

Materials List

- Straw Capeline
- 1 to 1½ Yards of Fashion Fabric
- Matching Thread
- 2 yards of Millinery Wire
- 1 Yard of Grosgrain Ribbon
- Your Choice of Trim

Supplies List

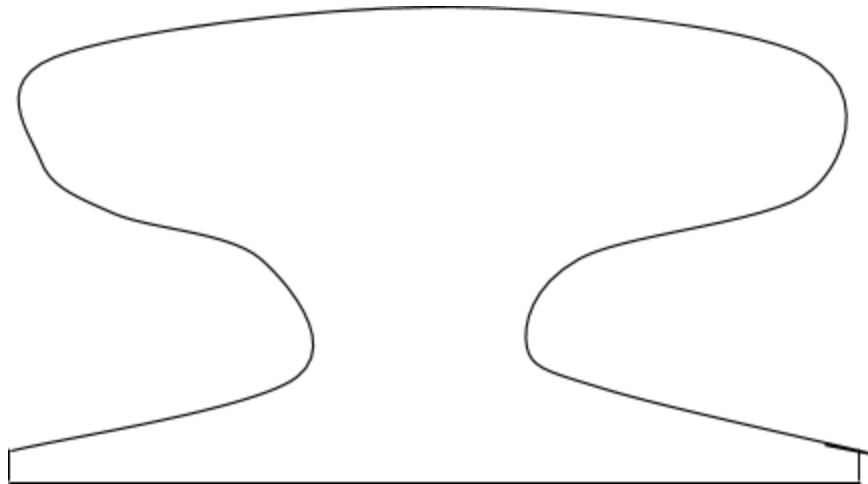
- Pencil
- Head Block
- Aluminum Foil
- Plastic Wrap
- Masking tape
- 1 ½ yard cording
- Craft scissors
- Fabric scissors
- Seam ripper
- Thimble
- Size 10 milliner needles
- Push Pins or Tacks
- T-Pins
- Pressing cloth
- Towel
- Iron
- Water Spray
- Bias Tape Maker in desired size
- Stiffener
- Needle Nose Pliers
- Wire Cutters

Construction Instructions

1. Cover your head block in aluminum foil, then plastic wrap. Keep the foil as smooth as possible, and tape with masking tape.
2. Before blocking the straw capeline there are certain precautions you may want to take to prevent mess. Either wear clothing that is already distressed or cover clothing to avoid getting sizing on it. Work in a well lit, well ventilated area with access to running water. Lay down plastic where you will be working.
3. To tie the blocking cord look up the youtube video “How to Tie a Hat Blocking” Cord by Hatstruck.
4. Melt gelatin sizing in hot water.
5. Soak the capeline in warm water for a few minutes. Remove from the water and allow excess water to drip off.
6. Put the capeline in the gelatin sizing and allow it to soak. Remove from the sizing and allow the excess to drip off.
7. Pull the capeline over the head block as tightly as you can, making sure the center of the back is at the center of the head block. Steam if necessary. Measure how deep you want the back of the bonnet to be, put the blocking cord over the hat and pull the cord as tightly as possible.



8. After allowing the capeline to dry a little bit press the brim flat, placing it on top of the towel and using the presser cloth.
9. After the hat is fully dry, remove it from the head block and decide where you would like center front. Make center front using a straight pin, then fold the hat to find center back. Fold the hat so center front and center back meet to find the side seams. Repress the brim if necessary, making sure the break between the brim and back is well defined.
10. To create the opening at center back, trace pattern similar to the shape below at center back (hopefully yours will be more symmetrical). Cut out the shape using



craft scissors.

11. Lay the wire top of the outer edge of the back opening, with the end slightly over the center back. Set your sewing machine to a medium length zigzag stitch and use a larger needle (I used a 16). Center the wire under the needle and begin to stitch the wire in place. Use your needle-nosed pliers to bend the wire as necessary. Continue along the brim.

12. When you get to the end of stitching the wire, overlap the wire by 1", then clip off the excess. Stitch over the end of the wire several times to secure it in place.



13. Bias will be used to cover the wire. Measure along the brim to see how much bias will be needed, adding at least 4 extra inches to the total. Lay your fabric flat and trace lines on a 45° angle. Decide the width you want the finished bias to be and multiply by four, making sure the lines you draw are this width apart on your fabric (my bias was 1/2", so I cut my bias strips at 2"). Cut out your strips.
14. To stitch bias strips together, place one end on top of the other at a 90° with the points of the diagonals overlapping, and pin. Check that this will create a straight piece of bias by unfolding the pinned bias.
15. Stitch the ends of the bias together and press the seam allowance open.
16. Using a bias tape maker of the proper width, push the bias through the maker so it folds over onto itself. Press flat with the iron, then move down the length of the bias continuing this process.
17. Place one end of the bias over center back of the inside of the neck opening, lining up the edge of the bias just over the edge of the hat with the rest of the width towards the inside. Fold over the raw edge on the diagonal and pin in place. Continue to pin along the brim, clipping the bias as need to allow it to lay flat.

18. Stitch along the fold of the bias on your sewing machine.



19. Pull the bias over the edge of the brim, keeping the edge folded under, and pin into place. Make sure the fold over is beyond the inner edge of the bias on the reverse.
20. “Stitch in the ditch” lining up the sewing machine needle with the inner edge of the already stitched bias. Once you’ve stitched along the brim, check to make sure all of the bias on the back has been caught by the stitching.



21. Twirl the grosgrain ribbon by pressing it into a curve. Pin the wider edge of the grosgrain to the inside of the crown right at the break from the brim, folding under the raw edges. Stitch along that edge on the sewing machine.
22. To create the band over the crown, cut a piece of fabric to the desired width and the length of crown plus 4”. Finish by roll hemming the fabric on an overlock serger.

23. Repeat the previous process to create the ties, making sure the ties are wide enough to create an attractive bow.
24. Attach the band to the crown by placing it as wanted and tacking in a few spots along the length of the band.
25. Attach the ties to the band, either by serging together or backstitching by hand. Make sure to lay the tie overtop of the band so the tie can fold down and hide the seam allowance.



26. Decorate your hat as desired, making sure to strategically plan out stitches so they can be hidden and as few as possible are needed. I used flowers and created my own fabric leaves. My process to create the leaves is documented in the “Tips & Tricks” sections.



Tips & Tricks

- It is much easier to attach the wire to the outer edge of the brim, then more aesthetically pleasing to attach the bias to the inner side of the brim.
- To create fabric leaves, draw a pattern of the shape of leave you would like, adding $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance to the pattern. Trace twice the number of leaves you want, then pin pairs of leaves together. Stitch at $\frac{1}{4}$ " leaving the bottom of the leaf open. Flip the leaves and press flat, using a tailor clapper as needed. Stitch a gathering stitch along the center of the leaf and pull as taut as desired.



