



# Cowboy Bandanas

Cowboy bandanas go by many names, bandana, mascada (scarf, in Spanish), kerchief, or buckaroo scarf. Bandanas have always been one of the most valuable tools of a cowboy. Even though they go by a lot of different names, one thing is certain- no real cowboy in the old west would work without his cowboy bandana.

Cowboy bandanas date back as far as the mid 1800's, when cowboys were known to use old flour sacks cut into squares when fabric such as a cotton was either too expensive or hard to come by while living on the range. The very first cowboy bandanas were worn for warmth in cold temperatures, and for protection from sun, wind, and dirt anytime. In many regions bandanas are still a standard part of cowboy dress for work or social occasions. Common bandana patterns are paisley, jacquards, solids, and printed cattle brands, but in true cowboy ingenuity, most any patterned fabric can be made into a cowboy bandana.

Of all the items a cowboy might own, wear, or keep close at hand, nothing serves more purposes than this unique piece of square cloth.

## How Cowboys used a Cowboy Bandana:

- ◇ Protection for extreme elements
- ◇ Strain drinking water
- ◇ As a potholder by a campfire
- ◇ An arm sling, tourniquet or bandage
- ◇ Wiping dirt and sweat off the face
- ◇ Temporary saddle rigging
- ◇ Carrying food
- ◇ Covering the eyes of a spooked horse for doctoring
- ◇ Spread out as a tablecloth at mealtime
- ◇ Use as a napkin when eating at that same meal



# How to Wear a Cowboy Bandana and Tie a Square Knot

Form a triangle with the bandana by matching two opposite points.

Drape the bandana over your shoulders so that the point made by the two matched corners is pointing down your back and the other two points are draped over your shoulders.

Take the two points that are draped over your shoulders in your hands and tie them into a secure square knot.

Square knots are simple knots. With both hands, grasp the two points and form an "X."

Wrap one of the points over the other, just as you would in the first step of tying your shoelaces. Repeat to form a square knot.

