

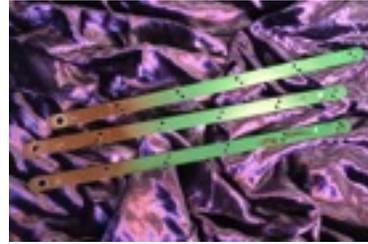
Fashioning Fabulous Fans

Step-by-Step

The following instructions are for building fans on Donna Touch's aluminum staves. Most of the same steps apply when building on other types of staves just skip the stove specific stuff ;)

1. Paint your staves.

- Most any type of spray paint that's sold at your local hardware store will work
- You can get fancy and use different colors but remember that most of the staves will be covered with your feathers
- *TIP - covering with several light coats of paint rather than one heavy one will help to keep the color from scratching off later on*



these were painted for green fans with bronze rooster feathers at the base

2. Steam ostrich feathers.

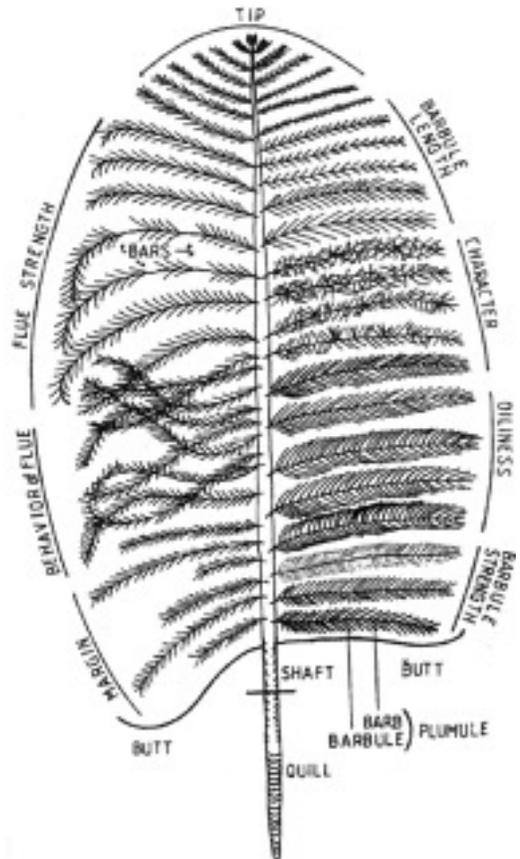
- the goal is to get the plumules fluffed back up and to iron out any kinks or creases that are a result of being packed in a box
- Steamers designed for use on clothing work great for this but you can also move the feathers back and forth above a pot of boiling water if you don't have a steamer handy

3. Curl ostrich feathers.

- heat up an old butter knife on the coils of an electric burner and run the hot knife up the shaft of the feather; starting about 3/4 of the way up past the tip. The tip of the feather will curl towards the knife



It looks bad but I swear I'm not doing knife hits



4. Prep feathers

- trim feather shafts so the fans are the finished size that you want (i.e. 20" feather + 5" of staff will yield a fan with a 50" diameter)
- flatten out any extra thick quills using your pliers. It's okay if they split, the wire will keep them together

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5. Prep your wire.

- cut your steel wire into 3" pieces and bend in the middle to make long "staples"
- *TIP - make a ton of these "staples" and store them in a small tupperware container so they're easy to use and pack up*



essential tools and wire "staples"

6. Attach the first layer of ostrich feathers to your staves

- * Each feather must be connected in at least two places



- For single layer fans attach to the front of the staves at connection points #5, #3 and #1
- for 2 layer fans attach the first layer of feathers to the back side of the staves at connection points #1 and #4
- for 3 or more layer fans attach the first layer of feathers to the back side of the staves at connection points #1 and #3
- make sure the tips of the feathers are all curling in the same direction (typically away from the front of the staves)

7. (for 2 or more layer fans) Attach the second layer of ostrich feathers to your staves

- For 2 layer fans attach the second layer of feathers to the front of the staves at connection points #5 and #3
- for 3 or more layer fans attach the second layer of feathers to the back of the staves at connection points #4 and #2
- *TIP - when connecting the second layer of feathers make sure to go around both the first and second feathers with the wire staples at the connection points where they overlap (#3 for 2 layer fans and #2 for 3+ layer fans). This will make your fans more stable in the long run.*

8. (for 3+ layer fans) Attach the third layer of feathers

- This layer of feathers is typically ostrich drabs, Nandu, pheasant tails or peacock tails. You can add another layer of ostrich plumes if you'd like but this will make your fans bulkier and a lot pricer (ostrich plumes ain't cheap yo!)
- Attach this layer to the front of your staves at connection points #5 and #3. If your feathers are very long it may be necessary to add a third connection at point #1
- *TIP - same as above; make sure you go around all the feathers at each connection point where they overlap*

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9. Organize your feathered staves into three piles;
 - Ones that lean to the left
 - Ones that lean to the right
 - Ones that are pretty much straight
 - once these are organized, divide them evenly so they are spread out between each fan



10. grab a bolt and thread your staves on it putting a washer in-between each stave
 - for the right-hand fan start with left-leaning feathers, then straight then right-leaning
 - for the left-hand fan start with right-leaning feathers, then straight then left-leaning
 - *TIP - if you want to be able to spin your fans in one hand or hang them on the back of a chair (or anywhere else your imagination conjures up) then use a longer bolt. Longer bolts also help when you need to close your fans for transport*

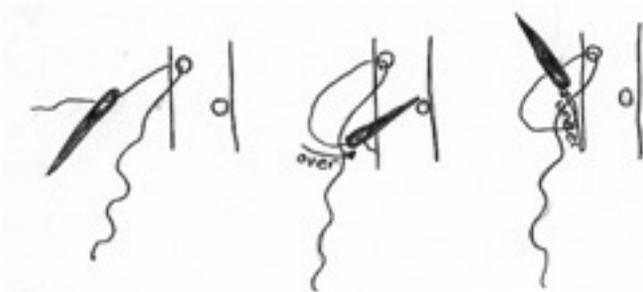


neoprene washers and longer bolt on right

back of a chair (or anywhere else your imagination conjures up) then use a longer bolt. Longer bolts also help when you need to close your fans for transport

•TIP - Neoprene washers work great with Donna's staves. They are lighter-weight and compress down more than metal washers

11. once all of your staves are loaded onto the bolt, add one more washer then a nut and hand tighten.
12. Repeat for the other fan, making sure to arrange it the opposite way from the first fan so you end up with one left handed and one right handed fan
13. Working with one fan at a time, open the fan so it's a full 180° and evenly space out the staves then use a wrench to tighten down as much as possible
 - make sure to open one fan to the left and the other to the right so you have fans for each hand
 - *TIP - while an adjustable crescent style wrench will work for this, I recommend purchasing a 7/16" wrench that fits your nuts and keeping it in your stage kit.*
14. using a large-eye needle and 20-40lb fishing line, pull the line through the inside hole of the third connection point and tie a knot (this makes no sense in words so see the illustration below for help)



•continue doing this for each stave until they are all tied together with line

•repeat on the other fan

•TIP - this step is a huge pain in the butt but it's important. Arm yourself with some patience and remember that you're in the home stretch :)

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14. top off your bolts with a locking nut or a joint connector nut

- *TIP - Joint connector nuts are handy if you want to hang your fans on the back of a chair (or anything else for that matter)*



locking nut on left, joint connector nut on right

Now your fans are ready to go! The following step is optional but fun

* Embellishing - I like to put rhinestones along the veins of my feathers. I even put these on the back side sometimes because I have no self-control where sparkle is concerned

- Gem Tack will actually work for this. Occasionally a stone will fall off and you'll have to replace it but that's still better than exposing yourself to the death-fumes that come along with E-6000
- avoid putting stones too close to the bottom of the staves since they will come off when you try to close your fans down for transport

Transporting your fans

- remove the locking nut/joint connector nut
- loosen the standard nut as much as you can without having it come off of the bolt
- spread out the staves until you can easily stack them behind each other to fold down the fan.
- *TIP - while anything that your fans fit in will work for carrying them, rifle cases work great for traveling with them. You can also use the large triangular Priority Mail boxes if you're on a budget.*
- *TIP - to compress your fans down for travel put them in an old pair of tights or stockings.*

Stage kit - stuff to pack with you when you're performing with fans

- keep a repair kit with some fishing line and a needle since the fishing line is the most common thing to break
- If you used a locking nut you'll need two wrenches to tighten/loosen your fans
- If you used a joint connector nut you'll need one wrench and a hex key to tighten/loosen your fans
- I keep an extra nut and a few extra washers in my kit because I'm paranoid