

# THE LEARNING CIRCLE

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## FUR TURBAN

Various styles of fur turbans have always been common among all the Northern tribes. These instructions will give you technique ideas that can be used for many styles, but the style shown is typically seen here in the Lakes States at today's powwows. Usually they are made of otter, but this kit uses dyed rabbit and today's materials that will look very much like otter.

The following instructions are sized for adult head size, but it can be easily downsized to youth and children size. The adult height of turban is 4 1/2 inches. Youth will look proportional at 4 inches high, and child at 3 1/2 inches in height.

### SHOPPING LIST:

- 1 Medium or large dyed brown rabbit
- 1/2 Piece of matching rabbit fur for tail piece
- 1 Piece Eskatuff stiffener 4 1/2" X 26"
- 2 Squares of colored felt
- 1 Bottle of Contact Cement
- 1 yard Simulated Sinew
- 1 Size 3 Glovers needle
- 1 Eskatuff Wheel
- 2 Crow Beads
- 2 Brass Hawk Bells

You will need a scissors and pliers for this project.

If necessary trim the Eskatuff stiffener to size if you are doing a size smaller than adult. The strip is cut the shape as shown in Figure 1. The rounded end is used as the "face" of the fur. Lay the stiffener on the skin side of the rabbit fur and mark two pieces that will cover one side of the stiffener. The curved front should be at the head end of the rabbit fur with the direction of the hair running towards the back. Reduce the actual width of the fur by 1/4 inch when cutting.

The felt squares are used to cover the inside of the turban. Cut a 5 1/2" X 11 1/2" piece from each square. Lay the stiffener on a larger paper and coat one side with contact cement. While still wet, laminate the felt to the length of stiffener letting it hang over the rounded front by 1/4 inch and the sides by 1/2 inch. For the adult size there will be a 3 inch piece at the square end uncovered. Cut a piece from a leftover scrap and cover the remaining part, leaving an extra 1/2 inch of felt all the way around. See Figure 2.

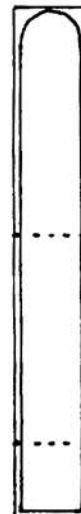
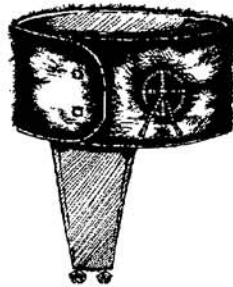


Figure 4

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

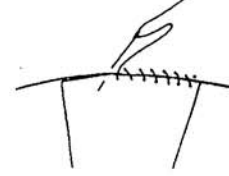


Figure 5

Figure 6

Turn over the stiffener and lightly brush contact cement on the over-hanging felt along the sides and the square end, as well as 1/2 inch of the stiffener to match. Let dry to tacky. Do not put any glue on the front curved part, but leave the felt overhang. On all the rest, fold the felt over the stiffener and laminate as in Figure 3. Finish by cutting the front curved part so it extends 1/4 inch beyond the stiffener. This completes the inside of the turban.

Cut the rabbit fur as it was previously marked. Lay out the fur pieces to check the fit and make any trim adjustment. Glue the back fur piece on the stiffener first, then the head or front fur. Coat the back part of the stiffener front with contact cement and laminate the back piece of fur. Now carefully coat the front part so as not to get glue on the fur and laminate the front fur piece. Let all this dry.

Because the shape of rabbit furs may vary, you can piece in any area not covered in the first step.

Fit the turban around your head so it is snug and mark the overlap spot. Split the sinew into four pieces. Thread the Glovers needle with one piece and double it. Roll the turban into the marked position and using the pliers and strung glovers needle, sew through the turban tacking it in position. Tie the knot on the inside of the turban. See Figure 4.

In the positions that would be the eyes of the otter, use the sinew and sew each of the crow beads through the turban. This will finish holding the turban into position.

It is most often customary for the face to be positioned on the right side facing forward or in front with face pointing to the left. Decide on which will be the front and prepare to sew a tail at the back bottom edge.

To prepare the tail, cut a triangle shaped piece of felt from the remaining piece as in Figure 5. Draw the pattern of the felt on the skin side of the rabbit. Remark the skin pattern 1/2" narrower than the felt and cut it out. Lightly brush the skin side of the fur with contact cement, center on the felt piece and laminate it to the felt. Let dry.

Sew this tail to the back of the turban with the glovers needle and a piece of sinew. Whip stitch this as in Figure 6.

Finish decorating by sewing the hawk bells on the tail. The front of the turban can be decorated with beaded medallion, shell disc, pendant, or medicine wheel, etc. Use the remaining sinew and the glovers needle for this job.

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