

# **REGIMENTAL DRUM MAJOR ASSOCIATION**



**PLAID  
TYING  
2003-2004**

**by  
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and  
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## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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The Regimental Drum Major Association would like to thank **Drum Major Kieran Boyle** of the Paris (Ontario) Pipe Band and **Drum Major Norman MacKenzie, CD**, current Tattoo Drum Major of the Nova Scotia International Tattoo for their expertise

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## **I. OVERVIEW**

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One of the mysteries of Scottish dress is the tying of the plaid. A properly tied plaid will allow a channel for the piper's bass drone to rest. This will also allow for the brooch to sit upright and be properly aligned. An improperly tied plaid can have many consequences including but not limited to the bass drone slipping off the shoulder, the brooch misaligned or positioned, or general plaid failure (plaid coming undone).

### *General Points:*

- The pleats across the front of the chest should point up.
- The length of the plaid should have the bottom of the fabric level with the top of the spats with the fringe hanging below.
- The set of the plaid should match and be aligned with that of the kilt.
- The trailing end of the plaid is the fringed end draped over the shoulder
- The leading end of the plaid is the end tucked into the waist belt.
- The length of the trailing end should be checked often while tying the plaid

## II. TYING THE PLAID

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### A. STEP ONE



- Drape the trailing edge to top of the spat and set to proper length.
- The trailing edge should be over the leading edge at the right shoulder (*NOTE: detail photo in Step Two below*).
- Pleats across the chest should be pointing up.
- Ensure that the plaid lies flat under the right arm and across the back and is not twisted.

### B. STEP TWO



- Fasten the epaulette.

**C. STEP THREE**



- Pull the plaid taut.
- Do not twist the plaid as you pull.
- Recheck the length of the trailing edge and adjust if necessary.

**D. STEP FOUR**



- Check the alignment of the set between the plaid and the kilt.
- Check the length so that bottom of trailing edge is level with the top of the spats and that the fringe falls below.

**E. STEP FIVE**



- Grasp trailing edge and pull to forward while pulling the leading edge to the rear.
- Do not twist the plaid as you pull.
- Keep plaid as flat as possible.



**F. STEP SIX**



- Feed leading edge behind the plaid along the back.
- Keep as far to shoulder and away from the neck as possible.
- Pull taut

**G. STEP SEVEN**



- Secure leading edge by tucking under waist belt
- In the event the plaid is not long enough to tuck into the waist belt, the fanned trailing edge will conceal the leading edge.

## **H. STEP EIGHT**



- Fan out the trailing edge of the plaid over the left shoulder.
- Check for proper length again and adjust if necessary.

## **I. STEP NINE**



- Check the alignment of the set between the plaid and the kilt.
- Check the length so that bottom of trailing edge is level with the top of the spats and that the fringe falls below.



**J. STEP TEN**



- Attach brooch so that design is properly aligned.
- Top of brooch is not to be higher than plaid knot.

**K. FINAL**



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