

Instructions for Straw Hat

Worked over Millinery Block

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MATERIALS

- Straw braid 4 mm width x 3 m length, Matching thread,
- Berry pins, Sewing needle.
- Hat block

MAKING THE CROWN

Crown depth 2 cm

To aid in positioning, a fine double sided tape is run in two strips over the crown and brim forming a cross – this will help hold the braid in place while we work on the hat. Turn the braid into a spiral, tucking the end under neatly on the wrong side; secure and slip stitch the edge of the braid starting at the centre and working around the edge. Place the hat on the block crown, and spiral two more rows of braid; the double sided tape will hold the braid in place. Slide two pins through the braid in different directions – this will hold the braid together when you lift the hat from the block. Stitch around the new braid rounds; repeat this step until you have reached the edge of the crown top.

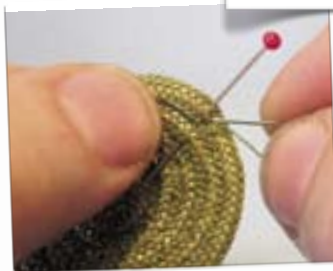


Position the hat onto the block and wrap the braid around and down the side of the crown; from this point the hat will be stitched on the block. To help secure the braid for stitching, insert pins down through the top of the hat and the new braid rounds. Slip stitch the braid together on the outside of the hat, add rounds of braid until the side measures 2 cm. Cut braid leaving a 2 cm tail; tuck the tail up under the crown, and stitch end securely. Stitch off.



BRIM

Wrap braid around brim starting at crown edge, overlap the braid and stitch together to secure this first round. As with the crown the braid is pinned in place and then stitched from the outside; when the brim measures 3.5cm, remove from the brim block. Cut the braid leaving a 4 cm tail; overlap this tail gradually on to the already stitched braid. Neatly stitch down. Place the brim back onto the brim block, cover with a pressing cloth, steam with a warm iron and let cool on block before removing.



Pin the crown and brim together keeping the centre front and back of brim and crown aligned; turn hat over and slip stitch together on the under side of hat.



Instructions for Felt Hat

Worked over Millinery Block

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MATERIALS

- Wool Felt 20 cm x 20 cm
- white glue, elastic bands
- Hat block



Mix 3 teaspoon of water with 1/2 teaspoon of white glue, This mixture will be used to stiffen the 20 cm x20 cm wool felt square,work the mixture into the felt and leave to dry flat on a plastic surface. When dry press the felt with a steam iron sandwiching the felt in between two cotton pressing cloths. Place a strip of doubled sided fine sticky tape under the crown block, push down into place on brim block this will hold the two sections secure while you work. Dampen the stiffened felt with a spray of water, centre the felt over the crown block, then secure with elastic(a thin elastic band cut and tied around of the crown works well). Pull down on the each of the four corners of the felt square until it sits neatly around the block without any folds. A shot of steam from your iron will also help the stretching process, remember to cover the felt with a pressing cloth. Run the iron around the brim and stretch the 4 corners of the felt again then stretch an elastic around the out side brim groove. Press with a shot of steam and stretch the four corners until the felt has moulded the brim shape, leave to dry . When dry remove the elastics and pull the felt hat from the block, this may distort the shape a little, replace the hat on the block and re iron any bumps out, remove and cut the brim excess away.

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