

TWO-RIBBON RIBBONWORK

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Chief 1959-60

The following steps are designed to allow one to make a set of ribbons for a straight dance suit without going through the meticulous steps of folding, basting and stitching the ribbons to create a 3-ribbon pattern seen on some Osage suits. In this simpler method, a lane of tight zigzag stitches about 1/16 of an inch wide takes the place of the third ribbon.

MAKING THE RIBBON WORK STRIPS

Materials Needed:

1. Muslin backing - ½ yard
2. 2 complimentary colors of taffeta - ½ yard each
3. Thread matching the colors of the taffeta and a spool of light colored thread that contrasts with the taffeta (light blue, white, yellow). Sulky 40 is a good thin embroidery thread for this purpose.
4. A yard of "Wonder Under"

Since your finished strip will be about 2 1/4" wide, begin by cutting out the muslin into 9 strips that are 2" wide and cut out identical strips of wonder under.

The strip lengths are:

1. 4 for the clout, each 13" long.
2. 3 for the dance trailer, each 10" in length.
3. 2 for the leggings, each 34" (inseam length plus 3 inches) long.

Iron the wonder strips to the muslin strips and peel the paper backing off the wonder under.

Next, cut each color of the taffeta into 9 strips each 2½" wide. The darker of the two colors we will call the "outside ribbon" and the other the "inside ribbon."

The length of each ribbon is as follows:

1. 4 for the clout (aprons), each 15" long (the 2 extra inches hang beyond the bottom edge of the apron with the edges "pinked").
2. 3 for the dance trailer, each 10" long.
3. 2 for the leggings, each 34" long.

Iron the lighter color ribbon, inside ribbon, to the wonder under side of the muslin backing, fusing the taffeta to the muslin. Iron so that one edge lines up with the muslin edge and the other edge hangs over by 3/4." Note that there are "left" and a "right" apron strips, see diagram A.

Again cut strips of wonder under into 1 3/4" strips to match the length of the remaining dark taffeta strips, except, again, each apron strip will be 2" shorter than the corresponding taffeta. Iron the wonder under to the dark taffeta. One edge aligns with the taffeta edge, the other hangs over by 3/4." Do not pull off the paper just yet.

Make a template from a cereal box of the "F" design element two repetitions. Place the template on the paper side of the dark taffeta and trace the "F" outline with a pen. Naturally the template will have to be slid along several times to cover the length of the legging strip. Cut out the design by hand using scissors, and then peel off the paper. Iron the cut ribbon on top of the lighter ribbon aligning the ribbon carefully.

Stitch around the edges of the "F" design ribbon using the zigzag mode of your sewing machine. The setting should produce an embroidery stitch 1/16" wide. As the stitch moves along, it secures the cut edge so it will not fray. Practice will help you reach the goal of no stitches on top of each other as you square corners, and ideally there will be no gaps where the taffeta will show through. The zigzag stitching represents the third ribbon. From 18 feet away it is hard to tell that this "simpler method" is different from the real thing.

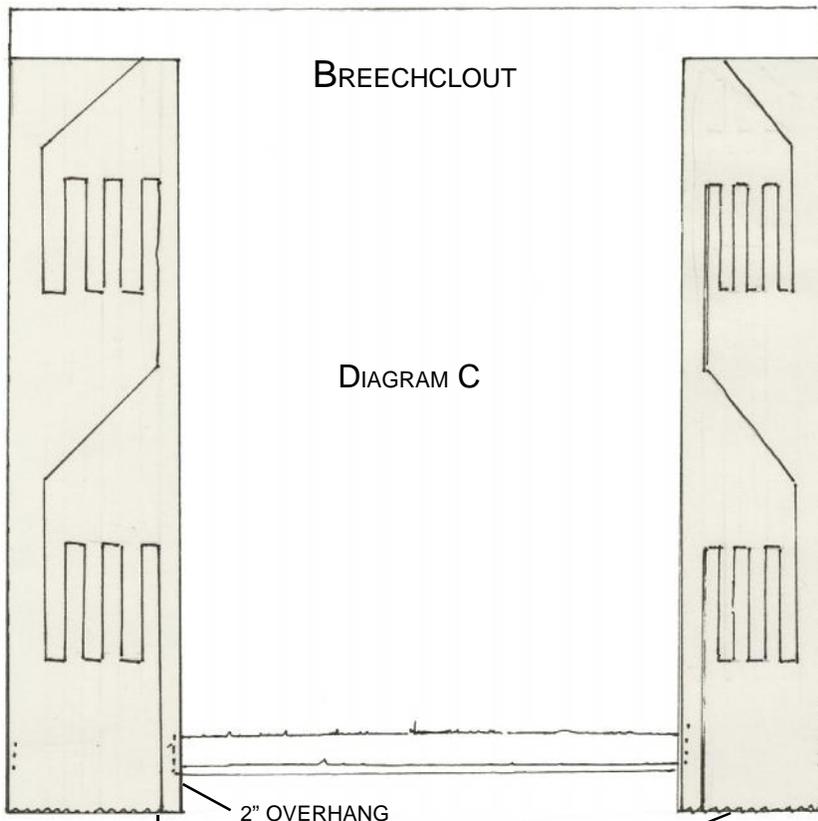
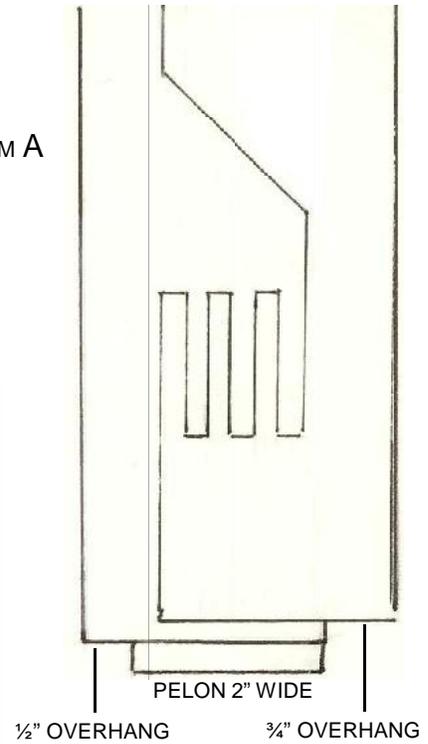


SEWING THE RIBBONWORK STRIPS TO THE CLOTH TO THE CLOTH

To sew the ribbon panels to the wool, first iron under the 1/2" overhang of the inside ribbon. Next, iron in a double fold on the 3/4" overhang of the outside ribbon to form a binding. (See diagram B.) Stitch the panels in place as shown using a straight stitch. Remember not to stitch down the last 2" on the bottom edges of the aprons. Pink these edges and the bottom edge of this overhang. Bind the bottom edges of the leggings and sides of the dance trailer with leftover taffeta that matches the color of the outside ribbon. Finish the ribbon work with a two-bead edging with 10/0 or 11/0 white seed beads.

DETAIL OF RIBBON LAYERS

DIAGRAM A



DO NOT ZIGZAG STITCH RIBBON BELOW EDGE OF WOOL

PINK OFF 1/4"

DIAGRAM B

