

SHEEP BELL DANCE SETS

Sheep bell sets can be made up for wearing on the ankles or at the knees depending on your style of dress. fancy Men often wear them below the knees. Grass dancers wear them on the ankles. Traditional men wear them on either the knees, or the ankles.

Ankle bell sets will have a shorter strap length than the knee sets. Measure the distance around the area where these bells will be worn. Subtract two inches for adults and one inch for children. this is about the length your bell straps should be.

Mark the straps with evenly spaced marks starting 3/4 inch in from each end, the number depending on how many bells you are putting on each strap. See Figure 1. You can cut the slit using a leather punch and the smallest hole punch. Make a series of hole punches to equal the 1/2 inch slit needed. A 1/2 inch wood chisel is another tool that would work. Cut a slit at each mark as indicated in Figure 1.

The German Silver metal strips are cut to form the bell clips. Make them 1/2 inch by 2 inches long as shown in Photo A. Thread them through the bell loop and close in half to form the clip as shown in Photo B. Clamp the clip ends together with a pliers.

Insert the closed clip through the slit in the leather strap as shown in Photo C. On the back side of the leather strap, spread the clip like you do with a cotter key. Finish folding the clip open with the help of a pliers if necessary as in Photo D. Complete all of the bells this way.

You now need to cover the back of the strap and the metal clips by gluing soft leather strips on the back of the straps. Lightly coat the back of the strap leather with either contact cement or leather tacky glue and let dry to tacky. Coat one side of the soft leather also with a light coat of the same glue and let dry to tacky. Then contact the two surfaces together and trim off any excess soft leather around the edges of the straps.

if you want, you can add padding to the backs of the straps by gluing imitation wool in the same way.

With a leather punch or a nail and hammer, make a hole at each end of each strap so that you can attach tying thongs. Attach a 9 inch latio-go boot lacing as shown in Figure 2. As illustrated, tie a knot in one end of the thong, and thread another end through a hole at the end of the straps with the knot on top. Complete all strap ends in the same way.

