

RIBBONWORK

AN ADVANCED PATTERN

by Jerry Smith

Over the past three years, several ribbonwork designs and patterns have been detailed in *Moccasin Tracks* along with their folding and sewing instruction. These patterns, as with most standard ribbonwork patterns worn on straight dance suits, are simple geometric patterns. They are all relatively easy to make and a gal who sews ribbonwork finds one pattern about as easy as the next. The multiple ribbon pattern presented here is really not "advanced" for one who does ribbonwork but it is not recommended as a pattern to try on ones initial effort.

As with all multiple ribbonwork of this type, several cut and folded ribbons are sewn in place, each overlapping the previous ribbon. The May '78, June '78 and Sept. '78 issues of *Moccasin Tracks* illustrate this process. 100% rayon taffeta imported ribbon is used for this type of work; however, taffeta yardage is used by many ribbonworkers due to expense and availability of the ribbon. The ribbon or yardage is cut into about 1" wide strips and cut to the length of the finished piece desired.

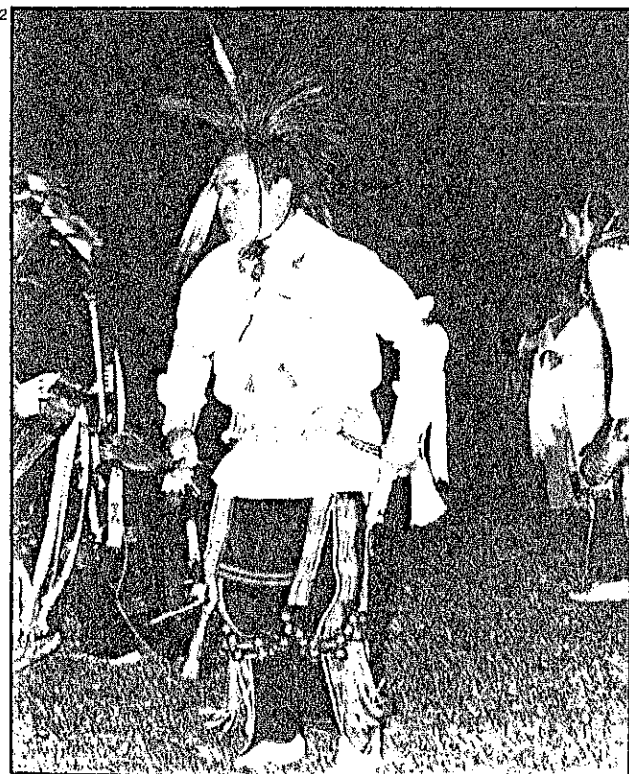
The pattern shown here in photo 1 & 2 and in Figure 9 is composed of thirteen ribbons but it can be reduced to a band of nine ribbons or slightly altered to an eleven ribbon pattern. The first ribbon is not cut or folded to create peaks and valleys; it is "plain". It is the next 12 ribbons that are cut and folded. Figures 1-8 illustrate the cuts and finished folded ribbons for the first 5 ribbons of this pattern. The next eight ribbons are exact repeats of these four ribbons following the sequence 2,3,4,5,2,3,4,5.

Figure 10 and Figure 11 indicate how folds are made on ribbon number 2. The folding process is very similar for the other ribbons. Use an iron to help hold crease in the folds.

One feature that makes this pattern "advanced" is the different length cuts made in ribbons #2 (Figure 2) and #4 (Fig. 6) to create peaks and valleys at different levels. In Figure 5, cut A is 1/8" deeper than cut B. Though the cuts on ribbons 3 and 5 are all uniform in depth the different levels of peaks and valleys is created in the method of folding.

Once a ribbon is folded it is basted in place by hand upon the previous ribbon and then machine stitched with a straight fine stitch very close to its folded edge. A matching color of thread is used. When ribbons are used, one can be sewn right to the other; however, when using taffeta yardage, the work is sewn to a pellon strip or directly to the broadcloth. Remove the basting stitches before sewing on the next ribbon. Remember, the first ribbon sewn down is plain and the other ribbons are sewn in place starting from left to right (or visa versa) not from the center out. Each ribbon overlaps the other like shingles on a roof. Also, the first or last ribbon doubles (first in photo 1) to bind the broadcloth.

It is always good to make a sample or two before tackling the "real" project and this would be helpful here. Note again the ends of the breech-clout strips in photo 1 and on Abe Conklin in photo 2. The ends hang beyond the edge of the cloth and they are not sewn in place; yet, the ends are pinked.



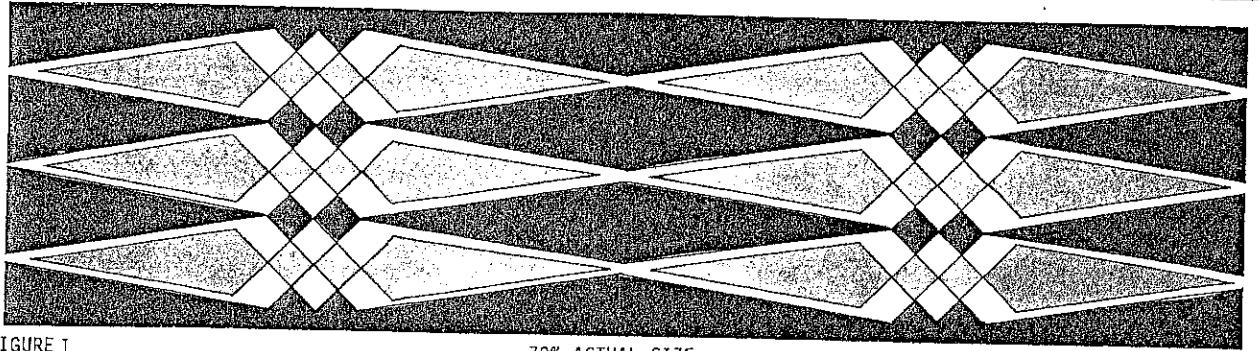


FIGURE 1

70% ACTUAL SIZE



FIGURE 2

RIBBON #2

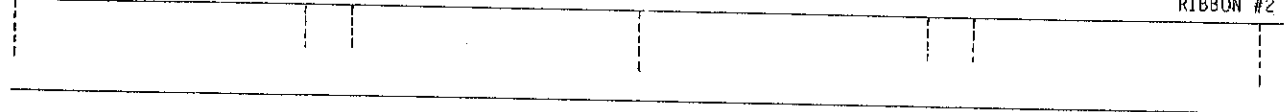


FIGURE 3

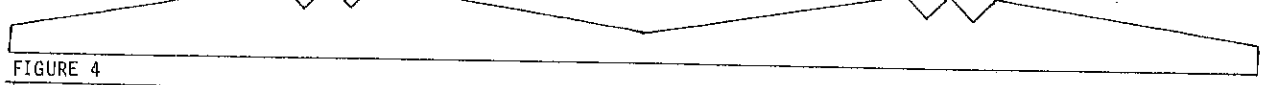


FIGURE 4

RIBBON #3



FIGURE 5



FIGURE 6

RIBBON #4



FIGURE 7

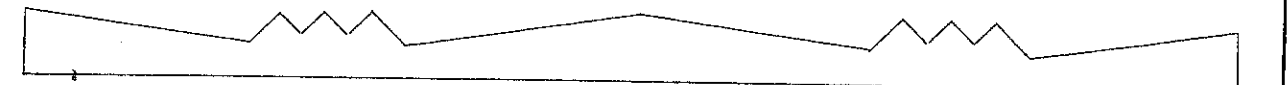


FIGURE 8

RIBBON #5



FIGURE 9

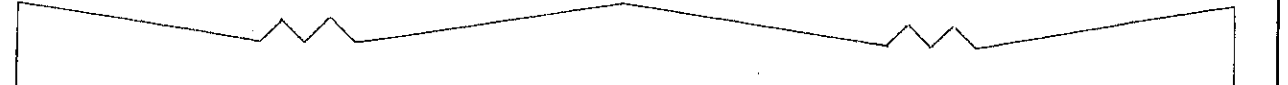


FIGURE 10

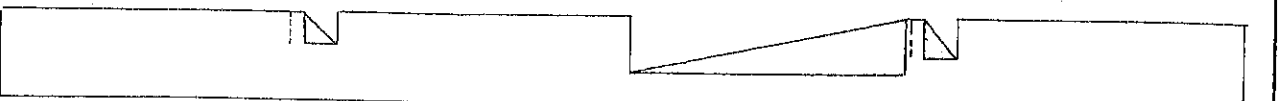
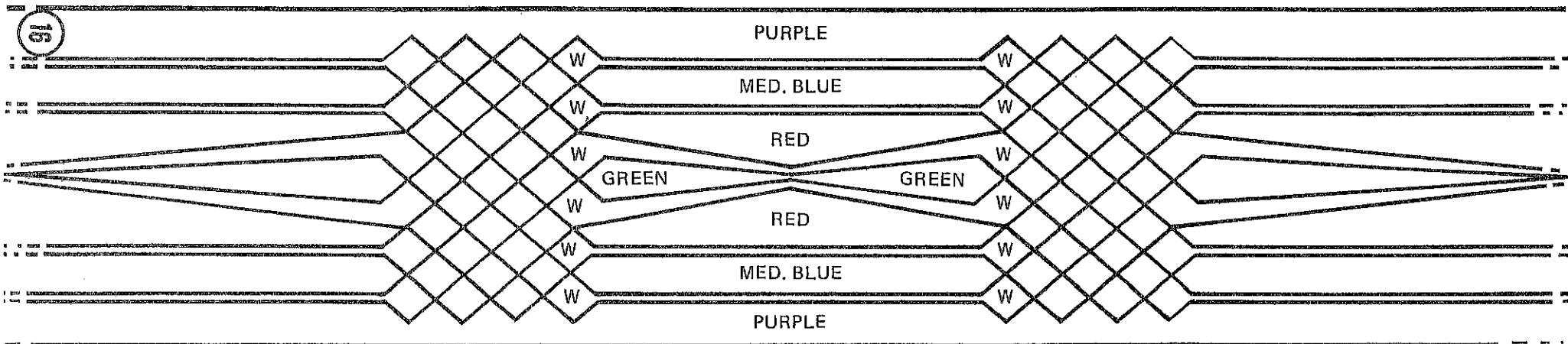
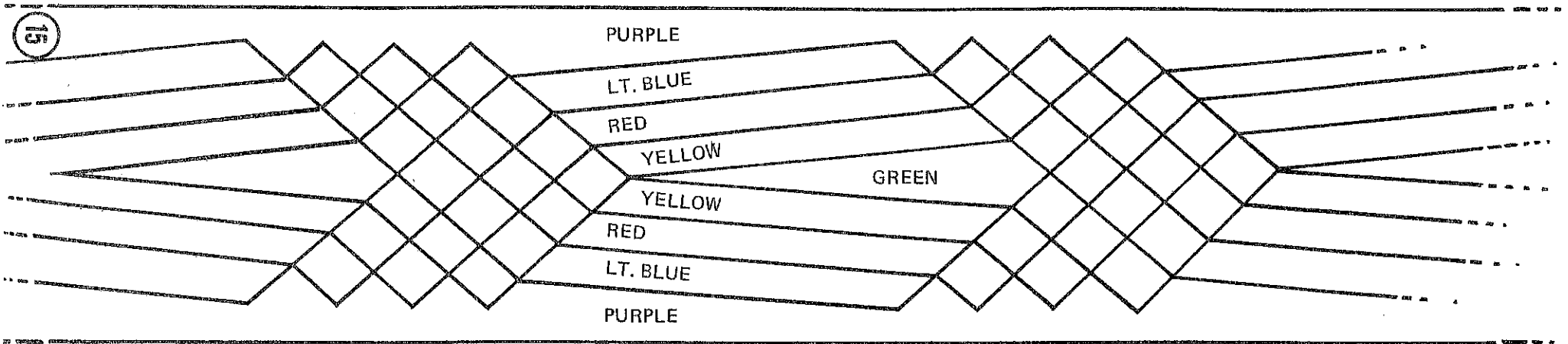
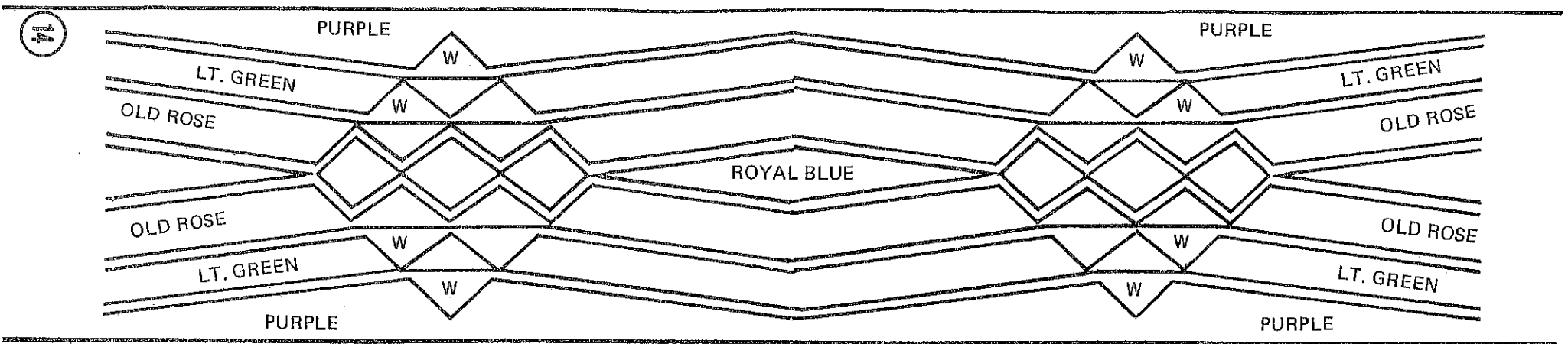
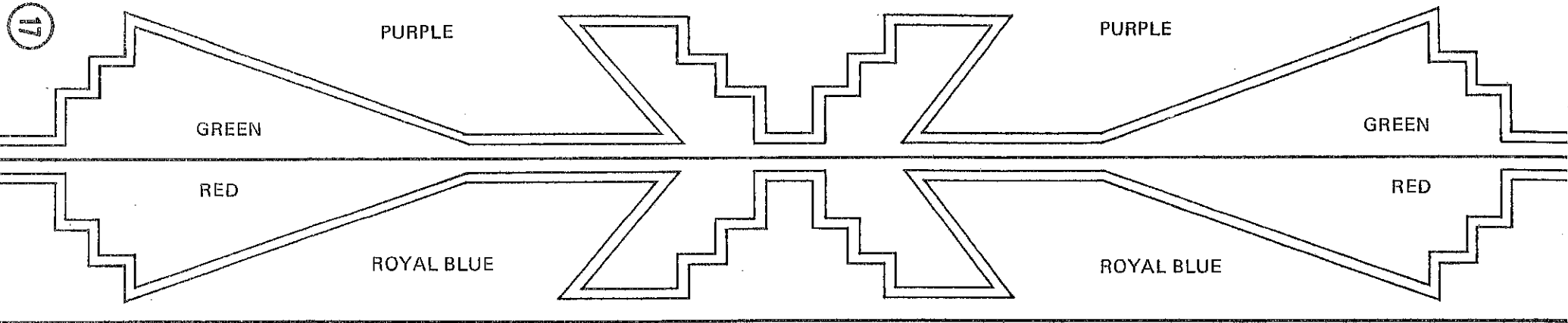


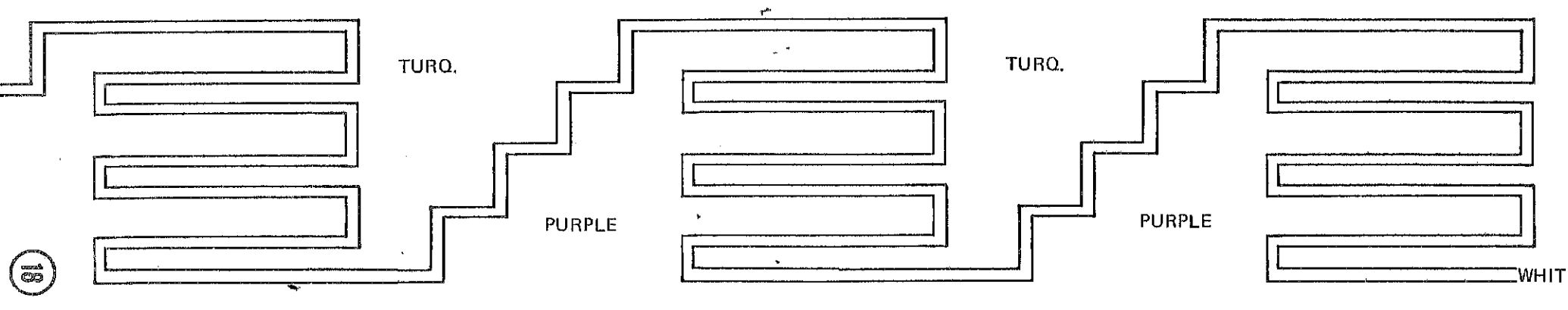
FIGURE 11



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18



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