

Wild, Wacky Woggles

by Susan Muehlherr

A woggle is a device to fasten the scarf worn by Scouts throughout the world. The name woggle is used in many countries, but they are also called neckerchief slides in the United States.

The basic principle behind most woggles is a hole you can stuff your scarf through. Now the size of the hole is pretty important. If it is too small, then you can't get the scarf through, but if it is too big, it falls off and gets lost. To complicate things further, scarves come in different thicknesses, and what's too tight for one, is too loose for another! Through experience, a hole about 20 mm is about right for the average scarf.

You don't want anything too heavy, or with sharp edges. The hole should be clean, but not too smooth. A surface that gives a bit of friction holds the scarf better than a really smooth one. But don't make it too rough or sharp because it will damage your scarf.

A Simple Plastic Woggle

This is a really simple design suitable as a base for many other creations. It is made from electrical conduit (the plastic pipe they use to run electrical cables through). Twenty-five mm orange conduit, which has a 20mm hole through the middle, is just the right size for a woggle.

A friendly electrician may give you some off-cuts, and you only need small pieces to make woggles. A full length from the hardware store could make up to 200 woggles!

The woggles are made by just cutting pieces off the pipe. Make two angle cuts with a hacksaw at about 30° (Figure 1). Keep the cuts nice and straight. The angled cuts make a nice shape. It is also easier to thread your scarf through. The shape also makes the base less obvious when used for other designs.

After cutting off your length, clean the edges with some sandpaper, or very carefully with a pocket knife. The plastic base woggle is then complete (Figure 2).

Plastic Bottle Woggle

You will need: a bottle cap from a 2 litre plastic bottle, an empty, clean small plastic bottle, brochures, magazine ads or picture, glue, sharp scissors.

Cut out the logo or picture off the brochure and glue to the top of the large plastic bottle top. Cut the spout off the smaller bottle. Make sure it's small enough to fit inside the bottle cap. Glue it inside the cap to act as the neckerchief holder (Figure 3).

Crazy Critters

These easy to make woggles are based on any of the basic woggles that have enough front face for the critter.

You will need: wool or fur, some wiggly eyes, felt and glue.

Make features out of the felt, then assemble your face on the woggle base. Nestle the eyes into the wool or fur for a really crazy look. You can use either the plastic base or a carved, wooden, hole-in-a-stick woggle.

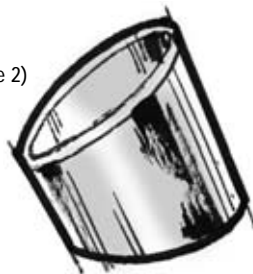
Wild and Wacky Woggle Designs

A Simple Plastic Woggle

(Figure 1)

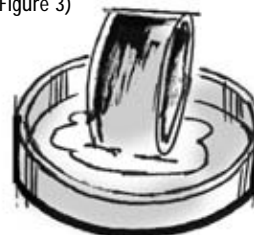


(Figure 2)

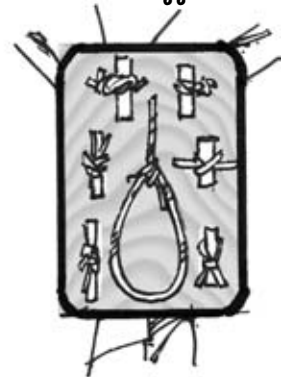


Plastic Bottle Woggle

(Figure 3)



Knot Board Woggle



Crazy Critters



Stressed Out Woggle



Woggle Web Sites

Bruce Ward from Orange, Australia has an amazing woggle web site with lots of great ideas. Bruce granted *The Leader* permission to use some of his material. Check it out at: <http://myweb.ix.net.au/wardb/ideas/woggle.htm>

For more complicated woggles, Woggle World, home of Boy Scouts of America neckerchief slides, has interesting designs. Slide on over to: <http://members.tripod.com/~cubclub/>.



First Aid Woggle

Knot Board Woggle

This woggle will have you in knots! Simply cut a piece of 1/8" bass wood, about 6.35cm x 8.90cm. Sand and round the edges. Stain to complete.

Now the tricky part. Using thin string or thin strands of rope, tie each of the basic Scout knots in miniature. Use a 1/8" dowel cut into short 1.25cm pieces for tying the Clove Hitch, Timber Hitch, Half-hitch, and Tautline. The Bowline, Sheet Bend, and the Square Knot can all be tied without dowels. Trim ends for more presentable looking knots.

Using wood glue, dab each knot with glue and hold in position until it sets up, then set aside and let dry. Whittle a wood loop, attach a leather strip, or glue a slide ring to the back of your board. You can also drill two small holes on each side and use the same knot material to form a loop in the back. After all knots are affixed to the board, varnish the entire woggle.

First Aid Woggle

Paint the film canister white with a red cross on the front. Hot glue a cur-

tain ring to the back side of the canister for the neckerchief to slide through. Fill the canister with useful first aid items: adhesive bandages, Tylenol™ wrapped in foil, antiseptic ointment, alcohol wipe, safety pins, coins for telephone call, and emergency phone numbers.

Stressed Out Woggle

These Stressed Out woggles could be more appropriate for leaders, but are fun for the youth to make too.

You will need: telephone wire, wire cutters, pencils. Each woggle uses about a 60cm length of wire.

Remove the conduit and any covering exposing the many colored wires. Select 3 or 5 of these wires and align them into one bunch so the ends are even. Bend this mass of wires around your index finger (so the ends are even) and make a couple tight twists (i.e. like twisting a twist-tie around the bread wrapper). The 'hole' formed is the part your neckerchief ends will slide through. Using a pencil, start

wrapping each wire around the pencil (keep the loops tight and close together) into little corkscrews. Repeat this for each end of wire. You will create a "springy" neckerchief slide whose corkscrews can be adjusted to match your level of stress!

- Susan Muehlherr is the Editor of the *Leader Magazine*. She gets lots of her ideas for articles from you, the leaders. Send them to: smuehlherr@scouts.ca.



Meet the Writer: Susan Muehlherr

As Editor of the *Leader Magazine*, Susan shares her love of the outdoors, camping and writing with the leaders in this great Movement. Mother to two girls and one step-son, she lives on a large acreage where she skis, hikes and enjoys nature to its fullest. Her husband shares her passion for canoeing, camping and exploring Canada. Reading, gardening and fixing up their hundred year old farmhouse keeps her happy and busy.

Neckerchief Points

Have you ever noticed that in old pictures of Scouts, some of them have the two tips of their neckerchief tied in a knot? If a Scout tied a knot in his scarf, that signified that he had done his "good deed" for the day. Wouldn't it be great if all our scarves could be tied in a knot? [Editor's note - we can't verify this fact, but think it makes for neat trivia.]

- Donna Lenner, Registrar, Central Ontario Council.

Is there a pattern to make neckerchiefs? Groups are welcome to make their own neckerchiefs. Your Scout Shop carries two sizes, large and small. There is no "official" size. Make "wise use of your resources" and cut the material efficiently to get the most number of neckerchiefs. Be sure to extend a large round of thanks to those parents and group committee members who take the time to create neckerchiefs for your group. It's a huge job.



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