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Selecting, Renovating and Making the Hat

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Selecting, Renovating and Making the Hat

By NELLIE GARD and IRENE M. PIEDALUE

The hat may be the crowning glory of a woman's costume, therefore, every woman should cultivate a feeling for the attractive and appropriate.

A woman's hair is a frame for her face as well as a foundation for her hat; for this reason she must study her face to determine the best type of hair dress for it.

1. The *long, slender face* must be broadened by dressing the hair flat on top of the head and fluffy on the sides.



2. The *round full face* will appear less full if the hair is done flat on the sides and piled high on top of the head.



3. A *long pointed chin* is made more pointed when the hair is done in a pointed knot far back on the head; the hair had better be done in a soft knot at the back of the head.



Bad



Good

4. The *face with square jaws* is made to appear more severe when the hair is parted in the middle and rolled up in a horn-like fashion on either side, but it loses its severity when the hair is parted on the side and caught loosely at the base of the head.



5. If the *chin is receding* the hair dress should be up off the neck and over the forehead.



Bad

Good

SELECTION OF THE HAT

With the hair arranged to give the most pleasing lines to the face and head, the next step is the selection of the shape of the hat.

1. The *round face* wears best an upturning brim with an uneven edge line, because this lengthens the face and does not repeat the chin and jaw curves. This brim, however, must not turn abruptly off the face.
2. The *long narrow face* should wear a soft low crown with a drooping medium wide brim.
3. The *flat or snub-nosed type* wears best a medium sized hat which will shade the face. The brim may roll up at the back or side, but not in the front.
4. The *angular face* needs a soft line, slightly drooping brim to counteract the severe lines of the face.

A hat should be selected because it is becoming to the wearer in line and in color and is suitable for the rest of the costume with which it is to be worn, but never because it is fashionable or because Mrs. Nextdoor has one and it is becoming to her. Let the hat be such that it withdraws attention from the poor features of one's face; this is best accomplished by avoiding the extreme styles. Simple shapes covered with good materials and decorated with good trimmings, used with discretion, will look better, show wear less and be more economical than the elaborate, gaudy types of hats.



Sailor



Chin-chin



Tam



Tricorn



Turban



Toque



Poke



Mushroom

Types of hats.

Select a hat which is suited for the use to which you must put it. A large brimmed hat is bad for motoring; a lace hat is out of place when used with a tailored suit on a shopping tour. Flimsy materials, such as maline and georgette, are misused when made into turbans; likewise, delicate pinks, blues and like colors are not in good taste for the turban nor, indeed, for any but a summer hat to be worn with light dresses.

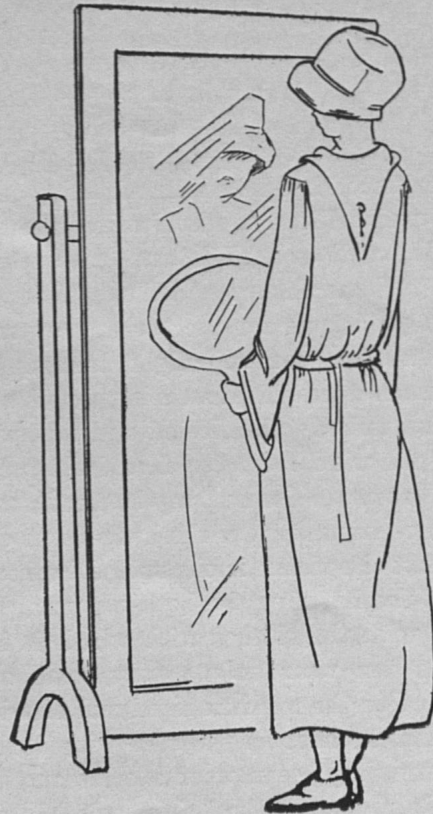
So many women are fond of wearing a veil. This is not an attractive addition unless well selected and well worn. The veil is used to break the wind from the face, hold the hair in place or to make the hat more firm upon the head; sometimes it is legitimately used as trimming for the hat. In no case should the design be such that the vision is obstructed by heavy spots.

The color of the hat must be both becoming to the wearer and in harmony with the clothes with which it is to be worn. The stout woman can wear only a very small spot of bright color on her hat. For the medium sized and slender woman the hat may be the bright spot in the otherwise dark costume, especially since many people can wear a color on the head which is not becoming in a dress. The bright colored hat is not good

for long continued wear, for everyone tires of seeing it; then, too, everyone knows who is coming when the hat is seen a long way off.

SIZE OF THE HAT

A medium hat is more generally becoming than any other size and is certainly more practical for general wear. The large hat is out of place for any but dress wear and even then is not becoming to the very small face, for it produces undesirable contrast; neither is it becoming to the short, stout figure, for it makes its appearance broader and shorter than ever. This last fact shows that a hat must never be chosen without looking into the mirror for a view of the whole figure standing, so that the shape and size of the hat will be pleasing with the rest of the costume.



Have a full view of the figure when selecting the hat.

Do not look for a hat when you are tired, for the choice is apt to be too quickly made. A hat of good materials and simply made is far preferable to one that depends upon a profusion of cheap trimming for the effect; the latter type will soon lose its "snap," if it ever had any, while the former will remain attractive. Especially the home-made hat is better with little trimming, as the novice is seldom able to arrange trimmings attractively.

CARE OF THE HAT

The two essentials for keeping the hat in good condition while it is being worn are: (1) Careful brushing so that dust is not allowed to imbed itself in the weave of the fabric—a rain-drop on dusty velvet, silk or straw is difficult to remove; a soft brush is good to clean most hats, but a piece of velvet wrapped about the fingers cleans velvet and straw hats very well; (2) the hat, when taken from the head, should not be thrown down anywhere—hang it up or stuff the crown with a ball of soft paper until the brim is just lifted from the shelf. A still better hat stand is a piece of cardboard which has been rolled to form a cone. Top the point of the cone with a ball of tissue paper for the crown to rest against. In addition to these things, handle your hat properly—slip the hand under the brim, with the thumb just over the brim edge and the fingers just inside the head size.

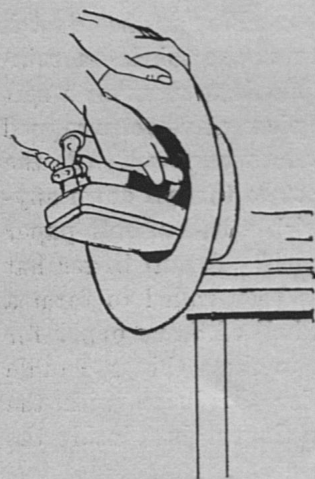
When hats are to be kept from one season to another, wrap them carefully in tissue paper, then pack in boxes away from dust and insects.

RENOVATION

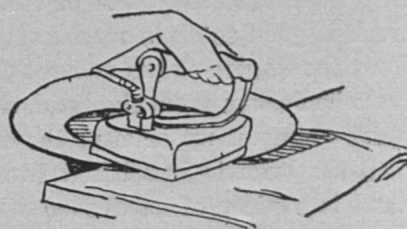
A. *Straw Hats*

1. White straw that is sunburned cannot be cleaned successfully. It may be changed to an attractive yellow by dipping in a strong solution of soda water for a few minutes; or it may be dyed with commercial dyes for that purpose, or top facing and crown cover may be made of georgette or crepe de chine.

2. Natural color straw hats may be washed with ivory soap, tepid water and a soft brush, or cleaned with preparations obtainable at any drug store. Dark blue is freshened by using ordinary washing blueing. After thoro brushing, a black hat may be wiped with milk, using a piece of velvet to put in on, then wiping it off carefully. For brushing a dark straw, the brush may be dampened in water with a little ammonia added. After any cleaning, while the straw is still damp, press with a hot iron to bring back the stiffness. Do not put



Pressing side crown.



Pressing brim.

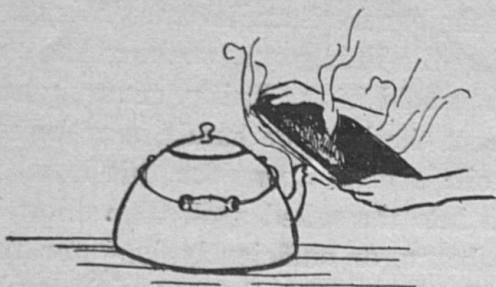
the iron directly against the hat, and use care not to press the hat out of shape. To press the brim, lay the hat on the table upside down, with the crown hanging over the edge of the table. Lay two thicknesses of cloth or heavy paper over the brim so that the iron will not touch it; keep revolving the hat until the whole brim has been pressed. Press the crown from the inside; let the brim hang over the edge and the side of the crown lie on the pressing board. Set the hat on its crown in order to press the tip. Hold the iron in such a position that it touches the hat only where the hat rests on the table, in order not to press it out of shape. When press-

ing a curved brim, the hat is supported lightly against the left hand while only the tip or edge of the iron rubs the part of the brim curve which is against the table.

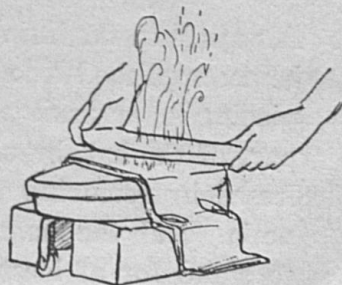
3. Oxalic acid, 1 teaspoon in two cups of water, or lemon juice may be used to bleach and clean straw hats; apply the solution, brush with a stiff brush and rinse thoroly, then dry with a soft cloth.
4. Alcohol and water may be used to clean black straw.
5. Peroxide is a successful cleaning agent for Panama hats, tho a good solution of white soap and warm water may do very well.
6. Straw hats may be stiffened by brushing with the white of an egg. Another good stiffener is a gum arabic solution; this may be made by adding two level tablespoons of gum arabic to one cup of boiling water. Stir while boiling until the powder is dissolved, which will be about 20 minutes. Let the solution cool; then apply to the hat with a cloth or brush.

B. Steaming Velvet

1. Place a hot iron with the flat side up; over this put several thicknesses of damp cloth. Pass the velvet, right side up, back and forth over the steaming cloth; use a soft brush to lift the nap by gentle brushing while the steam is coming thru the velvet and making the pile pliable. Care should be taken that the velvet does not become wet, also that the material is not handled after this treatment until it is thoroly dry.



Steaming velvet over a teakettle spout.



Steaming velvet over inverted iron and damp cloth.

2. If there are so many wrinkles that steaming will not completely remove them, the material may be "panned." This is done by putting the iron directly against the nap on the right side, and smoothing it flat by shoving the iron always in the same direction and lifting it on the backward stroke. Keep the iron moving when it is against the cloth, for if it is allowed to stand in one spot the imprint of the iron will remain. Do not press hard.
- C. *Ribbons* may be freshened by steaming, washing with gasoline, or with soap and water. Steaming does not clean; it merely takes out the creases. When ribbons are to be cleaned in gasoline, it is well to let them stand immersed in it for about two hours before working them to remove the dirt. If soap and water are to be used, make a suds; never rub the soap on the ribbons. In all cases the materials should be squeezed, never rubbed, and thoroly rinsed. Ribbons may be pressed between several thicknesses of paper with a moderately hot iron; instead of pressing, a ribbon may be wound around and around a bottle which has been covered with a clean smooth piece of cloth.
- D. Flowers which are faded and crushed may sometimes be made usable again by retinting with water colors or oil paints; then each petal should be pressed gently with a warm iron. In most cases it is advisable to throw away faded flowers, since it is much better not to attempt a grandeur which may fall short of attainment.
- E. Always keep *the lining* of the hat fresh and clean. This may be accomplished by ripping the lining out, washing and replacing it; any soil which is held in the lining, or any other part of the hat, by oil from the head or hands, may be released by removing the oil; a good agent for this is magnesia. Rub the magnesia into the soiled spot, then allow it to stand for at least 24 hours, or sufficiently long for the magnesia to absorb the oil, after which the material should brush clean.

- F. *The popular felt* may be cleaned in a number of ways.
1. Moisten white cornmeal with gasoline or benzine, then rub it into the felt; let this stand for at least 24 hours, then brush the hat thoroly.
 2. The whole hat may be dipped in gasoline. Rub any spots until they disappear, but be careful not to stretch the hat out of shape.
 3. Rub magnesia into the felt, let it stand one or two days, then brush thoroly.
 4. Small spots usually may be removed by rubbing them with art gum if cleaning is attempted when the spots appear.

MATERIALS SUITABLE FOR HAT COVERING

Dark brown or dark
blue outing
Velvet
Duvetyn
Velour

Maline
Organdie
Gingham
Horse-hair braid

Various straw braids
Taffeta
Satin
Canton crepe

Satin-back crepe
Crepe de chine
Georgette crepe
Voile

All of these materials should be of good quality to give good results. Often the home milliner can utilize materials left from a dress to make a hat. Because material is scant or in order to give a pleasing combination, straw braid of some kind may be used with silk.

MAKING THE HAT

A. *Braid Hat*

1. Materials needed
 - a. Hat frame
 - b. Braid—10 to 20 yards
 - c. Thread to match braid, if possible.
 - d. Long needles, No. 6 or No. 7

2. *Frame*

Suitable frames of rice net may be bought at the ten cent stores. It is easier to cover the frame if the crown and brim are separate. If they can not be bought separately, buy two shapes; cut off the crown of one to about an inch from the base of the crown. Cut the other crown off at the base and wire the edge. If the exact shape required cannot be bought, buy a large shape; remove the binding and wire from the edge of the brim and cut the brim the size and shape desired. Sew the wire to the edge of the brim with the overcasting or knot stitch. Be sure to sew the binding back on. This may be done with large back stitches. A frame that is slightly drooped may be made to roll by rubbing the top of the brim with a thimble.

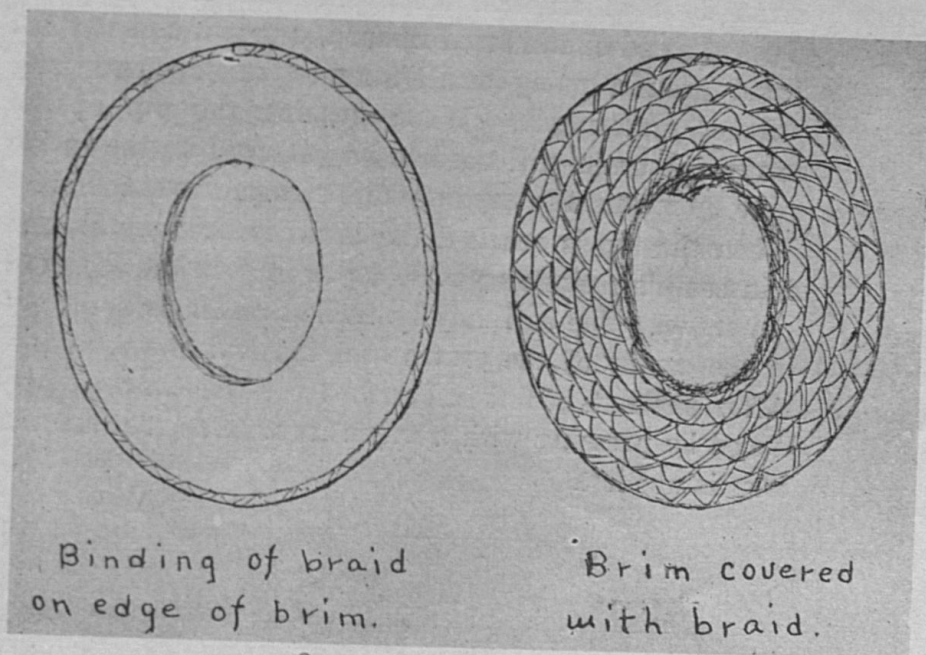
3. *Braid*

Some good braids may be bought at the ten cent stores. A good quality is soft and firmly woven.

If the frame shows thru the braid, cover the shape with material the same color as the braid or color shape with commercial hat dye. Ink will do if color is right.

To sew on braid, begin at the brim edge in the center back, and let the braid extend as far on one side of the brim edge as on the other. Sew it around near the edge of the braid thru the frame and both edges of braid with the stab stitches $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long. The stab stitch is made by pushing the needle clear thru the materials and then back in the same manner. When the braid comes around to the beginning, turn it under about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch on the end and bring it over the other end, sew down flat, being careful not to have any frayed edges showing. For the flat brimmed hat the under side is covered first; for an upturned hat, the top should be covered first. Begin at the back, bringing the edge of the braid to the edge of the brim and stitch it just below the brim edge wire, with a small stitch on the right side and a long stitch (about $\frac{1}{2}$ in.) on the upper side. In

starting the second row, cover the end and gradually slope the edge of the braid so that it just covers the inside edge of the first row, and keep on in the same manner until the under brim is covered. When the braid is quite wide, it is sometimes necessary to draw up the inside edge with thread at edge. Be careful to distribute the fullness so that there will be no puckers. Allow the last row to extend up into the headsize. If one side of the brim is wider than the other, and the brim is irregular, there will then be a bare space near the headsize. Fill this in with short lengths of braid and let the ends extend into the head size.

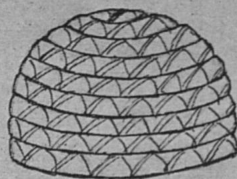


The upper side of the brim is covered in the same manner except that the stiling stitch is used so that it will not show on either side. This stitch is made by inclining the needle at an angle and slipping it along thru frame toward the left. Bring point of needle up about $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ in. from point where it was first thrust into the hat.

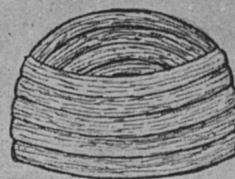
If the hat is to be faced with silk or some other ma-

terial, the under side of the braid which is sewed on the edge of the brim is left loose, then the braid is sewed on the upper side of the brim and the edge of the material is slipped under the brim edge braid to the end of the brim and the braid is fastened on the edge thru the silk with the stiling stitch. For cutting and fitting the facing, see directions given in covering cloth hat. The facing may also be put on over an edge wire. (See directions for facing cloth hat.)

Covering the Crown. It is best to begin at the base of the crown in the center of the back. Let the finished edge of the braid be down and let it extend about $1/16$ of an inch below the base of the crown. Tuck the end of the braid under the crown and sew the braid around using small stitches on top and long stitches underneath. When nearing the top of the crown the braid will need to be gathered on the inside edge by means of a cord at edge of braid to make it fit. When the top is reached the braid is brought around in a complete circle or oval, depending on the shape of the crown. The end may be tucked under or a slit cut in the center of the crown and the end slipped thru. After the hat is finished a flatter effect may be produced by pressing with a warm iron. Be sure that the iron is not hot.



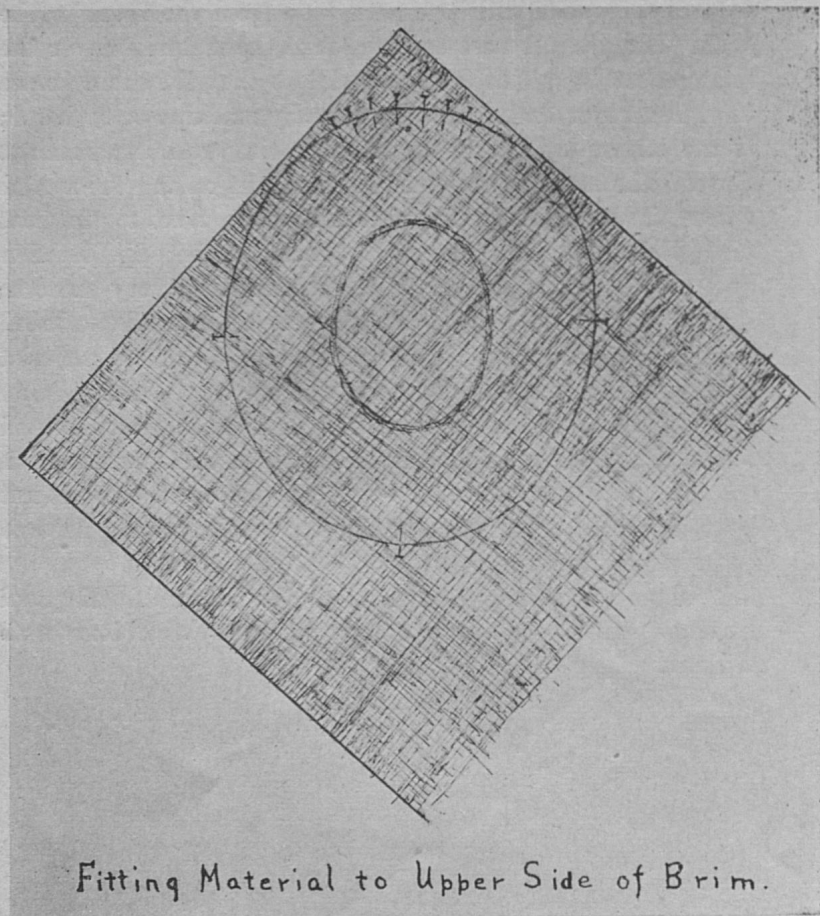
Braid sewed
around and around.



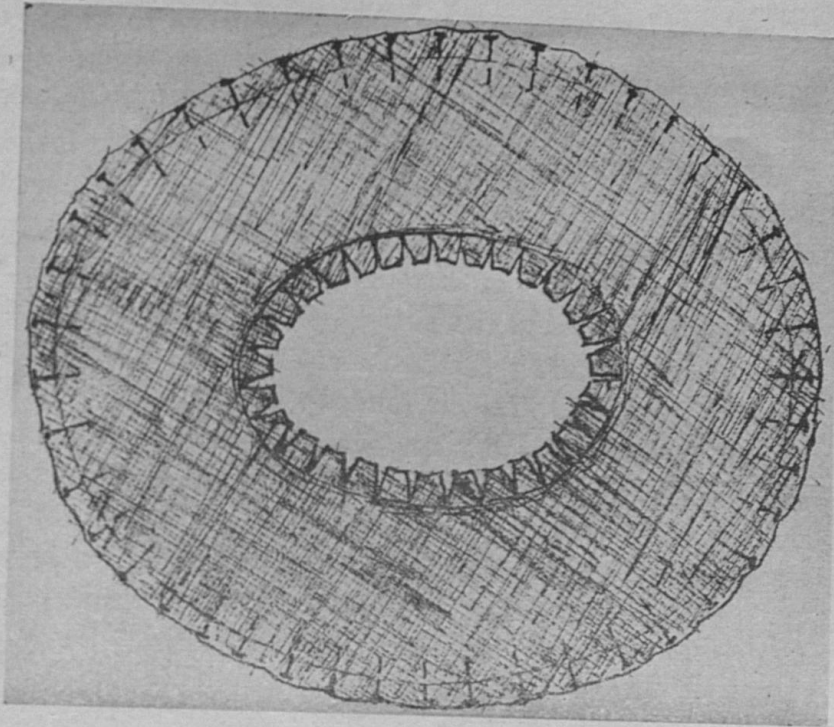
Braid sewed
around and
lengthwise on top.

B. *Cloth Hat*

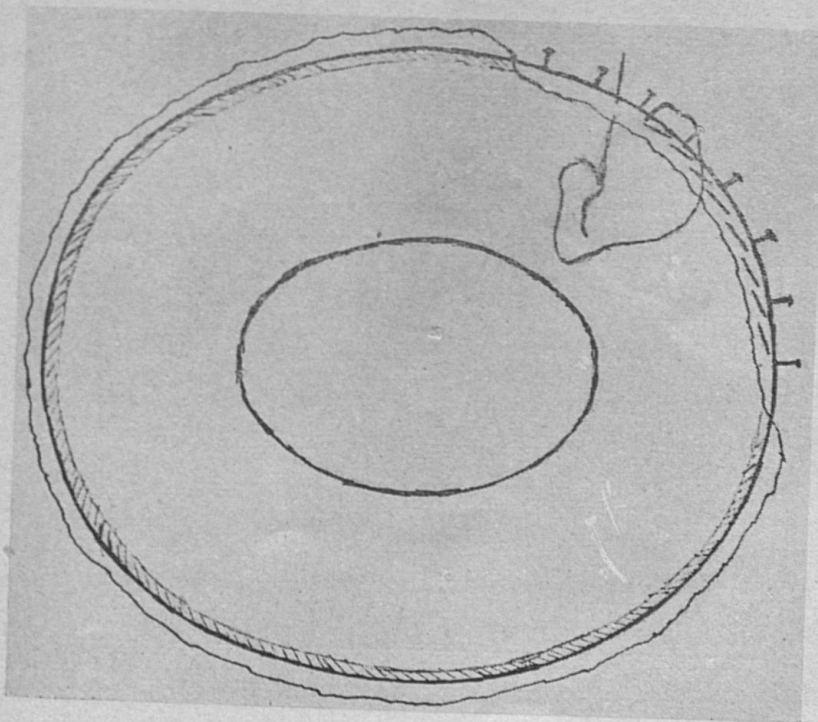
May be made of velvet, duvetyn, silk, gingham or other suitable material. Place the bias of the material at the front of the upper side of the brim. Fasten it securely to the brim edge with a pin. Smooth out the material over the brim so that the goods will be on the bias from the front to the back. If a seam is necessary to make the material cover the brim smoothly, adjust the material so that the seam comes in at the center back. Sew the seam by machine or by hand; if the latter, use the back stitch or tiny running stitches. Spread the seam open flat. Put in a pin on the brim edge where the straight of the material comes, next to the first pin. Follow the straight of the goods to the opposite side and pull it enough to make the material be very smooth; fasten securely with pin. Pin securely all around the brim, having the pins about two inches apart. Cut off material so it projects about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch beyond the edge of the brim. Cut out headsize, leaving about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch of material extend above brim. Clip this material, being careful not to cut it too far, and again stretch the cloth to brim until there is not a wrinkle in it. The edge of the cloth at brim may need to be trimmed after this process. Turn the cloth over the brim edge and catch it down to the binding with diagonal basting stitch. Fasten along headsize with long stab stitches.



Fitting Material to Upper Side of Brim.

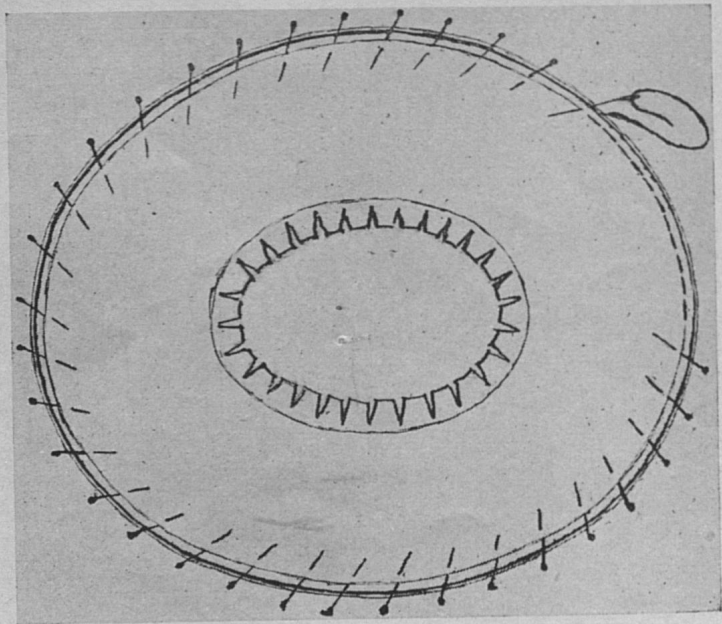


Under side of brim after material has been fitted and cut.



Catching upper covering to binding on edge of brim.

In adjusting the facing, pin on the same as on the upper side of the brim, leaving a half inch projection beyond the brim edge. It may be turned under, even with the edge, or put on over a wire. The use of the edge wire makes a better and more attractive finish. Cut the wire to fit around even with the brim edge, allowing two or three inches for lapping if a wire joiner is not to be used. Start at the back of the hat and remove the pins which fasten the facing, turn the edge of the facing over the wire and fasten securely with pins to the brim. This is done by placing the pins close to and in front of the wire (see illustration). Fasten the ends of the wire together by wrapping with thread (not too coarse) or using wire joiner. Fasten the facing to the brim by taking a long stitch on the right side, just below the wire, slipping the needle thru between the wire and that part of the upper covering that is turned over the edge of the



Sewing facing on over edge-wire.

brim. Sew back thru this material, bringing needle out below wire about $\frac{1}{16}$ inch from starting point.

Crease material below the wire with point of needle and start another stitch about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the previous one. This gives a corded effect and stitches should not show very much in velvet or duvetyn.

Crown—One Piece Covering. Bring the straight of the goods down in front of the crown and fold it under the headsize wire and pin securely. Then pull the straight of the material over the top of the crown to the back and fasten the same way at the center back of the crown. Next, draw the two straight pieces of the goods at right angles to the front and back and pin securely at the sides. The space around the headsize is now divided into four equal parts. Adjust the fullness in about five small points in each of the four groups, leaving the smooth places in the center front, center back and on each side. The headsize may be bound with a strip of bias of the same material. Place the right side of the bias against the right side of the crown. Sew it to the crown about $\frac{1}{4}$ in. above the headsize wire with stab stitch, with long stitches on top and short stitches underneath. Turn the bias over the edge of the crown. If the bias fits snugly it will stay in place when turned inside of the crown.

Two Piece Crown Covering. Cut an oval of the material a little larger than the oval on the crown with the bias at center front and back. Stretch this over top of crown so that there are no wrinkles. Pin carefully and stitch to place with a stitch $\frac{1}{2}$ inch on the outside and very small on the inside. Cut a bias strip of material long enough to go entirely around the side of the crown and to allow for at least a four inch seam. The piece must be wide enough to turn in $\frac{1}{2}$ in. on both the upper and lower edges. To make it perfectly smooth, it should be stretched quite tight around the crown and wrong side out so that the ends may be pinned together. Sew the ends together on machine or by hand, with back stitch, and press seam open.

The side crown may be sewed to the crown wrong side out with the upper edge even with the edge of the tip on oval piece which had been already sewed on. It is sewed on with fairly long stitches on top and small stitches underneath. Then it is turned under the edge of the crown and sewed inside with the diagonal basting stitch. The stitches should be made thru the crown without showing on the right side. Sew the crown to the brim with the same stitch, using a heavy thread or double silk thread, again being careful that the stitches do not show on the outside.

If a soft crown is desired, cut the crown off about two inches above the headsize wire, and catch the top of the crown covering to the side of the crown covering on the machine or by hand. If plaits are desired in the side crown, cut the bias of the side crown wide enough to allow for this fullness.

A hat with a soft, upturned brim may be made by using crinoline with the material. This is usually cut on the bias.

Before a hat is covered with silk, the frame should first be covered with a very thin outing flannel of equal quality of cheesecloth or soft cotton crepe. This is fitted on in the same manner as the outer covering except that the upper covering is cut off even with the edge and let down.

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