

BONNET CONSTRUCTION

After preparing your feathers (see instructions: "Feather Preparation"), you will mark your bonnet crown (Sketch 1). Allow enough space for your browband and make $\frac{1}{2}$ " pairs of slits $\frac{1}{2}$ " apart. Space these pairs evenly around your crown. The slits in the back should be about $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the edge of the crown. There should be 15 pairs of slits for each side of the crown making 30 pairs total.

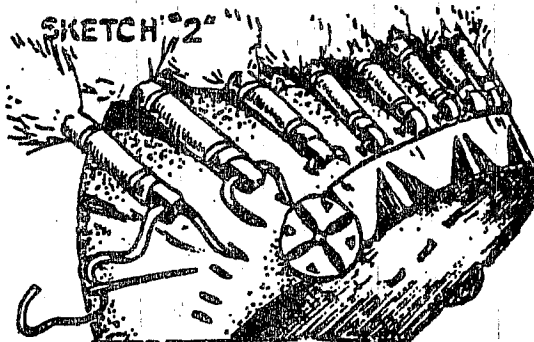
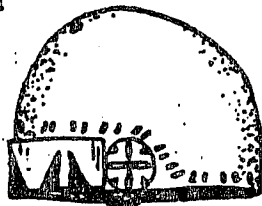
Sew on your browband, medallions, rabbit strips, etc. Take your primary lace and begin to lace on your feathers from the back center starting with the shortest "right" and proceeding toward the longest. The lacing should be snug but not tight. When you reach the front, proceed on around to the back with the "lefts" (Sketch 2).

On the back of each feather make a light mark 4 " above the looped end of the quill. Take the secondary lace and sew one side of the bonnet together at the points you have marked, beginning at the back center (Sketch 3). Be careful not to pull the fluffs into the hole you make. Leave 5 " or so of end loose so you will have something to tie to when you finish (Sketch 4).

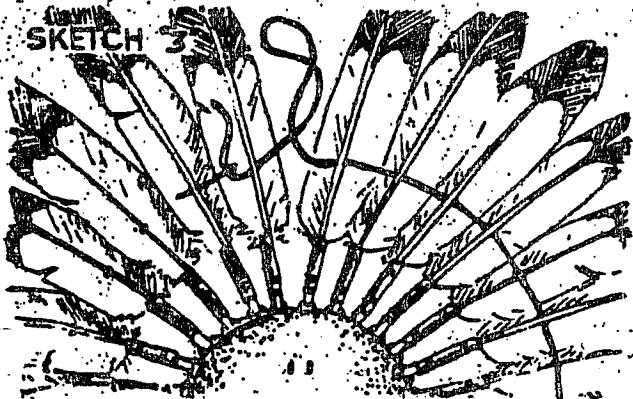
Space the feathers about $2\frac{1}{2}$ " apart and then tie together in the back. The secondary lacing should be done so that no amount of wind will collapse the feathers down over your face. Shake your bonnet to see if this can happen. If so, space your feathers closer and shorten the secondary lace.

If your bonnet has a major plume, take the turkey spike enclosed for that purpose and strip the webbing from the quill (you may want to strip only parts of it and cut designs in the remaining parts). The major plume was always different for every bonnet. Wrap it with colored thread so that it has distinctive bands. Prepare the plume as you did the other bonnet feathers. Finally, cut two slits in the top of the crown and lace it in place (Sketch 4).

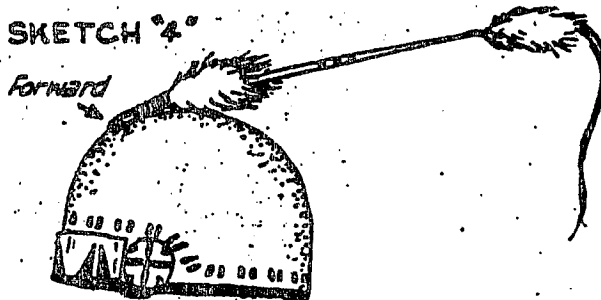
SKETCH "1"

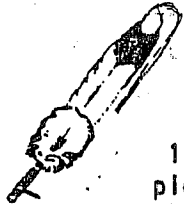


SKETCH "3"



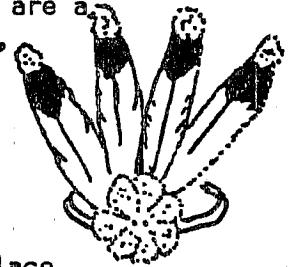
SKETCH "4"





Items that are not included with the kit that may be useful are a needle, some glue and some light cardboard. Of these things, however, only the needle and light cardboard are necessary.

1. First read all of the instructions thru carefully and picture in your mind how each step fits into the project. Then take your time and do each step-by-step. Don't be afraid to personalize the kit in any way that you feel will look better.



2. First split the imitation sinew into four pieces lengthwise. Then place the leather band around your head and cut it about $2\frac{1}{2}$ " shorter than the distance around your head. With a piece of imitation sinew, sew the elastic piece into place as shown in Figure 1. The headband should be tight but comfortable when it is complete.



Fig. 1

3. As shown in Figure 2, sew the four feathers into the small piece of felt that has been provided. A small quantity of glue will help keep everything in place. Now select four small fluffs and glue one each to the tip of each feather as shown in the illustration (upper right).

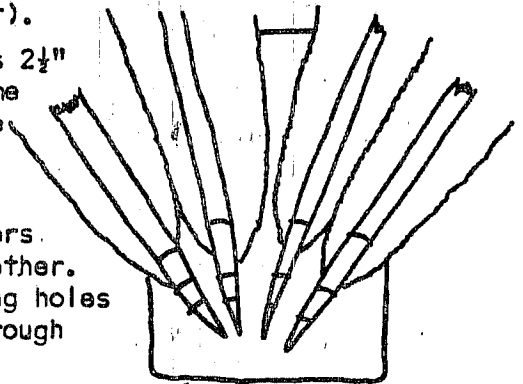


Fig. 2

4. To make the rosette, you'll need to make a circle that is $2\frac{1}{2}$ " round from some light cardboard (not included). Then use some glue and place the remaining fluffs around the outside of the cardboard circle as shown in Figure 3.

5. Now, as shown in Fig. 4, you want to put the whole thing together. First bend the small piece of felt with the feathers pointing up, over the headband and sew the ends securely together. Then punch two holes in the leather disc provided and matching holes into the cardboard. Finally, put two corresponding holes through the felt and the elastic piece.

6. From the outside (that is, starting at the leather disc), thread a piece of the imitation sinew through both holes in the leather disc, then through the cardboard, then thru the felt, elastic and felt and then tie this all together securely.

7. The front of the headband can be decorated with beads, paint, thread or applique work as you desire. Examples of good Indian designs can be found in any number of books that we carry or from museums, etc.

8. Wear with Pride.

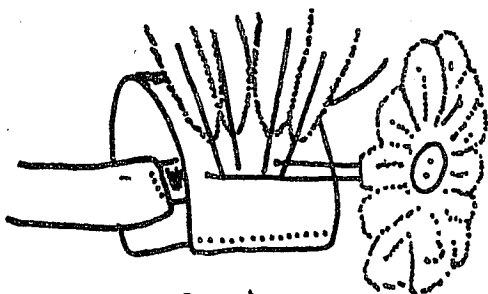


Fig. 4

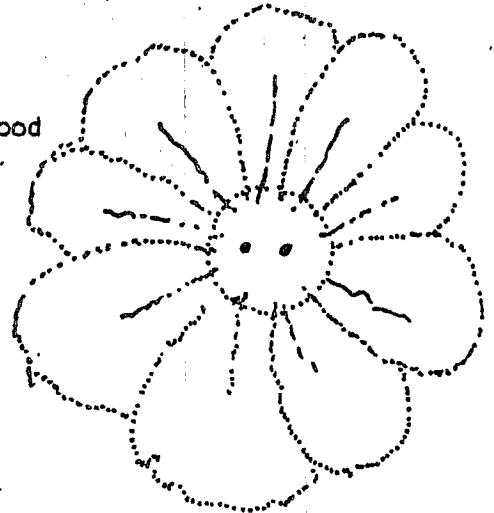


Fig. 3