

MANCHESTER MORRIS MEN

DIRECTIONS FOR FASTENING GOLD CORD TO BREECHES

1. Do not complain at the length of these directions
 - all the men must have identical braiding or the effect is lost and ludicrous;
 - they will make the job easy if you have to do it yourself;
 - if you ask womenfolk to do it there will be plenty of questions and complaints anyway and this will keep them happy.
2. Follow directions scrupulously, rehearse placing of the cord before sewing and the hard work will be at the beginning and the rest more routine.
3. From pocket to button gusset is 19" - 20". These directions allow for 9 rings but short breeches may require only 8. Adjust accordingly.
4. You need a halfpenny, white or yellow chalk, tape-measure and black or gold thread. All marks referred to are made in chalk.
5. Mark across the side-seam of the breeches at 2" intervals from the bottom of the pocket. This should give 9 marks and leave a small space between the last mark and the top of the button gusset.
6. Next mark vertically, opposite each of these points, parallel to the seam, either side of it, as follows: -
 - the first 3: 2" either side of the seam
 - the second 3: 1 ½" either side of the seam
 - the last 3: 1" either side of the seam.
7. Place a halfpenny against the vertical marks and chalk round it so that the circle lies on the seam-side of the mark (i.e. 'inside'), exactly opposite the cross-seam marks.
8. Do this on alternate sides, the first being on the forward side of the leg: i.e. the cord is to come forward of the pocket towards the front of the wearer. Take great care to start in the correct direction. You will thus get five rings on the forward side of the seam, and four on the rearward side.
9. Continue marking rings in this way for the first 6 rings only. Mark the 7th and 8th rings round the vertical mark, and the last again inside. This last will come right up to the seam, and the cord will then pass into the button gusset. In this way the width of the finished braiding will gradually decrease down the leg, which is vital as otherwise the last few rings come across the knee and look very ill.
10. Note that the chalking is essential and makes the rest of the job a piece of cake. Don't assume this is bull and that you can do it better without.
11. Whip either end of the cord fast, and sow the top end close inside the bottom of the pocket, allowing about 2" inside.
12. Bring the cord forward from the pocket to the first ring [check with (8) above] and lead it round from the bottom of the ring, over itself across the seam, then down to the bottom of the 2nd ring, where it goes round again and over itself, and across the seam to the 3rd ring. Continue in this way to the bottom and sew the free end into the top of the button gusset.
13. For a check, note the following: -
 - on the LEFT leg the cord goes round the forward rings clockwise, and the rearward rings counterclock
 - on the RIGHT leg cord, travels counterclock round the forward rings and clockwise round the rearward rings.
 - In all cases begin at the bottom of the ring.
14. Form the cord rings inside the chalk rings, as large as they permit, but no larger. The cord should cross the side-seam midway between the 2" apart cross-lines at a constant angle.
15. The cord must be caught down at short intervals, using black or gold thread not white.

DIRECTIONS FOR BALDRICKS

1. Each man will have approx. 76" long by approx. 9" wide material - red and yellow.
ORIGINAL NOTE (ie. 1970) - with regard to the yellow material the matt surface is the correct side (i.e. the outside) and the glossy surface is the inside - it is very important that this direction is observed.
2. Each length of material is sewn up into a tube with one end fastened up. The finished width of material is 4" from fold to line of machining. Turn inside out and press with the seam on the inside and forming one of the two edges.
3. The open end must then be tucked in neatly and oversewn using same colour of thread as colour of baldrick.
BUT SURELY THE LENGTH NEEDS TO BE DETERMINED FIRST - SEE (6)
4. Each baldrick has three rosettes on it, one at each end and the third one where the baldrick crosses over shoulder. The rosettes at the two ends are sewn 3" from end of baldrick to centre of rosette, placed centrally.
5. Each baldrick should cross at waist level.
6. Length below belly-go-round should be
???? not stated in 1970 instructions !!!!

DIRECTIONS FOR BELLY-GO-ROUNDS

1. Each man will have 48" blue material to be sewn into tube with one end fastened up. Width when sewn up should be 4" from fold to line of machining. The seam edge forms the bottom edge to help give support.
2. Also each man will have 48" of 4" wide belt backing. This is to be inserted into the blue tube, trimming the ends square first, if needful. Insert carefully so that the blue material is smooth and snug over the backing.
3. The open end must then be tucked in neatly and oversewn, using blue thread. This end is inside when the sash is worn.
4. The sash is fastened with four hooks and eyes, and four press-studs. Fasten them on with blue thread. (The use of Velcro for fastening has proved very satisfactory.)
5. The seam is the bottom edge of the sash and the inside face is worn next to the body; the other is the outside face. Fasten the eyes to the inside end of the sash, on the outside face. The hooks are then sewn on the inside face of the sash, at a point determined by your girth. Do this between meals, and make the sash a little on the tight side as it will slack off.
6. The male part of the press-stud goes on the inside face of the sash, on the outside end; and the female part of the press-stud on the same side as the eyes, positioned so that the sash lies smoothly and snugly flat when hooks and studs are all fast.
7. When not in use keep the sash loosely rolled, not folded.

DIRECTIONS FOR HATS

1. 1" blue goes diagonally over crown, crossings at highest point.
2. The R W & B ribbons are to hang at the back, folded so that 36" hang evenly down. The RED is outside (i.e. 'on top'), the WHITE in the middle, and the BLUE inside, blue against blue. PLEASE GET THIS EXACT.
3. Hats should be thickly dressed with variegated colours of flower, slightly above the level of the crown all round, except at the front where they should stand about 3" to 4" above the level of the crown. DO NOT EXCEED THIS. See that the flowers are taken close down to the brim, and do not allow single sprays to stick out above the rest.

GENERAL NOTES

- a. Always have two spare Morris hanks for emergency.
- b. Your clogs must shine like mirrors (see Bacup). Dubbin or leather with the oil still in is not good enough for displays. Recommended to finish them off Johnsons Glocoat.
- c. Provide a good box for hat, and also for clogs and sashes if possible. We are spending a lot on clobber and it needs to be kept in good order. Some teams have a bad reputation for carelessness of kit. Please keep the stockings regularly washed immediately after use, even if only for one evening, as this helps to preserve them, and in this way any loss of colour through washing will be the same for everyone.
- d. Keep old mollies for practice and keep new ones wrapped up and clean. All ribbons should be lightly pressed with a warm iron before a show.
- e. Collect any flowers for hats that you can beg off relatives, friends &c. and turn them in to the Ragman. There are sure to be untapped sources of supply.
- f. Collect also damaged or discarded jewelry for hats.
- g. Hats are still needed: ask your dealer for discarded bowlers.

P. Ridgway
Ragman
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