



# The Learning Circle

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## FANCY WHIP STICKS

Male Fancy Dancers commonly carry a pair of these as dance sticks, but recently some Grass Dancers are using them as well. The project we are showing here uses some modern materials, but other decorating techniques can be added to the project as special additions.

### Materials needed:

- 2 - 10 inch long  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch diameter wood dowel
- 8 - French style solid metal beads
- 1 - Roll of electrical tape
- 2 - Packs of  $\frac{1}{4}$  ounce hackle feathers
- 2 - Soft leather thong, about 42 inches each
- 2 - 2 x 2 1/2 inch leather squares to match thongs
- 1 - Bobbin of simulated sinew (at least 5 yards)
- 1 - Bottle of Tacky craft glue.

The step by step process is shown in the pictures from 1 to 12. Start by cutting the soft leather thongs in half making four pieces about 20+ inches long. Divide the hackle up into four equal piles for each color. Repeat the following instructions to create two wands on each of the sticks.

(1) Cut a pointed end on each end of the leather thongs. Thread one through the hole on one end of a stick and pull to the center of the thong. (2) Tie the thongs into a knot to hold them in place.

(3) Thread two of the heavy metal French beads onto each of the thong ends. For the next steps, complete each thong as follows: (4) Place a bead of Tacky glue on the last 1 inch of the thong. Lay it in the center of the first color of hackle feathers. (5) Gather the hackle around the glue with the thong in the center. Using about 12 inches of simulated sinew. Wrap around the base of the hackle covering about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch of the base and tie a tight knot. (6) About 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches up the thong, glue about a  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch length with Tacky glue. Place in the second color of hackle as shown and wrap the hackle bases around the thong. Again using simulated sinew, wrap and tie the base of the hackle in place. (7) Cover this wrapping area with electrical tape. Use about a 2 inch length of tape. Complete all four hackle bundles the same way.

(8) Wrap the stick with electrical tape as shown. (9) Thread the remaining thongs through the other end of the stick and tie a knot. (10) Cut fringe on the top and bottom side of the leather squares. (11) Smear Tacky glue on the underside of the uncut square. Wrap the leather decoration around the top side of the stick as shown. You can either wrap bead this leather piece or (12) cut a 3 inch length of tape and wrap around the center of the decoration as shown.

