

HOW TO MAKE Mukluks

Instructional Guide



Fringed Melton Style



Fur Trimmed

Equipment;

~Glover Needles~

Glover needles are unique 3 sided sharp needles and are necessary for hand sewing materials like your suede and leathers.

They are sold in a variety of sizes; I prefer to work with a size 5 or 6.

~Leather Threads~

I have found that a good strong upholstery thread, or extra heavy duty, nylon thread about a size 40 is best to sew suede and leather.

~ Bees Wax~

The topic of threads brings us to the use of a product called Bees Wax. Bees wax can be a very handy piece of equipment for any person who does any type of hand sewing. After you've threaded your needle, simply run your thread over the wax several

times. This helps to keep your thread from becoming unruly (tangled) and also aids in slipping thru your materials more easily.

I use bees wax often and many times whilst I'm beading or sewing. I will stop and run my thread over the wax as needed.

~ Materials~

There are a lot of different materials to make mukluks available; most common is suede also known as Alaskan splits, variety of leathers; cow, deerskin, moose etc. I mostly use the Alaskan spit it's soft, economical, and easy to sew its also dyed and comes in a huge variety of colors.

~ Linings~

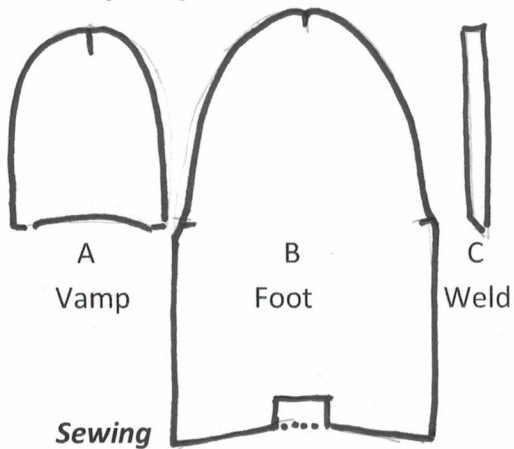
A soft heavy weight pile lining is very good for most mukluks. But the thickness usually depends on individual preferences.

~Trimmings~

Can be fur or suede trimmed.

MAKING MUKLUKS part 1

The foot- pieces



For best results when sewing suede and leathers I always use the whipstitch and the $\frac{3}{16}$ x $\frac{1}{4}$ inch sewing rule. The Glover needle is a very sharp three sided needle that cuts a small hole each time it goes thru your material actually weakening it. Therefore close and short stitches will not achieve your ideal Mocs. Also careful not to sew onto your sewn threads the needle will cut your thread!

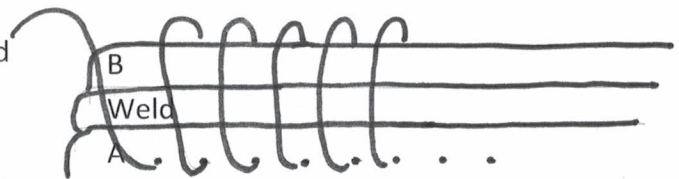
Sewing the Toe

Sewing the vamp to the foot is the most difficult part of making Mocs or Muks and that is because you have to gather the bottom of the foot to fit the vamp and form the toe. It's hard at first to learn the tucks but time and practice make perfect. With your right sides facing each other match up first your top vamp and foot piece together at the lined mark * remember to also place your weld in-between the 2 pieces. The weld should be the length of vamp piece. Tack or clip your vamp and weld to the foot at both marked sides.

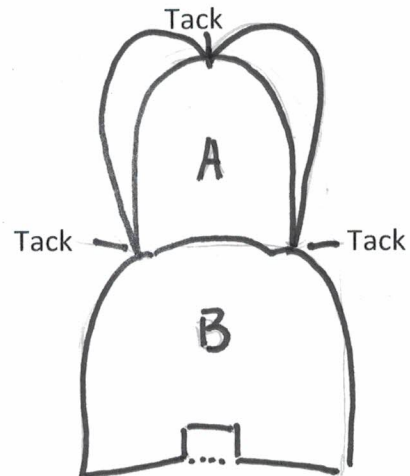
For best results Read all instructions first

Cut 2 pieces of A suede or other
Cut 2 pieces of B suede or other
Cut 2 of each piece of pile lining

*The weld is a long piece of suede and is cut about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide and is the length of the outside of the vamp. The weld is sewn in-between the vamp and foot to strengthen it, and anywhere that two pieces of suede are sewn together. Trim off the excess weld after it's been sewn.



Whipstitch $\frac{3}{16}$ deep x $\frac{1}{4}$ inches apart

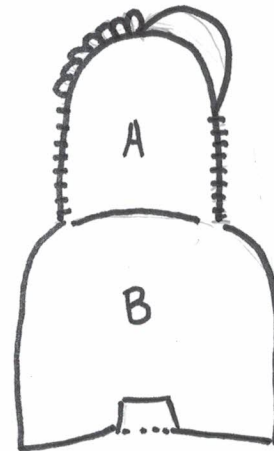
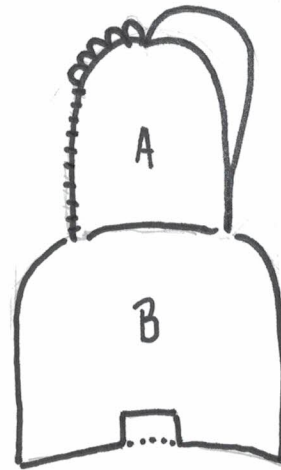


If you are right handed, you will most comfortably sew to the right side. Push about 1 cm or less of the foot material together to form a tuck. Stitch along the side and over, pulling your thread very tight. Tuck another right beside the first one and continue to make and sew tucks until the extra fullness of the foot material is gone. This should happen within the first $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Continue to stitch down the side with the same $\frac{3}{16}$ x $\frac{1}{4}$ overcast stitch but with no tucks.

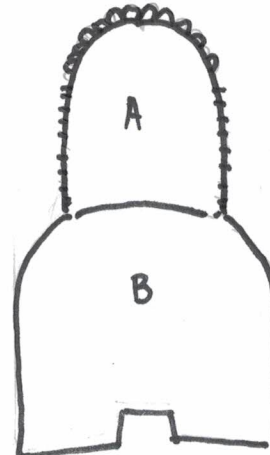
- It's better to have smaller tucks than too large of ones.
- Pull your thread very snug after each stitch.
- Keep your stitches $\frac{3}{16}$ inch deep, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch apart. Tucks will slip away if stitches are too shallow.
- To secure your tucks tie a knot and back stitch if need be.

Stitch the remaining half of your moccasin starting at the right side. Sew straight and begin tucks about $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the center.

Flip your toe part out and put your hand inside, push and check for weak points or tuck holes if you need to, go back and put an extra stitch in for correction. Once done flip and cut excess weld carefully.



Gathers & Tucks



Sewing the Heel

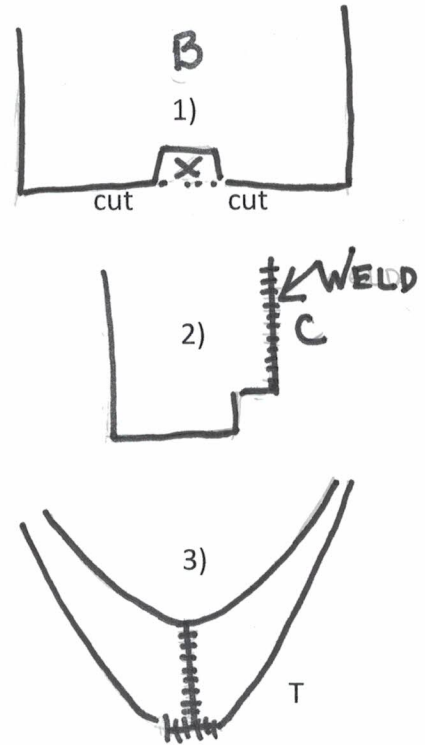
Cut up the two heel marks, fold the back foot good sides together and with a weld piece between whipstitch using the $\frac{3}{16} \times \frac{1}{4}$ sewing rule. Sew from top of heel to the bottom, flip out to right side and trim the excess weld. Flip to wrong side again, fold at bottom of the heel. It should look like a T. Sew that little piece with the notch left in to use as its weld. Flip to the right side and trim the weld off.

Lining for the feet are made in the same way. Good sides facing together and sewn around. No weld is needed.

Fit your linings into your moc and baste or tack your linings around the opening to secure together.

Ankle laces (optional)

Make 8 holes around the opening of the moc area.



*Using a rotary hole punch

MAKING MUKLUKS part 2

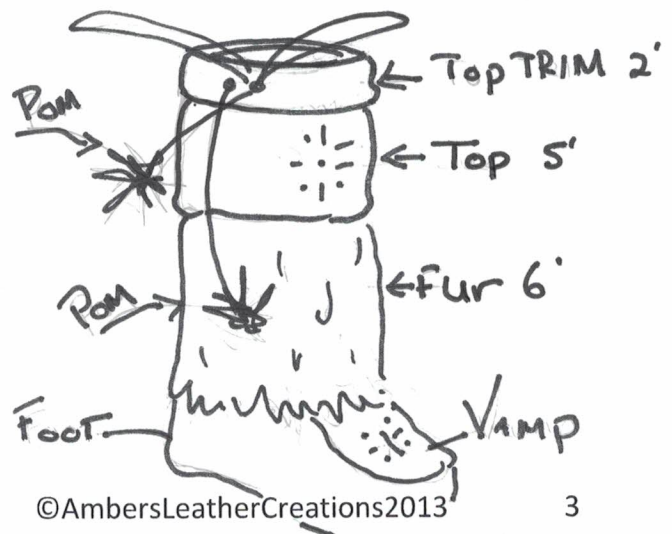
The upper portion

Pieces;

- A Suede, leather OR melton wool top (you may choose to decorate this upper portion.)
- B Suede or leather top trim
- C Fur (Rabbit or other suitable furs)
- D Laces for tying up the top
- E Interior canvas stiffener lining
- F Interior heavy pile lining
- G Weld
- H Pom Poms (optional)

Mukluk Design

*You may also make other designs using these methods.



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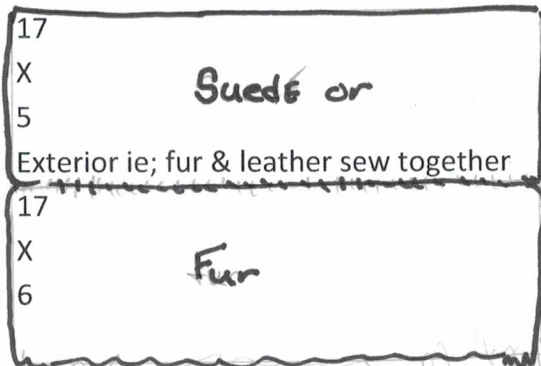
*Measure the calf part of the leg at the widest part. (If you don't know the size of the calf, then measure the opening of the moc and add 1 -2 inches.) use that as your measurement.

OR Add 1 inch to the moc opening or add 1 ½-2 inches to the calf measurement for seam allowance and ease.

Example;

Opening of the moccasin – 16 inches
 Widest part of the calf- 15 inches
 Height - 11 inches

Top portion of the mukluk overall dimensions would be; 17 inches wide, by 11 inches high.



Using your 3/16 x ¼ inch whipstitch sewing rule

Sew all three of your tube uppers.

- Making sure to put in weld in the suede area of your exterior leg tube.

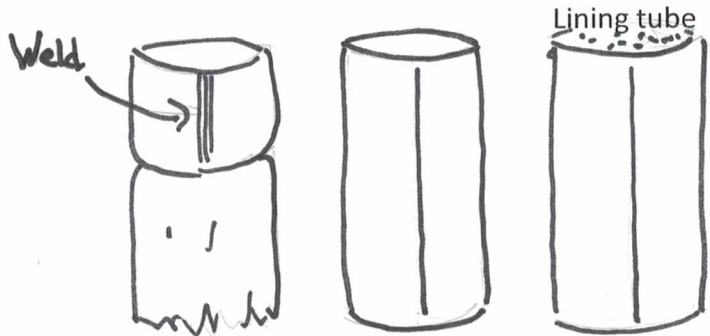
Sewing the Upper interior Tubes to the Moccasin

With the leg canvas stiffener lining inside out place moccasin inside the tube to the opening of the moccasin and the opening of the tube, line up the heel seam to the leg

Cut 2 pieces of each;

- A Cut your top upper portion 17 x 5in.
- B Cut your top trim 2 x 17in.
- C Cut your fur 6 x 17 inches.
- E/F Cut your canvas lining and your pile lining 17 x 12
- G Weld

1) Exterior tube 2) canvas tube 3) interior



seam. Sew using the whipstitch $3/16 \times 1/4$ in. sewing method; remember to keep your stitches nice and tight. Sew all the way around the opening.

Next slip your pile lining right side out over your canvas lining and baste your lining to your foot lining in the moccasin.

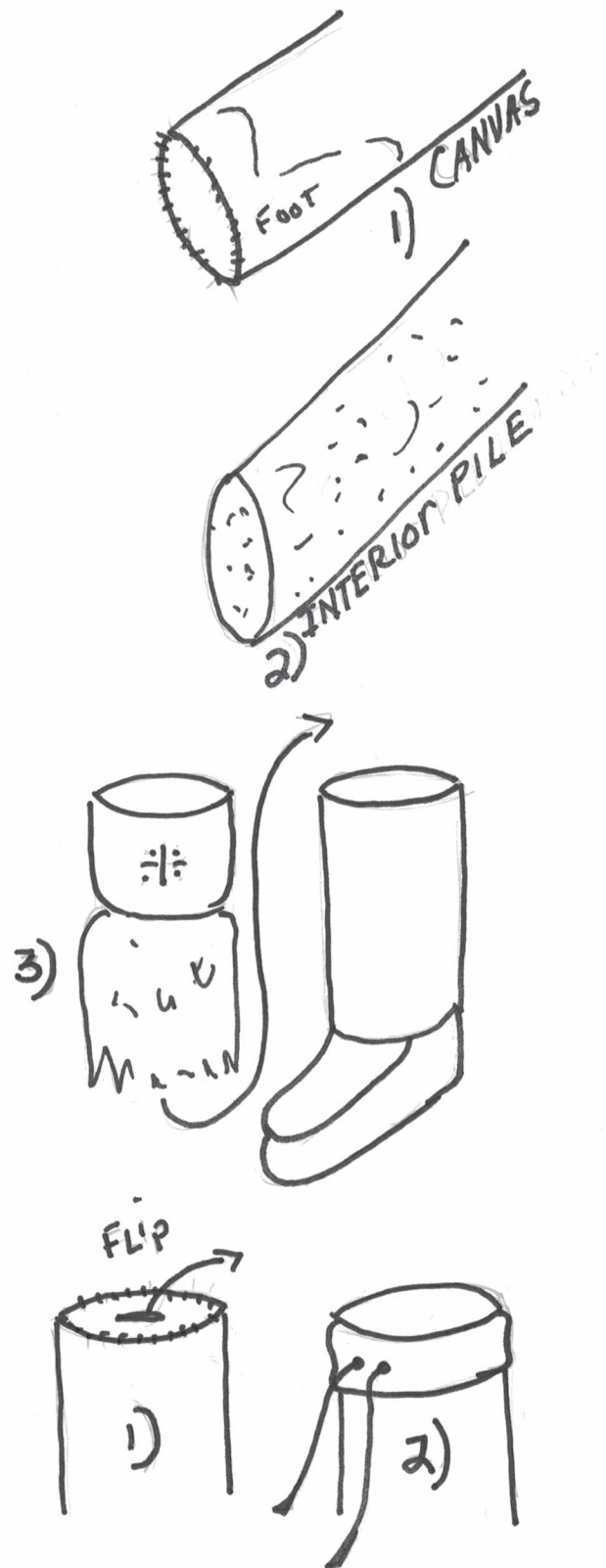
Bring your linings right side out, and slip your exterior leg tube over the canvas lining. You may have some excess interior lining at the top of the Muk. Trim the linings to the mukluk height.

At base of the leg, the fur should be just covering the seam at the moccasin. Line your exterior tube up at the back seam and baste around the top of all 3 tubes, (the 2 interior and the 1 exterior).

Tack (sew) or glue your fur to the canvas lining. If you use glue be sure to use leather flexible waterproofed glue.

Sewing the Top Trim

The trim is sewn on like you would sew on a bias binding. Sew from the interior of the leg starting at the back seam with good side of trim on the interior leg lining. Whipstitch using the $3/16 \times 1/4$ inch sewing rule. When completely sewn around flip the trim out, make 2 holes for your laces and flip over the top rim of your Muklucs with the lace inside the trim with either end coming out of your 2 holes. Tack down around your top trim.

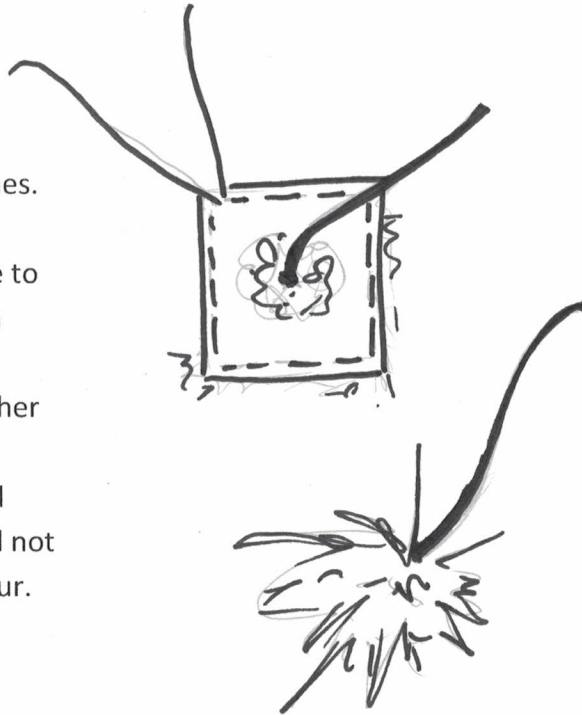


Pom Poms (optional)

Cut 4 squares of fur 2 ½ - 3 x 2 ½ - 3 inches. Baste around the exterior of your fur squares with large stitches. Sew the lace to the center of the fur square, stuff with a small bit of pile lining or cotton. Pull on both ends of your basting threads together tight and knot.

*pull both ends of thread with one hand and hold the pom with the other careful not to pull too hard and damage or rip the fur.

Congrats!!! Mukluks all done.



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