

FLAT FAN CONSTRUCTION

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Flat fan construction, over the years, has developed many different types of construction techniques. Any fan maker develops his own techniques and it is the sharing of these techniques that allow creativity in fan-making. An interesting type of fan has evolved, using a special combination of techniques; the basic construction is commonly seen on the feathers of Peyote style loose fans and scalp feather decorations.

CONSTRUCTION

Construction of this type of fan is fairly simple, but planning is necessary by carefully selecting the tail feathers to be used, usually from the same tail.

The number of feathers to be used depends upon the size and shape of the feathers. Five to seven feathers are common (always use an odd number of feathers for best results).

- 1 Individually prepare each feather. To the base of each feather small hackles, trim feathers, felt spots, etc., may be added. (FIG. 1, Photos 3, 4, 5.)
- 2 Each quill should be wrapped with thin, white buckskin (Fig. 1).
- 3 Thread wrapping and/or silver bands may be added (Photos, 2, 3, 4).

THE HANDLE

The handle construction and the fitting of the feathers into the handle is usually the most difficult job. I use a carved balsa wood handle and set the feathers with plastic wood. The upper part of the handle must be proportioned so that the decorated quills are exposed (Fig. 4, PHOTO 3). The width of the top part of the handle should be just slightly wider than the feathers on each side.

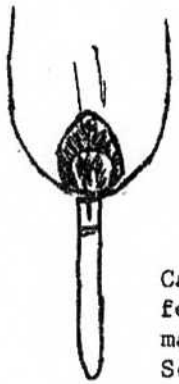


FIG.1

Carefully prepare each feather as if you were making a loose fan. Scotch tape is excellent for adding trim feathers. Cover the quill with thin, white buckskin and decorate with thread, silver bands, etc.



FIG.2

The Center Feather is often highly decorated.

Threadwork wrapping and silver bands may be added.

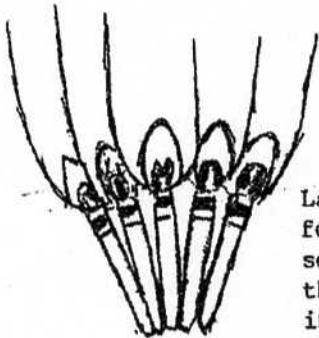


FIG.3

Lay out the prepared feathers. They may be sewed together at the bottom to insure that they lay properly, making sure they are evenly spaced.

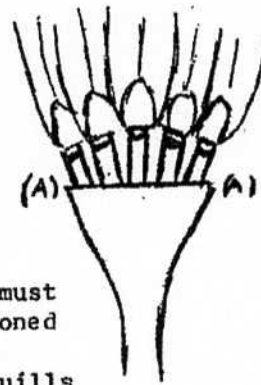


FIG.4

The handle must be proportioned so that the decorated quills are exposed. The lower portion may be extended to keep proper proportions. Top dimension should be just a hair wider than the feathers at point A-A.

FIG.5



Notch the back of the handle (shaded area) to accommodate the feather bases.

FIG.6

Place the feathers into the notch and secure firmly with plastic wood. Buckskin can then be used to cover the entire handle including the notched portion.

