



By Loren Woerpel, Noc Bay Trading Company

GRASS DANCER SPREADER

In order to make this spreader fit your roach, make a paper pattern by tracing off the form of the bottom of your roach. A spreader larger than the inside row of hair will hold the roach hair flatter. For stand up shaped roaches, make the spreader fit inside the hair row. Be sure to narrow the tail piece of the base so that it lies inside the tail piece of the roach. Smooth out the pattern on paper and cut it out.

Trace this pattern off onto the piece of Eskatuff plastic. Cut this out and test it for proper fit in your roach. Trim if necessary. Mark the spot where the base hole is in the roach.

If you are going to attach your roach to the top of your head by using a hair braid and spreader stick, drill a 1/4 inch hole at that center hole mark as in Figure 1. If you are going to attach your roach with a soft leather thong, drill two small holes, one on either side of the marked base hole as in Figure 2.

Place the plastic form on the top surface of the strap leather. Trace around the plastic form, finishing by making the tail marks slightly longer than the plastic form tail.

Place these two pieces on a paper for glueing, the plastic form top side up and the strap leather piece bottom side up. Coat these surfaces with contact cement. A Q-tip works well for spreading out the glue. Let these surfaces dry.

Begin to laminate the two pieces together at the front end of the spreader, but bend the tail of the plastic, and laminate the leather tail while in the bent form. Press these together firmly. When you release the pressure this laminated piece will stay curved. Re-drill the holes through both pieces. Figure 3.

Drill two small holes behind the base hole or thong holes but with about a 1 inch spacing. See Figure 4.

Cut the guitar string provided to 24 inches in length. Thread it through the two holes just drilled as shown. Bend the wire so that the two antennae are straight and bent slightly to the front des. See Figure 5.

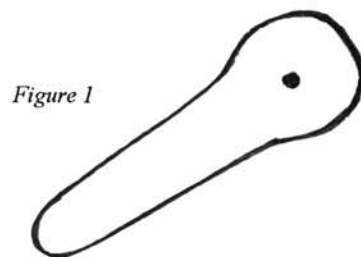


Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 4



Figure 3

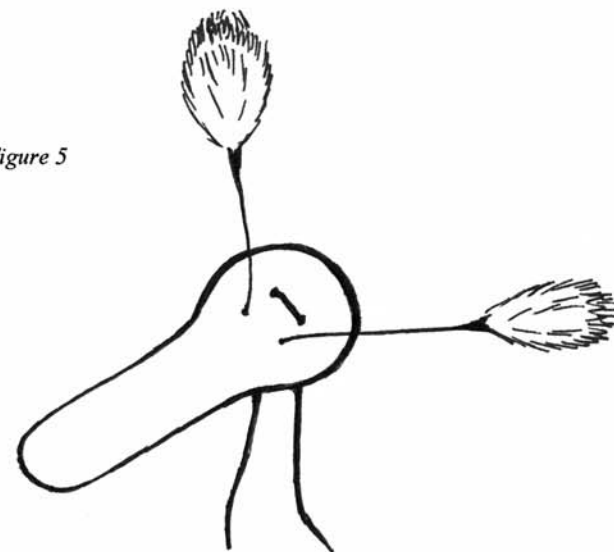


Figure 5

Finally trim both antennae so they are the same length. Using a long nose pliers, turn the tips into a small loop. This keeps the fluffs from slipping off.

Trim three or four fluffs to the same length. Coat the tip of one wire with contact cement. Using a heavy thread, wind the clump of fluffs to the tip of the wire. Repeat with the second one.

Coat the bottom of the spreader with contact cement. Work quickly and while still wet, stretch the light weight soft leather piece over the bottom covering the plastic and cotter pins. Trim off this leather to the spreader shape. If you missed a spot along the edge, work some cement in with a tooth pick or Q-tip. Continue to press down until dry.

Again, re-drill the base hole or the two thong holes, which ever you have chosen to use. If using a chin thong for tying on your roach, cut points on each end of a soft thong and insert them through each thong hole from the top.

The leather spreader may be decorated with techniques like painting, colored marking pens, or even by using wood burning tools.

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