

CHICKEN DANCE ARM BUSTLE

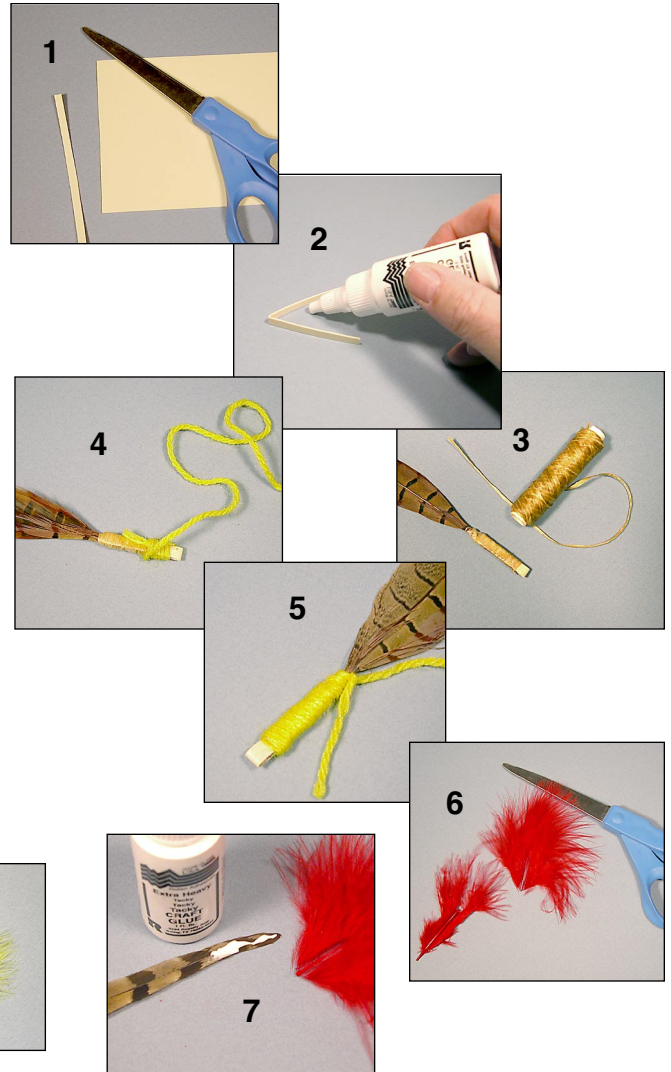
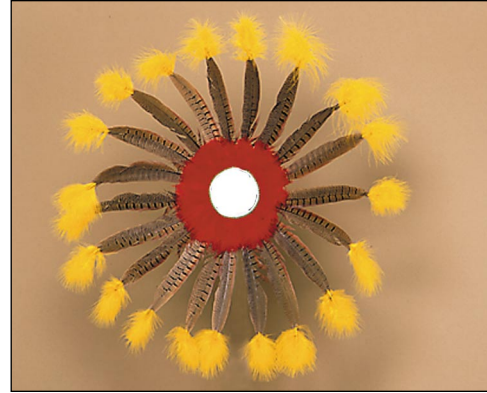
The Chicken Dance bustle features pheasant feathers placed into a circle bustle design. This style of bustle goes back to the early 1900's using other feathers, but pheasant feathers became popular in the 1950's. Recent use of the chicken dance songs at powwows has again interested male dancers to feature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

Start by preparing the pheasant feathers. Sort out the feathers for the two circles, one for each arm set. The feathers have some slight variation in length, from 8 to 10 inches. Each arm bustle circle uses 16 pheasant feathers. After sorting, you might need to trim the sets from the bottom of the quill so they are all about the same lengths.

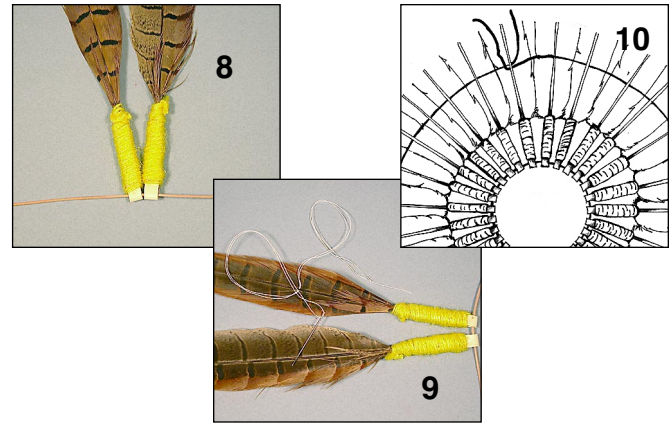
Steps 1, 2, & 3 Using the rectangle sheets of Eskatuff, cut $\frac{1}{8}$ " x 4" strips. Fold these strips in half forming the quill loop. In the next steps, leave about a $\frac{1}{8}$ " opening through the quill loop. Put a dab of Tacky glue on the inside legs of the loop. Place the pheasant feather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

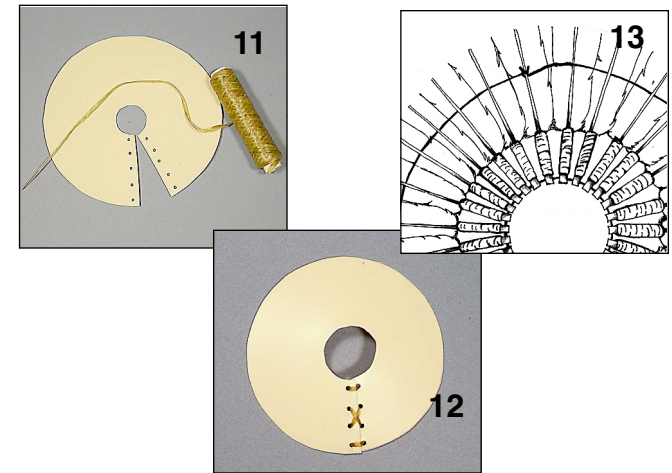


8, 9, & 10 For each circle, lay out all of the feathers in order for stringing. Using a piece of round leather thong, thread all of the quill loops together and tie a knot so they are in a circle. Turn the circle over so the back sides of the pheasant feathers are up, facing you. Using some Power Pro 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 1/8 inch away from the first stitch.



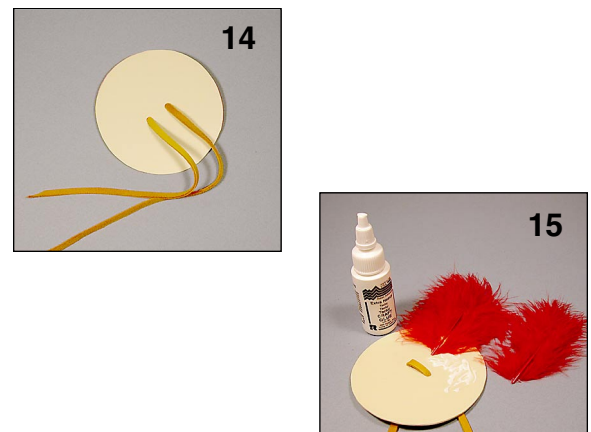
Carefully turn over the circle laying it front side up on the table. Now shorten the distance between feathers about evenly spacing them apart. Tighten up the circle so it a slight cone.

11 & 12 When both of the feather circles are ready to this point. Stop and create the cone backing piece. Use the 4 inch Eskatuff circles cut out with the slit to the center to form the cone. Using a piece of sinew, lace up the circles into a cone.



13 Lay each feather circle in a 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.

14, 15 & 16 Next take the round 2 1/2 inch circle discs of Eskatuff and thread the soft leather thong through the center holes of each. 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 3 inches. About 32 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 mirror with a fairly heavy coating of Tacky glue. Firmly press the mirror in place and let dry.



17 Thread the thongs from the back side of the center disc through the center of one of the feather circles, then through the center hole of the cone. This then is ready to tie around the upper arm of the dancer. Do the same with the other circle set.

Your bustles are 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.

