

OLD-TIME OVERCOATS

handmade
A. Handmade

Overcoat is one of the easiest and most functional old-time dress items, that You might like. Two basic styles exist—the Blanket Capote and the Northern Parka. Both have sleeves, hoods, and are very practical for Life in the Outdoors. Capotes are generally made from warm blankets, while Parkas are generally made from furs. However, any material which You may have on hand, or wish to obtain, can be used. The main consideration is Your intended use of the coat.

NORTHERN PARKA

The Parka is the simpler to make of the two overcoats. Make a paper pattern as illustrated—allow yourself a loose fit for heavy clothing underneath—then cut your material accordingly.

Begin by sewing the front and back together at the shoulders (A). Next, sew up the sides, beginning at the bottom and up to the sleeve holes (B). Attach the sleeve pieces, beginning at A, and then sew these from where they are attached up to the cuffs. Stitch the hood together from the front (C) on up, and the Parka will be completed.

Parkas are often made in contrast—soft, warm material worn inside; tough, waterproof material covering the outside.

BLANKET CAPOTE

French trappers in the Canadian woods gave this fine coat its name, and all those who have worn one understand its Winter fame. Easy to make and enjoyable to wear—all You need is a blanket and a little time.

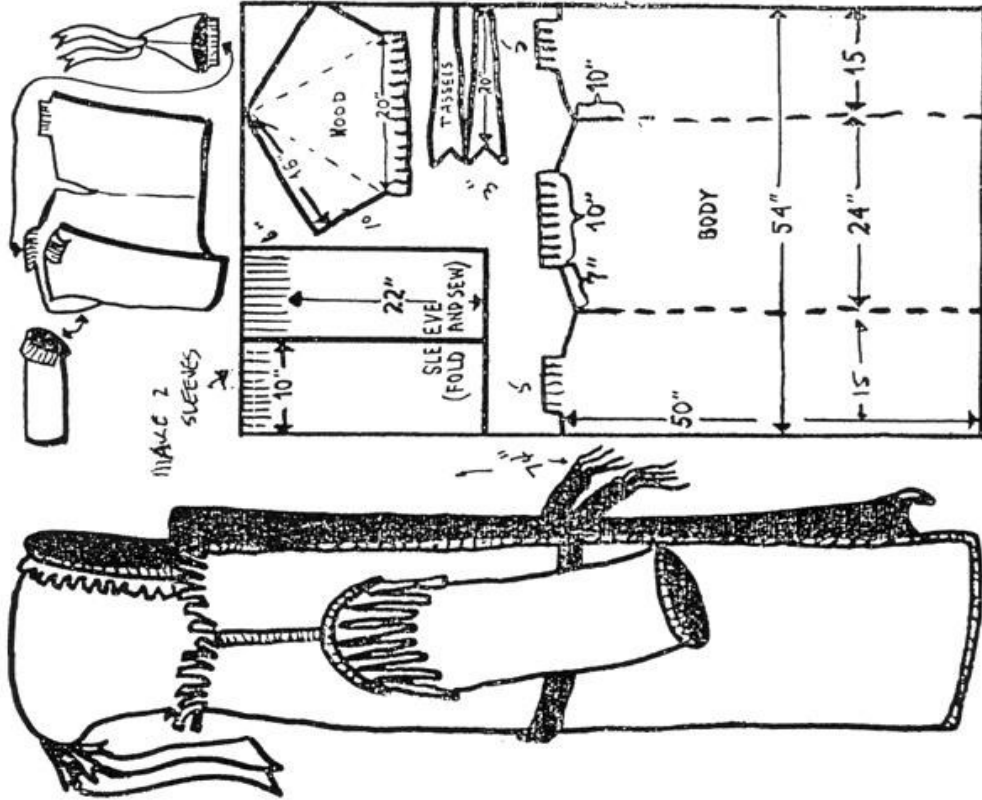
More Capotes have been made with the striped Hudson's Bay Point blankets than any other. The white ones with colored stripes were especially popular, although the red ones with black stripes were also often used. Any large wool blanket will make a nice warm Capote, however.

Cut up your blanket according to the drawing. To avoid much unravelling, tear your material whenever the line for cutting falls along the "straight." Notice that the body of the Capote (back and fronts) is all one piece—all you need to sew is the shoulders. The extra lengths that are shown folded back on the sleeves, neck, and front of hood are for fringes, and may be left out. Next, sew up the back of the hood, and attach it to the body at the neck and lapels. Hoods generally had tassels hanging from them, one sewn to each of the three sides at the tip. Your Capote is now ready to wear. Tie strings may be sewn on, or a belt or sash used to hold the Capote closed.

For pleasing appearance bind all exposed edges with colored cloth or ribbon, as shown in the drawing. Use the same material to cover the shoulder and sleeve seams. These last two bindings were sometimes fully or partially covered with beadwork. Large rosettes were sometimes added to the front of the hood, while beads and sequins were often tacked on top of, or parallel with the bindings. Capotes can also be made of Moosehide or Buffalo fur.

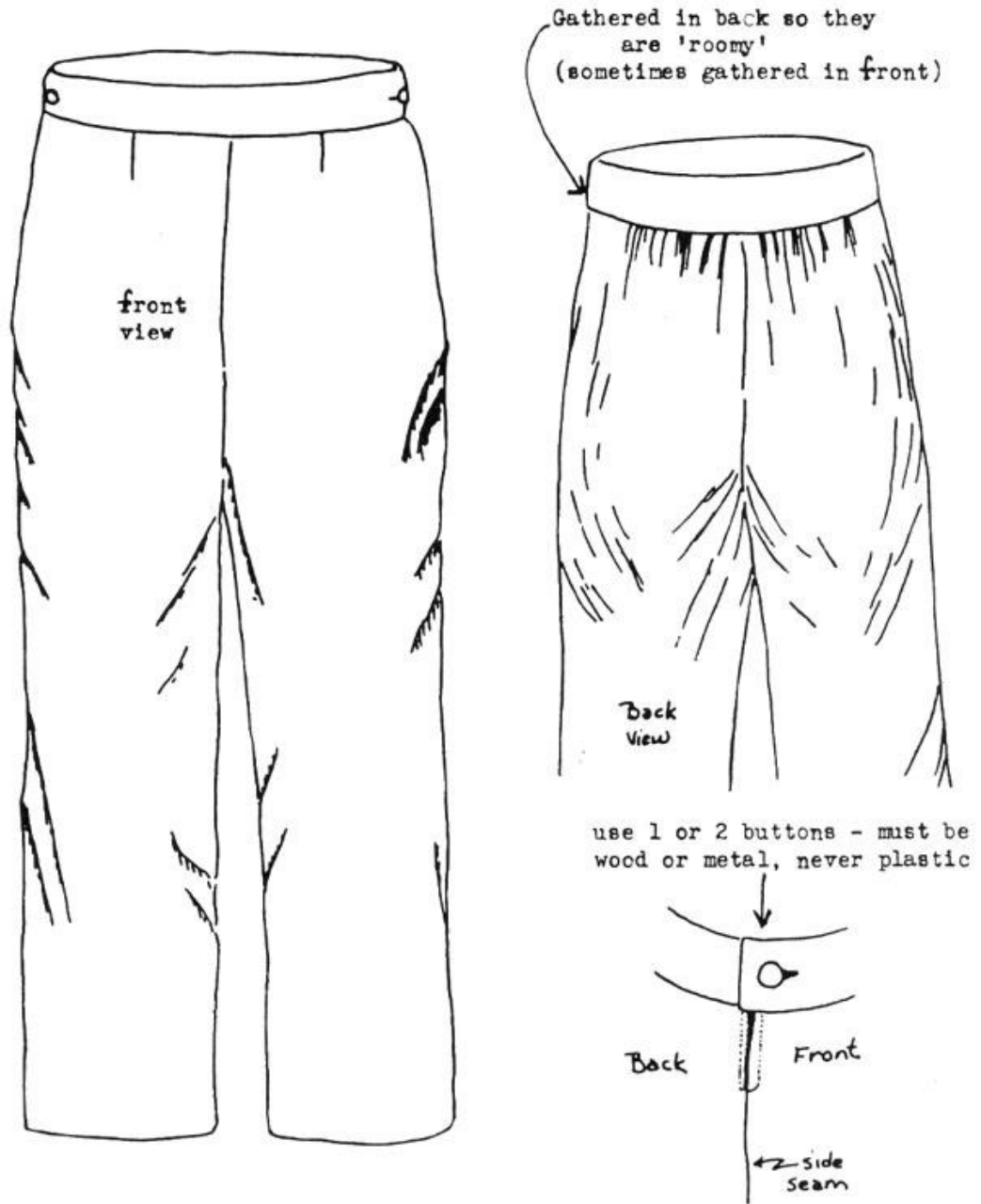
Capote

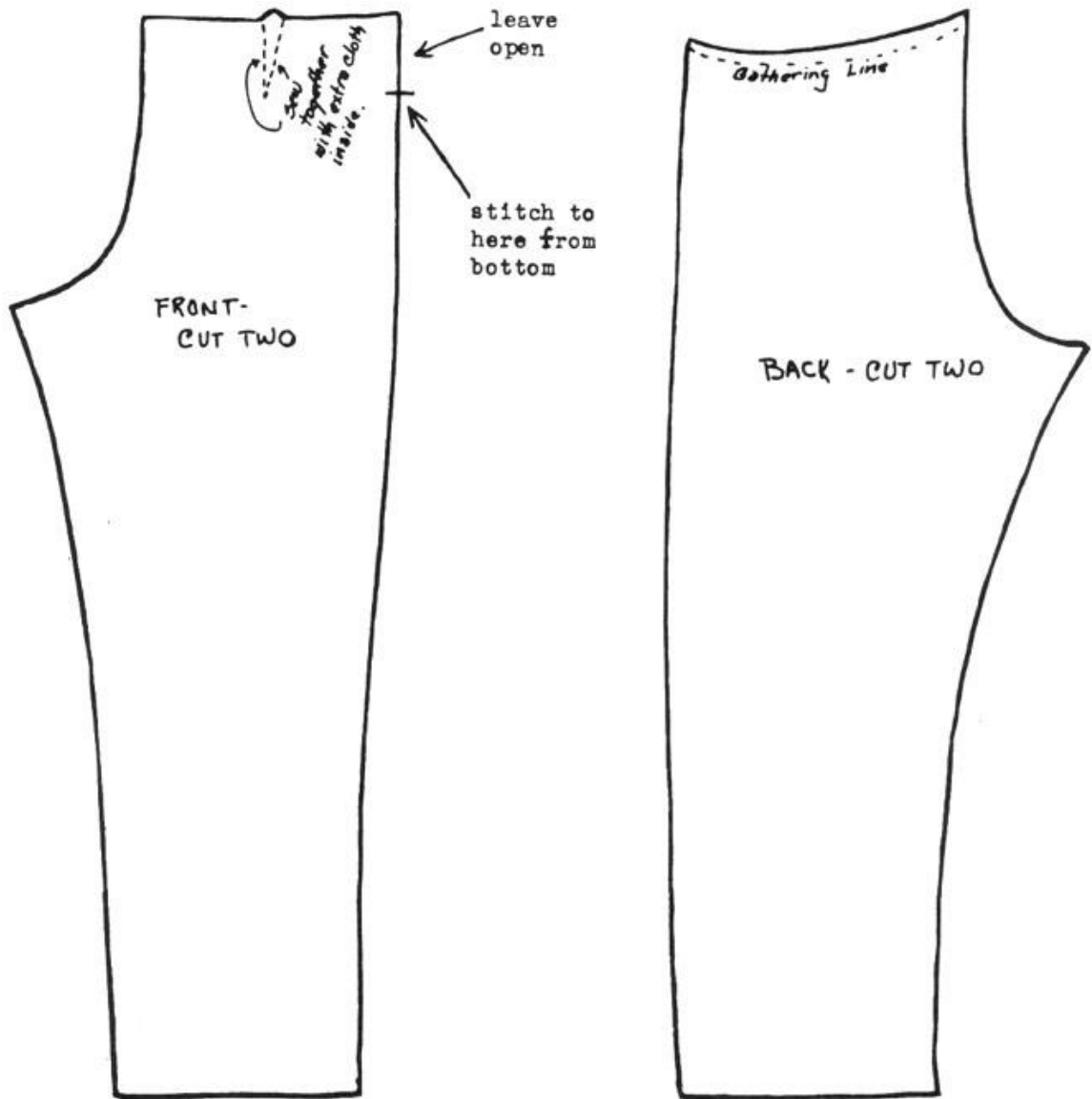
BLANKET-CAPOTE



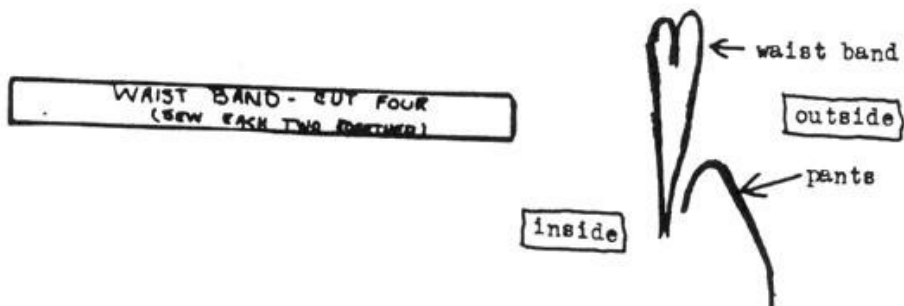
Side Button Pants

This is the style made by country settlers during the period 1800 - 1865. They were worn long, nearly touching the ground. They seldom had pockets, so don't add them to your pants. The sketches below show the completed pants; cutting patterns are on the next page.





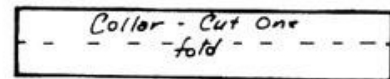
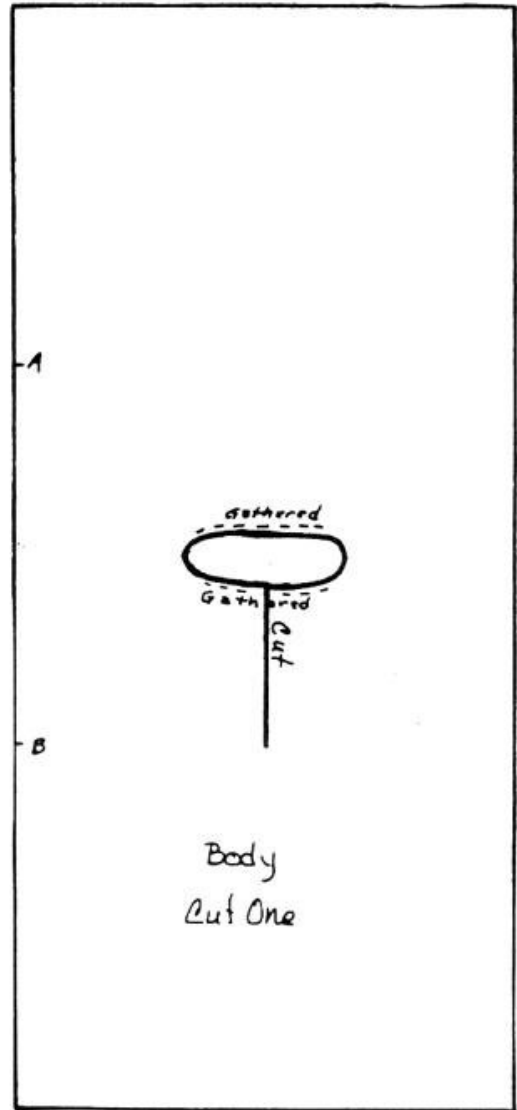
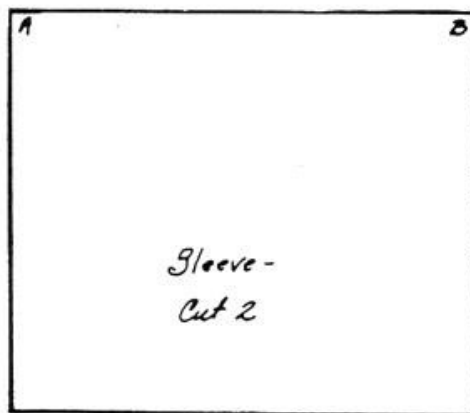
Detail of how waistband is attached



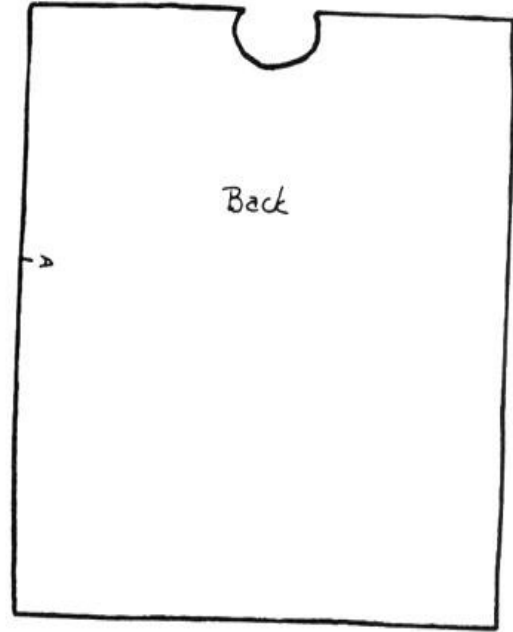
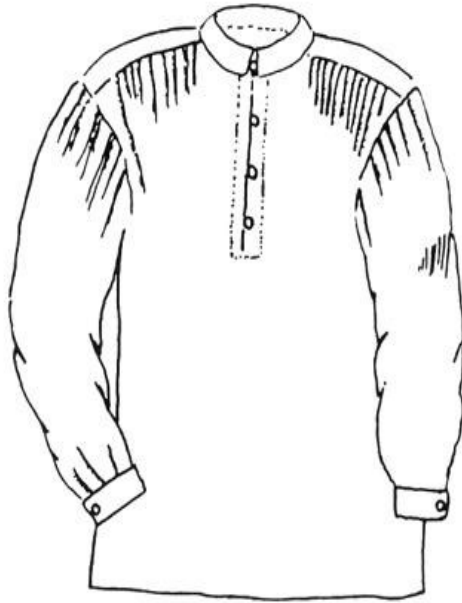
Work Shirt (1)

Two styles are given, but this page shows the simplest. This is a typical work shirt of 1800 - 1860. Use Red Flannel or White Cotton cloth.

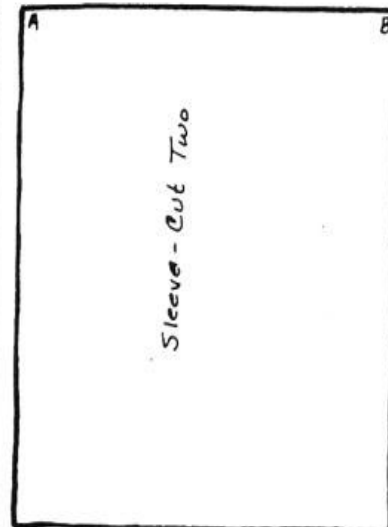
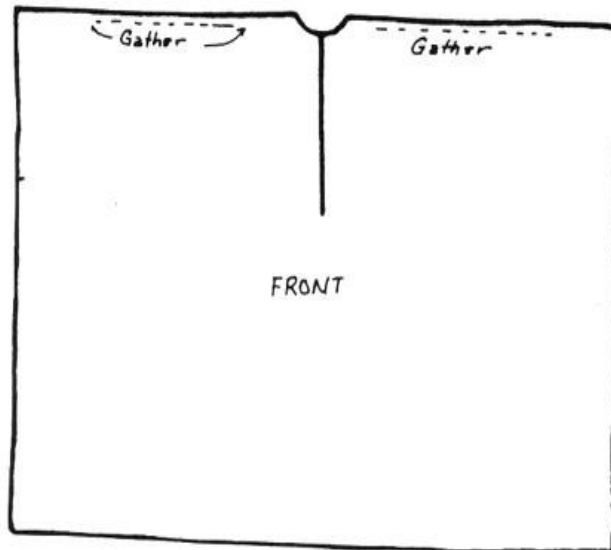
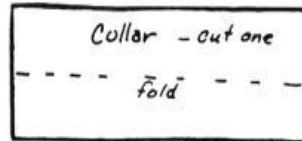
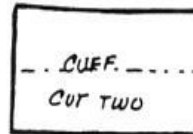
Use 1 to 4 buttons to close the front slit.



Work Shirt (2)



This is another style shirt of the period 1820 - 1860. Gather it at the shoulders. Use 1 - 4 buttons to close the front slit.



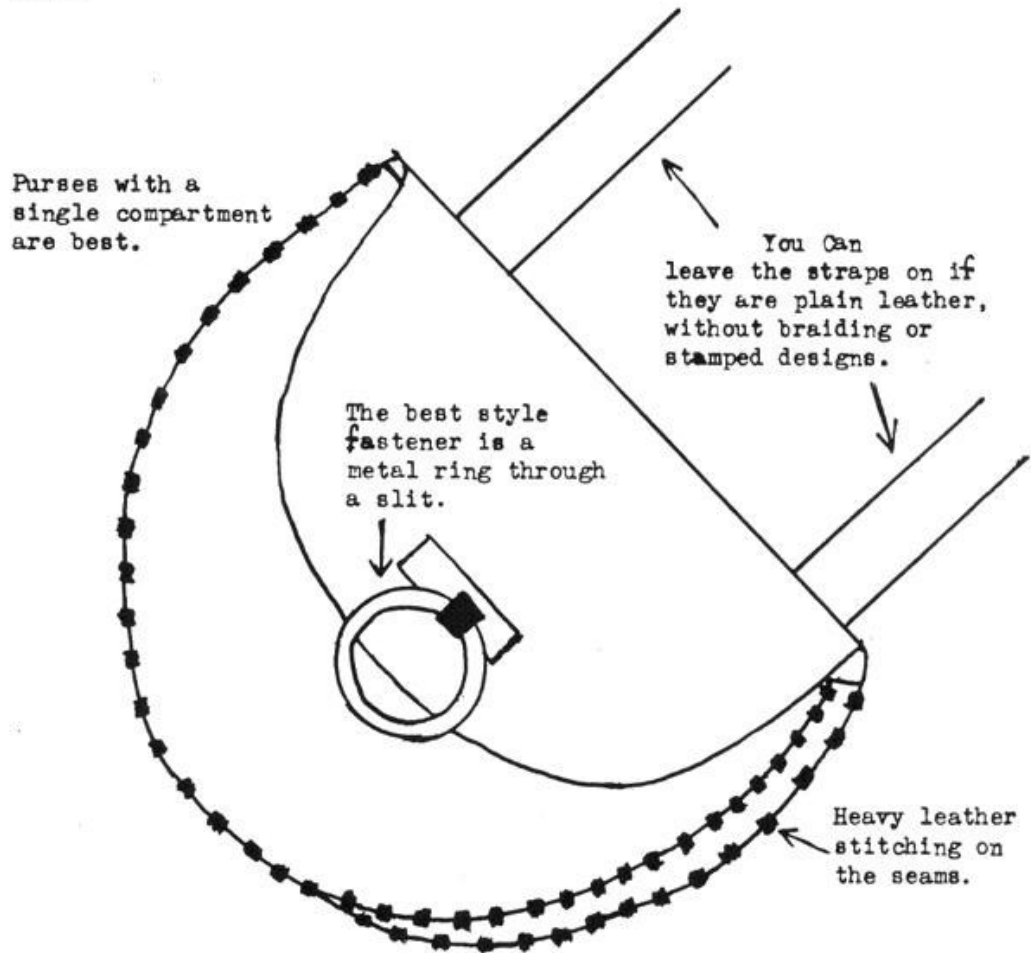
Possibles Bag

This is a necessary part of your mountain man costume. Get an old leather purse from a thrift store - it should cost no more than \$2 or \$3. It must be plain leather - without painting or embossed designs. Also, stay away from wild colors - red, green, purple, etc.

Try to get the style shown below - it is most adaptable to our period.

You can use the straps to hang it over your shoulder, or cut them off and hang the bag from your belt.

Decorate the bag with strips of fur, beads, horsehair, animal teeth, and the like.



Knife

Get a knife blade - without handle. It must be a straight knife - without a folding blade. The Captain should approve your choice prior to making the handle.

Get some scrap wood to make a handle - cut it to shape with a saw, and drill holes if you plan to rivet it to the metal blade. Otherwise, use epoxy cement and bind it with leather or rawhide.

Make an oversized sheath to hold the knife. It should be a 'pocket' into which your blade will slip easily. The top of the pocket should come about halfway up the handle of the knife, so it does not fall out.

Make your sheath of leather or fabric. If you make a cloth sheath, cover it with a pelt so it looks OK.

