

# Oklahoma Straight Dance Shirt

By Jerry Smith

All straight dancers prefer to wear a different straight dance shirt at each session of a pow wow or war dance. Such changes require the dancer to own a number of these loose-fitting shirts. To keep his collection of shirts in top shape, the straight dancer will continually replace old shirts with new ones, especially for a large or important pow wow. Each shirt may be sent to the cleaners or laundered and pressed after each use to help preserve the elegant look of the dancer.

As fine as the straight dance shirt might look, it is a very simple shirt to make. Hence, the following set of instructions will help all future hobbyist straight dancers begin a collection of shirts.

## Material

Three yards of 45" wide material is plenty to complete the shirt. Cotton or a shiny solid color material (rayon satin) are the most common material used. Large or small "realistic" floral or paisley prints are popular in cotton shirts, although solid colors are used. Do not use Hawaiian prints. Almost any color may be used in the print background. Common solid colors are shades of red, blue, yellow or green. Some brocades and stripes are occasionally seen.

## Ribbon

Three yards of 1" wide rayon satin ribbon and one yard of 5/16" or 1/4" wide ribbon is needed as trim. The ribbon color should contrast with colors in the shirt.

A hook and eye for the neck, and buttons or snaps for the cuffs complete the list of materials.

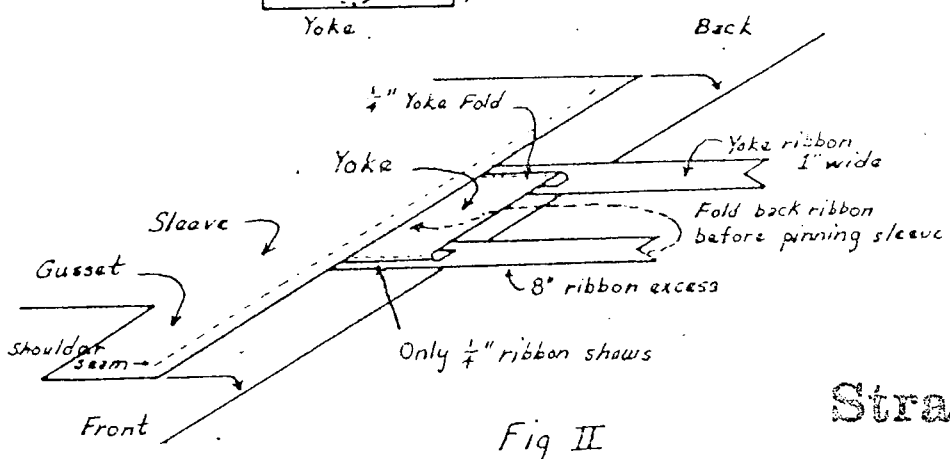
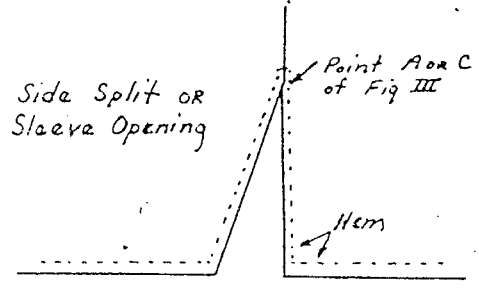
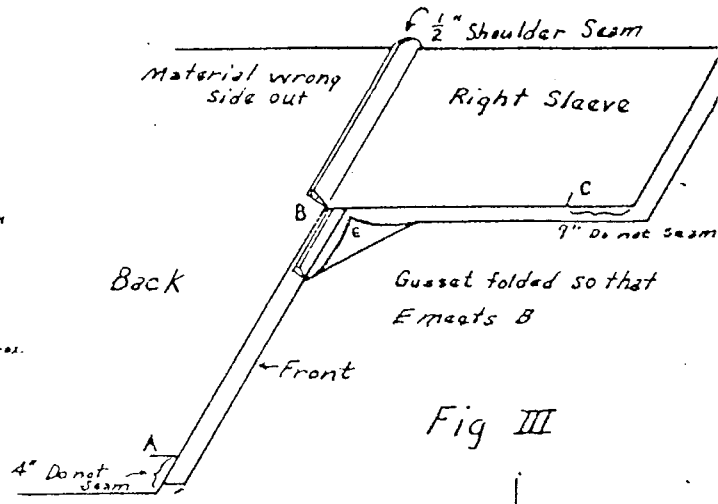
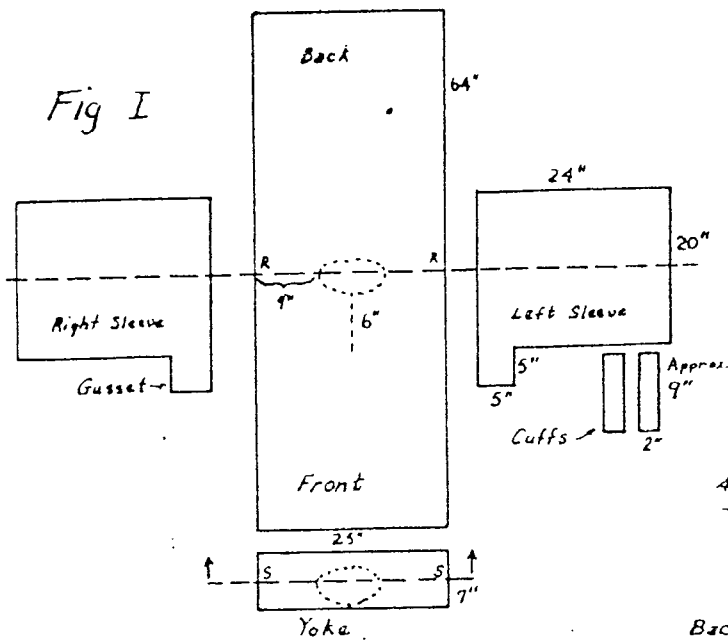
## Construction Steps

1. Cut out the shirt using dimensions shown in Figure 1.
2. Place the yoke in the center of front-back piece, matching points S with R (Figure I). Fold long side of yoke under 1/4" and place the two 1" wide by 40" long yoke ribbons as shown in Figure II.
3. Pin both sleeves in place, matching center of sleeve with center of the yoke width (Figure I). Remember to fold yoke excess ribbons back under so that they will show on finished product. Sew 1/2" shoulder seams as shown in Figure II.
4. Turning the material wrong-side-out, pin sleeve and side seams, folding gusset into triangular shape. Sew 1/2" sleeve seam from point B to C (Figure III) and sew 1/2" side seam from B to A. This means that point E will match up with point B.

5. Hem sleeve opening and side splits as shown in Figure IV.
6. Hem bottom of shirt and ends of sleeves.
7. Please ends of sleeves and baste (Figure V). Cuffs should fit snug. Place cuff in place, then sew down 1/4" cuff ribbons as shown in Figure V. Complete sleeves with a pair of snaps or buttons.
8. Cut out neck hole and neck opening as shown by dotted line in Figure I.
9. Fold back neck opening very slightly and pin 1" ribbon in place as shown in Figure VI. Sew down ribbons.
10. Bind the neck hole and add a hook and eye at the top of the neck opening

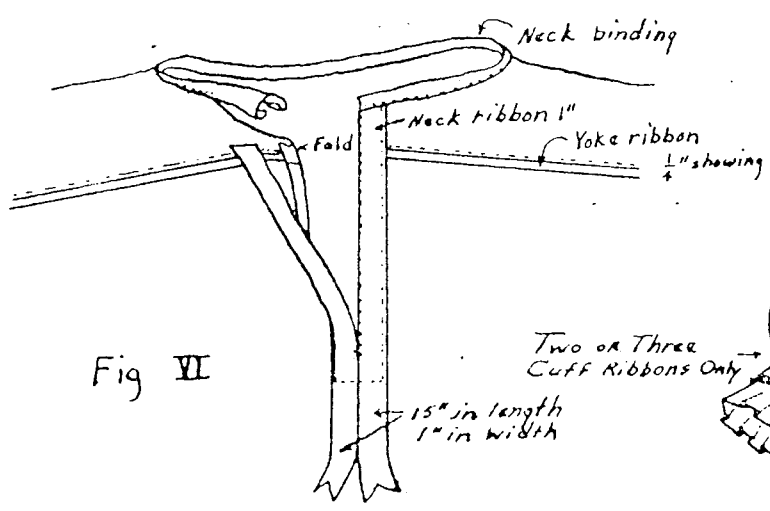
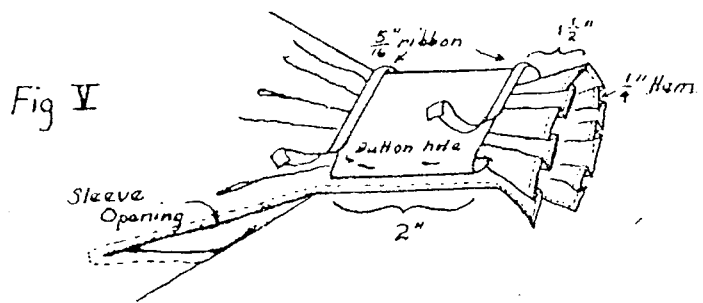
The finished straight dance shirt appears in Figure VII. Addition of extra ribbons or other decorations outside those shown would convert the shirt into something other than a straight dance shirt. Some of the dimensions shown should be changed for those over 5'10" or under 5'6". Remember, the sleeves blouse, the shirt hangs to the crotch and the shirt fits loosely around the waist.

The source of information used for this article is a shirt made by Red Man Store, Pahaska, Oklahoma.



**Fig IV**

# Straight Dance Sh



**Fig VII**

