

Wonderful Woggles

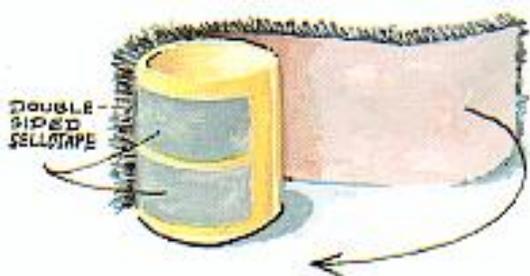
By Dave Wood

Illustrated by Doug Mountford

These articles were taken from the 1988 Scout Annual, hence the reference to the Patrol Activity Award and the low price of cub woggles. The copyright is owned by the Scout Association who have kindly given permission for the publication of the articles here (email from Mark McGuinness, the (UK) Scout Information Centre dated 24/10/2003).

Every Scout should have a spare woggle - to use in camp or to have handy if you should lose the one you usually wear. You will probably have the woggle you were given when you were invested as a Scout and either be working for - or have gained - the Patrol Activity Award woggle. If you have the Patrol Activity Award, you will certainly want to wear this for it is something to be proud of. Many Scouts like to build up a collection of different woggles that they have either made for themselves or swapped with Scouts from other countries. Why not have a go at making your own woggles? Here are some ideas to get you started.

Fur



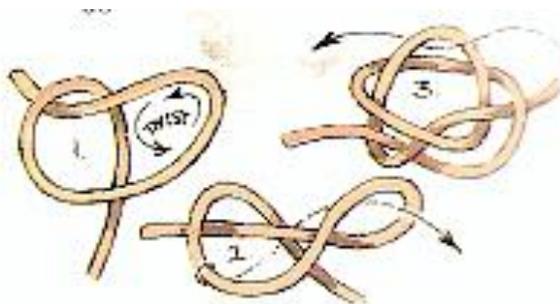
You don't have to go out and catch a wild rabbit or bear to find suitable fur for a woggle (although a wild rabbit, when cooked backwoods-style on an open fire, is a tasty meal and the fur could be saved and used for your woggle). Instead, keep your eyes open at the end of your Group's next jumble sale for unsold or torn fur coats, hats or even leather gloves with fur linings.

Use either a Cub Scout woggle (which costs only six pence or so) or cut a plastic 35mm film case in half to act as the base for the woggle.

Measure the circumference and height of the plastic base and cut the fur to size. You will find this is easier if you wrap paper around first, cut that to size and then use that as a template to ensure accuracy when you come to cut the fur.

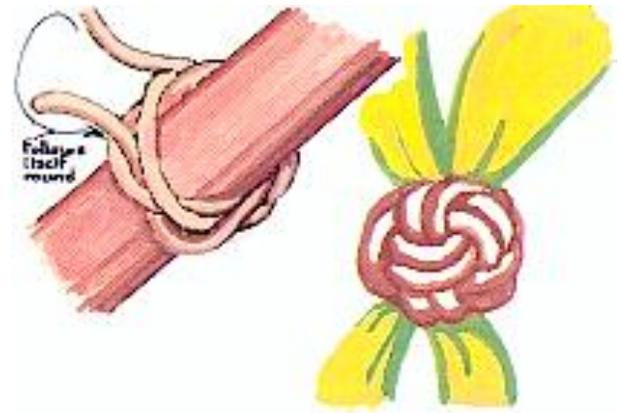
Then, wrap double-sided sticky tape around the base and affix the fur.

Rope or Twine

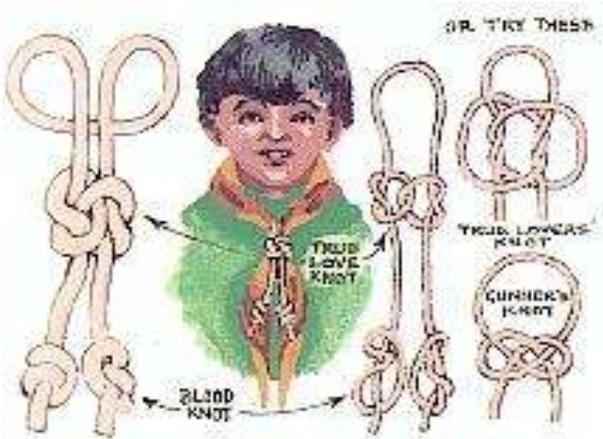


Rope, twine, bootlaces, plastic washing line, leather thongs and coloured electrical wire can be used for these woggles.

To make a Turk's Head woggle you will need 75cm of cord. Use a bicycle pump or broom handle as the mould around which to make the woggle. When you have finished, cut off the ends neatly and either sew or glue them together.



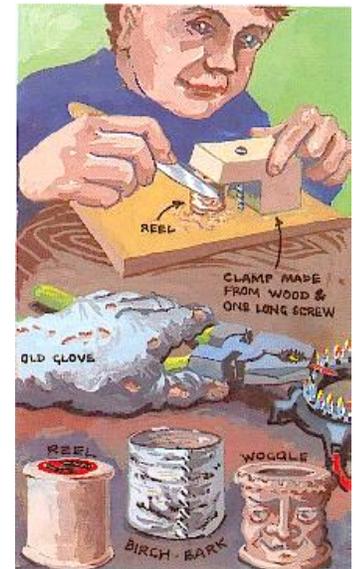
To make an emergency woggle, cut 30cm of cord and follow the drawings here



Wood

Softwoods, such as Elder, can be carved easily using a sharp penknife to produce excellent woggles. Before cutting timber, make sure that you have the owner's permission to do so. Find a suitable sized branch of Elder with a diameter of 3cm with the bark still on. Cut a section about 8cm long. Scrape the bark layers off until you reach the wood and then start on the inside. If the wood you have chosen is too hard, you may be able to burn out the centre, using a nail held in a pair of pliers. Wear old gloves and hold the nail in a flame until it glows red hot. Press the nail into the centre of the wood. When the wood has cooled, scrape the burned bits out with a knife - and repeat the process. Clean up the woggle with sandpaper and paint with two or three coats of varnish.

The bark of the Silver Birch is sometimes known as 'nature's paper' and makes a quick, stylish woggle. Ideal if you have lost your woggle in camp, but it may not last for long! Simply cut a suitably sized strip of bark from a fallen branch of Silver Birch and sew the two ends together using nylon thread or a double thickness of cotton thread.



Wooden cotton reels make good woggles, too. Hollow out the centre with a sharp knife. Paint, carve or brand a design on the outside - and then varnish.

Clay



Try making a woggle using clay. You may find clay near your home or when you are camping. Some parts of the country - especially around London - have a lot of clay just below the surface of the ground (which is one reason why water doesn't drain away too well on campsites in these areas). Alternatively, craft shops and some stationers supply small packets of clay for modelling.

You will need to find a tube to mould the clay around - such as a large felt-tipped pen, a piece of wood dowelling, a candle or a broomstick. Wrap aluminium foil around the tube. Crumple the foil first and then partly flatten it out again - this will make the inside of your woggle grip well on your scarf.

Start by moulding the clay around the tube. You could try making a long, thin snake - with eyes and a mouth, perhaps.

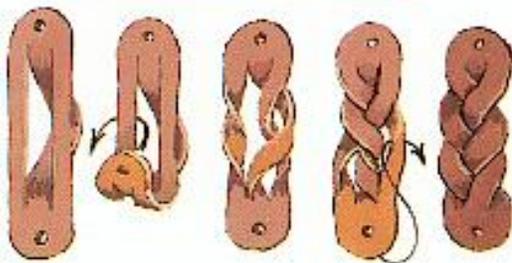
Alternatively, roll the clay out flat as if it were pastry. Cut a piece about 8cm by 3cm (the first measurement depends on the thickness of the tube you are using). Wrap this around the foil-covered tube, being careful to mould the place where the two ends of the clay will join. Write your name, your Patrol name or symbol on the front of the woggle, using a cocktail stick or a long nail. Slide the clay carefully off the foil and fire the clay by placing it in an oven set at a moderate heat for about 45 minutes. When it has cooled apply two or three coats of varnish.

Leather



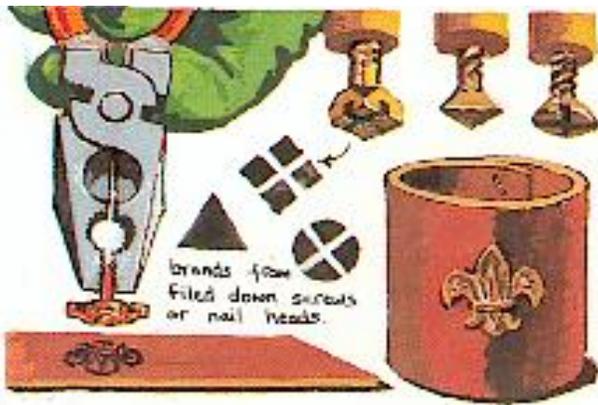
Scavenge around after your Group's next jumble sale and find an unsold leather handbag or wallet.

Cut a strip of leather 2cm by 12cm. Place the strip on a board and use a sharp knife to make two slits as shown in the illustration. Take care that the board is firmly on a table and that the leather does not slip as you make the cuts.

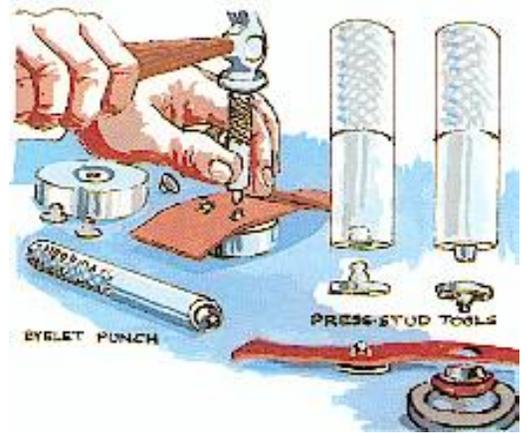


Follow the illustration to make an eye-catching plaited woggle. Secure the two ends with a leather fastener, a brass paper fastener or staples.

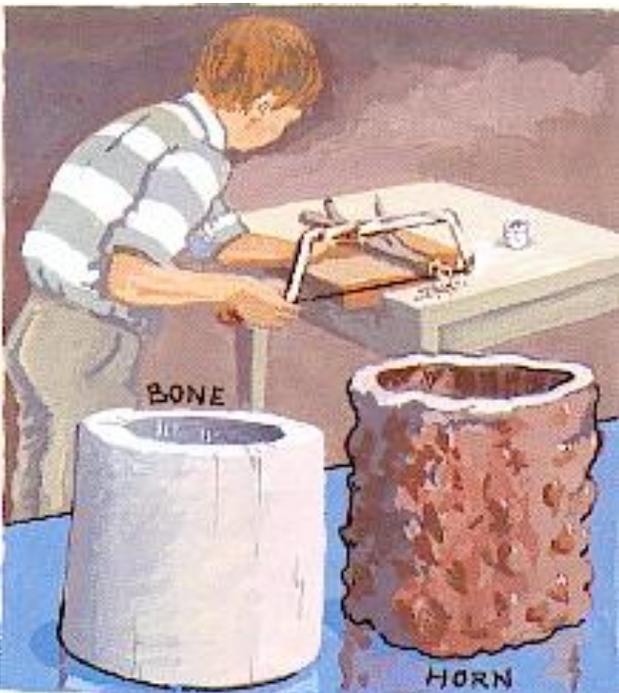
Plain strips of leather can be branded using a nail or a metal Scout beret badge. Be sure that your woggle-to-be really is leather- and not plastic. If you try to brand plastic you will get a smelly mess when heat is applied. Place your strip of leather on a firm board. Wear old gloves and hold the nail or badge in a flame with a pair of pliers. When the metal glows red hot, press down into the leather to make the brand.



Alternatively, you could punch a hole in the leather at the front of the woggle and fix the beret badge into this to make a smart woggle.



Bone



Your local butcher may well supply you with a suitable piece of bone from either a pork or lamb joint of meat. Alternatively, keep an eye on what Sunday roasts you have and you may find the ideal piece of bone there. Boil the chosen length of bone in water for approximately one hour, making sure that the pan is never allowed to boil dry. Boiling the bone will remove traces of meat and will soften the inside.

When the bone has cooled down, make sure it is clean and, using a fine-toothed saw such as a hacksaw, cut a section of bone that measures about 3cm long with a diameter of 2.5 cm (on the outside).

When you have done this, begin carving out the centre of the bone. Use a strong, sharp penknife, chisel or even a drill to hollow it out. Do be careful, though, as the only bone you want to cut is your future woggle - not the one in your finger!

When you have carved a space that's big enough to take your Scout scarf, smooth any rough edges with sandpaper (both inside and out). Paint with two or three coats of varnish - leaving time to dry between each coat.

When you are camping, you may find animals' horns or antlers that have been discarded. These make excellent woggles and will not require hollowing out.

Web addresses weren't published in 1988 but here are a few inspirational sources on the web

- [Woggle World! - Home of the Boy Scout neckerchief slide](#)
- [2nd Tenterden Scout Group - Plaiting a Leather Woggle](#)
- [St Paul's Scout Unit Waterford, Ireland - Knots & skills](#)
- [J.Lance Wilkinson's Neckerchief Slides Page](#)
- [The Slide Show - Neckerchief Slide Ideas](#)
- [Supertroop 194 - Neckerchief slide section](#) (PDF files showing more woggles are available for download at this site)

Garden hose offcuts would make ideal woggle mounts (the bit where the scarf goes). Glue your frontispiece on the bit of hose and there's your fancy woggle!

Finally, [The Origins of the Woggle](#) on the Scoutbase web site provides no instructions or inspiration but is interesting just the same (PDF format - Acrobat reader required)

