

TWO PIECE LEATHER DRESS

In the Great Lakes area the fringed, two piece leather dress pattern evolved as the most common design. The cape and skirt are separate with the cape overlapping the skirt. The early design used three hides. One large one was folded at the center and made into the cape. This pattern offered here is one that works well today because you are able to piece the parts together from smaller leather hides.

All of the seams are stitched with the seams placed together and sewn as a wrap stitch inside the garment. (See Figure 1) In other words, sew inside out. Where the seam is to have fringe, insert the piece of leather between the outside layers that you will later cut as fringe. We refer to that as the welt. When the seam does not need fringe, sew a 1/2 inch wide piece of leather along the whole seam as the welt. When you turn the garment right side out, trim the welt to match the surface of the garment. If you plan the seam to be fringed, cut the welt leather for the fringe after it is sewn into the seam. The dimension of fringe welt depends on how long you want the fringe to be.



Figure 1
Whip stitch inside out



Use Glovers needle and size F nylon thread .
Coat thread with beeswax or conditioner.

Make cape and skirt pattern from paper or thin cloth.

