

THE LEARNING CIRCLE

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FANCY DANCER ARM BUSTLES

Fancy arm bustles can be made in a number of ways and variations. This instruction is a simple way to make small to medium sized bustles quickly.

The base material can be either heavy strap leather or 1/4 inch plywood or 3/16 inch paneling. Cut out two round discs, 4 inches in diameter (Disc A). Drill two holes in the center for the main tying thongs. Drill a circle of small holes, about 3/4 inch in from the outside edge, and each being about 1/4 to 3/8 inch apart. See Figure 1.

Cut out two more round discs, 2 inches in diameter (Disc B). Also drill two holes in the center for the tying thongs. See Figure 2.

The outside row is normally hackle feathers, but you can substitute fluffs for lower cost. If you use strung hackle, leave them strung and just untwist the string of feathers until they are all facing the same way. If you have loose hackle or fluffs, you will have to glue each feather individually and it will take longer. If using fluffs, trim the feathers so they are all the same length before proceeding.

Start with Disc A's. Begin by spreading contact cement on one half of the disc, covering about 1 inch in from the outside edge. Cover heavily. While still wet, embed the strung hackle into the glue, covering the small holes, as in Figure 3. The feathers should have the natural curve bending up towards you. After this half has set in the glue, coat the remainder and complete the circle with the feathers. Let dry, and again firmly press the feathers into the glue.

Using a large darning needle with a length of simulated sinew, sew this row of feathers in place around the disc by using the row of small holes. See Figure 4 for the idea on the best stitching.

Take Disc B's and thread leather thongs through the center holes as in Figure 5. Using fluffs for this row, trim them from the bottom to about 2 1/2 inches in length.

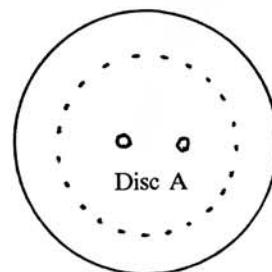


Figure 1

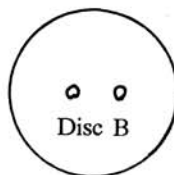


Figure 2

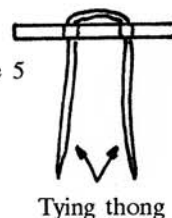


Figure 5

Tying thong

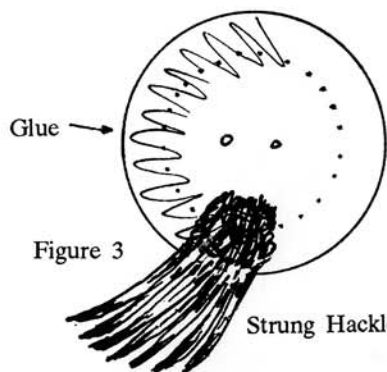


Figure 3

Strung Hackle

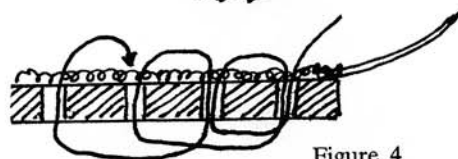


Figure 4

Spread contact cement heavily on the top surface of a Disc B. While wet, place the fluffs evenly, and compactly around the disc, bases to the center. Figure 6. Let dry and firmly press the fluff bases down.

The very centers of Disc B's now need to be covered. You can use mirrors, bead rosettes, or decorated tag board. Coat the backs of these centers with contact cement and let dry until tacky. Spread a thin coat of contact cement in the center of Disc B, covering again the bases of the fluffs. Let dry until tacky. Contact the two pieces together firmly until dry.

Trim the outside edges of fluffs of Disc B with a scissors until a nicely round shape takes place. You want this row of fluffs to cover the sewing and bases on the feathers of Disc A so judge the length of fluff you will need.



Figure 6

Thread the tying thongs in Disc B through the center holes in Disc A. Hang upside down so the hackle take shape. When all of the glue is dry, your bustles are ready to wear.

If you want to have two rows of hackle in the bustles, increase the size of Disc A to 5 inches, and make two rows of small holes about 1/2 apart. Follow the same procedures for the second row of hackles before putting Disc B on to Disc A.

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