

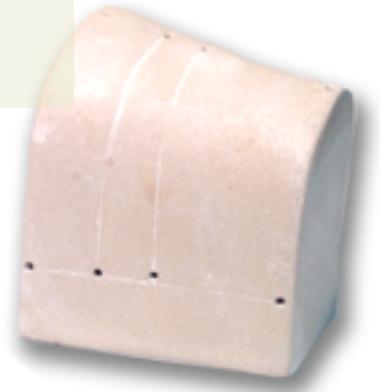
Victorian Bonnet Millinery Block

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Instructions for Straw Braid

MATERIALS

- Straw braid 19 - 21" 4 mm width x 4.5 m length
- Straw braid 16 -18" 4 mm width x 3 m length
- Straw braid 12 -14" 4 mm width x 2.5 m length
- Matching thread, Berry pins, Sewing needle.

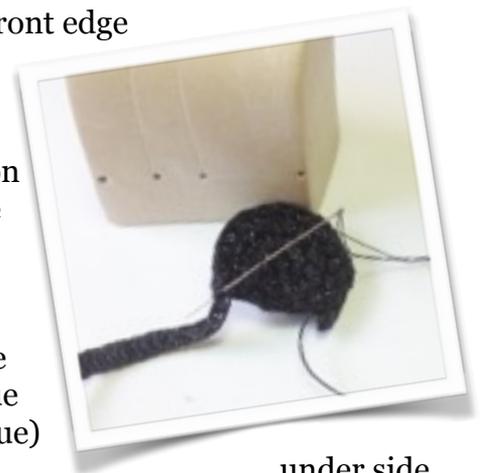


Straw Victorian Bonnet

To aid in positioning, a fine double sided tape is run in two strips over the crown and two strips over the back of the bonnet this will help hold the braid in place while we work on the hat. Taking the braid freshly cut the end and look closely to find the thread at the edge of the braid. Pull gently and gather the braid on one edge this will aid in shaping the braid neatly around the centre of the crown and brim, remember to work the gather along the braid as you work distributing the gather where it is needed to form a curve. 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 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 site of the bonnet back crown. At this point you will need to shape the crown back, stretch and pushing up the lower curve to form a flat edge, do this by pinching stretching two edges to form one flat edge. Position the crown back on the block, now instead of working in a round you will need to work back wards and for ward turning the brim braid as you reach each edges lip stitching the braid to gather and until you reach the front of the bonnet block or your desired bonnet brim length. To Neaten and complete the bonnet when you have your desired length instead of turning the braid back to length the brim continue around the edge of the brim and back toward the bonnet back catching the braid as you go, continuing across the bonnet back and around the second side of the bonnet brim edge, when you reach the front edge trim of excess braid and glue and stitch braid tail to underside of



bonnet neatly in to the edge of the brim side. You may also press the brim edge with an iron and pressing cloth to shape the brim. If you need a stiffer bonnet wire can be stitched to the edge of the bonnet alternatively the bonnet can be stiffened with a white wood glue and water mixed (3 water x1glue) can be lightly brushed over the of the bonnet and left to dry over the bonnet block that has been covered in cling wrap to prevent sticking.



under side

Instructions for Wool Felt & Cap-net Victorian Bonnet Block

MATERIALS

- Wool felt 20 cm X 20 cm or Cap net 20 cm x 20 cm
- White glue, Elastic bands, Berry pins
- Victorian Bonnet Block

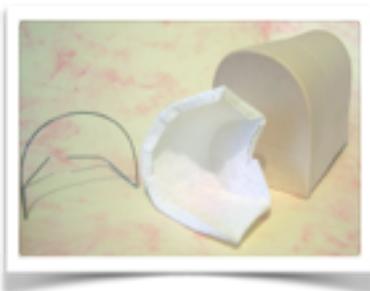


Stiffening the felt; Mix 3 teaspoons of water with 1 teaspoon of white glue, this mixture will be used to stiffen the 20 cm x 20 cm wool felt square, work the mixture evenly into the felt and leave to dry on a flat plastic or glass surface. When dry press the felt with a steam iron sandwiched between two cotton pressing cloths.



Blocking the Victorian bonnet with wool felt or cap net.

When you are ready to block the hat, dampen the felt / cap-net with a spray of water (if your felt or net feels very sticky at this point, a tight layer of cling wrap over the block will stop the felt or net from sticking to the block) centre the felt/cap-net on the block, pulling down on each side of the block to create a smooth brim, wrap an elastic band around the block to hold in place, slid berry pins in to the holes provide in the block, position the elastic band below the pins to keep it from slipping.



Holding the sides firmly stretch the centre back of the fabric until it sits neatly without folds forming the bonnet back. Pulling down on each corner of the back edge until it sits neatly around the block crown without any folds, a shot of steam from your iron will also help the stretching process. When dry remove ties and pins, trim the bonnet to shape and remove from block and decorate.



I like to embed a wire to hold the outer shape of the bonnet, trim bonnet, leaving a 2 cm excess seam edge, fold back seam edge creasing allowance at the brim edge, then cut away excess seam allowance leaving .5 cm seam allowance to incase the wire. Shape a length of 24 gauge wire and glue the seam allowance over the wire securing it in side, your hat is now ready to trim.

If you are lining your bonnet, you will find the bonnet block handy to shape and size the lining be for adding it to the bonnet



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