Chapter X

Hat and Bonnet Linings, and Bandeaux

The materials in general use for linings are saracenets, thin Japanese silk, polonaise, soft muslin, cotton head-lining, or imitation saracenets, and cotton net. The material for the head lining should be suitable for the hat. A dark-coloured straw, felt, or covered shape would be lined with either saracenets or Japanese silk of the same colour as the hat or bonnet; or with black saracenets. A light-coloured shape would be lined with silk the same shade, or with white saracenets.

A tailored hat of tweed, etc., would be lined with polonaise of the nearest shade obtainable to the colour of the cloth. For a child’s hat, a soft washable muslin might be chosen, as also for a transparent hat of lace, chiffon, tulle, etc., or one of cotton net. A head lining should be soft in nature and smooth, so that it is comfortable and easily slipped over the hair.

Polonaise is stouter than saracenets and more suitable for “pull-on” and “knock-about” hats. Saracenets and its cotton imitation are usually 20 in. in width and, when cut on the cross, the strip is long enough to line the average sized head-part of a hat.

Linings are cut either (a) on the cross, (b) selvedge way of goods, or (c) to the shape of the crown.

Many milliners cut the whole piece of lining into lengths of about 25 in. selvedge way, and then cut each width into four strips, so obtaining four linings 5 in. wide from a 25 in. piece. Others cut the lining on the cross, and join many strips into one length, making it into a roll ready for use. Others use the first corner-piece for bonnet linings, and then cut off crossway strips of convenient width for the average crown depth. For class and
home use a 2-yd. or 3-yd. length is probably the most economical to buy as there are only two corner-pieces to be considered.

**PREPARATION OF LINING.**—A hat or cap with a soft crown usually has the lining made up separately on the "cap" method, i.e. a small circular or oval piece, about 3 in. or 3 in. × 4 in. is tacked to soft leno muslin, then joined to a strip 5 in. to 6 in. deep, and the head-size in length. The long strip is joined together in a round (*Fig. 1*) and the quarters marked with pins; it is then pinned to the quarters of the tiny circular or oval piece. The lining is set to the centre piece in small pleats and run together (*Fig. 2*), the outer raw edge being turned in ¼ in., and either pinned or tacked ready for slip-stitching into the hat.

A hat with a blocked or stiffly-made crown is usually lined with two separate pieces (*a*) a circular or oval piece of the shape and size of the top of crown and fastened inside the crown with tiny stitches through the shape or with gum: (*b*) a strip the width of the crown with 2 in. added for turnings, and in length equal to that round the crown. The long crown-band strip has a narrow hem turned along one edge (*Fig. 3*) which is pinned down, and then held in place by small running stitches, forming a slot for a narrow China drawing-ribbon.

The end of the lining is turned over and pinned at the centre back of head-part of hat (*Fig. 4*); the cross-cut lower edge is then sewn to the hat just below the headline with a head-lining stitch, i.e. a short upright stitch taken into the crown-band, but not through it, or with a stab-stitch.

It is not easy at first to put a head lining in, for it must be set in quite flat, and a true line must be kept round the head. The lining sets better if slightly stretched by the left hand while it is being sewn in, especially near the front of the hat, where the greatest difficulty is met. The ends of lining should overlap ¼ in. at the back, where one end is slip-stitched to the other. The ribbon inserted through the slot is then drawn up to fit nicely round the top of the crown, and tied in a neat bow. A
few tie-stitches should hold the lining in place near the crown top, otherwise it is apt to become slack and untidy.

The third method of lining is quite a different one, and is usually employed for hats with sectional crowns and for tam-o’-shanters.

The material is cut to the same shape as the pieces of the crown, e.g. Fig. 5 would require six sectional pieces cut by the crown pattern and planned on the material just as the crown was, either the warp way or on the cross. No turnings need be allowed on the lining as this should be smaller than the outside crown. The sections must be finely run or machined together in pairs from tip to base, as in the case of the crown, and after being pressed, the lining is ready to be slip-stitched inside the head-part (Fig. 6).

A tam-o’-shanter can be lined in one of three ways, i.e. (a) “cap” lining (Fig. 2), (b) a circular lining (Fig. 7), reduced to the head-size by means of eight darts, or (c) a lining cut in two circular pieces (Figs. 8 and 8a). Here a 12-in. circle fits up into the crown, and a 2¼-in. wide circular band measuring 12 in. diameter at the outer edge lies round the head band. Whatever method is chosen, it is usual, after stitching and pressing any darts or seams either to slip-stitch the lining inside the crown or to tack it in raw-edged, and finish neatly with a cross-cut band of lining.

**BONNET LININGS (MATRON’S).**—These are usually cut in two pieces and made up as in Method 2, except that the crown piece is either a horseshoe shape or the same shape as the bonnet crown, and it is slip-stitched to the shape at the centre back. The strip for banding the shape is cut just the length of the bonnet-band, and is sewn from ear to ear, the ends being slip-stitched along the arch at the back to meet the crown piece. The draw ribbon is tied at the centre of the front, the ends in the slot being stitched to the back of the bonnet.

**CHILDREN’S BONNET LININGS.**—Stiff shapes are lined in the same way as matron’s bonnets, but washing-bonnets and those having soft crowns have the linings cut and made from the
bonnet pattern and slip-stitched to the shape round the face and neck edges.

**Bandeaux**

When bandeaux are fashionable with hats, toques or bonnets, they are there to achieve one of the following purposes: to decrease or increase the head-size; to alter the head outline and make it more comfortable; to tilt the head-gear at some particular point and so make it more becoming to the wearer; or to act as a platform for trimming.

If the head-part is correctly measured and the hat is made to suit the wearer, the extra weight and expense of a bandeau should be quite unnecessary; but if a ready-blocked felt or straw is bought, a bandeau may be needed.

Bandeaux are usually made of esparta, buckram or twofold stiff net, wired along their edges. Sketches are given of the shapes usually worn; *Fig. 9* is crescent-shaped and used chiefly at the side of the head-part of a hat or toque, when a slight tilt is desired. If cut about a quarter of the head measure in length, and about $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. to $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide in the centre, it will be found a useful size.

*Fig. 10* is intended to fit round three-quarters of the head-part and is usually set round the back of the shape to tilt the hat a little forward and over the face. It is cut three-quarters of the head measure in length and about 1 in. wide in the centre and the ends are shaped to a point.

*Fig. 11* is intended to fit across the back of the head-part and is cut one-third of the head measure in length and about 2 in. deep at both sides. It is a pannier shape and intended to carry a rosette form of trimming at both ends.

*Fig. 12* shows an all-round shape joined to fit just inside the head-part to decrease the size a little; it may at the same time tilt the hat at any desired point. The usual depth varies from $\frac{3}{4}$ in. to $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. This bandeau inserted in a child’s mushroom shape prevents its drooping over the eyes. *Figs. 13* and *14* have the
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shape of a halo, hence their name "Halo bandeaux." They came into use when large crowns were blocked in felt, straw and buckram, and the head-size of the wearer was not taken account of, and all hats were made to a regulation size of about 30 in. in the circumference of the crown. In Fig. 13 the head oval is cut to fit the wearer's head, and the outer edge of the bandeau is round, and cut to fit the head-part of the hat. Fig. 14 was made on an expanding principle, the tongue-shaped end marked A being slipped under an elastic band at B, so that the size could be regulated to fit any sized head and hat.

Another type of bandeau has a head lining attached to it (Fig. 15). A crossway strip of velvet 1 in. to 1½ in. wide and about 24 in. long was joined into a ring, and had a fine piece of cane inserted through a slot on the outer edge, where it was sewn to the head-part of the hat. A "cap" head lining was made and joined to the inner edge of the velvet and a narrow draw-string inserted by means of which the bandeau could be comfortably adjusted to any head size.

When cutting bandeaux follow the rules given in Chapter IV for planning and cutting espatra and stiff net shapes. In the bandeau the wire must be wire-stitched all round the edge, the ends of the wire being overlapped ½ in. Do not, however, join the wire either at the extreme end of the bandeau or where it is likely to press on the head. Join the wire for Figs. 9, 10 and 11 about the centre of the upper edge; for Figs. 12 and 13 at the centre back, and for Fig. 14 on the outer edge; the wire for this last bandeau is cut in one length. When making the bandeau take care to overlap and wire-stitch the ends of the wire very securely before binding the edges of the bandeau with mull muslin.

Figs. 9 and 10 are usually covered quite plainly on both sides; the inner side with velvet, which grips the head and helps the fit of the hat, and the outer one with thin silk. Both materials should be cut to the shape of the bandeau, allowing ¼ in. all round the edge for turnings (Fig. 16). The pattern must be
pinned on the cross of the material if it is to fit well. The edges can either be lace-stitched together from side to side (Fig. 16a), or catch-stitched to the lining (Fig. 17). Care is needed at the corners to prevent clumsiness where all superfluous material should be trimmed away. The outer side of the bandeau is covered with silk, which must be well strained over the stiffening and pinned to fit it, the edges being turned in narrowly, and afterwards finely slip-stitched to the velvet all round.

Figs. 10 and 11 are usually covered with either velvet or silk, though net and ninon are sometimes chosen. The material is cut on the cross to the length of the bandeau measurement, the width being two-and-a-half times the depth of the bandeau. For Fig. 12 the velvet could be joined into a ring to fit the bandeau exactly before being strained over it. Fit the inner side of the bandeau, first turning $\frac{1}{4}$ in. of material over the straight edge, and pinning it well to the stiffening; then turn the velvet over to the outer side as in Fig. 18, turn in the edge and slip-stitch round.

Fig. 11 requires careful management at the rounded ends, where the covering must be cut to shape before it is sewn.

Figs. 13 and 14 have only one exposed side when stitched into the head-part of the hat, so it is not necessary to cover the under-side except for the satisfaction of making a good finish to the work. The covering is cut to the shape of the bandeau with the cross of the fabric to the cross of the stiffening. It is then fitted round the stiffening with pins, the edge turned over, and "cat"-stitched down as in Fig. 17. The under covering is pinned flat over, the edges turned in and slip-stitched to the edge of the bandeau all round.

A bandeau is sometimes covered with a piece of gathered velvet which is lightly puffed on the outer side to give a little fullness and softness to the underpart of the hat. This is a good method to employ when the hair of the wearer of the hat is thin; also when the hair dressing is severe in style and drawn back tightly from the face above the ears.
Elderly people sometimes like a bandeau shaped like *Fig. 9*, arranged on each side of the hat for balance, and to give grip; otherwise the hat may be constantly slipping out of position. Bandeaux are used round the face of open-fronted bonnets where they are entirely hidden by a part of the trimming, which may be of tiny flowers or a feather band.

"Cache-peigne" is the French term for a hidden bandeau or comb, which is often attached to both sides of a hat and used both as a support and as a decoration.

A "filet" bandeau, a lightly-made and daintily-covered variation of *Fig. 12*, is often worn as a head-dress in the evening. A band or bandeau of tinsel, ribbon, etc., is another favourite form of head-dress.

If a bandeau is not carefully arranged and firmly sewn into position, it is of little practical use in either hat or bonnet. First, pin it firmly in position, then try the hat on the wearer to be sure it is comfortable and sets the hat at the required angle; tie-stitch the bandeau firmly to the head-part either at both ends and in the centre of its length, or at intervals all round, just as the shape demands. The stitching should be quite firm but invisible.