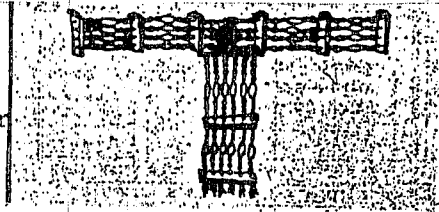




Fancy Deluxe Sioux Dancing Choker

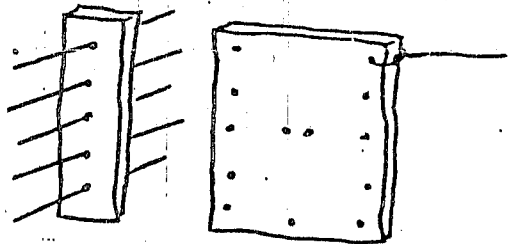
This is a rendition of the classic choker seen both in the past and at today's pow wows. Most popular with the Western Sioux the use of the Shell shows the influence of trade with Pacific Tribes where shells were often used as money.



(1) First, read all of the instructions through carefully picturing in your mind how each step fits into the completed choker. Don't be afraid to make this a personal project by changing things around to your liking. However, as will all of our kits, take your time and don't rush getting it kit put together - we've found generally that the more time you spend planning what you're going to do and then doing it, the better the finished product will be. Since you're going to wear it, make it the best!

(2) Your first step is to make the leather spacers - this is a very important step because it holds everything together and it's also the most difficult step you have to do. From the leather piece that is provided you want to make: four (4) spacers that are 2 1/4" long and 3/8" wide; two (2) spacers that are 2 1/2" long and 3/8" wide; 3 spacers that are 3 5/8" long and 3/8" wide; and, one (1) center piece that is 1 1/2" wide and 2 1/2" long.

The easiest way to make these is with a razor blade and a steel ruler but you can use a knife or scissors. But - before cutting, draw out the pieces and make sure you cut the leather so that you get all the pieces you need out of it.



(3) Take one of the 2 1/4" spacers - starting at one end, measure in about 3/16" and with a sharp pencil make a mark. Then measure in from the other end the same distance and make a mark. Now exactly half-way between those two marks (this should be in the exact middle of the spacer) make a mark. Now between the middle mark and each outside mark, make another mark. You should now have five pencil marks on the spacer and you want to put a hole thru the spacer at each of these points - the figure at the upper right gives you an idea of what you are after.

You can make the holes with an awl, a sharp knife or a small leather punch or sharp nail. But whatever you use, you are going to have to thread the artificail sinew through the holes so make them big enough to get the sinew through.

(4) Now make similiar holes in the other three spacers of the same size in the exact same places.

(5) Now you want to make holes in the 2 1/2 spacers - it will help you visualize what this is suppose to look like if you remember what these two are for. Looking at the example of the finished choker above, these are the two inner most vertical spacers that the bottom (or hanging) part of the choker is going to hook onto. So - chose one end of the spacer (either end) that is going to be the top; put one of the smaller spacers that you have just finished next to it with the tops even and punch holes exactly like you did above.

