

Fluffy and Feather Back or Neck Bustle Kit Instructions

(Kit makes 1 Back or Neck Bustle)

Kit Contents:

36 Feathers	One bobbin of Sinew	2 5" leather disks
2 bobbins of Cotton Thread	1 yard of Greek Thong	1 scrap of leather

Tip: To straighten curved feathers us a Hair Straightener to take the curve out of the quill

1. Cut all feathers to the length of the shortest feather. If you are making fluffy bustles, cut the feather from the small side of the quill, (feathered end). If you are making feather bustles, cut the feather from the large side of the quill (non-feathered end).
2. Our next step is to prepare the quills. If you are making fluffy bustles, take the scissors and cut off both sides of the webbed part of the feather from quills. (Figure 1) If you are making feather bustles, take the scissors and cut off the webbed part of the feather from both sides of the bottom of the quill so that the bottom 2" of the quill have no webbing. **DO NOT CUT THE QUILL!** (only the webbed part of the feather from both sides of the quill) (Figure 2).
3. Next step is to get the leather glued and tied onto the heavy end of the quill in proper manner. Using "Quick Grip" glue, or hot glue, put a few drops on top and bottom of quill approximately 1 1/4" from the bottom of the quill and work your way down the remaining 1 1/4. Take a scrap of leather and cut out a strip that is 1/4" wide and 3" long. Fold the leather strip in half and place the leather strip on top and bottom of quill. (Figure 3) To secure it in place you have 2 options, first, you can tie on wrapping thread around leather and quill twenty to thirty times using the cotton thread provided. (Figure 4) By placing more glue on outside of leather and thread, using fingers to smooth out, it is not necessary to tie thread. OR you can simply wrap it with black electrical tape. It should be wrapped from the top to the bottom of the leather, leaving 1/4" showing at the bottom. If leather is out of line with curve of quill be sure and make straight by twisting back before glue dries. This is very important in lacing the quills exactly the same with the curvature of the quills all pointing outward. About 1/8" hole should be left between leather and end of quill.
4. Now to glue and tie fluffs on quills. If you are not making fluffy bustles, please skip to step 5. Start with the tip fluffs on small end of quill. Place a drop of glue on up side, of quill 1/4" from end. Place quill end of tip fluff in glue and with ordinary thread wrap round 5 or 6 times, turn over quill, place another tip fluff and continue around end of fluff and quill with thread another 5 or 6 times. Next row is a different color of base fluffs. These base fluffs should all be about 3 to 4" long. If fluffs are more than 4" long cut off on heavy quill end. Then precede the same as when putting on the tip fluffs. Be sure as you put on each row of fluffs that the end of the fluff covers up the quill end of the previous row of fluffs. Continue covering quills with rows of fluffs, until 1 tip row and 2 base rows are obtained. (Figure 5) All quills should be covered with fluffs down to within 1/2" of the leather strip on the fat end of the quill.
5. Take all of the leather wrapped feathers and thread the sinew through the 1/8" hole between the leather and the quill. This is your primary lacing. When all feathers are threaded (sewn together) cut the sinew from the bobbin leaving 6" of sinew on either side. (Figure 6) Now tie the 2 sinew ends together in a square knot. When you lay the feathers down, they should lie like your bustle will lie... therefore it is important that the feathers be sown on the sinew all facing the same direction.
6. Take a leather disk and punch 2 holes in center of disk about 1/2" apart. Next, draw a 2" circle in the center. Punch half as many small holes as you have feathers, an equal distance apart, around the circumference of drawn circle. Take the leather disk and with the remaining sinew provided, sew quills (2 at a time between each hole) through holes punched in leather disk. (Figure 7) Next lay the leather disk with the sewed on quills evenly in a complete circle. With sinew, sew secondary lacing through the exact horizontal center of each quill, just below the ends of the last row of fluffs (approximately 5 inches from the bottom of quill). When complete circle is made, tie ends together and when sure each quill is spread evenly on lacing, place a drop of glue on thread and each side of each quill to keep from slipping. A good secondary lacing job means the difference between a good and bad spreading bustle.
7. The spreader is next. Punch 2 holes in center of the other disk about 1/2" apart and insert leather thong. These holes should match up with the holes you punched in the other disk in step 5. This is what ties the spreader through the disk with the sewn on quills, to your arms. Next, take 10 to 12 base fluffs, cut off the quill, so that they are the same length, 3 to 4" long. Glue the desired amount of fluffs around the spreader leather disk evenly. Be sure the quill ends of all fluffs are close enough to the center of the leather disk so that a 1 1/2" to 3" mirror or rosette will cover them when glued on. (Figure 8) Glue mirror or rosette to center of spreader leather disk and assemble through the 2 center holes of the sewn disk.

