



THE LEARNING CIRCLE

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LEATHER ROACH SPREADER

In order to make this spreader fit your roach, make a paper pattern by tracing off the form of the bottom of your roach. A spreader larger than the inside row of hair will hold the roach hair flatter. For stand up shaped roaches, make the spreader fit inside the hair row. Be sure to narrow the tail piece of the base so that it lies inside the tail piece of the roach. Smooth out the pattern on paper and cut it out.

Trace this pattern off onto the piece of Eskatuff plastic. Cut this out and test it for proper fit in your roach. Trim if necessary. Mark the spot where the base hole is in the roach.

If you are going to attach your roach to the top of your head by using a hair braid and spreader stick, drill a 1/4 inch hole at that center hole mark as in Figure 1. If you are going to attach your roach with a soft leather thong, drill two small holes, one on either side of the marked base hole as in Figure 2.

Place the plastic form on the top surface of the strap leather. Trace around the plastic form, finishing by making the tail marks slightly longer than the plastic form tail.

Place these two pieces on a paper for glueing, the plastic form top side up and the strap leather piece bottom side up. Coat these surfaces with contact cement. A Q-tip works well for spreading out the glue. Let these surfaces dry.

Begin to laminate the two pieces together at the front end of the spreader, but bend the tail of the plastic, and laminate the leather tail while in the bent form. Press these together firmly. When you release the pressure this laminated piece will stay curved. Re-drill the holes through both pieces. Figure 3.

If one feather socket is used, drill a small hole about 3/4 inch from the base hole mark towards the tail. If this is a two socket spreader, drill one hole 3/4 inch in front of the base hole mark and 1 1/2 inch behind the base mark towards the tail. See Figure 4.



Figure 2



Figure 4



Figure 3

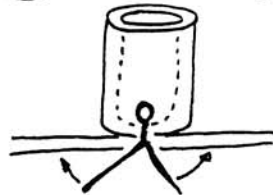


Figure 5



Figure 6

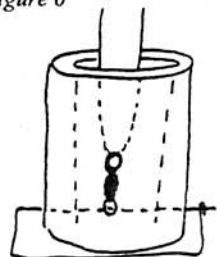


Figure 7

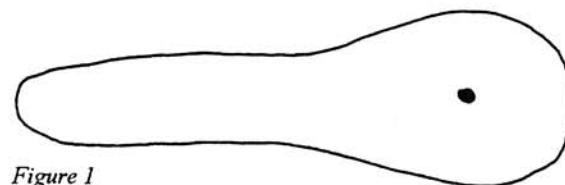


Figure 1

Prepare the wooden feather sockets by inserting a cotter pin through the hole in the bottom inside the socket. Seat the head of the cotter pin into the wood at the bottom of the socket by tapping it in slightly using a long screw upside down and a hammer. Insert the cotter pin into the holes you drilled in the spreader in the previous step, from the top side of the spreader. Split the cotter pin so it now holds the socket tight to the spreader. Figure 5.

Coat the bottom of the spreader with contact cement. Work quickly and while still wet, stretch the light weight soft leather piece over the bottom covering the plastic and cotter pins. Trim off this leather to the spreader shape. If you missed a spot along the edge, work some cement in with a tooth pick or Q-tip. Continue to press down until dry.

Again, re-drill the base hole or the two thong holes, which ever you have chosen to use. If using a chin thong for tying on your roach, cut points on each end of a soft thong and insert them through each thong hole from the top.

To mount the feather in the socket attach a fishing swivel to the bottom of your roach feather. See Figure 6. Lightly coat the bottom 1 inch of the feather quill with contact cement. Thread a 2 inch long piece of soft leather thong through one eye of a swivel. Form this loop over the quill and wrap this tightly with a piece of simulated sinew. You may cover this with a wrapping of colorful embroidery thread.

Each time you use your roach you will mount the feather by spearing the bottom loop of the swivel with a rectangle spring clip as shown in Figure 7.

Both leather spreaders and the wooden sockets many decorated with techniques like painting, colored marking pens, or even by using wood burning tools.

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