Male Doll Headdress

INSTRUCTIONS BY KAYLA MCDERMOTT

This activity creates an Alutiiq/Sugpiaq man's headdress from felt and beads. It fits an Our Generation doll (https://ourgeneration.com) and can be adapted for other dolls.

Doll parka
by Hanna Sholl

MATERIALS

- 20 oval, plastic, spaghetti beads
- 56 pony beads
- 8 decorative beads
- Wool felt
- Waxed thread or imitation sinew
- Paper templates (see page 6)
- Scissors
- Measuring tape
- Leather hole punch
- Doll with doll stand

Optional: Rotary cutter, cutting mat, pins, glue gun

STEP 1: CUT FELT PIECES

Cut out the paper templates and trace them onto the piece of wool felt. There will be four pieces (see page 6)—1 large, 1 medium, and 2 small. Use pins to secure the paper templates to the felt. Trace the templates onto the felt and cut out each piece.

If not using the templates, cut out a circle that is 1" across, and four strips of the following dimensions: 1 long strip at 10 ½" long and 3/4" wide; 1 medium strip at 8" long by 3/4" wide; 2 short strips at 1 ½" long and 11/16" wide.

Tip: For other dolls, measure around the head in two places to estimate the length of the felt strips.

STEP 2: SECURE ENDS OF FELT STRIPS

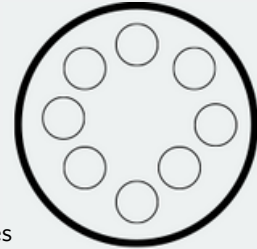Sew or hot glue the ends of the medium felt strip together about 1/2" from the ends. Repeat for long strip.

Stiched Felt Band

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STEP 3: PUNCH HOLES IN FELT CIRCLE

Use the leather hole punch on the smallest setting to punch 8 holes around the felt circle piece. These holes should be about 1/16" of an " from the edge. This is the top of the headdress.

1" felt circle with holes

STEP 4: PUNCH HOLES IN MEDIUM STRIP

Next punch 8 holes along the top of the medium felt strip and 16 holes along the bottom. Be sure the top 8 holes line up with those in the circular felt piece, with holes in between the spaces.

Top: 8 Holes

Bottom: 16 Holes

8" medium felt strip

STEP 5: PUNCH HOLES IN LARGE STRIP

Repeat step 4 with the large felt strip, but punch 16 holes on the top and bottom. Match up all the holes on the top and bottom of the strip.

STEP 6: PUNCH HOLES IN SMALL STRIPS

Punch 4 holes in each small strip, with one hole in each corner.

1 ½" felt strip with holes

STEP 7: CUT WAX THREAD
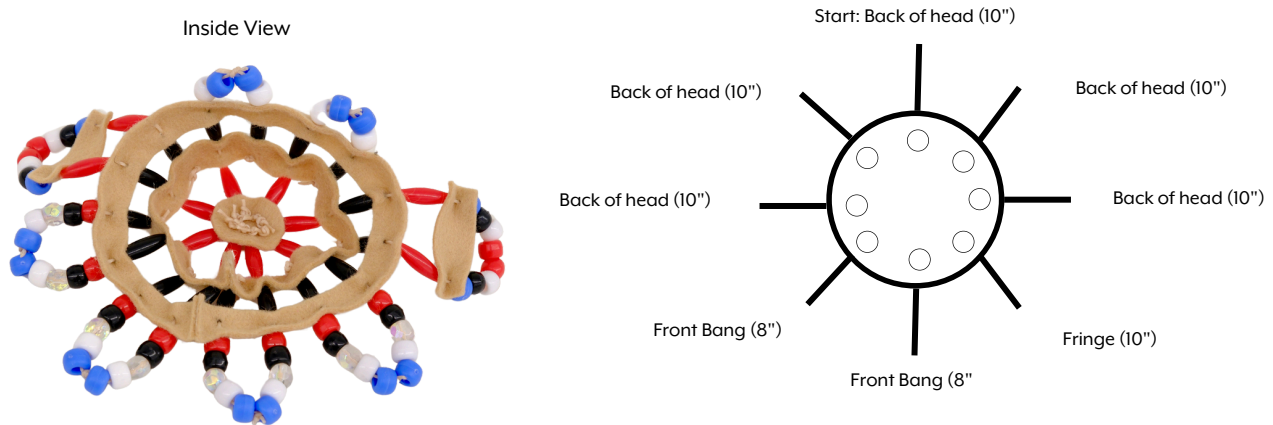
Cut wax thread pieces as follows:
- 4 pieces @ 8" each for the front bangs
- 12 pieces @ 10" each for the side fringe and back
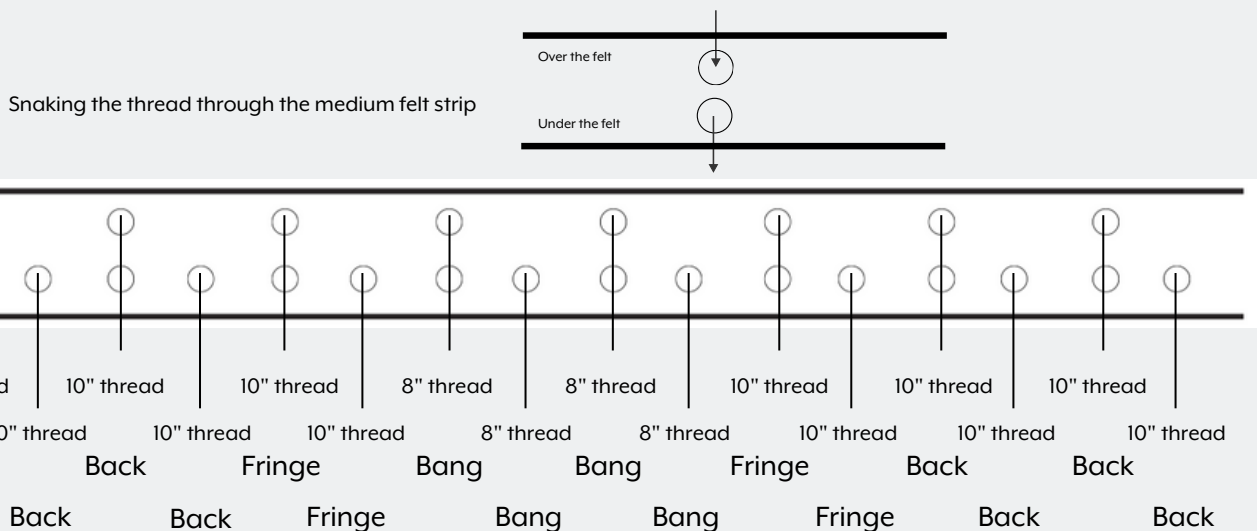
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STEP 8: BEGIN BEADING

Start with the small felt circle. This is the top of the headdress. Take a 10" length of waxed thread. Tie a not in one end. Put the thread through a hole in the circle, so that the knot rests on the top of the inside of the cap. String 1 spaghetti bead on the thread, on the outside of the cap. Continue adding a string and spaghetti bead to each hole in the felt circle. Follow the diagram below for thread lengths and placement.

Inside View

Start: Back of head (10")

Back of head (10")   Back of head (10")

Back of head (10")   Back of head (10")

Front Bang (8")   Fringe (10")

Front Bang (8"

STEP 9: CONTINUE BEADING

Line up each of the spaghetti beads with one of the eight punched holes on the top of the medium felt strip. Snake a thread through each. Go over the felt first, then under it, as shown below. Then, add 1 spaghetti bead. Repeat for each strand. Now, put a waxed thread through each single hole along the bottom edge of the medium strip and add a spaghetti bead. Take the large strip, and line up the seam with that of the medium strip. This will be the back of the headdress. Now snake each of the 16 threads through the double holes on the long strip.

Snaking the thread through the medium felt strip

Over the felt

Under the felt

10" thread	10" thread	10" thread	8" thread	8" thread	10" thread	10" thread	10" thread
10" thread	10" thread	10" thread	8" thread	8" thread	10" thread	10" thread	10" thread
Back	Back	Fringe	Bang	Bang	Fringe	Back	Back
Back	Back	Fringe	Bang	Bang	Fringe	Back	Back

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STEP 10: BEAD THE FRONT BANG

Follow the pattern to bead the front bangs on four 8" waxed threads. When all the beads are on, tie the ends of the adjacent strings together, as pictured.

Inside

PATTERN
Circle Felt
Spaghetti bead
Small felt strip
Spaghetti bead
Long felt strip
Pony bead (x2)

STEP 11: BEAD THE SIDE FRINGE

Follow the pattern to bead the side fringe on two 10" waxed threads—on either side of the bangs. After adding a spaghetti bead, snake the thread through the small felt strip and bead as shown. When all the beads are on, tie the ends of the adjacent strings together.

Inside

PATTERN
Circle Felt
Spaghetti bead
Small felt strip
Spaghetti bead
Long felt strip
Spaghetti bead
Small felt strip
Pony bead (x4)

STEP 12: BEAD THE BACK

Follow the pattern to bead the back on eight 10" waxed threads. Add beads below the long strip as shown. When all the beads are on, tie the ends of the adjacent strings together.

Inside

PATTERN
Circle Felt
Spaghetti bead
Small felt strip
Spaghetti bead
Long felt strip
Pony bead (x2)
Decorative bead
Pony bead (x2)

Saapeq — Hat

Collections of ancestral Alutiiq clothing are filled with hats—bentwood visors, broad-brimmed hats woven from spruce root, carved wooden helmets, beadded headdresses, and embroidered fur caps. Hats protected people from Kodiak's cold, rainy weather, and they carried messages about the wearer—their gender, social position, wealth, and ties to helping animal spirits.

Men and women wore elaborate headdresses to winter festivals. Men's hats were hood-shaped garments sticthed from animal skins and then decorated with beads, feathers, animal hair, strips of leather, and embroidered gut. Each hat was a unique work of art.

Man's headdress, Lalla Williams, ermine, sea otter, glass beads, 2010, AM772, purchased with support from Rasmuson Foundation, Alutiiq Museum Collections.

EXPLORE MORE BEADING ACTIVITIES

Doll Beaded Headdress
Create a woman's beaded headdress for a doll.
https://alutiiqmuseum.org/alutiiq-people/art/arts-blog/beading/#doll

Beaded Bracelet
Make a three-strand bracelet to wear or share.
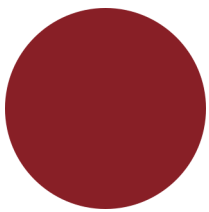https://alutiiqmuseum.org/alutiiq-people/art/arts-blog/beading/#projects

Kayla McDermott

TEMPLATES FOR FELT HEADDRESS PIECES

Circle - 1" Around (1 piece)

Small Strip - 1.5" long, 3/4" wide (2 pieces)

Medium Strip - 8" long, 3/4" wide (1 piece)

Long Strip- 10.5" long, 3/4" wide (1 piece)