CHAPTER II

THE COVERING AND LINING OF HATS

MATERIALS

HAVING made or purchased a frame or hat, the next thing is to cover and trim it. This can be done with a variety of materials; velvet, silk, or a combination of both; felting, broadcloth, or other materials, to match a costume; these last materials, however, look best trimmed with velvet. Felting in a great variety of colors and shades can be purchased in the upholstery departments of the large stores. (They will send samples.) It is from thirty-six to seventy-two inches wide, and costs only from fifty-five cents to $1.10 the yard; a half yard of the wide is enough for two hats. The felting which is made expressly for millinery is very expensive, and the other answers equally well in most cases. In the upholstery felting there is no up and down, and hardly any difference in either side, so that it is very economical in cutting. Velvet, besides having a
right and wrong side, has an up and down, and
great care is necessary in joining, either on the
straight or bias, that the pile of both pieces shall
brush and shade the same way.

Bias strips of velvet must be joined along the
selvages, or along the straight of the web the
other way. (See Fig. 12.) Never, if it can be avoid-
ed, join across the bias.

**CUTTING A TRUE BIAS**

To cut a true bias, fold the velvet or silk
over corner wise, so that the cut edge comes
in even line with the selvage. (See Fig. 13.) Cut
through the folded edge, which is the bias, and cut
off strips for binds or folds
by measure, so they are
even all along. It is in
joining these strips that
care is needed to have
them all the same way
of the goods. Binds and
folds must be on the true bias or they will twist, and the softer and more stretchy the material is, the wider the fold must be cut, because it must be stretched on the hat and will narrow in the process.

**BINDING A HAT WITH VELVET OR SILK**

First wire the edge of a felt hat the same way as directed for buckram; but on a straw the wire is set a trifle in from the edge. Cut two bias strips two inches wide through the bias; if of velvet, cut off the selvages and join the two strips so they are in even line. (See Fig. 12.) Pin one end over edge of hat and stretch the velvet round over the brim till the pinned end is reached, mark with a pin and remove from hat; lay the strip flat and fold over so that the end touches the pin, then cut in the same line as the end; join these two ends the same as the others. Either backstitch or machine stitch, and flatten the seam.

Now turn the strip right side down on the upper side of brim, edge of velvet almost to edge of hat, pin in place all round, then sew with half-inch stitches on the velvet, one eighth of an inch from edge, and a small backstitch on the underside; this line of stitches must be perfectly even,
and kept an even distance from edge of hat—from one quarter to one half an inch. (See Fig. 14.) Now turn the velvet over edge of brim, turn the edge under evenly, with the head of a large needle, and "slip stitch" it down. This is done by passing the needle inside the turned-under part and through the hat at a slant, then pass back with a tiny invisible stitch, bringing the needle out under the edge of the fold, and repeating until completed; thus no stitches show on either side. Dressmakers call this a "blind" stitch. (See Fig. 15.)

This method is the same for all hats, felt or straw, or hats of velvet or felt cloth. If a wider bind is desired, it is stretched on the hat after
joining to size, both edges are turned under so they come an even distance from edge, and both are slip stitched; this can be done with one line of stitches, catching each side alternately.

Do not spare the pins; pin everything perfectly before beginning to sew. Note position of pins in the illustrations.

COVERING A FRAME

For a plain hat take the correct pattern in paper, allowing no turnings; place the pattern of brim on the velvet so that the exact middle front and back comes on the true bias line. (See Fig. 16.) Allow a half-inch turning all around, and one inch within the head line, which is to be snipped in to the head line so that it will turn up against the crown. Having cut one side, place this face to face on another part of the velvet, bias line to

Fig. 16.—Pattern Laid on Velvet to Cut Out Brim.
bias line, pin, and cut out; this insures a correct upper and under brim. Be sure to mark the exact middle of frame and pattern, and notch the velvet so that it will go on right; this is especially necessary where one side is wider than the other, or the pieces will not fit. In cutting the crown top see that the velvet shades the same way as the brim, and, if possible, the side of crown also. Allow half an inch turning around the crown top.

If the crown is straight or nearly so, a bias strip will cover the side; measure the depth and allow one and a half inches more; measure the circumference and allow half an inch for turning.

Cut some very thin interlining muslin on the bias in strips two inches wide, fold over to one inch and bind the edge of the hat with this; stretch it on and sew with a basting stitch below the wire. Bind edge of crown, putting a line of stitches on top and another line around the side. (See Fig. 17.)

Now put the upper covering in place on the frame, turn the edge over and pin to the muslin
bind, and sew with overhand stitches, as shown in Fig. 18. Note in this and Fig. 19 how the pins are placed. Now place the under facing, put pins at back, front, and sides, then turn the edge in so it comes level with edge of hat; pin as shown, and slip stitch the under to the upper brim, holding the inside of the hat toward you. (See Fig. 19.) In slip-stitching the bind, the needle is below the work; in the last example—though the stitch is the same—the needle is above the work. In slip-stitching a fold it may be done above or below, as is most convenient to the worker.

In placing facings all wrinkles must be smoothed out as they are pinned in place, so there may be no ripping once the work is done; the slip stitches should not
be more than an eighth of an inch long, and the two edges be perfectly level.

Pin the crown piece in place with due regard to the middle front, as before noted, and sew the half-inch turning to the side with an even line of stitches, half an inch or less on the velvet, near the edge, and a small backstitch inside the crown.

The strip for the side is to be "catstitched" along both edges before putting it on the hat. Turn over half an inch, and sew with the same stitch as shown in Fig. 20, a "catstitch" fold; in this the upper layer of both turned-over edges is picked up with a short, straight stitch; in doing a hem on velvet, etc., the upper stitch is like the fold, but the under one picks up one thread of the back of the web only; thus in neither fold nor hem does any stitch show on the right side. It is, in fact, "herringbone" done backward, i.e., from right to left. The band finished, stretch it around the crown, letting the join come where the trimming will hide it. If properly fitted, one edge comes
level with the crown top, the other neatens the head line; neither needs any sewing, but the join should be neatly done.

The snipped turning of the brim inside the crown is neatened by the head lining. Before describing this we will return for a moment to the brim of a hat, the covering of which has been described in one way; there are, of course, other ways; a brim may be covered in felting, silks, or velvet, cut just level with the edge, the upper and under being pinned in place to the muslin bind; the two are then "top" or "oversewn" together and a bind put on to finish the edge. This is very decorative; felts and straws may be faced, then bound in the same way, or the facings "slip-stitched" on.

LINING A HAT

Hat linings should be cut along the selvage; bonnet linings are best on the bias. Measure the depth of crown and allow two inches more in width, measure around the head line and allow one inch more in length. Run a half-inch hem along one edge. Sew the lining on just within the turn of the crown, beginning at the back, allowing a half-inch turning. In a felt or straw
the stitches may be taken through; have an even line of stitches one half inch long inside, with an invisible stitch outside; run the two ends neatly together. (See Fig. 21.) In a covered frame the lining is put in with a pick-up stitch, not carried through; sew from inside the crown toward the outside. After the hat is trimmed baby ribbon is run into the lining hem, and it is drawn up so it fits nicely down into the crown, and the ribbon is tied in a neat bow.

**SILK HATS**

When covering frames with silk of any kind, it is necessary first to cover the frame with a thin layer of sheet wadding cut to shape of hat just the same as the silk; baste it on, and bind the edge over the muslin bind with a narrow strip of the wadding. This enriches and improves the fit of the silk.
QUANTITY OF MATERIAL REQUIRED

To ascertain the quantity of material required for any hat, to cover plain, measure the frame across at its widest diameter, from back to front, or side to side, according to the shape; it will usually take three times this of single-width material. For binds and folds allow double the width required on the bias.