

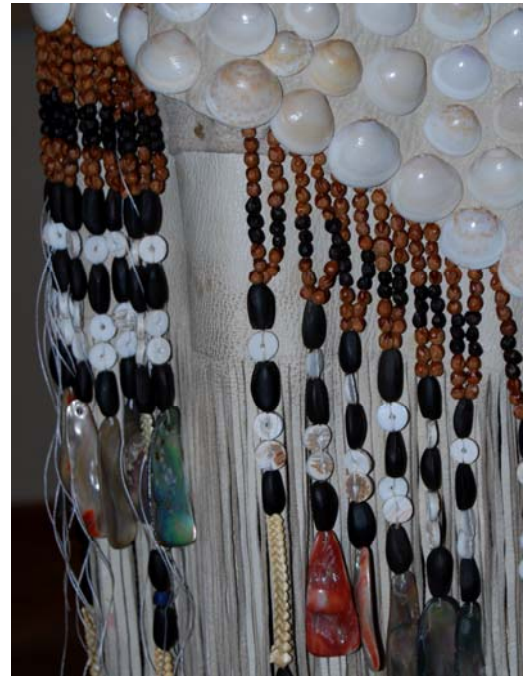
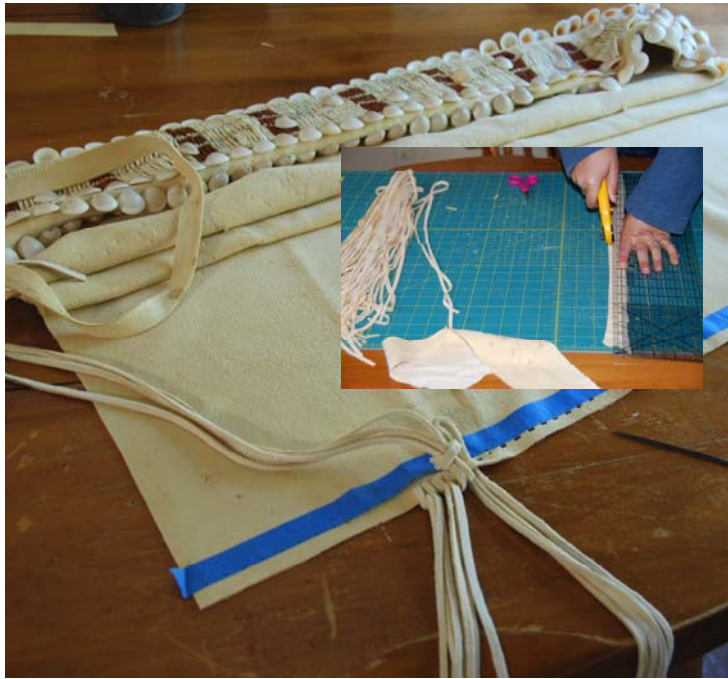
Basic Dress Construction Ceremonial Dress – Hupa, Karuk, Yurok



- Traditional ceremonial dresses contain two parts: (1) an **apron** that covers the front; and (2) a **skirt** that covers the back and ties around the apron.
- The apron can be (1) solid leather, often decorated with shell; (2) entirely braided, using almost no leather; or (3) a combination of the two.
 - Dakota’s apron has a decorated leather panel at the top with braided strands attached.
- Old style skirts have folded leather. The top side has decorative fringe hanging off of it. The bottom side has leather fringe hanging off of it.
- Basic leather pieces to be cut to make a dress include:
 - (1) the skirt – the piece cut using the “pattern.” [If hide is small, consider combining sewing an extension piece to allow a larger skirt so the dress will fit as the girl fills out.]
 - (2) Leather strands for leather fringe. [This can be solid leather sewed on and cut into fringe or individual strands tied onto the skirt.]
 - (3) Long, thick leather strands for “ties.”
 - (4) the apron (if leather is to be used in the apron.) The wider the apron, the larger the girl the finished dress can fit. (Dakota’s – 17” wide x 13”.)

- Fringe options

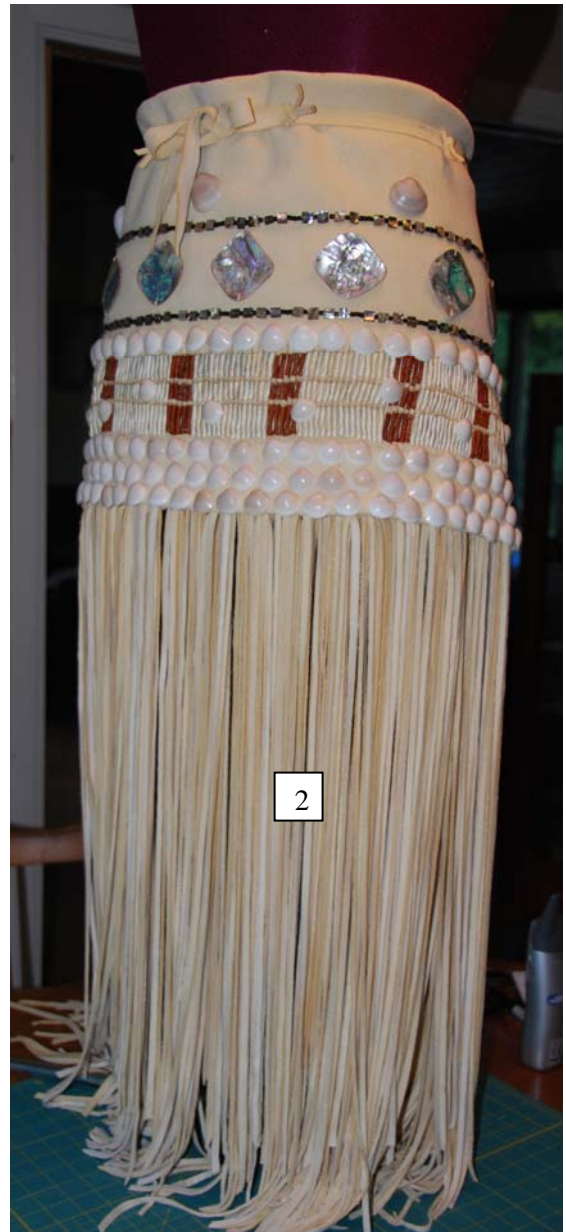
- (below left) Old style dresses have fringe strands attached to the skirt. Easiest way to cut strands is with a rotary blade (as seen in inset photo.)
- (below right) Leather panels can be sewn to the skirt and then simply cut into strips.



- Ties

- The fold at the top of the skirt is held in place by 4 or 5 small strips of leather tied through all the layers of the fold to form small loops.
- The edges of the skirt touch in front and each tie is threaded through the loops and tied in the back. Excess volume in the skirt can be gathered in the back. This allows a dress that fits a slender girl. A larger girl can just tie the skirt in the front.





- To assemble the skirt do whatever works best under the circumstances.
- Dakota's dress: step 1 was to sew on skirt decorations. Step 2 was to attach and then trim the leather fringe. Step 3 was to attach the decorative fringe to the top layer of leather.
- Skirt was finished by dispersed wraps throughout the fringe.





- Apron.
 - Sew approx. 1” tube at top and thread tie through it. Decorate apron.
 - Attach braided strands. (@ 175)
 - Note: only a portion of the large apron is visible when worn by a slender girl. The larger size allows dress to be worn by the girl as she fills out.

Dakota’s finished dress. Fits size 0 to size 12 or 14. In addition to the dress, the outfit must include necklaces and hair wraps and any desired hair ornamentations.



