

THE LEARNING CIRCLE

by Loren Woerpel, Noc Bay Trading Company

ROCKER ROACH SPREADER

This spreader idea uses some modern materials available at the hardware store to make a good spreader of leather, plastic and metal parts.

Make a paper pattern by tracing off the form of the bottom of your roach. The pattern should be slightly larger in diameter than the inside row of hair so that the spreader flattens the roach in the front some.

Using the pattern, trace it unto a piece of strap leather. This piece will be the top of the spreader. Cut this piece out.

Next trace the same pattern on to a piece of plastic. This piece is used to stiffen the spreader. Cut it on the inside of the traced line so it is slightly smaller than the leather piece previously made. (A common source for the plastic would be to use a plastic ice cream tub.)

Coat the underside of the strap leather piece with contact cement. Also coat one side of the plastic piece. Let both dry until tacky. Contact the two pieces together in a curved position by putting curving tension on the pieces as you contact the glue. Trim any plastic that sticks outside of the leather edge.

Mark the spot that matches the center hole in the roach. Punch a small hole 3/4 inch behind the center hole mark. This is the cotter pin hole.

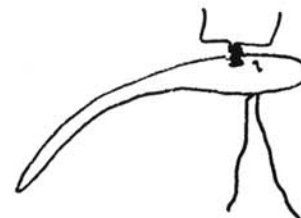
Make the wire feather holder out of 12 gage anchor wire. (A heavy duty wire coat hanger can be substituted.) Cut and bend using a heavy duty linemans Pliers. Follow the pattern in this article.

Slip a 1/8 inch x 2 inch long cotter pin through the bottom loop of the feather wire. Make sure it has enough room to freely rock forward and back but not too much sideways.

Slip a spring over the cotter pin and up over the feather wire loop. This should be a small compression spring measuring 3/8" by 1 1/4".

Insert the cotter pin into the cotter pin hole in the leather side of the spreader. Press down so there is a slight compression on the spring and then split the cotter pin ends so they hold in place. Bend the cotter pin ends flat with the plastic side of the base and cut off any that stick out longer than the spreader.

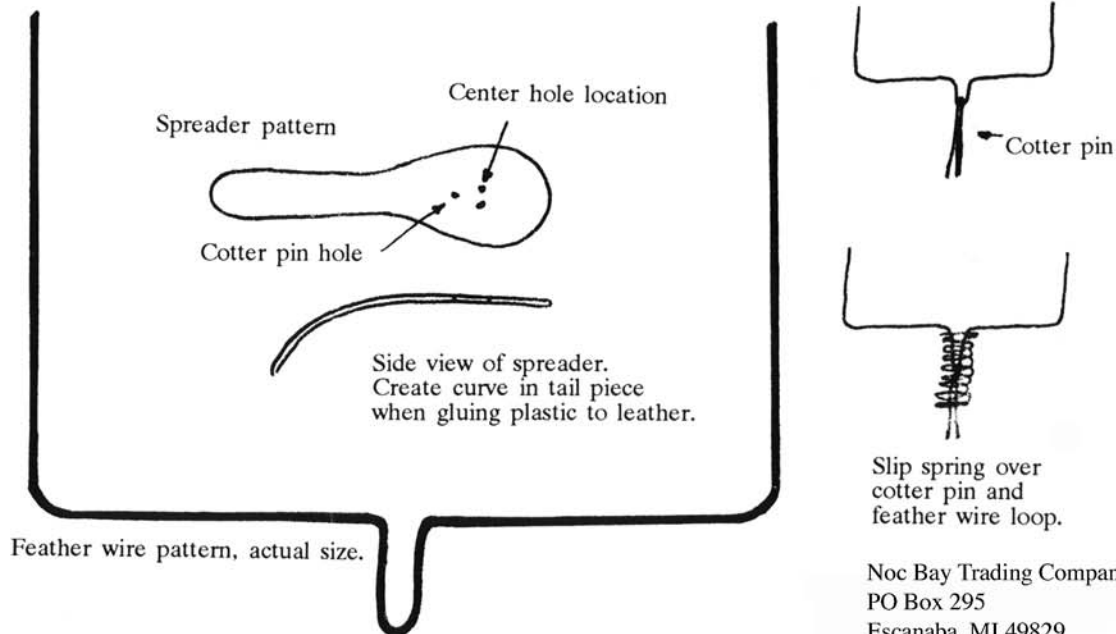
Take a second piece of strap leather and roughly cut to shape the spreader pattern, but leave larger all around the pattern. Spread contact cement on the underside of the leather and also on the plastic side of the spreader made so far. Let dry until tacky. Before contacting these pieces together, align the feather wire and cotter pin assembly so the feather wire is exactly parallel with the center, along the spreader. Contact the pieces together,



maintaining the curve tension as before. Trim the excess leather of the bottom piece so it matches the pattern of the top piece.

Punch two small holes at the center hole mark and insert a leather thong for tying the roach to the dancer's head. (Most fancy dancers do not use a hair braid to fasten the roach but that can be done too by punching or drilling a large hole in this spot for the braid to go through.)

To fasten the feathers to the feather wires, cut the small end off of the feather quills and slip the feather quills down over the two wire prongs. Turn them to face the back of the roach and tape securely to the wires using colored plastic tape.



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