

Attaching Wood Dowel Spikes

The Northern Traditional swing bustle often uses decorated dowel spikes to form the basis of the top of the bustle from which to hang the feathers. We have developed a way to hold the spikes onto the back board with heavy metal wire. Just slip the drilled dowel ends over the metal wires that are attached to the back boards.

The first step is to determine the actual length you want the spikes. They come 24 inches in length. Insert the dowels into the back board and position it all on your back where the bustle is to be worn. Determine how long they should be considering the length added by the top feathers you plan to add. Cut off the dowels at the top end if needed.

The first step is to fasten the top feathers around the dowels. Using tacky glue or contact cement, coat the top two inches of the dowel. Let it get tacky, then contact the feathers into place and wind it tightly with heavy cotton thread.

The dowels can be wrapped with colored plastic tape, or with colored yarn. If using the yarn method, first lightly coat the full shaft with glue and let dry to tacky. Starting at the bottom, begin winding by overlapping the first winding, then slowly wind it up the dowel to the top. You can change colors of yarn by using our wrap design instructions. Finish wrapping up the dowel covering the thread wrapping that is over the feathers at the top.

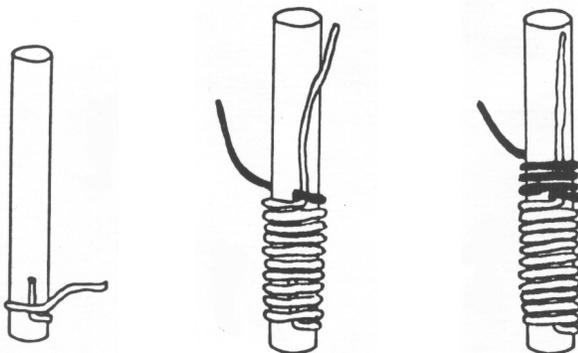
When both of the spikes are finished, attach them over the wires on the back board. Start the simulated sinew secondary bridles from the spikes, string on some spacer beads until it is spaced right for the first feather. Thread the needle through the feather quill and then proceed around the bustle per bustle stringing instructions.



Finished bustle spikes.



Back boards with wire attached to hold the spikes.



Start winding with overlap.

Change yarn colors by overlapping second color.



Start secondary bridle.