

CHICKEN DANCE BUSTLE

The Chicken Dance bustle features pheasant feathers placed into a circle bustle design. This style of bustle goes back to the early 1900's using other feathers, but pheasant feathers became popular in the 1950's. Recent use of the chicken dance songs at powwows has again interested male dancers to feature this older style of bustle.

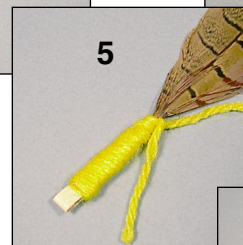
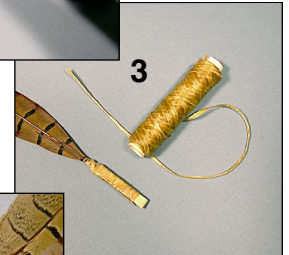
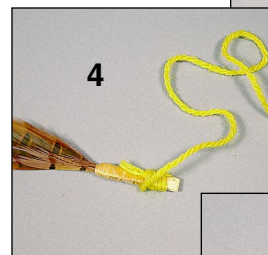
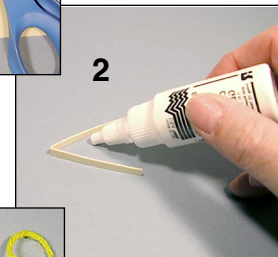
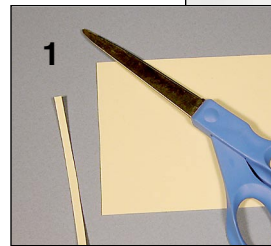
Start by preparing the pheasant feathers. There are two rows of pheasant circles. The back row uses the longer feathers, the front row are shorter feathers. Sort out the feathers for the rows. The back row needs 30 feathers of the 12 to 14 inch length. The front row uses twenty of the 10 to 12 inch length. Eight of the 10 to 12 inch feathers are used on the trailer. After sorting, trim the sets from the bottom of the quill so they are all about the same lengths

Steps 1, 2, & 3 Using the rectangle sheets of Eskatuff, cut $\frac{3}{16}$ " x 4" strips. Fold these strips in half forming the quill loop. In the next steps, leave about a $\frac{1}{8}$ " opening through the quill loop. Put a dab of Tacky glue on the inside legs of the loop. Place the pheasant feather quill between the tab leaving the $\frac{1}{8}$ " opening. Wrap the length of the plastic with sinew and tie with a knot.

4 & 5 Cover the sinew winding with a thin layer of Tacky glue, smearing with your finger. Take about an 18" length of craft yarn and wrap the sinew layer with a thin layer of yarn, finishing that at the top with a knot when all of the plastic loop piece is covered. Trim off excessive yarn. (Note: The flat top side of the feather should match direction of the flat side of the tab as shown in the photos.)

6 & 7 Select the fluff color you are using at the tip of the pheasant feather. Trim the fluff to use only the top 3 inches. Place a small dab of tacky glue on the top 1 inch of the feather and press on the fluff. It is up to you whether you glue the fluff to the front side of the feather or the back side, but do each row the same so they match. Prepare all of the pheasant feathers this way, even for the trailer.

8, 9, & 10 See next page: For each row, lay out all of the feathers in order for stringing. Using a piece of round leather thong, thread all of the quill loops together and tie a knot so they are in a circle. Turn the circle over so the back sides of the pheasant feathers are up, facing you. Using some Power Pro thread, 20 lb weight, thread a glovers needle and double the thread. Approximately 3 inches up the quill from the base, thread the needle carefully through the back of the quill. Pull the thread through and continue onto the next feather. After sewing all of the feathers this way, thread through the first feather quill about a $\frac{1}{16}$ inch away from the first stitch.



Carefully turn over the circle laying it front side up on the table. Now shorten the distance between feathers about evenly spacing them apart. Tighten up the circle so it a slight cone.

11 & 12 When both of the feather circles are ready to this point. Stop and create the cone backing piece. Use the 5 inch Eskatuff circle cut out with the slit to the center to form the cone. Using a piece of sinew, lace up the circle into a cone.

13 Lay the larger feather circle in the cone and finish adjusting the thread bridle until both cone shapes fit. Tie the ends of the thread together in a tight knot. Put a small dab of tacky glue where each thread goes through the quill and on the knot. Let dry. Do the same with the smaller feather circle.

14, 15 & 16 Next take the round 4 inch circle disc of Eskatuff and thread the soft leather thong through the center holes. Only use a 20 inch length of thong. It helps to cut a sharp point on both ends of thong. Selecting the fluff color you are using for the center, trim the fluff to only use the top 4 inches. About 24 fluff tips are needed. Coat the front of the center disc with a medium coating of Tacky glue. Lay down the fluffs in the circle, firmly pressing the quill and bottom 1 inch of the fluff into the glue layer. Then coat the back side of the 3 inch beaded rosette with a fairly heavy coating of Tacky glue. Firmly press the rosette in place and let dry.

17 Making the Trailer: Cut two 5 inch wide x 30 inch long wool trailer pieces. If you want to sew on edge ribbon, this is the time to do that. (Not included in the kit.) Using the 12 inch wood dowel. Smear a small dab of Tacky glue on each end. Wrap the top of the wool pieces around the dowel. Using the Power Pro thread, sew in a seam to hold it in place. Sew the eight pheasant feathers onto the trailer pieces based on your design ideas. Use the sinew for this and tie a tight knot.

A plywood bustle back with holes pre-drilled is used to hold the bustle together. Cut the remaining piece of soft leather thong into 3 equal pieces. Cut sharp points on all of the ends. Use two of the pieces to tie the trailer onto the back board. A nail can be used to open up a hole in the wool to get the thong through. Use the last piece of thong to form a loop at the top of the backboard so you can hang your bustle up.

18 & 19 Thread the thongs from the back side of the center disc through the center of the smaller feather circle, then through the larger feather circle, and finally through the center hole of the cone. Pulling them all together, thread the thongs through the two center holes in the wood back board. Tie in a bow knot in the of the back board.

19 Thread the woven cord through the holes in the top right and left side of the back board for use as the tie belt.

Your bustle is ready to dance if you are. It is easy to take this all apart and carry it to the powwow in a small box or suitcase.

