

WOMAN'S BREASTPLATE Real Bone

The design shown here makes a large 8 inch wide breastplate when using plastic bone. It may be made larger by adding to the length with extra beads or bone, or by adding to the width with extra strings. The arrangement of beads and colors are varied by the craftsperson to attain a unique design.

Materials Needed:

(In our kit, beads are not included, but must be purchased separately. You need at least 600.)

- 40 inches of 1/2 inch wide strap
- 2 inch x 10 inch piece of strap leather
- 84 four inch long real bone hairpipe
- 5 two inch plastic hairpipe
- 90 feet of heavy tigertail wire
- 16 tin cones
- 1 piece of soft leather for cutting short thongs

MAKING THE BREASTPLATE

(Instructions are given for making the breastplate as shown. Adjust if changing the size.)

1. Cut the 1/2 inch wide strap leather into 3 eight inch pieces and 4 three inch pieces. Mark straps for punching holes. Start 1/4 inch from left edge and make holes every 1/8 inch.
2. From the 2x10 inch piece of strap leather, cut and punch holes making the yoke as shown in Figure 1.
3. Cut 12 four foot lengths of heavy tigertail for your outside rows.
4. Cut the soft leather scrap into small strips about 3/16 inch by six inches in length. (See Figure 2) Tie one end of each sinew around the center of a leather thong. Wind the sinew around the leather several times then use your best knot to tie tightly. Trim off the extra end of sinew. Thread a cone on to each of the sinew lengths and pull the cone down to cover the knot. Finished it looks like Figure 3.
5. Lay the strap leathers out on a floor or table in position and string bone and beads according to your pattern and as in Figure 4. To finish these strings off, at the top of these lengths, the last row of bone is the 2 inch hairpipe. Combine two strings through each bone, then through one last bead and tie each pair of sinew strings through a hole in the yoke. (See Figure 4a) Tie your best knots several times tightly. Cut off excess wire ends. (Hint: Applying super glue to each wire knot will help prevent the knots from unravelling.)
6. Cut 4 five foot pieces of tigertail wire for the center strings. Tie one end to thongs and slip a cone over each as in step 4.
7. String the beads and bone on each of these according to your pattern in Figure 4. For each row, when you reach the third strap 10 inch strap, thread back down through the next hole over, and continue to follow the pattern to the bottom. Finish each of these lines off as in Figure 5, using thong and cone, but tying the knots on top of the cones after winding around the thong several times and pulling the thong into the cone, while binding the cone up tightly against the last bead in the string. Finish each line the same way.

