

## What are Mitasses?

- A high-quality sash would use 300-400 fine wool threads and would take around 200 hours to create
- A lower-quality sash would be created using around 100 thicker threads and would take 70-80 hours to finish
- Sashes could be over 15 feet long and 10" wide!
- The sash has been around since the 1600's
- The original sashes were typically made entirely out of red wool
- Sashes were first marketed by the North West Company in 1804
- The Hudson Bay Company started carrying sashes in 1818 when they merged with the NWC
- Families often had their own pattern and colors

**North Island Métis (NIMA) publishes a monthly newsletter.**

**Go to NIMA's website ([www.nimetus.com/newsletters](http://www.nimetus.com/newsletters)) to read current and past newsletters.**

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**NORTH ISLAND MÉTIS**

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Métis Sashes



## The Many Uses for a Sash

The sash was traditionally worn by Métis men, but today many women also wear one! The sash was worn as an accessory, but also had many practical uses. Some of the uses included:

- Scarf/belt
- Pocket for important items
- Bandaging
- Use threads to repair clothes
- Strap for a tumpline
- Rope
- Facecloth or towel
- Saddle blanket
- Mark game after it was killed
- Calendar to mark passage of time
- Back support



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## *Southern Michif*

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Sash – sayncheur flayshii

wool – la lenn

red – roozh

green – ver

yellow – zhoon

black – nwayr

white – blaam

blue – bleu



## Getting Started

- A sash loom OR pencil/stick/chopstick/wooden dowel
- If not using a loom you will need a clamp to hold it in place
- Yarn
  - The length you want +30% (a three-meter sash would require four meter lengths of yarn)
  - 15-20 strands per inch in diameter that you want (a four inch sash would require about 80 strands of yarn)