

TRADITIONAL OTTER BANDOLIER

This project matches well with either a turban or a roach. A basic design is shown here. Variations in trim and decoration may be used.

Originally this was made of strips of otter fur, but you can make it of dark brown imitation fur made of cloth, or you can piece together dyed rabbit fur all with a backing of cloth lining. If you do it with the rabbit fur, use a heavy cotton material as a lining and glue the rabbit fur in pieces onto the lining with very light coatings of contact cement.

The instructions here are for using the imitation fur cloth.

Materials:

- 1 - 60 inch by 5 inch piece of imitation fur.
- 1 - 60 inch by 5 inch piece of heavy cotton cloth lining.
- 4 - Yards of 5/8 inch Satin Ribbon
- 8 - Mirrors (Second option would be 8 Silver or Brass concho 2 1/2 inch diameter)
- 1 - 40 inch piece of soft leather thong.
- Needle and matching thread.

Steps:

1. Stitch the lining to the back of fur piece.
2. Bind the edge with the satin ribbon and stitch in place.
3. Carefully remove the back from the back of the mirror by sliding a thin knife blade between backing and metal gasket. Punch 2 holes in the back piece. Through these holes, sew the back piece into place on the bandolier as shown. Sew on like you would a large button. Use strong heavy thread or simulated sinew. Carefully snap the mirror and metal gasket back into the backing piece.

If you are using the conchos for decoration, simply sew them in place with heavy thread or simulated sinew.

4. Place this fur piece over your shoulder. Over lap the ends so it fits by connecting just above your hip. Fasten the two ends using the soft leather thong. You may use an awl or a leather punch to make two holes in that position to thread the thong through.

