

THE LEARNING CIRCLE

by Loren Woerpel, Noc Bay Trading Company

LEATHER POUCH

Pouches of all sizes are useful parts of traditional dance clothing, especially when there are no pockets to put things in. The most universal small pouch seen everywhere in the culture is the small tobacco pouch. These instructions give some basic techniques for making a small pouch. The shape and decorations are up to you.

Start with a piece of soft leather measuring about 6 inches wide and 13 inches long. You will also need:

- 1 - #6 Glovers needle
- 1 - Size F white monofilament nylon thread
- 1 - Piece of beeswax
- 1 - #10 Glovers needle
- Assorted #10 seed beads

The only tool needed is a sharp scissors of the type having precision ground blades.

Figure 1 shows how to cut the leather into the pieces needed. First step is to cut two 13 inch long and 1/4 inch wide thongs from one side of the leather piece. These are your draw string thongs for the top of the pouch.

Next cut two 5 1/2 inch long and 1/2 inch wide thong from the top side of the leather piece. These pieces will become the welt for both sides of the pouch. (A welt is a piece of leather thong sewn between the leather sides being stitched to help cover the threads when the pouch is turned right-side out.)

From the remaining piece, cut three pieces that are about 4 inches wide and 5 1/2 inches long. One of the pieces is to be used as the fringe for the pouch bottom. The other two are the sides of the pouch. Trim the side pieces so that when put together, outside surface to outside surface, they are shaped exactly the same, with bottom corners slightly rounded. See Figure 2.

In the above step, the pouch is inside-out and ready for sewing in the fringe piece and the welts at the side seams. First lay the fringe piece between the pouch sides at the bottom of the pouch as in Figure 3. Trim the width slightly smaller than the width of the pouch.

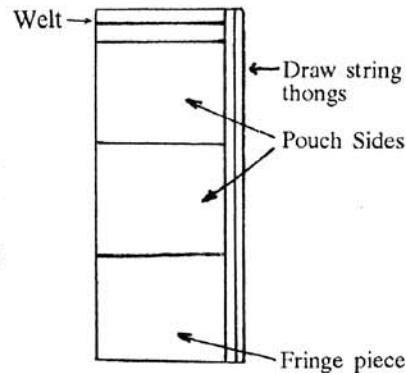


Figure 1

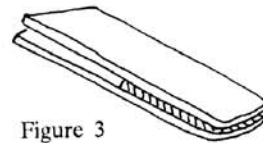


Figure 3

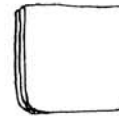


Figure 2



Figure 4

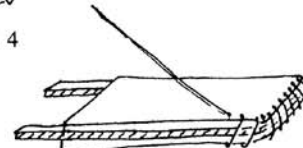


Figure 5

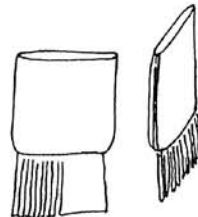


Figure 6

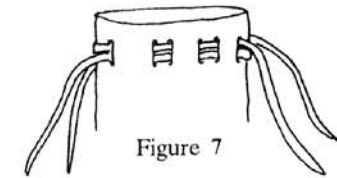
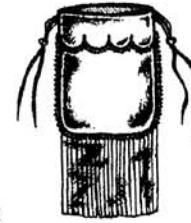


Figure 7

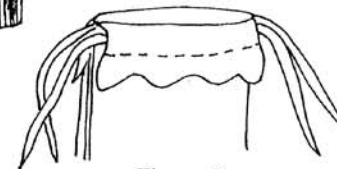


Figure 8

Thread the #6 Glovers with the nylon thread so it is doubled and tie with a knot. Wax the thread by pulling it through a block of beeswax several times. Sew the fringe piece in as in Figure 4 using a whip stitch.

Cut the welt thong into two pieces and lay one between the pouch pieces on one edge as in Figure 5. (Push the fringe piece inside and out of the way.) Sew this up with a whip stitch. Do the same with the other side. Trim off the excess welt thongs.

Now turn the pouch right-side out. Cut fringe as in Figure 6. Trim excess welt material so it is flush to the sides.

The easiest closure is an open draw string. The draw string thongs are inserted into slits cut along the top of the pouch as shown in Figure 7. One thong is threaded from each side of the pouch. The top edge of the pouch can be cut straight across or scalloped.

An alternative is to fold over the top edge covering the draw strings, and sew across about 1/2 inch down. See Figure 8.

The top and edges can now be trimmed by various edge beading techniques. Use the #10 glovers needle with size 10 beads. See our book **BEADWORKING WITH TODAY'S MATERIALS** for technique instructions. If you plan to sew beads in a pattern on the front of the pouch, you should do this before you sew the pouch together.

Copyright by: Loren Woerpel
Noc Bay Trading Company
P.O. Box 295
Escanaba, MI 49829