

History

Making a good pair of moccasins used to be an important and sought after skill, that was often woman's art. However, men needed to know how to make repairs when out on the trap lines. Many pairs of moccasins would be required for a long journey. Moccasins were created in such a way that no improvements were ever needed on the design, although there are many different style variations across Turtle Island.

A baby's first pair of moccasins would be made with immense love and as children outgrew their moccasins they would be cleaned up and put away for safe keeping.

A woman would respond to a marriage proposal by making her future husband a pair of moccasins, his acceptance of them would form a traditional marriage contract.

It is said that the finest pairs of moccasins were created for loved ones who passed, to help honor their journey into the spirit world.

Traditionally moccasins would be made using home-tanned hide, but with fewer tanners around most moccasins are made with commercially tanned hide.

North Island Métis (NIMA) publishes a monthly newsletter.

Go to NIMA's website (www.nimetis.com/newsletters) to read current and past newsletters.

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North Island Métis

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NORTH ISLAND MÉTIS

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**NORTH ISLAND
MÉTIS**

Moccasins



Moccasin Decorations

- Beadwork would be symmetrical and mirrored on both moccasins.
- For very special occasions, or highly loved people, beadwork would be used to cover the entire outside of the moccasins.
 - These were not meant for walking in!
 - Created for high status people at meetings or in ceremonies.
 - Small moccasins for babies
- Floral beadwork often adorned the moccasins, vines, seeds, berries, and leaves may also be included.
- Horsehair piping would sometimes be used as piping around the edge of the vamps.
- Porcupine quills or silk embroidery were also used to decorate the moccasins.

Different Styles of Moccasins

Pucker Toe Moccasins are a more Western style (Métis, Cree, and Dene) footwear and more commonly seen today. These have a much larger vamp and a puckered toe.



Point or Split Toe Moccasins are a more Eastern style (Métis and Anishinaabe) footwear and were more commonly worn for the Métis. These have a smaller vamp with a pointed toe.



Getting Started

- Glover needles and thimble
- Scissors and pinking shears
- Pen or pencil
- Ruler
- Pliers
- Beaded vamps
 - Melton
 - Canvas
 - Beads
 - Beading needles
 - Nymo thread
- Artificial sinew or heavy nylon thread
- Fur for trim (if wanted)
- Leather (home-tanned or commercially tanned)
- Sherpa or fabric for liner (if wanted)