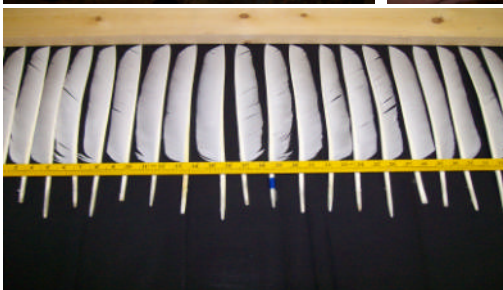
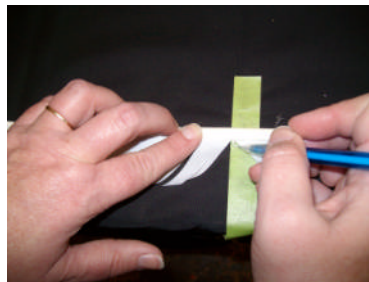


Find the feather with the shortest “fletching” (the “feather part”) measuring from the top tip of the feather. You can visually pick out the shortest from the “line up” of the feathers by looking down the line and picking the feather with the shortest fletching. Note that in this process you totally ignore the overall length of the feather; you are only concerned with the length of the fletching portion of the feather. Measure from the tip of the feather down to the bottom of the fletching with a ruler or tape measure. In the case of our “sample bustle” it was 11 3/4". It is likely that your shortest feather’s fletching will be shorter than this.



It is easiest to place tape on a table that is the same distance as your fletching measures.

Take something pointed (in this case a pencil, but an ice pick, nail, or other pointed object will work) and separate the fletching where the tape is. Take the bottom side that is separated and strip it off the quill or shaft of the feather. Repeat for all feathers.

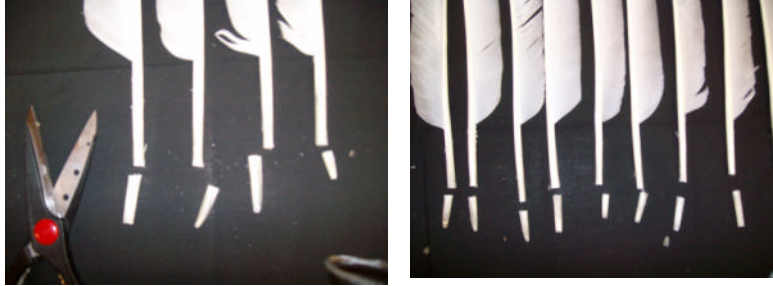


The result is to make the fletching part of all the feathers the same.

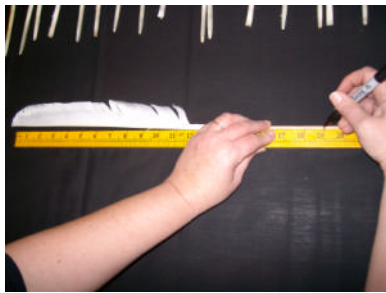
Now that you have uniform tips and fletching size, the next goal is to make all the feathers uniform in overall length.

II. Lengthen the Feathers:

This is done by clipping of the pointed end of the feather high enough to get to the round part of the quill.



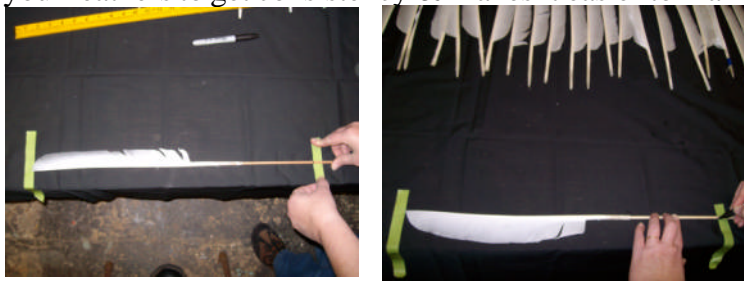
This gives you an area to put a 3/16" wood dowel into. At this point you need to determine how long you want the extended feathers to be. "Big" is not necessarily "better" as a larger bustle is more easily broken or damaged by catching onto trees, shrubs, doorways or other dancers. The overall length is generally between 16" and 21".



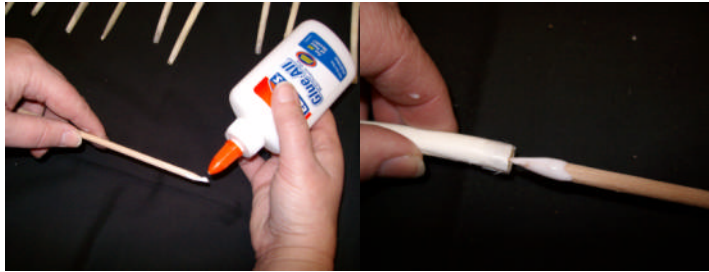
The "demo" bustle is too big to be practical when wearing, but was made so only for demonstration purposes.

Determine the overall length of the feather plus the dowel that is stuck in the end (see sharpening the end below). You can stick the 3/16 inch dowel into the bottom of the quill as far as possible to get some idea

and then mark the dowel at the length you want. Using that measurement place two pieces of tape that distance apart on a work surface to measure the full length of all your feathers to get consistency & makes it easier to mark the rest of the dowels.

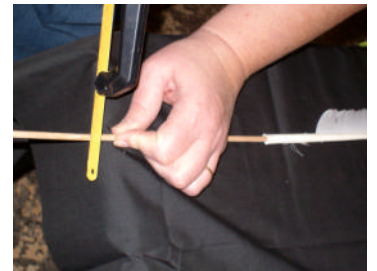


Take a longer dowel and sharpen it in a pencil sharpener to sharpen it somewhat. This is not absolutely necessary, but makes it easier to insert the dowel into the open end of the quill. It is OK if the dowel splits the end of the quill when you put it in. Don't worry about the length, as you will cut it to the proper length in the next step.



Put glue on the sharpened tip of the dowel and push into the open end of the quill as far as it will go with a gentle push.

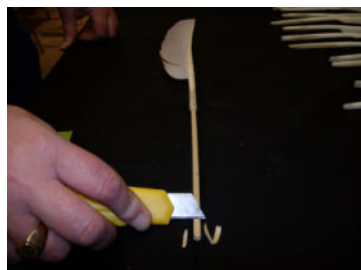
Lay the feather with the dowel sticking out of it with the tip of the feather on the inside of the tape mark and mark the dowel on the inside of the other tape mark. Then saw or cut the dowel on the mark. Repeat for all other feathers.



When using regular wing feathers (most of you will), the quill bottoms are smaller than the 3/16 dowel and will split out. That is OK, just make sure that the feather is straight with the dowel. You can use some of your colored electrical tape to tape it in place while the glue dries. Be sure that the feather and dowel both lay flat against the table while drying and the dowel is straight in line with the dowel.

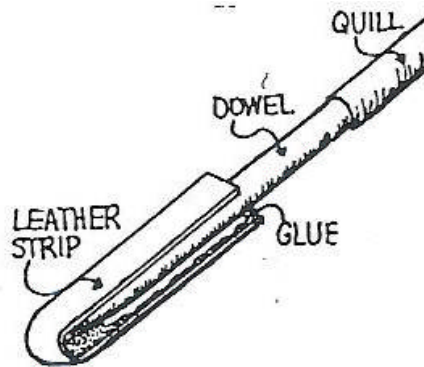
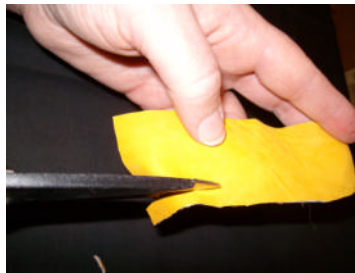
IV. Preparing the Loop

Flatten the dowel on each side by taking a knife and shaving off wood about an inch or so up from the bottom. This makes the loops you will add stick better, take care not to cut too deeply into the dowel or cut yourself! See Important Note Below!

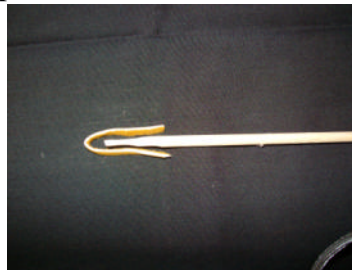


IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THE FLAT PART OF THE DOWEL MATCH PERFECTLY WITH THE WAY THE FEATHER LAYS. WITHOUT THE ALIGNMENT OF THE FLAT PART OF THE LOOP WITH THE FLAT PART OF THE FEATHER/FLETCHING, THE FEATHER WILL NOT LAY FLAT PROPERLY IN THE BUSTLE, BUT WILL BE “COCKED” TO ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER.

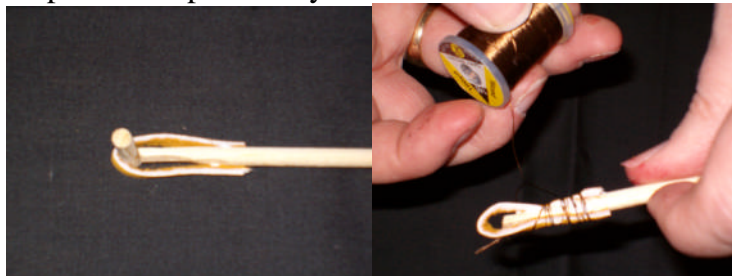
Cut enough leather strips for all your feathers. The strips should be about 2 ¾” or so long and about as wide as the dowel. Make one for each dowel.



Put glue on the inside of the tab and lay it on each flat side. Do not place glue on the “loop part” of the leather tab. Remember, it is critical that the flat part of the taps match perfectly with the flat part of the feather.



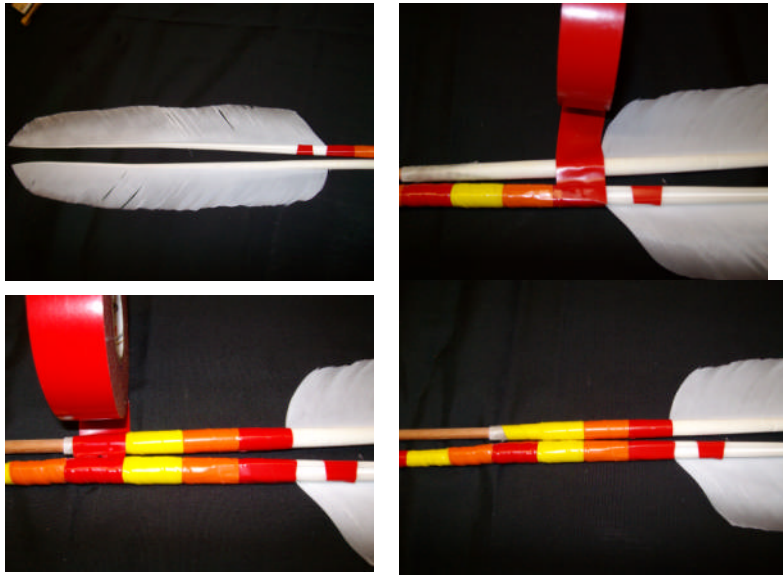
Take thread and wrap the leather tab leaving a loop at the bottom. Repeat for each feather. The loop should be uniform and about the size of the dowel. This is demonstrated below by the dowel running through the loop to show the size of the loop. The loop is what you will use to attach the feathers to the back board.



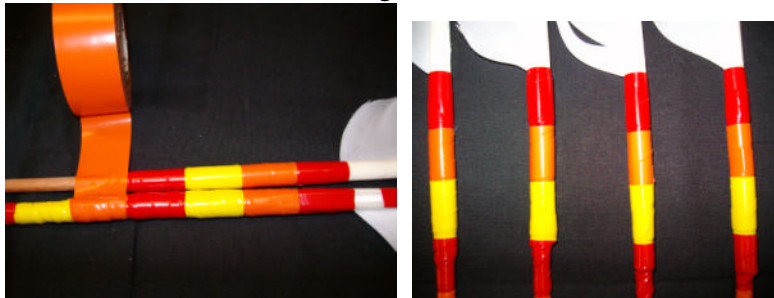
All of the feathers should now all be the same length with the loop at the bottom attached.

V. Taping the Feathers

The next step is to determine your tape pattern and what order you wish the colors to be placed in. In this case we have chosen to use three colors, red, orange and yellow. Although all of the tape may not be seen from the front, remember that some of it will be seen from the back (or seen when viewing the tribesman from the front). Taping with one or two colors is easier, but this “demo” shows what can be done. Choose a “master feather” and use it for measuring where the tape starts and use that measurement or match the “master feather” for placement of tape on all the rest of the feathers.



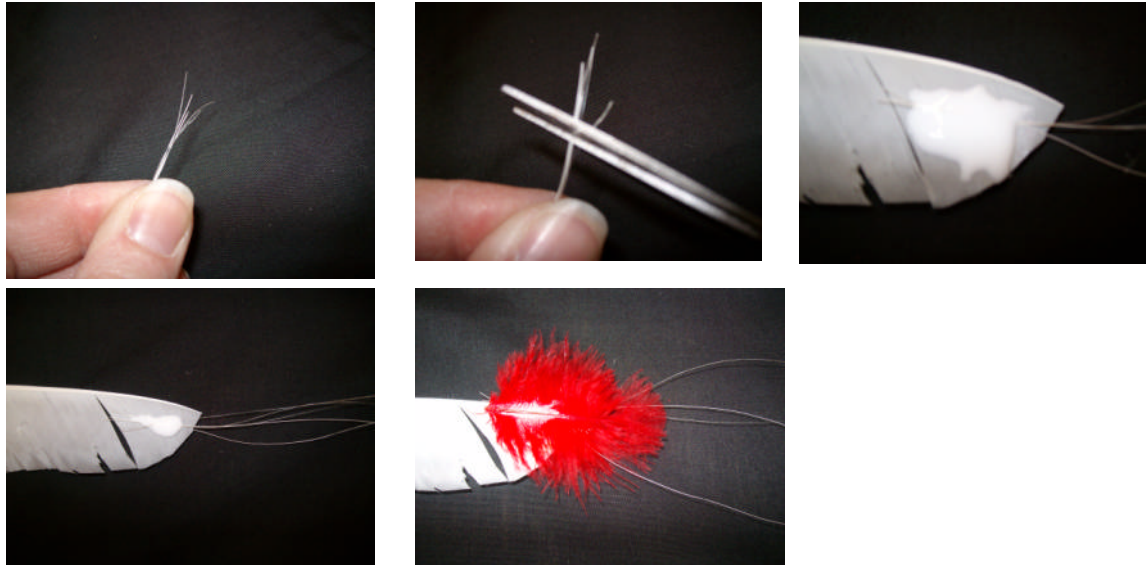
Start the first wrap $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{3}{8}$ ” below the fletching, Otherwise, you will want to measure from the tip of the feather and start the wrapping at the same position on each feather. Measure each following color to be sure it starts as the same place on the feather or use the “master feather” as a guide.



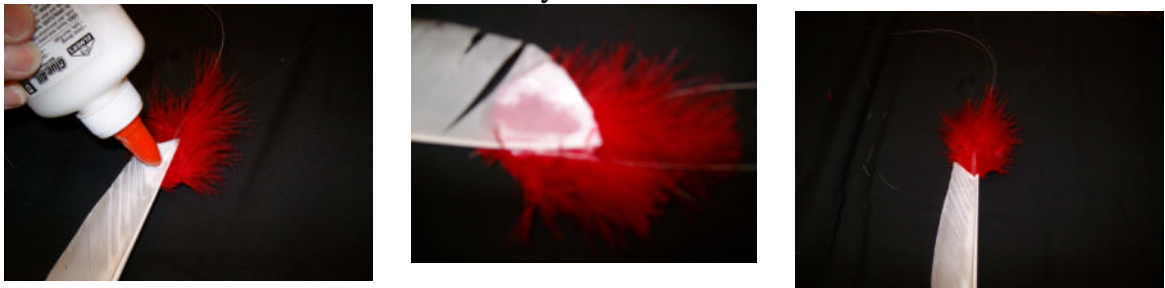
VI. Adding the horse hair & tip fluffs

Although this step can be accomplished anytime in the process, now is a good time to put the tip fluffs and horse hair on the end of each feather.

Take each feather and place a medium amount of glue on the end of the feather and lay 5 or 6 strands of horse hair in the glue on the front tip of the fletching. You may wish to clip the hair at the end to even it out before placing in the glue.



Press on a tip fluff over the horse hair and glue on the front of the feather. After drying, glue one on back also. Be sure to trim the base end of the fluffs to make them the same size and so that you get very little “stem” or quill and mostly fluff. This makes each fluff uniform, looks better, & keeps them lighter in weight so that the end of the feathers doesn’t break off as easily.



Strips of colored plastic may be used in place of the horse hair, but this is more common on “fancy dance” style bustles.

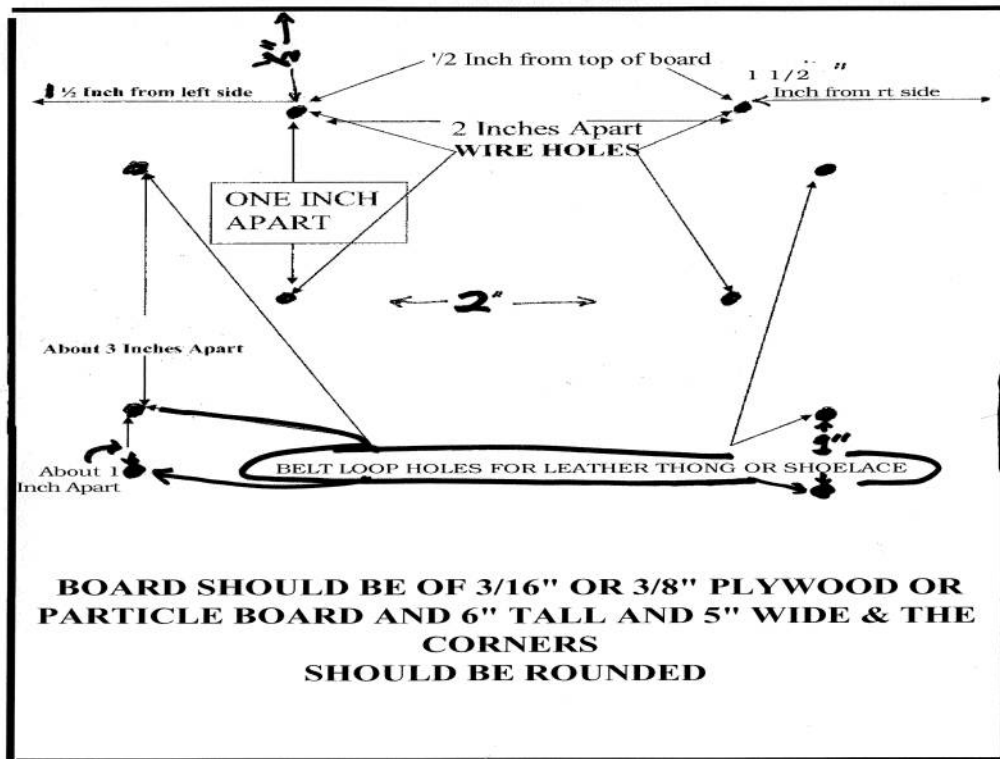
THE BACK BOARD

****NOTE: BSA POLICY DOES NOT ALLOW YOUTH TO USE POWER TOOLS, CONSEQUENTLY THE DRILLING REFERRED TO HEREIN MUST BE PERFORMED BY AN ADULT LEADER. This would apply to sawing out the back board from plywood, if using a power saw vs. a hand saw.***

VII. Making the back board

A board should be prepared by sawing from about 3/16” to 3/8” inch plywood, particle board, or a similar material that is about 5” by 6” which will be called the “back board.” The corners should be rounded for comfort for the wearer. If adding a “trailer” to the bustle, make the base board 8” or 9” long to accommodate the trailer.

Measure down ½ inch from the top and in from each side 1 ½”. This should place two marks that are 2” apart. Drill a hole* on each mark with a drill bit slightly bigger than the clothes hanger wire. Drill another hole* 1” below each of these holes.



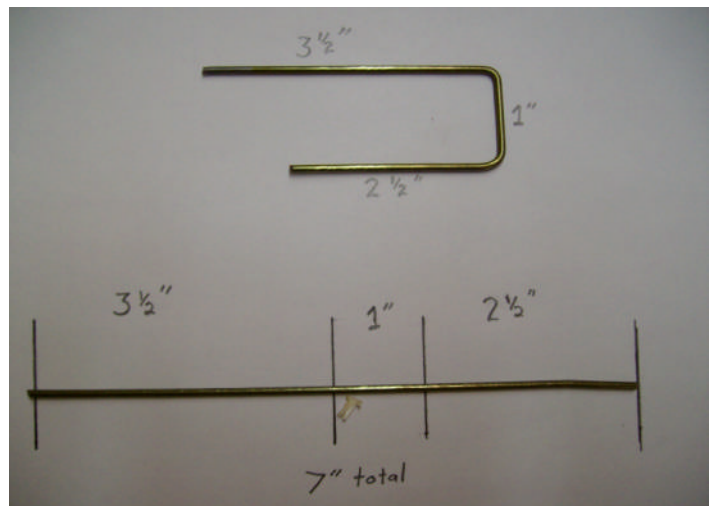
You may want to go ahead at this time and drill the 3 holes on each side of the board for the belt loops (see XVII-you can drill the belt loop holes at this point if you wish). The belt loop holes are better at $2\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{3}{4}$ " apart than 3". Acquire a clothes hanger (the heavier the wire the better) and cut two pieces 7" long.



Take a piece of the 7" clothes hanger wire and measure $2\frac{1}{2}$ " from the end and bend the wire with two pair of pliers to a right angle.

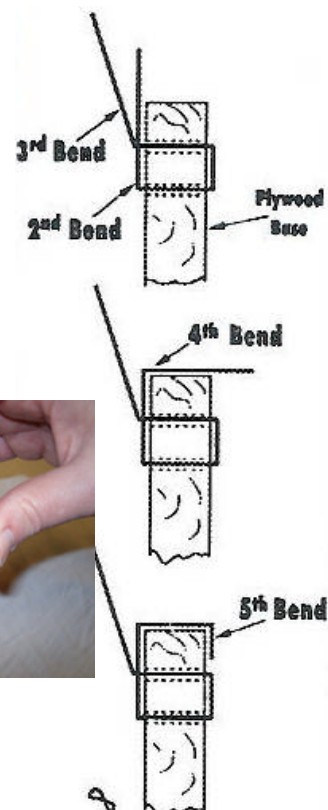
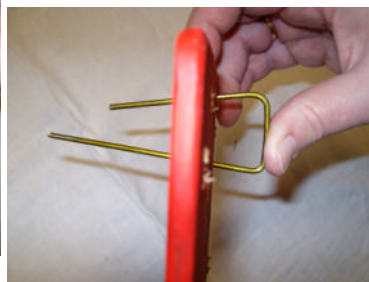


Measure $3\frac{1}{2}$ " from the other end and make a similar right angle bend. This should leave you one inch in the middle at the bottom. Repeat with the other wire.



VII. Mounting the wire on the back board

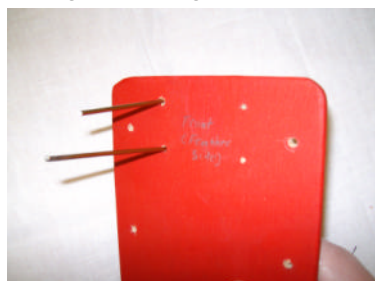
Insert the longer end (3 ½") of the bent wire in the bottom hole and the shorter end (2 ½") in the hole nearest the top of the back board (from the side the feathers will be mounted on or "front") so that the wire protrudes from the side of the back board that will be against the body (back). Repeat for the other wire.



Take the bottom wire (3 ½") and bend it toward the top of the back board. Repeat for the other wire.

For snugness, place the front of the board against another solid "scrap" wood surface and pound on the wires to

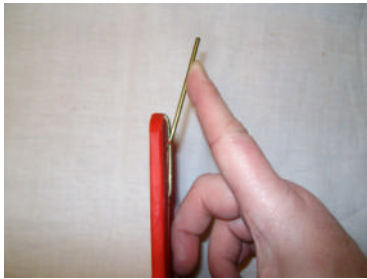
"snug" them against the back board.



Bend the 3 ½" wire over the top of the back board and then again down the back of the back board.



It is wise to make a slight bend near the end of the wire at the tip toward the back board before bending the wire against the back board to avoid scratching the Tribesman. The end of the wire will be very near the original hole it came out of on the other side. You may use the hammer again to "snug" the wire to the back board. Repeat with the other wire.



Bend the wire (2 ½") on the front of the back board toward the back board so that it is at a slight angle (almost straight up and down, perhaps about 15 degrees). Repeat with other wire.



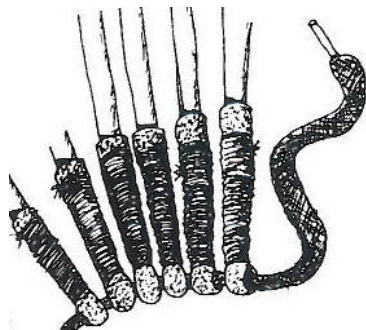
MOUNTING THE FEATHERS ON THE BACK BOARD

VIII. Arranging and stringing the feathers on the back board

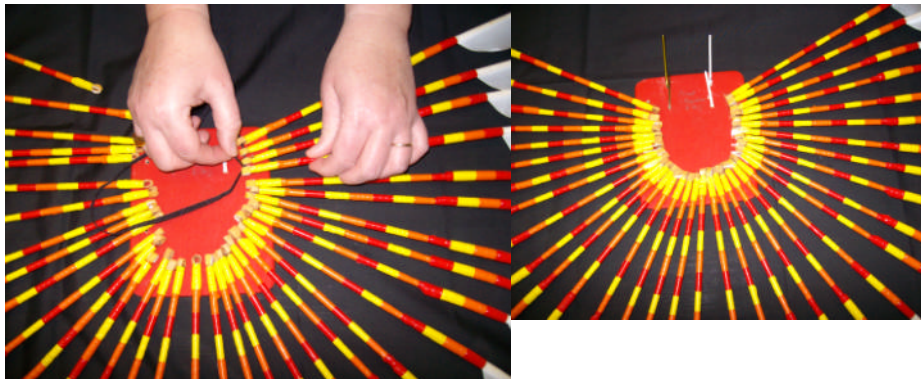
Lay the feathers out on the floor or table and arrange your feathers as you would have them appear in the final bustle. The lefts being on the left and the rights being on the right with the best arrangement for spacing that you can achieve. Be sure that the number of "rights" exactly equal the number of "lefts" on your back board. The place where "rights" meet the "lefts" at the bottom of the "U" should be in the center bottom of the bustle "U".

Spacing the feathers for the best "fit" & more pleasing appearance is important. Sometimes just moving a few feathers can improve the appearance.

After making this arrangement, starting at either the left or right side at the top, run the 27" (18" will work, but it is tight) shoe lace down through each bottom loop, starting with the top feather on the right and running the lace through each feather loop in the exact order that you have put them in, ending at the top of the left feather. The loose ends of the lace should be equal on each side. This will be called the "loop shoe lace."



The loops of the feathers are very close to one another & normally touch. Make sure all feathers extend at least one inch or more onto the board. This provides the support to keep the feathers from folding toward the body of the Tribesman.





Place the “strung” feathers on the back board arranged in a “U” that is centered on the back board. With a marker, trace the outline of the “U” on the inside of the “U” on the back board. Make sure that the loops extend at least one inch into the back board.



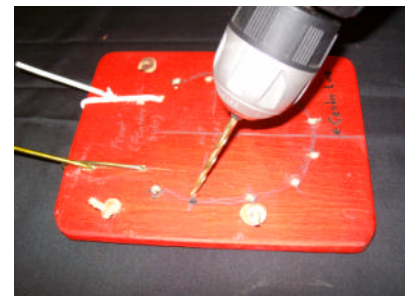
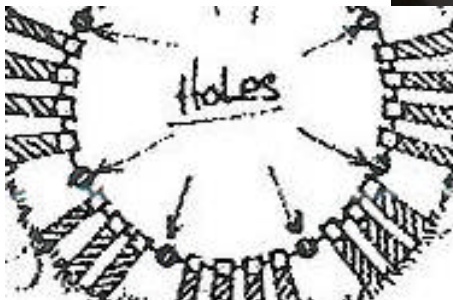
With a pencil, mark across the “U” by the first loop of the top feather on each side of the “U.” Then go down every third or fourth feather around the “U” & make a

“hash” mark. This will be the approximate location of drilling holes to fasten the lace going through the loops to the back board. Whether your spacing is 3 or 4 loops apart depends on the number of feathers you have. The demo used 3 on each side on the top and 4 between each hole after that. You definitely want the bottom hole centered and to be between the division of the right & left feathers at the bottom.

Remove the feathers and go through a process of “adjusting” the holes. You may have to “move” the original pencil marks at the top end slightly to gain symmetry or “balance.” Re-arrange the holes so that the right and left holes are (1) directly across from each other (horizontally) and (2) that the matching holes from each side are the same distance from the edge of the back board.



An adult leader should drill* a hole for each mark in the “U” that is larger than the lace.



IX. Attaching the feathers to the back board

Lay the feathers back down over the back board in the position you had them when you marked out your "U." Take the end of the loop shoe lace and run through the top hole on each side that you have drilled.* Tighten it up on the other side of the back

board and tie the ends together on the back of the back board with a bow. After you have finished this step or at a later time, make the bow a square knot. (see XVII)



Take a new 27" (or 18") shoe lace (tie down lace) and place it up through the backside of the back board starting at the hole directly below the top hole you have just run the loop shoe lace through. Push it up through the hole (between the 3rd and 4th or 4th & 5th) between the loops and over the top of the loop shoe lace and back down through the same hole. This pass over the loop shoe lace "traps" it to the back board.



Go to the next hole and

repeat the process, etc. Be sure to come from the backside through the hole, over the lace that is holding the feather loops together, and back down the same hole. Be sure to leave about 5" or so hanging out the back of the back board. Repeat this process for every hole in the "U" that you drilled. This will result in attaching all the feathers to the back board.

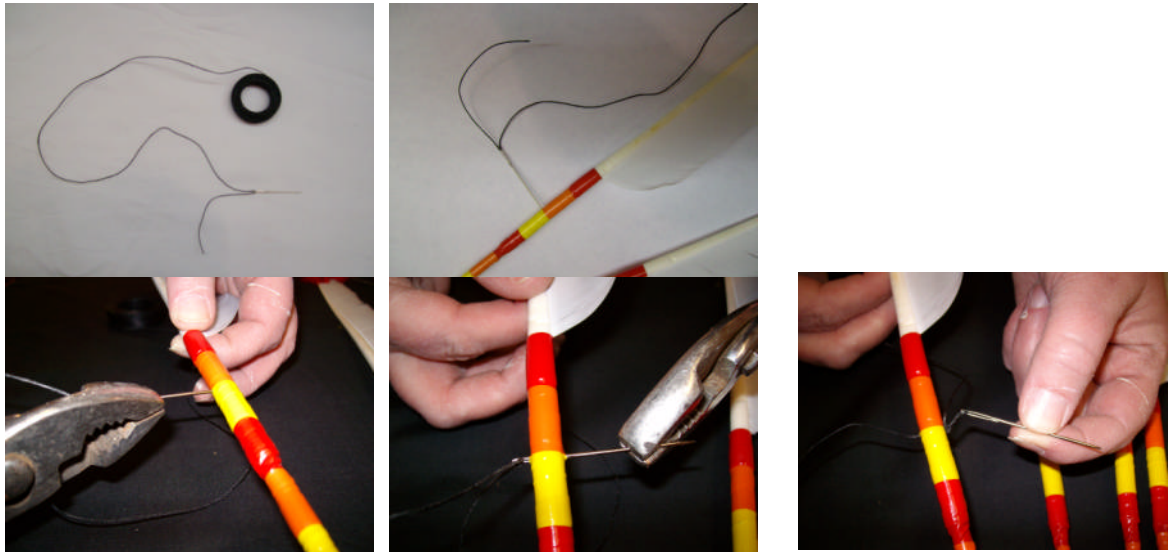


After you complete going up through and back through all the holes, you will have lace left. After running the lace back through the last hole, tie it to the loose end of the tie lace on the other side that you started. This should be done on the back side of the back board. This should complete attaching the feathers to the back board.

X. “Stringing” the feathers

The next step is to place a waxed (or unwaxed) cord through each of the feathers. This will be used to secure the feathers in place for spacing so that as you “close” and “open” them for transporting, they stay in the same place/relationship to each other.

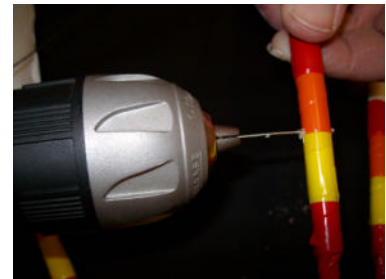
Put the cord through the eye of a large needle and start at the top feather on the right and push the needle through the quill of the feather from ¼” to 2” below bottom of the fletching. This is a later picture showing the “tie down” lace:



You may need to use pliers to force the needle through or it may be necessary to use a drill* bit that creates a snug hole to put the needle through (particularly if the quill is filled or the dowel is up in the quill far enough to be where you are threading the needle through). IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE NEEDLE BE “FLAT” WITH THE FLETCHING WHEN PUTTING IT THROUGH THE QUILL/DOWEL. OTHERWISE THE FLETCHING/FEATHER MAY BE “COCKED” TO ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER AND NOT LAY FLAT AS IT SHOULD. Repeat these in succession for each feather.



Be sure to leave 10” or so of cord above the first feather on the right and above the last feather on the left. You will use this for supporting your feathers later on.



XI. Spacing and securing the spaces of the feathers

Now arrange your feathers with the exact spacing you wish them. Start with the center two feathers at the bottom and work up on each side. The center two feathers, one a “right” and the other a “left,” should extend from the center of the base board straight down.



Work up each side and space the feathers as you wish them. You should consider the closeness and relationship of the fletching more than the distance of the quills from each other. The fletching relationships are most important to the appearance of the bustle rather than precise distances between the quills, so the spacing of the quills will vary, while the fletchings appear to be consistent.



In order to “lock in” the spacing of your feathers as you open and close up the bustle for traveling, we use “split shot” compressed on each side of each feather.

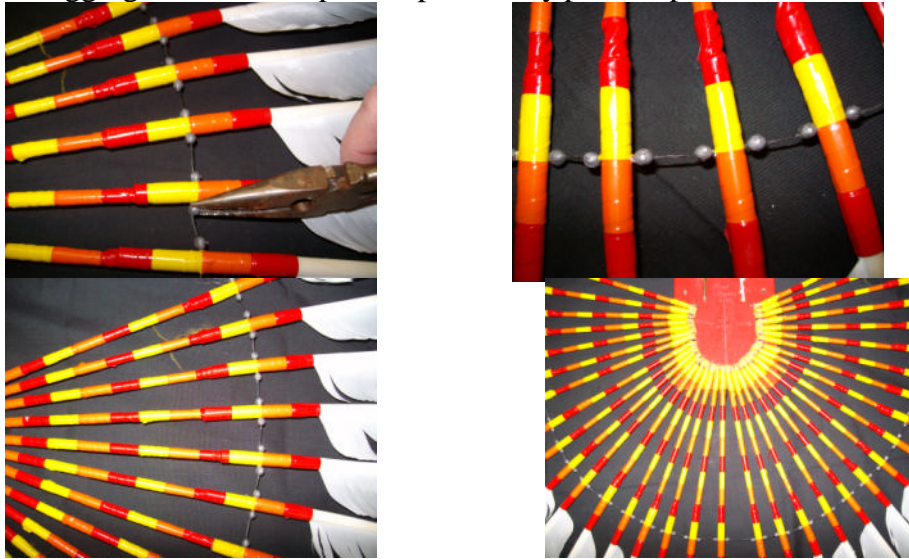


Taking care not to move the feathers from their “adjusted” position, carefully place a split shot on the cord on the top side of the quill & squeeze shut. The top of the left side of the bustle will be on the right side of the feather while the top of the right side will be on the left side of the feather. Only one side is done initially to “mark” the

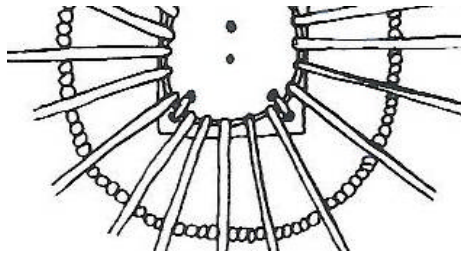


feather's position on the cord & reduce feather movement.

Now go back and place the split shot on the cord on the other side of all the feathers, “snugging” the feather up to the previously placed split shot.



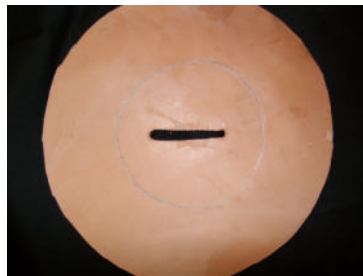
Alternative methods of spacing include using beads for “spacers” or tying the cord around each quill.

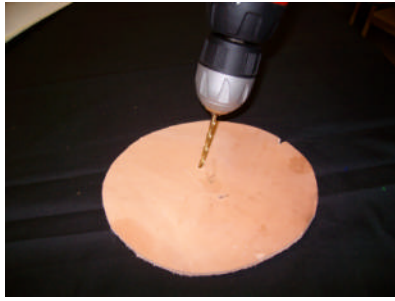


MAKING THE CENTER PIECE

XII. Preparing the center piece base

You can actually perform this task anytime, but we saved it until last, as considered easier than the rest of the steps. Take a 3” to 5 1/2” leather (or other heavy material) disk and punch (or drill*) two holes in it.



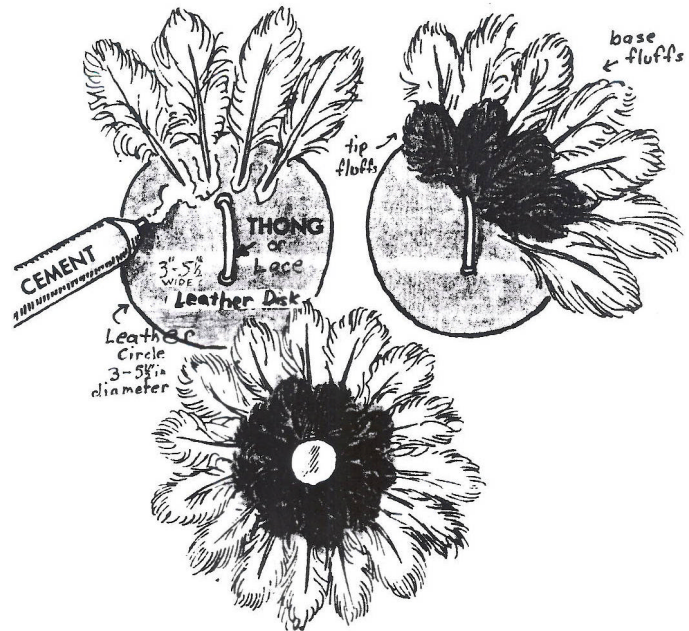


Place a NEW 18" shoe lace through the disk, centering the disk on the shoe lace.



A center circle is helpful for reference of where to paste fluffs.

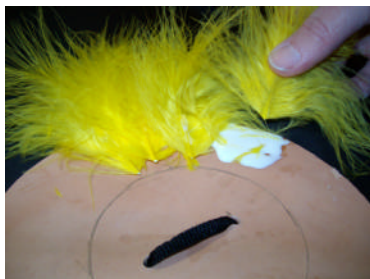
XIII. Decorating



(Hint: This is the same way you make arm bustles.)

Normally, only 1 or 2 colors are used on the centerpiece. The fluffs will be glued on the disk starting with the “base” fluff outer color first. Take care that the fluffs curve the same way and that they create an equidistant circle around the disk. You can use a “guide” like a paper plate or other round object to help you achieve the circle. Be sure to use enough base fluffs it is “full” looking around the outside of the circle.

Place the next row of fluffs to the inside of the outer row.



After placing your inside row of fluffs, place the mirror or beaded rosette in the center by gluing it. Remember, to make “arm bustles,” you duplicate the same process. Step XVI will show you how to fasten the center piece to the bustle.

XIV. Preparing the Two Center “Spike” Dowels:

Cut two of the 3/8” dowels to a length of 12-18.”

Choose a drill bit slightly larger than the hanger wire (about 9/64”) and drill* a hole in the end of the dowel. Repeat for the other dowel.



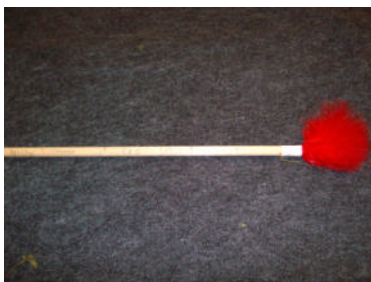
Push the dowel down on the wire protruding from the front of the back board as far



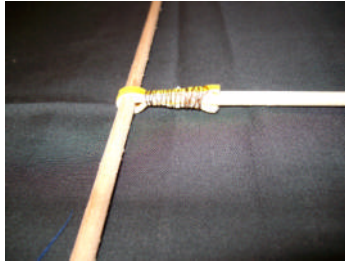
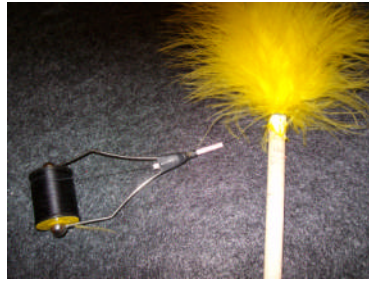
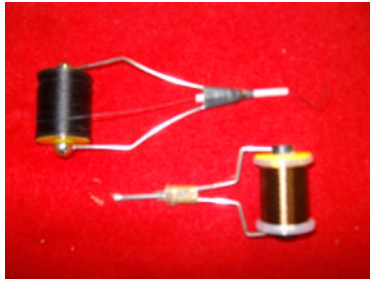
as it will go. Repeat for the other dowel. Make sure that the dowels are straight up and down, if not, bend the wires until they are.

Take the “Spike Dowels” back off the wires and decorate them with tape and fluffs. You can decorate the Spike Dowels anyway you wish. Similar colors plus white and tying and gluing fluffs on them was the choice on this “demo” bustle.

Here are some examples of the dowel spikes:



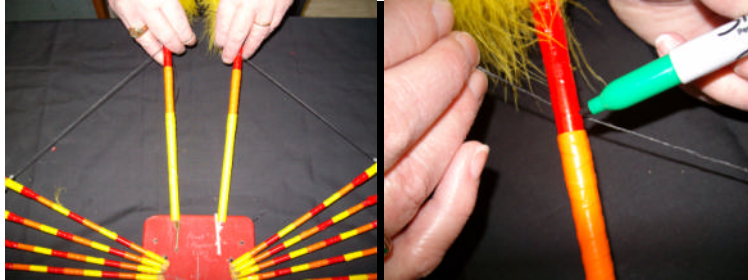
A fly fishing tool is helpful in tying both the fluffs on the dowel spikes and, earlier, the leather tabs on the dowels.



This loop was tied with the fly fishing tool. The dowel is run through the loop only to show how you can make the loops uniform.

XV. Placing the eye screw

Place the decorated “Spike Dowels” on their respective wires on the back board. Next, pull the cord up on each side by each dowel. Pull enough to lift the feathers slightly off the table. When the feathers lift off the table and make a slight “cup,” mark that location with a pencil on the dowel.



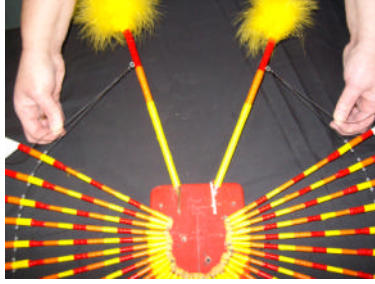
Be sure that the marks on each dowel are the same distance up from the back board.

Take the dowel off the wires. Screw the metal eye into the dowel where it is marked. You may have to use an ice pick or a drill* to get it started, depending on the kind of wood the dowel is made from. Repeat for the other dowel.



Place each dowel back onto its respective wire. Hook a fishing swivel onto each metal eye. Run the cord from each side through the lower loop in the fishing swivel. Pull the cord until the feathers rise slightly off the table and until the feather is the same distance from the dowel on each side. The distance is not as important as each side being identical. The distance from the eye screw on the dowel spike to the cord on the first feather may be as little as 2” or as much as 9+”. If you add a “neck bustle” some

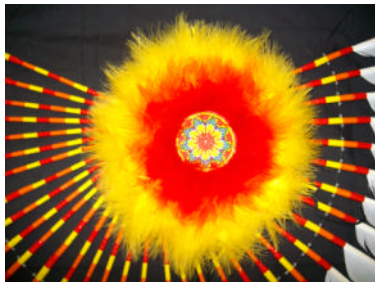
day, you will want to either cut off the dowel spikes right above the eye screw or make a new set of shorter dowel spikes.



The first feather at the top on each side should be at the same place on the back board and at the same angle. The feathers will be spaced from the top feather down to the two “center feathers” (those being the last “left” and last “right” at the bottom). The two center feathers should be straight down from the center of the bottom of the back board. After that positioning is accomplished, tie off the waxed cord in the last loop of the snap swivel and cut excess waxed cord off.

XVI. Placing the center piece

Lace Holes Center & Level



Best Fit Regardless of Hole Position



After positioning your center piece, lift it up and mark where the lace would go directly through the base board. This is a ‘guesstimate,’ but “close” will work fine. The two holes probably won’t be either straight across or centered on the board, but that is not important. What **IS** important is to get the center piece centered visually so it looks best and let the holes be where they may. Drill the two marked holes large enough to easily get the lace through them. You can see how far off center ours are.

XVII. Making the belt loops

The belt loops will require three holes about 1/2" from the right & left edge. Start about an inch from the top of the back board. 2 1/2" below that hole, mark for another hole. The final hole an inch below the second hole. The purpose of the third hole is to move the knot to the back (body side) of the back board.

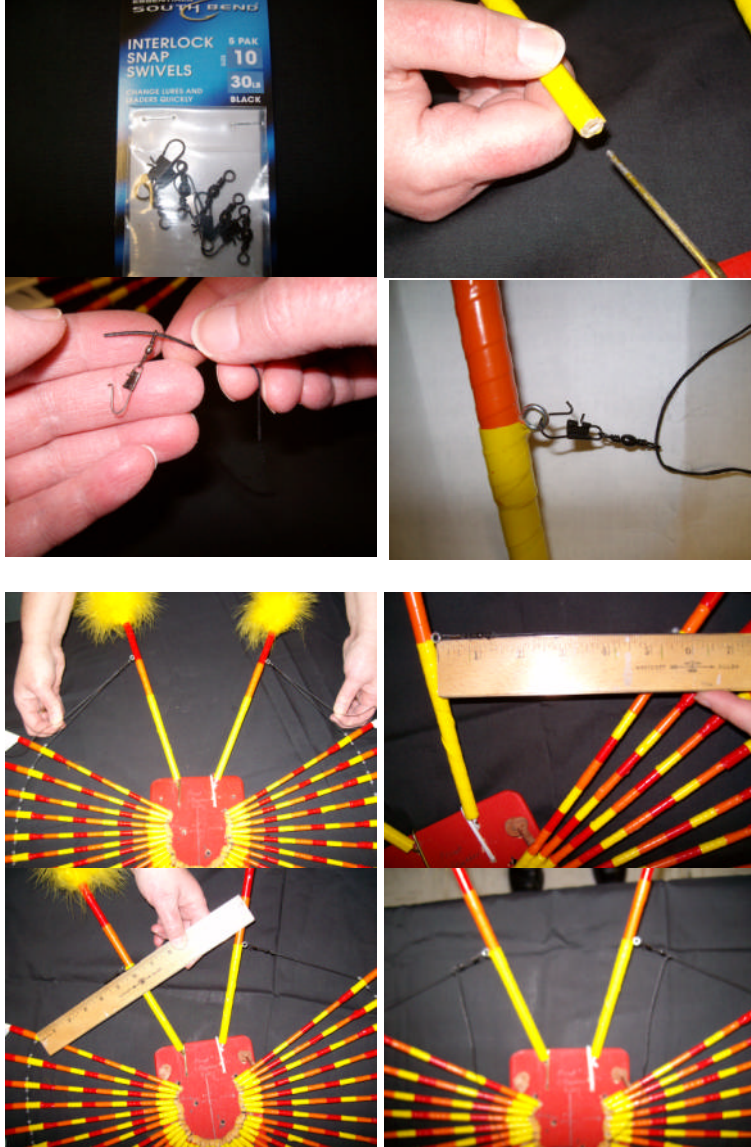


Knot your oiled leather thong on the front (feather side) of the back board and push it down through the top hole. Come back up through the second hole (forming the belt loop), then down from the front again through the third hole and knot it. It is necessary to have the lower knot on the back (body side) of the back board to prevent interference with the feathers. You then run any belt through the two loops that you have made on the back of the back board to wear the bustle.



XVIII. Supporting the feathers

Place your two dowel spikes on the wire uprights. Take the swivel snap and run the wax cord through the closed loop, then hook the open end of the swivel snap onto the eye hook on the dowel spikes. Repeat for the other side. Pull the black waxed cord through the end loop of the snap. Pull firmly and up enough that the feathers make a slight “cup.”

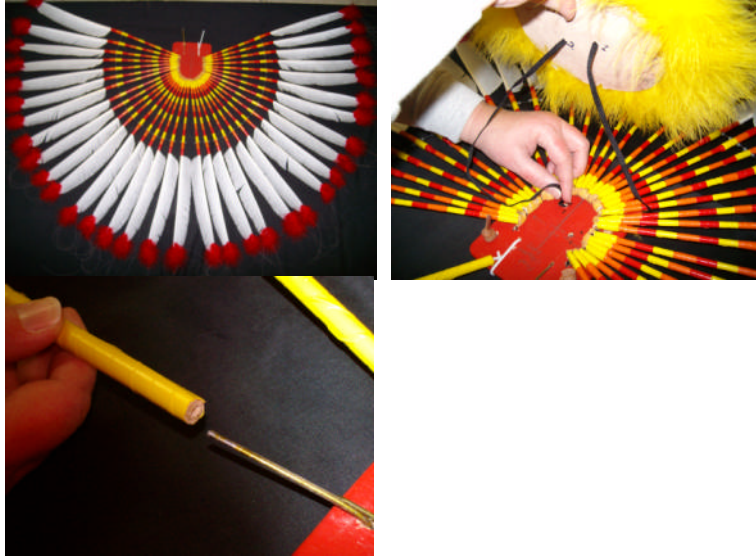


Be sure that the feathers are in the center at the bottom (where the right and left meet) and be sure that the distance from the eye hook to the top feathers (where the wax cord goes through) is the same on both the right and the left. Once you have accomplished that, tie the waxed cord off through the swivel snap eye on both sides and cut off the excess cord.

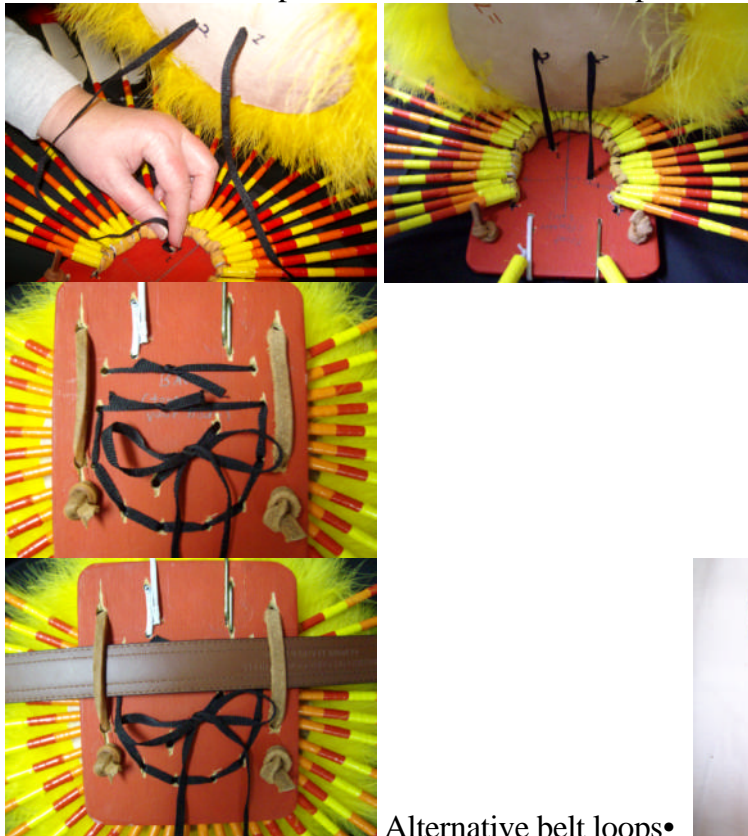
The bustle is now finished and ready to assemble and wear.

XIX. Prepare the bustle to wear

To prepare to wear the bustle, lay it out, put the laces through the back board from the center piece, **tie the laces in a bow** on the back of the back board, put both of the dowel spikes on the wires, hook the swivel hooks to each metal eyes screw (remember not to close the hooks that go through the eye screws-it is not necessary and are hard to unsnap), and put the belt through the belt loops on the back of the back board and it is ready to wear.



You now have a completed bustle to wear at camp, dances and ceremonies.



Alternative belt loops•



Simply follow the reverse process to get the bustle ready for transporting by folding it up and carefully handling the center piece. You will have four separate pieces (not counting your belt) when disassembling your bustle, (1) the baseboard & feathers (2) the center piece (3) the right “spike dowel” and (4) the left “spike dowel.” Obtaining a plastic chemical bucket (wash thoroughly) from your local swimming pool to keep your bustle in works well as they are deeper than a standard 5 gallon plastic bucket.



BE AWARE THAT YOU ARE WEARING THE BUSTLE AND YOUR SURROUNDINGS. BE CAREFUL NOT TO RUN INTO DOORWAYS, TREE LIMBS, OTHER DANCER’S BUSTLES, **OR SITTING ON THE GROUND** AS THE FEATHERS ARE DELICATE AND CAN BREAK OFF. THE BUSTLE CAN BE REPAIRED, BUT IT IS TIME CONSUMING. YOU PUT A LOT OF WORK INTO MAKING YOUR ATTRACTIVE BUSTLE; TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT & IT WILL GIVE YOU MANY YEARS OF WEAR.

For questions, comments, or suggestion e-mail bobh@firstassetfinancial.com