

The Grass Dance Outfit ORDER OF THE ARROW - WWW

MAIN PARTS

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This guide to the grass dance outfit is not by any means the “bible” as there are a lot of different ways and opinions on how to do things. Outfit styles are forever changing and evolving. The latest in Powwow Fashions can be seen at www.powwows.com. Check out our Lodge website at www.lodge104.com

Grass dance outfits today have either yarn or ribbon in the length of 12 -14 inches long. Some dancers choose to use cut cloth which gives the appearance of ribbon. Shabby cut cloth is not acceptable on the dance floor. The preferred beadwork on a grass dance outfit today is lazy/lane stitch.

Shirts:

Shirts are made out of satin/silk material to have a shiny appearance. Some dancers choose to wear a button-up shirt with a contrasting color, and some dancers choose to add elaborate cloth appliqué designs that are sewn on to the shirt. A common fabric used in the appliqué cloth designs is confetti dot fabric which will add a shiny appearance. Most shirts have a collar. The length of the sleeves can vary. Ribbon shirts are not worn by Grass Dancers today.

Cape:

Capes are made out of the same satin/silk material that the pants and apron are. The cape is worn over the shirt. Ribbon or yarn is attached on the edge of the cape. Some dancers choose to add beadwork to the cape. Some dancers choose to add elaborate cloth appliqué designs on the front and back of the cape.

Pants:

The same satin/silk material that was purchased for your shirt is also used for the pants. At the bottom of the pant legs are the elaborate cloth designs. Ribbon or yarn is also attached at the pants. Some use Angora anklets that are worn below the bells.

Apron:

The material used in the shirt and pants also needs to be used on the apron. Ribbon or yarn is attached to the edges of the apron. A general rule has been that the back of the apron is more decorated than the front. Usually the apron is connected with a belt threaded through the two apron pieces. The design of the shirt and pants needs to be consistent with the apron. The back usually has ribbon work and beadwork.

Side Tabs:

Side tabs are usually added in on the sides of either apron to add more detail. The material used is the same material used for the apron. Some side tabs are fully beaded with ribbon covering the edge of the material. Side tabs are generally attached to the apron belt around the waist.

ACCESSORIES:**Harness:**

The "H" Harness, or just often called a harness, is an item that both grass dancers and fancy dancers wear around the neck. It is usually worn outside the belt and extends to just below the knees. The "H" harness is often lazy stitched and applied to fabric. Other harness can have ribbon work or elaborate fabric designs. The prized position is the fully beaded harness.

Cuffs:

Incorporate the design of the shirt and apron into the cuffs, which are worn on the wrists. Most cuffs have ribbon work or ribbon hanging off at the ends, and the best ones are fully beaded with lazy stitch.

Armbands/Wings:

Armbands or wings, which are worn on the upper arms and match the cuffs and incorporate their design. The better ones will be beaded. A very popular style is to have the ends notched. These are rarely seen on the dance floor due to the fact that most dancers like to showcase the shirt with it's designs.

Belts:

Belts are generally lazy stitched or loom beaded, 4 to 6 inches wide, mounted on leather or a cloth material, and worn on the hips. Attachment is made in the back by tying or a buckle is used. Some dancers incorporate the side tabs and belt into one unit.

Scarf or Necktie:

Some prefer to wear a scarf of flashy satin/silk material. The scarf is held in with a silver slide or a gourd stitched slide. Neckties are usually lazy stitched and match the beadwork on the harness. Chokers are not worn by grass dancers today.

Bells:

Large sleigh bells or sheep bells (four-five) are worn on each ankle attached and securely with a leather piece.

