

Our fourth, in a series of ribbon-work patterns and techniques, is an explanation of two multiple ribbon patterns that require only a single design element though the pattern looks much more complicated. These patterns are found on men's straight dance suits and on traditional Osage leggings for women. It would be helpful to refer to the Feb. '78, May '78 and June '78 issues of Tracks as the details presented in those issues apply to the patterns described here.

As previously stated, ribbon-work of this type is fashioned from 100% rayon ribbon imported from France. This is not the rayon satin ribbon commonly found in yardage stores. Taffeta yardage cut into strips is an adequate substitute.

COLORS

A series of light and dark colors is the effect usually present in this pattern as in other patterns also. Colors in list # 1 for a nine ribbon pattern are symmetrical as the color above and below "red" are the same. In list # 2 the colors are not symmetrical but also effective and typical.

1 deep purple
white
green
white
red
white
green
white
deep purple

2 purple
lt. yellow
rose red
lt. yellow
royal blue
lt. yellow
purple

Ideally colors should be arranged so that the pattern is prominent. It is prominent only if there is a contrast between adjacent ribbons.

CONSTRUCTION

Cut ribbons into 1 inch wide strips and cut each to the desired length depending whether it is to be used on a clout strip, a legging strip, etc. Use the bound edge of the ribbon for ribbon # 1, otherwise the binding must be trimmed off because it will create a bulge in the finished product.

Figure 1

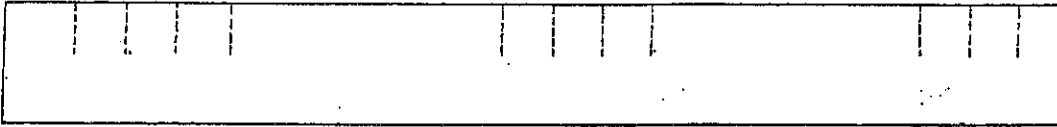


Figure 2

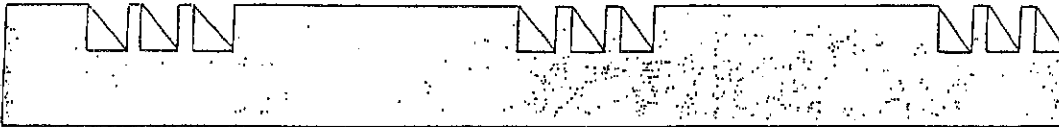


Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

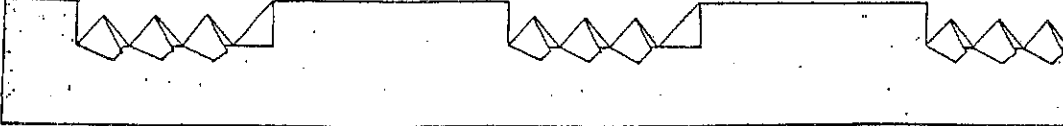


Figure 7

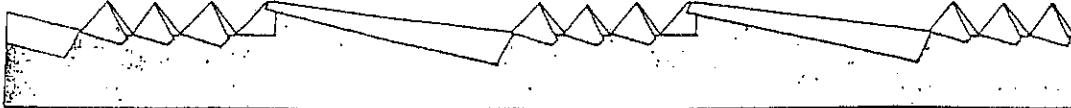
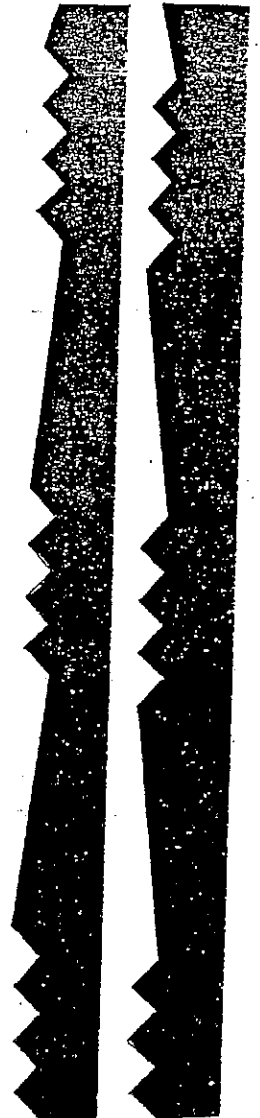
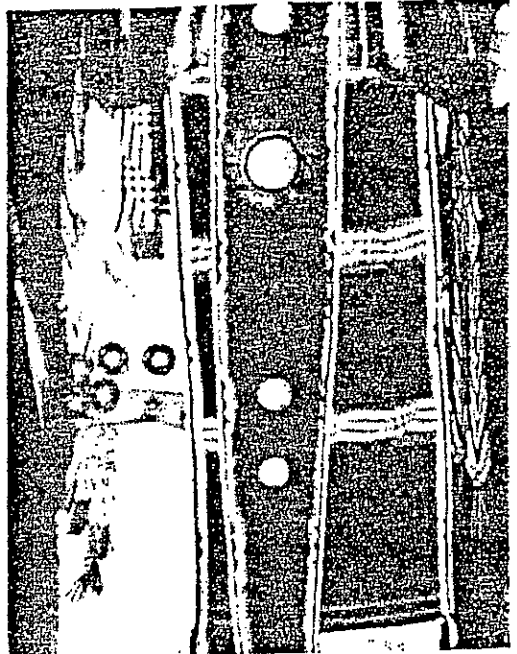


Figure 7A Figure 5A



To produce the design, cut and fold ribbon strips as in Fig. 1-5. The finished folded ribbon is shown in Fig. 5A. Use fingernails to fold the ribbon; a warm iron may help. Remember, ribbon # 1 is not cut or folded as in Figure 8. The bound edge of ribbon # 1 would be at the top.



Since each ribbon is cut and folded the same, a legitimate question arises, "How can one design element create the pattern illustrated?" It's simple. After basting ribbon # 2 down (Fig. 9), ribbon # 3 is slid $\frac{1}{4}$ " to the right such that the peaks of ribbon # 3 meet with the valleys of # 2 as indicated in Fig. 10 - and so on, and so on, and so on for the next 4 ribbons until each is basted in place after a $\frac{1}{4}$ " shift. See Figures 8-13. Because of this shifting, an inch or more must be added to the original length or shift the cuts in Figure 1 a $\frac{1}{4}$ " to the right for ribbons 3-7. After basting ribbons in place, iron ribbons and then use sewing machine to sew the ribbons in place. Match thread to the color of the ribbon being sewn. Straight stitch very close to the folded edge as shown in photo 2.

Adjacent photo 1 is a dance trailer and clout with ribbon strips of pattern A. Photo by Kaysee Tsuji at a powwow in Quapaw, Oklahoma.

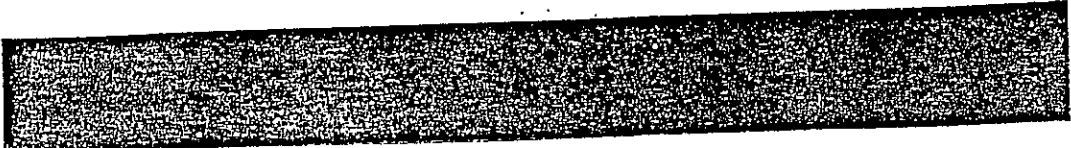


Figure 8
ribbon #1

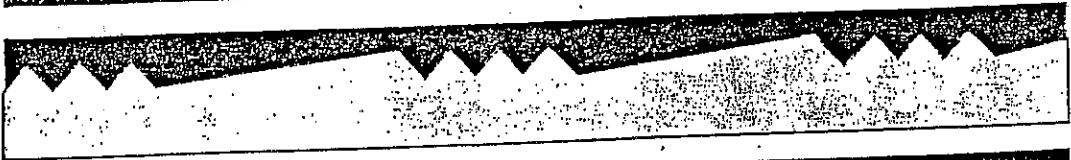


Figure 9
ribbon #2

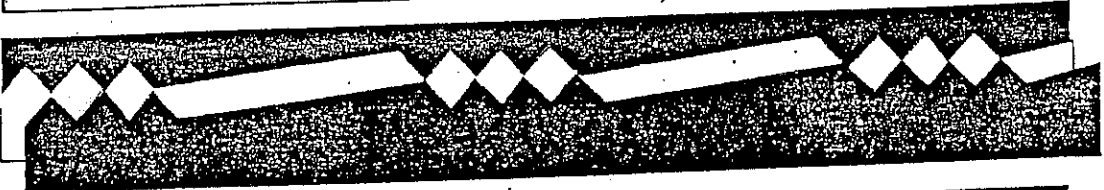


Figure 10
ribbon #3

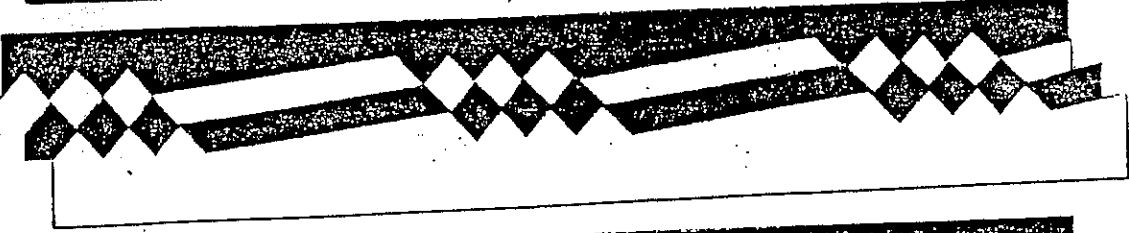


Figure 11
ribbon #4

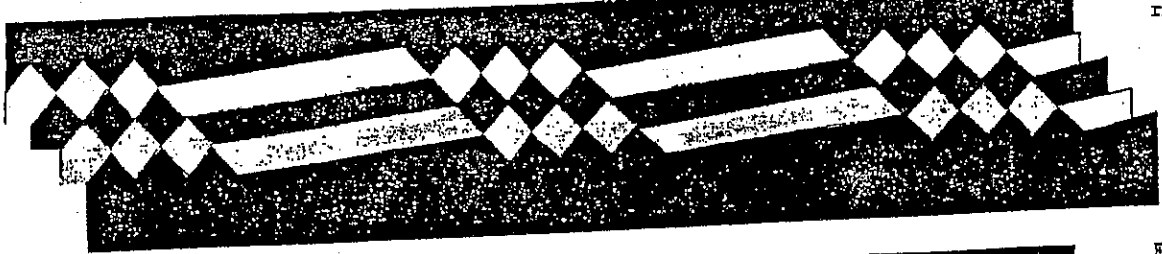


Figure 12
ribbon #5

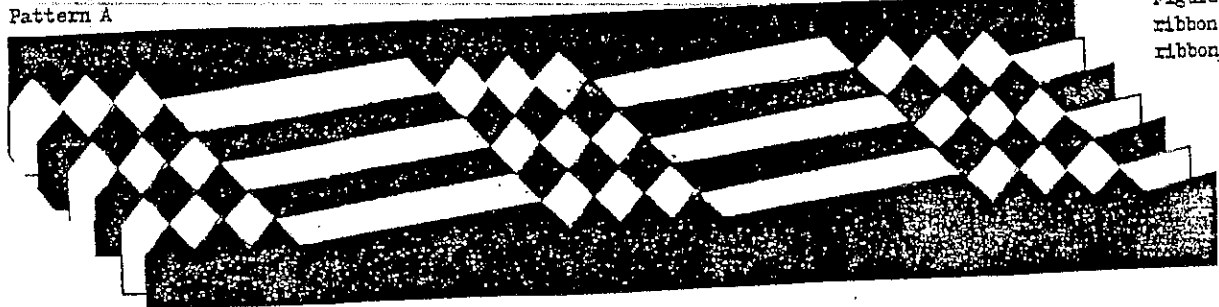


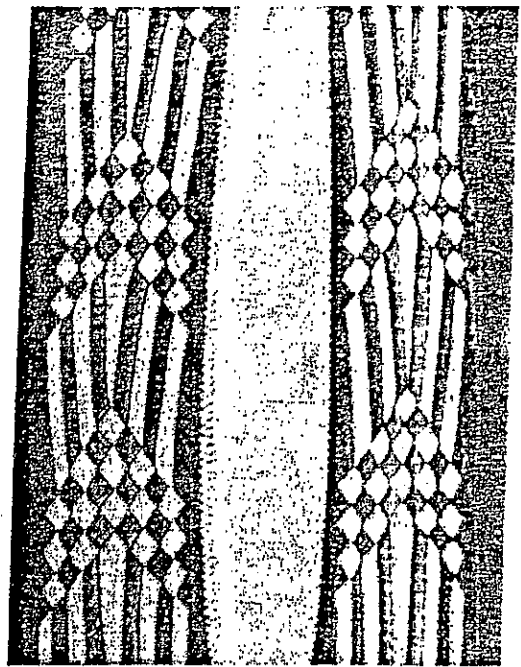
Figure 13
ribbon #6
ribbon #7

A SECOND PATTERN

Figure 13 illustrates a 7-ribbon pattern labeled as "pattern A." A second pattern, labeled as "pattern B," can be fashioned by cutting and folding the first 5 ribbons as before with pattern A. The last 4 ribbons are cut and folded in the manner shown in Figures 1-3, 6 & 7 which results in the design given in Figure 7A. To assemble pattern B, baste ribbons in position according to Fig. 8-12 and then Fig. 14-17. Complete this 9-ribbon pattern by straight stitching with the sewing machine.

Upon first inspection, the finished ribbon strips shown in photos 1 and 2 do seem quite complicated. Such effective and striking creation fashioned from a single simple design element is indeed a credit to the artistry and ability of the Indian craftsman. As indicated, the technique used in ribbon-work is not hard though it takes time and patience.

Photo 2 is a pair of Osage woman's leggings with ribbon-work in pattern B. Notice the contrast in adjacent ribbons. Photo by Tsuji, with permission of Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa, Oklahoma.



2

Figure 14

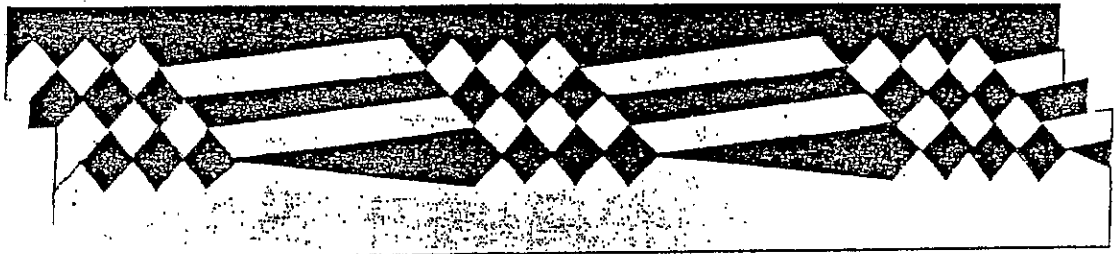


Figure 15

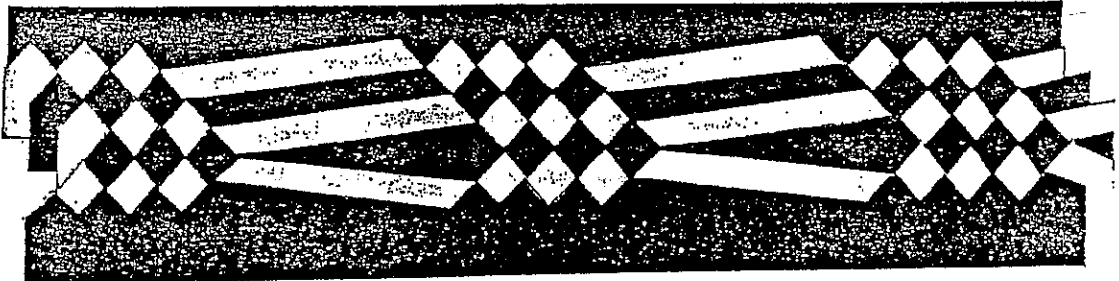


Figure 16

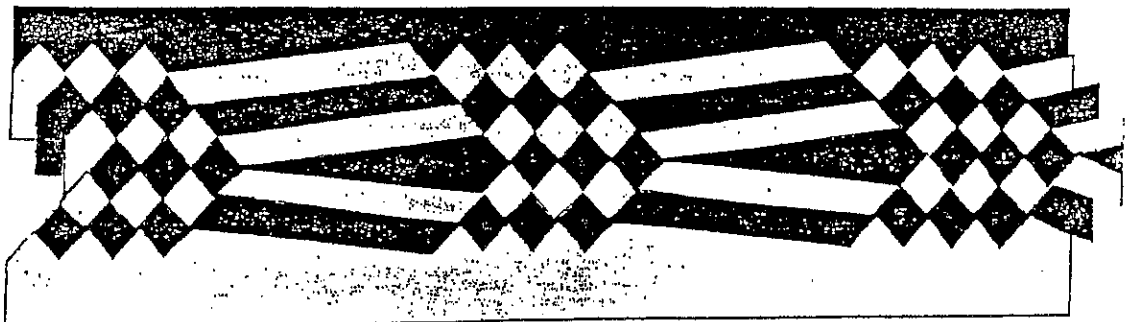


Figure 17

Pattern B

