



By Loren Woerpel, Noc Bay Trading Company

CONCHO BELT

Concho belts are worn by both men and women dancers as a part of both traditional and contemporary styles. Today it is common to use large conchos, either silver or brass mounted on wide strap leather belts. The concho has a lacing eyelet soldered to the center back of the concave concho disc.

Tools needed are a scissors and an electric drill.

Measure your waist with your dance clothing on and cut the strap leather belt so there is a gap of about 1 to 2 inches.

Lay the belt out flat. Select the number of conchos you plan to use and place them in position on the belt. When you have them where you want them, firmly push down in the center of each concho to mark their position on the strap leather. Move the conchos off of the strap leather and leave them in the same position on a nearby table.

Take a small scrap of wood and lay it under the strap leather. Using an electric drill with a 1/4" bit, drill a single hole at each marked point for the conchos. Change the bit to a 3/16". Drill an extra hole next to the last hole at each end of the belt. Also drill three holes at each end of the belt. The hole pattern is shown in Figure 1.

Using a soft leather thong, tie a knot in one end and cut a sharp point on the other end. Thread the end through the extra hole starting at one end. At this first 1/4" hole, slip the lacing eyelet of the first concho through the hole with the concho on the top surface of the belt. Thread the soft thong through eyelet on the back side of the belt, holding the concho to the belt. Proceed with the next concho in the same way.

After lacing through the last concho, pass through the extra hole at the end and underneath the concho carefully slip a knot in the thong to hold that end in place. See Figure 2. Cut off any extra thong.

Use a heavy latigo thong to lace up the belt ends, in the same way you lace your shoe. See Figure 3.

© Copyright 1997 by Loren Woerpel
Noc Bay Trading Company
P.O. Box 295
Escanaba, Michigan 49829
www.nocbay.com

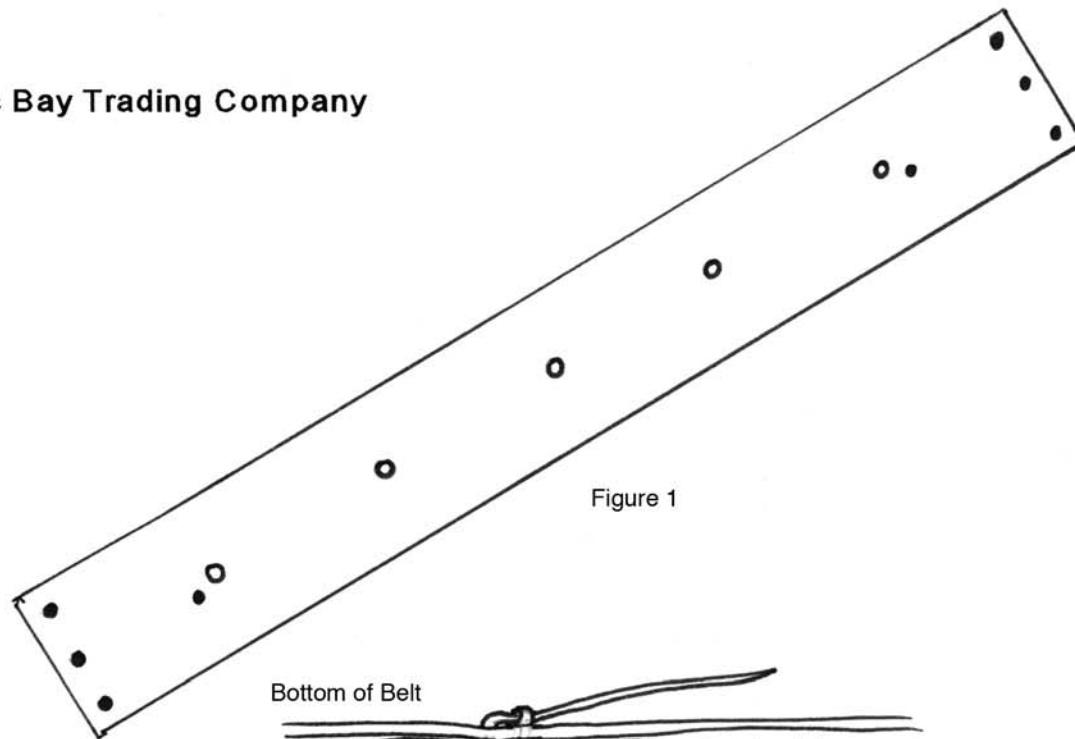


Figure 1



Starting the lacing

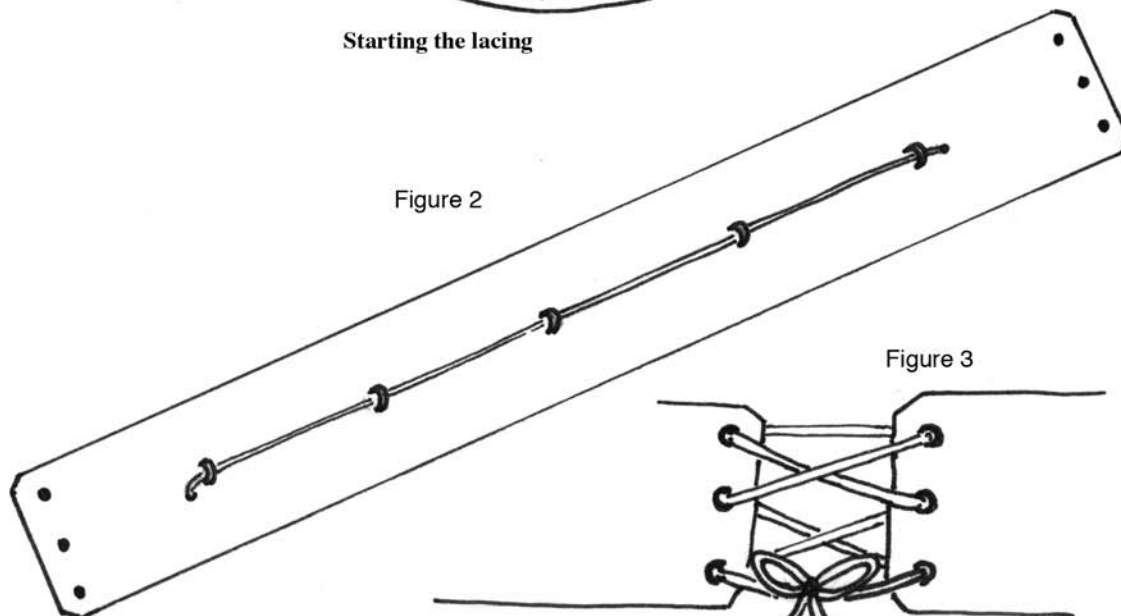


Figure 2

Figure 3