

THE MAKING AND TRIMMING OF A HAT

By Zaida Ben-Yusuf

SECOND LESSON: MAKING A STRAW BRAID HAT

ILLUSTRATIONS FROM PHOTOGRAPHS BY THE AUTHOR

HERE are occasions when the straw hat of the shape desired is not to be found in the ready-made stock, and then it is that the beautiful straw braids that may be bought by the piece or yard are useful. To make a hat from these is no very difficult matter. Of course it takes thought and intelligence, but the girl who wants to wear a really nice hat is sure to have these very necessary qualifications.

Usually nine yards of inch-and-a-quarter braid will make a hat; sometimes more, and occasionally less, is required.

point add several half rows in front to form an oval and so fit the head better. The crown is formed from the head size upward, row by row continuously till the centre of the crown is reached and then neatly finished off. Then comes the only difficult part: putting in the wire supports.

THE cross-wires which are darned into the brim are in one piece with those which support the crown; so, to be exact, there are not six, but only three of these; for instance, the first begins at a point which is the exact front of the hat, runs in toward the head size (see Diagram No. 1), is fitted up, into, and across the crown, and down again and across the opposite side of the brim, which, of course, brings the wire to a point which is the exact back of the hat.

The two other wires are put in at equal distances in the same manner. The other three are then tied together in the centre of the crown with a piece of thread or spool wire. The six wire ends should be neatly twisted around a heavy wire, which is sewed all around the brim of the hat three-quarters of an inch from the edge.

After tightening each fastening with pincers another row of the straw braid must be sewed on to hide the wired row, and give a neat finish—something which is absolutely necessary in a woman's hat.

THE hat in Illustration No. 1, front and back views of which are given, is made without the crown of straw, so a ready-made shape may be used to advantage. The color of the one illustrated is violet, even to the purplish cast over the velvet leaves which cover the brim. Three-quarters of a yard of violet taffeta silk forms the crown. A fan of yellow lace, wired so that it stands upright, and some peonies shading from purple to red are the materials used. The brim is very wide at the back and turns abruptly downward over the peonies. A band similar to the one described in my first lesson is required to raise the hat at the

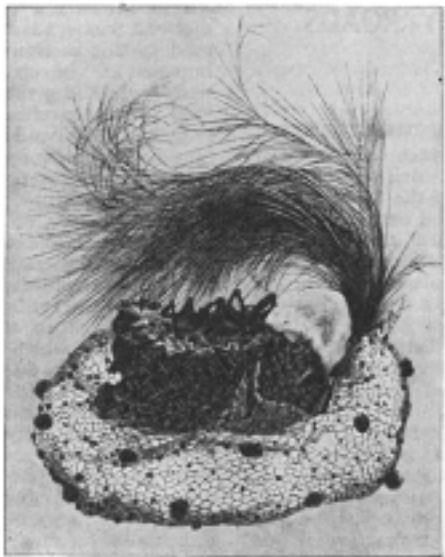


ILLUSTRATION NO. 2

THE artistic disposal of feathers is one of the most important and necessary accomplishments for a milliner to attain. For beginners, and even those who know something of the work, the greatest difficulty to overcome is the tendency to put in too many stitches. Three or four to each feather is usually sufficient, and at least two of these must be made over the wire stem and not over the feather.

When properly mounted the wire stem is fastened to the feather in a way that is sufficiently firm to support it upright, or in any way that may seem best, merely by bending that same piece of wire. In new feathers the wire is unbent, and when using an old one the first thing to do is to make it straight; then proceed to make an L, the feather being the upright, and the wire the cross line; a second movement bends the end of the wire back toward the feather,



ILLUSTRATION NO. 1—FRONT

The easiest way is to sew the braid on to a wire frame. Diagram No. 1 shows how to make a hat without, as it frequently happens that one cannot find the desired shape. In the accompanying diagram you see the inside of the hat, and how the braid should appear when finished, also the manner in which the supporting cross-wires are darned into the braid. I have given this diagram so that my meaning may be more clearly understood by the woman who wishes to avail herself of my directions in making herself a straw braid hat.

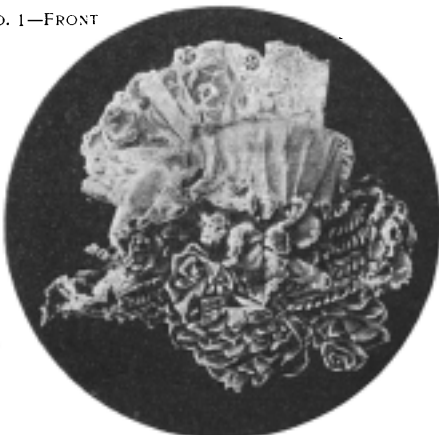


ILLUSTRATION NO. 1—BACK

THE hat is formed from the outside row, working inward toward the crown. The size of the outer row depends on, and decides, the size of the hat. Having decided this point, measure off the required length of braid, join firmly to make a circle, but without cutting, and from this proceed to sew round and round, each successive row getting just so much nearer to the head size.



DIAGRAM NO. 1

TAKE very long stitches on the under side and very short ones through on the right side. It is always better to use thread to match than silk. Lay the work down occasionally on a flat surface to watch progress and be certain that you have the desired flat or curved effect.

When the circle is nearly small enough to fit the head, cut off the braid at a place that will come near the side, although the join made in the first row should always be at the back. When the brim has reached this

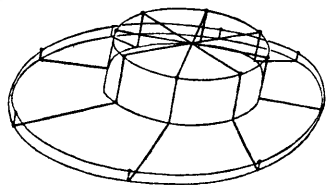


DIAGRAM NO. 2



DIAGRAM NO. 3

back and give it the tip forward. The pretty toque in Illustration No. 2 is made over a wire shape as shown in Diagram No. 2. A crown of black straw is made on the same principle as already described. White tulle, laid in a thick drapery about the brim, is covered with the fashionable black spotted net, and for a finishing touch the tulle is knotted and draped at the left side with an aigrette of black and a Rhinestone ornament.

The hat in Illustration No. 3, two side views of which are given, is an exceedingly stylish model by a celebrated milliner. It requires five feathers, two of which are quite long plumes, and a rosette of cherry-colored velvet ribbon, requiring a yard and a half two inches wide.



ILLUSTRATION NO. 4

and you have then a firm and correct loop (shown in Diagram No. 3) to make your stitches over. Occasionally it is necessary to tie the stem to the hat crown or a loose tip to the edge of the brim. To accomplish this successfully the thread should be strong, but never so tight that the fastening is seen.

THE hat in Illustration No. 4 is one which is essentially typical of the season's fashions, and shows the proper angle at which such a hat should be worn. The tip forward is obtained by means of the band described in my first lesson.

The hat, which is of bright yellow straw, has a velvet draping of the same shade covered with black dotted veiling. A semi-wreath of pale yellow roses goes around the base of this draping. Under the brim are more of the roses. In front two pairs of black wings are set jauntily on the edge of the crown, apparently held there by a rosette of narrow black velvet ribbon. The materials required for this hat are twelve yards of straw braid, or a ready-made hat, half a yard of miroir vel-



ILLUSTRATION NO. 3—LEFT SIDE



ILLUSTRATION NO. 3—RIGHT SIDE

vet on the bias, a full yard of dotted veiling, fifteen small roses, two pairs of wings, and a yard and a quarter of black velvet ribbon.

Editor's Note—Miss Ben-Yusuf's practical lessons in millinery, which began in the last (the July) issue of the Journal, with an illustrated article on "The Making and Trimming of a Hat," are concluded in this number.