Chapter Seven

TRIMMINGS

Small hats that tilt forward over the eye require a bandeau to make them stay on the head. The bandeau is attached at the sides of the hat and runs across the back of the head. In hats that are extremely small and shallow, the bandeau assumes the importance of an integral part of the hat and should be handled with care and workmanship.

Kinds of Bandeau: The easiest and simplest way to anchor your hat to your head is by means of a small elastic attached to each side. The elastic then goes over or under your hair at the base of your skull. Two layers of grosgrain, about an inch wide, circled and sewed together, make a ribbon bandeau. A piece of wide grosgrain (about 2½ inches wide) doubled and circled, is another simple way to make a bandeau. A felt strip, blocked in a rounded half-circle and lined with grosgrain ribbon, is another suggestion.

The important thing about making a bandeau is to remember that it must fit the head. A straight piece of material will not do the trick — it must be rounded.

A bow or knot at the center back of your head will make the bandeau fit better. If the bow is fairly large, it assumes the importance of a trim. Please note that the bow or knot will not come in the center of the bandeau. Because the hat tilts to the right, the left side of your bandeau should be slightly longer. If the hat is worn squarely on the head, then the bow or knot will be center back.

A bandeau may be made out of material, providing it is cut on the bias. Cut a strip about 4 inches wide and sew it together on the wrong side. Turn and steam-press it into a half-circle.

Jersey Bandeau: Jersey can be used. In this case, cut a wide bias band, hand-hem the edges, and shirr at center back.
Braided Bandeau: A more elaborate bandeau is a braided one. Cut three bias strips and follow directions for making tubing (see below). Braid the three strips, fastening them securely at both sides. This bandeau is comfortable and secure and adds that hand-made look.

Length of Bandeau: A word about the length of the bandeau. Put your hat on your head as you will wear it, and then measure around the back of your head where the band will be. Allow an inch or so for sewing into your hat. Add 2 inches for a knot to be tied in the band. The usual length for a plain band runs 15 to 18 inches. Your bandeau should be sewed in at each side of your hat, about 1 inch back of your hairline. Hairlines vary with different people, so fit and pin your bandeau to your requirements. Generally speaking, the bandeau ends should come about midway of each side of the hat.

HOW TO MAKE TUBING

In material hats, tubing is always a nice detail trim. Use it in place of ribbon for finishing a juncture of crown and brim.

Shirred jersey bandeau.

Bandeau made out of braided tubing.

Take a piece of tubing long enough to go around the crown, plus an 8-inch allowance. Make one tie in the tubing and then sew in place. Finish off the tubing by tying a tight knot in each end.

If you make enough tubing, it can become a self-trim. Use it as a braid, as a scroll, or as loops and wire the loops.

To Make Tubing: Cut a bias strip of material about 1½ inches wide. Fold the right side in and machine-stitch it on the

Use material tubing to finish joining of brim and crown.

"Tubing Turner"
wrong side, about 3/8 inch from the center fold. Do not trim off surplus. When the strip is drawn inside out, the surplus material will stuff the tubing, making it like a cord.

The width and sewing of your bias strip will depend on the material you use. For instance, velveteen or costume velvet should be sewed at least 1/2 inch from the center fold of the bias strip. The material is heavy and will not turn if your seam is too small. Chiffon tubing, on the other hand, can carry more surplus in a smaller seam.

If you experiment a little with tubing, you will find the minimum width your stitched line can be from the center fold and the maximum amount of material that can be turned.

Turning your tubing inside out is one of those pesky little jobs that a milliner likes to pass over to an apprentice. It can be done with a large-eyed needle and a stout string of thread. Sometimes you can make a small safety pin do the trick. I bought a gadget at a notion department in New York which I think is worth its weight in gold. It is called a “tubing turner,” and its price was about 20¢.

**HOW TO SEW ON FLOWERS**

You usually buy flowers in a bunch. If they are large, there will be three or four wired together; if they are small, any number can be grouped together. Almost invariably, the milliner will break the bunch apart. The amateur might be tempted to take the flowers as they come and just tack them on.

The idea is to make your flowers “grow” on your hat, becoming a definite part of your hat. To do this, you put them on separately, flattening them out if necessary.

I’m sure you have seen attractive crowns made entirely of small flowers. These are fitted together like a jigsaw puzzle, sewing and flattening as you cover the crown. None of the crown will show because it is covered with flowers.

About the only time you would use a flower “as it comes” would be when the flower was an unusually beautiful one.
For instance, a lovely hand-made rose spray would trim a large-brimmed black hat very effectively if it looked as though it had just happened to fall on the hat—gracefully simple and careless.

After you have your flowers arranged, it is easy to sew them on. You don’t want them to fall off, so you use a heavy thread; you don’t want the stitches to show, so you hide them in the indentations of the leaves and flowers, using the same color thread. Don’t oversew.

HOW TO SEW ON A VEIL

Veils are feminine, softening and flattering. They can be used on almost any type of hat except those that are essentially for sports.

You can use flowers and veiling together—in fact, you can combine veiling with almost any other kind of trim.

If you are using veiling as the only trim, use lots of it—several yards is not too much. I dislike skimpy veils; but of course, when some other trim is used, you could use too much. If it seems like too much, cut it off, either in length or in width.

Tie-Tack Method: The tie-tack method of sewing on a veil is followed when you are using lots of it. Seated before a mirror, you drape your veil over your hat, putting in pins at critical points. If you want to build up or exaggerate a line, try a draped bow of veiling at this point. Work carefully, by the trial and error method; but the final effect should look loose and unstudied.

The small hat in the illustration is just an ordinary hat dressed up for an extraordinary occasion. Use 1½ yards of 18- or 20-inch veiling. Choose a “misty” open-mesh veil.

Start pinning the veil at the center front. Pin it across the sides, putting a 1-inch pleat every 2 inches, so that the veil will not fall too closely against the face.

Lots of veiling in “birdcage” effect. Use tie-tack method of sewing it on.

Bring the ends of the veiling up (halfway round the hat) and loop them (by pinning or running a gathering thread through the veiling) across the felt bow on the hat.

Make a tie-tack working on the right side of the hat where each pin is placed. Take a stitch (through veiling and felt) and tie a couple of knots in the ends of the thread. Snip off the ends. If you are using the same color thread, the stitch will be lost in the mesh of the net.

Ruffle Veil: A quick and easy way to put on a veil is to make a ruffle of veiling. Take 1¼ yards of 12-inch veiling—the mesh should be open and quite stiff. Run a gathering thread along the center of the veiling. Place the veiling around the crown of the hat and pull the gathering thread tight so that it hugs the crown. Tie the ends of the thread and tack the veil in place, sewing about every 2 inches.

Veils for Pillbox or Bumper Brim: Use 1½ yards of veiling, 18-inch width, to dress up a pillbox or bumper-brimmed hat.
Fold the veil crosswise and make a chalk mark at the center. It saves time to keep track of the center front.

Run a gathering thread about 2 inches from the edge, along one side of veil. Match the center front of the veil to the center front of the hat; pin at this point.

Draw your veil into a ruffled drape that will hang across front of hat. Tack the veiling in place.

The veil may be worn across the face or it may be thrown back across the hat.

**Chin Veil:** A chin veil is a nice addition to an evening ensemble, and it doesn’t even have to be sewed.

You may be wearing a small calot on the back of your head, or perhaps you are wearing a flower, bow, or feathered ornament in your hair. Just wrap two yards of thin veiling scarflike around your head and tie it in a big bow under your chin.

The whole effect should be airy and cloudlike. Don’t draw the bow too tight.

**Pressing Veils:** Veiling always adds glamour until it gets wilted. When it gets limp and lifeless, it is worse than no trim at all. In many cases, veiling can be revived by pressing. Lay it between sheets of tissue and press with a warm iron. The tissue is used as a protection against catching the tip of the iron in the mesh of the veiling.

**HOW TO USE MALINE**

Maline can be used in the trimming or making of hats. It can be pleated, tucked, gathered, or draped. I once saw an admirable Easter bonnet entirely covered or swathed with maline in three different shades of purple. The trim was a lovely bunch of velvet violets. I think of that hat as being typically French.

Another maline hat comes to mind—a small cocktail hat. Every student in the class made it up because they were all intrigued by the combination of materials and colors. It was as feminine and provocative as a black lace fan!

The base was a shallow round crown (see Chapter IX — Foundation No. 2). The original hat was a “forward” hat, and
so required a bandeau to keep it anchored to the head. The bandeau was made out of black crepe tubing, braided, and the foundation was also covered with black crepe.

The crown was then covered by rows and rows of ruffled black maline. Maline comes 72 inches wide and 2/3 of a yard was purchased. The maline was then cut into three long strips (8 inches x 72 inches). Each strip was folded in half and a gathering thread was run, the long way, down the middle of the folded strip. This thread was pulled so that the maline formed a thick ruffle and the ruffle was then sewn to the crown, beginning at the outside edge and letting maline extend beyond edge of hat. The ruffles circled the crown, round and round until it was completely covered. In the very center of the hat, a lovely shocking pink velvet rose was nested into the maline.

This hat could be made up in various colors for bridesmaids' hats. Combine matching crepe and maline in the color you wish to use. Possibly young girls would like to wear the hat on the back of the head instead of forward. In this case, block the foundation on the back of the block, as described in Chapter IX.

Matching velvet ribbon streamers tied under the chin would be a quaint and charming finishing touch. A small velvet ribbon bow (instead of the rose) could then be used to finish the center back of the hat.

**HOW TO MAKE COVERED HATPINS**

Hats that sit on the back of the head may be secured by a couple of hatpins. Get large-headed pins at your local store, about 3½ inches long and sharp.

You can utilize scraps of felt, and the shapes may be varied. Cut two felt pieces just alike and sew these together over the head of the pin. Use a running stitch or a buttonhole stitch.

If you do not have the right color of felt, cut out material (larger than felt) and glue (or sew) to the small felt pieces. Attach them to the pin and sew, keeping the raw edges of material folded inside the two layers of felt and underneath your stitch.
A NEAT TRICK WITH HATPINS

Hatpins not only make small detail trims, but they can become a trim in themselves. And you can make a lightning-like change with this trim!

You start out with a calot or pillbox crown, and you wish to build up the front line of the hat with a trim.

Make two felt bows (see How to Make a Bow, page 51) and stick a hatpin in each bow. Arrange the bows across the front of your hat by sticking the pins into the hat. You are now neatly hatted for your trip into town—whether you are shopping or going to work.

An unexpected dinner engagement comes your way. Your neat little hat won’t do a thing for you in the way of glamour. What to do!! If you can get into the nearest dime store, you can change your hat as quickly as you can change your make-up. Slip the felt bows off the hatpins and top two of the pins with colorful velvet bows (one goes on each side). In the center of your hat, pin two of the biggest, fattest, most luscious roses that you can find. “Dinner-table interest?” You’ll have it!

HOW TO MAKE FELT TRIMS

Wool-Felt Appliqués: Felt appliqués can be very effective. Use scraps of wool felt by the yard for this purpose.

The design of the appliqué and the color scheme are the two important factors to work out. Simple flower or geometric designs are very easy to create and always add a touch of originality to your hat. Use them on a hat brim or scattered over a

Flower and leaf designs—cut them out of colored felt.
Assembled felt flowers made from flower and leaf design. They can be sewed by hand or by machine.

After you have made and covered a brim frame (pattern Pg. 39), add an appliqué before you make the stitching across the brim. Arrange your design, pin or glue it in place, and then do your stitching in rows right over the colored design.

**Fur-Felt Appliqués:** Fur felt scraps (from old hats) can be fringed, scalloped, pleated, tucked, etc., and can easily be made into leaves and flowers.

**Flower and Leaf Designs:** Here are some simple flower and leaf designs: Trace the patterns, lay them on felt, and cut out. If you have pinking shears, pink the edges of the felt cutouts. Assemble the three layers of flower leaves and center with a button or bead. Add two leaves to each flower.

Make eight of these flowers and sew them over the front part of a pillbox or bumper-brimmed calot.

Flowers may be made smaller or larger by changing the size of the pattern.

This is a flat flower trim, but you can make bunchy flowers, also. Cut a 3-inch circle of felt. Run a gathering thread (small running stitch) around the rim of the circle. Draw the thread until you have a “cupped” flower. Use enough of these (about 20) and you have a good built-up trim for a foundation.

Using the same-sized circle, cut or “fringe” felt all around the edge. (Make the cut 1 inch deep and about 1/8 inch apart.) Run a gathering thread inside fringed line. Draw the thread and secure it. Bunch 10 or 15 of these together for a “line” trim.

**French-Room Trim:** Here is a more elaborate trim that was used originally on a “French-room” hat. It was made up in brown fur felt and brown satin, and the
effect was not unlike a mass of ringlets perched on top the head. The dull brown felt and the shiny brown satin seemed to reflect the highlights in the brown hair of the woman who wore the hat.

Cut 25 circles out of felt. The diameter of the circle should be 3¼ inches. Bind the edge of each circle (use the sewing machine) with a satin bias binding, cut double. Turn the bias over the edge of the felt and slip-stitch it to the other side.

Take a pleat in each round circle, as shown in the illustration. Tack the pleat in place.

The foundation of this hat was very narrow and had a very pointed eye-line. The felt trim was bunched closely together over the front of the hat. (Pin "flowers" in place and then sew.)

Gather and sew circle into pleat as shown.

**Felt Feathers:** These can be made by cutting two layers of felt in the size feather that you want. (Cut a paper pattern first and then cut out your felt.)

Lay a piece of wire down the center of the first layer of felt. Tack it in place. Lay second layer of felt over it and machine-stitch it down one side of the wire, and then turn and stitch along the other side. Fringe the edge of the feather, and then give the wire a twist.

Use two or more of these feathers in a group arrangement. Five or six small ones, twisted together, make an effective trim for any small hat.

For variation, use two contrasting or harmonizing colors of felt. You can make the top layer out of suede leather or silver kid.

Bunch 25 circles at front of narrow foundation.
Tiny round circles and pieces of felt can trim veiling and correlate color and material. The pieces may be uniform or graduated in size. At any rate, cut two of each size. Hold one under the mesh of the veiling and spread a little glue on it. Place the other one on top of the first. Hold in place until the glue dries.

Gather the bow on the dotted lines, as shown in the illustration. Bring the side gatherings to the center and fold back the ends. Sew the bow at the center and cover it with a small loop or piece of material.

This general procedure is a good basis for all-around bow-making.

Width and length of material, kind of material, and the number of loops in the bow, make the difference between a dressy and a tailored bow.

Material Bows: Material bows take more time to make than ribbon bows, but sometimes they are much more effective. They give a professional finish to your hat. Here is an example of a double looped bow (to trim the front of a hat) made out of material.

Cut and piece 44 inches of bias strips, 7 inches wide. Fold together, right sides in, and sew the side seam. Turn the strip right side out and press. Divide the strip with gathers, measured out as follows:

Bring two loops together on each side of the center and fold back the ends.

Sew the loops in place and finish the center with a small piece of material. Cut the ends on a slant and turn in the raw edge. Slip-stitch.
Taffeta (plaid or plain) is an ideal material to use for a bow like this, but softer materials may also be used.

If your material doesn’t have enough body (seems limp and lifeless) and you want it to be stiff and perky, you can slip a layer of crinoline inside the doubled material strip. Press and then proceed to make the bow.

**Ribbon Bows:** A many-looped bow of velvet or heavy satin ribbon can make a beautiful topping for a small hat. Your foundation must be small because this hat is all bow. The material required is 2 yards of 4-inch ribbon.

Divide and gather your ribbon in the following manner:

Bring the gathering strings tight and sew the loops together at a common center.

**Back Bows:** Bows may be used on the back of a hat, as well as on the front. Trim a felt calot in the following manner:

Make two 4-inch felt bows, using a strip of felt 2 1/2 x 13 1/2 inches for each.

Foundation covered with many loops becomes a Beau-Catcher. (left) Calot with felt bows. (right) Calot with big bow at center back (center).
Sew these bows at the side back as indicated in the illustration.

A sun-ray design on the calot is worked out with contrasting buttonhole-twist thread. Mark your design and work it out with a small running stitch.

A bow may be used on the back of a sequin-and-colored-felt-trimmed foundation. Make the bow out of wide black velvet ribbon and let the ends hang down over the shoulders.

Trim a mesh snood with small ties of thick yarn or tiny pieces of felt ¼ inch x 3½ inches. Tie the yarn or felt into the snood, spacing it evenly and tying once. Put a large bow made out of ribbon or felt at center front. Mix or match your colors. Tiny bows may also be tied into veiling.

To brighten a dark dress or suit, make a calot (see Foundation), pill box, or any small hat in a bright gleaming satin. Add a bow of the same material at the neck or hip line of your dress, or a dickey for your suit.
FRENCH ROOM EFFECTS WITH INEXPENSIVE MATERIALS

Many of the chain stores are now carrying merchandise usually found only in millinery supply houses. You will find ribbons, flowers, veiling, threads of all kinds, buttons, ornaments, and even the simple basic foundation crown. You can make a French-room creation out of these materials if you're clever and use a little imagination. "Avoid the obvious" should be your motto.

If you are fashion-wise and hat-conscious, a bunch of red flowers pinned onto a small black foundation won't give you very much pleasure. You are not only likely to meet its twin on every other street corner, but basically, there is not enough to it. The only ones who can get away with so little hat are young, fresh-faced girls. Almost all of them have lovely hair, and the hat is of secondary importance.

There are lots of good ways to use these hat materials and the suggestions made should give you some ideas of your own. Not all stores carry exactly the same merchandise, so this will be your chance to improvise and to use cleverly what you find.

Built-Up Foundation: The line of one of the small foundations will be greatly improved if it is built up across the front. Here is an easy way to do it:
Take 1 1/2 yards of 18-inch or 20-inch veiling. Fold it the long way twice. This will give you a 2-yard strip, three layers thick. Fold again and run a gathering thread along this fold. Pull the string or thread until your veiling ruffle is about 12 inches long. Tack the veiling across the top of the foundation. Get two large roses and sew one on either side of the ruffle. Nest the roses into the veiling so that they look as if they belong there. Sew.

Snood Hat: A half-yard of black dress velvet, a pompadour foundation, and two long dangling flower clusters will make one of the charming snood hats.
Fold the 40-inch x 18-inch piece of velvet in the center (selvages together) and make a center-front mark in the middle of one cut edge (use tailor's chalk). Now make two more markings along the same edge, each 3 inches from the center front.
Measure 6 inches from the opposite selvage corners and cut away a rounded section of the velvet. When your velvet is unfolded, it should look like ills. Page 55.
Run a half-inch hem along the rounded edge of the velvet. Insert in this hem a piece of round elastic about 20 inches long. Fasten the ends securely at the ends of the hem. (Your velvet will be gathered onto your elastic.)
Run a gathering thread across each side of the top of your velvet, starting each one at the cross mark as indicated. Pull the material on each thread tightly together and secure at the hemmed elastic ends.

Fit the velvet over the foundation, matching the center fronts. Smooth and turn the raw edge of the velvet into the front of the foundation. Sew with hidden stitches. Secure the gathered ends of velvet on each
(a) Cut velvet as indicated. (b) Hem rounded edge and insert elastic. (c) Gather top sides of velvet and fit onto foundation, matching centerfronts. (d) Trim with flower clusters, each side of face.

side. The velvet will fall into a snood, and the long flower clusters should be placed so that they cover each side of the hat, framing the face. Of course, to be properly finished, this hat should be lined and have a headsize ribbon.

Flower trimmed snood.

Note: You can make your own dangling bunch of flowers by sewing various sizes of small flowers to a piece of felt 1 inch x 4 inches. Sew them close together so that the felt is covered. Make two bunches—one for each side of the hat.

Calots: The small calots are nice for young girls, but do make them different by giving them some ornamentation! Break up several strands of small beads and sew them, hit or miss, all over the top. Use small pieces of bright-colored felt combined with colored yarns. Add a few sequins for glitter. Or use a sequin spray.
Calots may be trimmed with embroidery, beads, buttons, small flowers, etc.

Sequins add glitter and glamour.

A bunch of small flowers, broken apart and appliquéd with embroidery thread, would be charming. A very long tassel made out of yarn or thin strips of leather would be another eye-catching trick. Trim a calot with 3 tall feathers, attached to the rear side.

Fur Hats: Do you have a bit of leftover fur? Cover the whole ready-made foundation with it, stretching the fur as much as you can without breaking the foundation. You can do quite a lot with fur by putting it firmly under control with hidden stitches. The furrier, of course, would do it differently; but this method works pretty well on a small crown.

Ideas for Trims: Long swirls of velvet tubing in different colors can be worked into a nice trim. Try quilting or shirring a piece of velvet and sew that over your foundation. Small novelty buttons can be sewed all over your hat. Work out a design before you start to sew.
Ribbons, scraps of velvet or taffeta, offer endless possibilities in the way of bows and loops.

An old fur-felt hat, cut into strips, will make a lot of what it takes to be feminine! Cut your hat into two or more sections: steam-press them thoroughly and then pull, to make long strips. (Steam-pressing will clean the felt, too.) Cut your felt and make large, medium, or tiny bows. Follow directions on bow-making.

Trim a calot or a foundation with a huge bow made of two old fur-felt hats. Sew it across the front. Arrange it perkily.

Make three or four medium-sized bows in contrasting color and use them to build up the line across the front of a foundation.

Here is a remake idea: Trim the tall crown of last year's swagger hat with small flat felt bows, using five in graduated sizes. Put the smallest at the top of the crown, the largest at the base of the crown. Use this treatment front or back, placement depending upon the original line of the hat. Make the bows, pin them on, and try the various effects before you sew.

Straw-Hat Trims: During spring or summer seasons you may be able to purchase small straw foundations, and perhaps straw by the yard. The foregoing ideas on trims may be used, but change your materials and colors. For instance, instead of using velvet, use taffeta (plain, checked, plaid) and worn with matching vestee and cuffs. Youthful and spring-like!
or plaid), gingham, piqué, polka-dotted crepe, etc. Perhaps you can utilize some scraps left over from your dressmaking, making your hats match your dresses. In using the ready-made straw foundations, you will find many possible combinations. Just to be different, you might even try some velvet and straw effects! Top a straw foundation with three huge velvet roses.

**Brimmed Hats:** The suggestions made so far have been directed toward girls and women who like and look well in small hats. If you feel that a small foundation (even when it is built up with trim) is not enough hat, you can add a brim. Using one of the small brim patterns, cut it out of buckram, wire it, and then cover it according to directions.

Directions are given for making and using the brims with the foundations that you make yourself, but they may also be used with the ready-made foundations. The making of brims does not require the use of a hat block, but you will have to use a block if you are making your own foundations. (The advantage of making your own is that you can make them as deep or as shallow as you wish.) In many cases the ready-made foundation, already blocked, will save time and labor. Color and workmanship are especially important if you use the semi-made merchandise. Make the most of both.

Fruit trims are always smart—separate and arrange them attractively on a half-hat. Use the heavy clusters either for width on the side or height in the front. Change the trim with flowers or feathers in the winter.

To keep the small hats securely on your head use a plastic clip. This is placed across the hat and tacked at each end and in the center.