Chapter Nine

HOW TO MAKE HAT FOUNDATIONS

Foundation No. 1: This is more difficult to make than Foundation No. 2.

1. Cut six sections of crinoline by the illustrated pattern. Seams are allowed, but vary to your headsize. Use 1/2-inch seams for size 22 1/2 inches. Use 1/2-inch seams for size 21 1/2 inches.

Sew three sections (of 6-section crown) together at a time. Combine "halves" of hat.

2. Sew the sections together, three at a time, as indicated. Use the sewing machine. Open seams.

3. Combine the two halves of the crown.

4. Use the last seam as "front" and "back" when you put the crown (seam side up) on the back of the block — as it will be worn on your head.

Steam-press the seams open. Stretch the crinoline gently under steam so that it takes on the shape of the block. Pin and repin. Stretch the crinoline as it softens; pull one seam at a time. It is not enough to press seams open; the crown must be blocked — that is the trick. It is simple when you get onto it.

5. Take the crown off the block when dry; use a corset stay to remove. Now cut out the center back and center front, taking about 1 1/4 inch off at
these two points and slanting your line into the sides.
6. Try on the crown. It should sit at least 1 inch back of your hairline in front. In the back it should clear the break in your neck as you tip your head back. The sides should just cover the tips of your ears.
Note: Some women like the crown to come farther down; some like it more shallow. Trim to your own taste, but keep both sides alike. Average size would be 11½ inches front to back, 12½ inches side to side.
7. Return the crown to the block. Be sure it goes on the block the same way it was originally. Pin the center top to the block with several pins. Cut a strip of bias buckram about 5 inches or 6 inches wide.

Completed crown made out of crinoline after it is blocked.

8. Place the wet buckram around the crinoline crown; bring the ends toward you (standing facing the center front of the block). Pull. Notice the magical way the buckram conforms to the shape of the block!
10. After the back is shaped (be sure buckram covers lower edge of crino-

Six section crown pattern — cut 6 pieces for each crown. (Full size — does not need enlarging.)
Fit crinoline crown to head (after it is blocked) and cut out at front and back. Make it as deep or as shallow as you wish.

Replace crown on block and pull wet buckram strip around back and sides. S.T.R.E.T.C.H buckram.

Cover crown completely with strips of bias buckram. Let crown dry thoroughly.

line), cut off buckram strips at each side, after they cover the crinoline. Press and smooth the buckram with your fingers. The buckram will stick to the crinoline crown and block, because the sizing in it is acting as a gluing agent.

11. Take the remaining buckram strips and press across the front center and cross the top center, thus covering the whole crinoline crown with buckram. If the buckram laps over in places, cut it off; more than one layer is hard to sew. If the buckram doesn't stick, it is because it is not wet enough.

12. Set the block aside and let the crown dry thoroughly (about half a day). Use a large corset stay to loosen the edges and top of the crown. Take the crown off the block.

13. Cut off the surplus buckram at the lower edge. Use the crinoline crown (inside the hat) as a pattern. Try the hat on to check its depth. Your cutting line should be clean and smooth.

14. Wire the edge of the crown.

15. After the wire is sewed on all around, cover it with a bias strip of material.
about 1½ inches wide. Fold the material over the wire and sew with a running stitch. Any kind of material will do, because when you cover, the hat material will come over the edge. The foundation is now complete and ready for covering.

16. Cover this crown with 6 sections of material cut like the pattern. Do not allow seams as they are already included in the pattern. After the pieces are sewed together, put the material crown on the block (seams up) and steam-press your seams open. Stretch and pin the material to the block. It will have enough “give” to cover the edge of your frame. Remember, this material crown must be blocked.

17. Put the material crown over the frame, keeping track of the center fronts. Fold the excess material inside the crown. Baste.

18. Use a running stitch through the buckram and material. When you bring your thread through the right side, put your needle back in the same hole. It will seem as though you are undoing what you have just done, but the thread will almost always catch on the buckram, crinoline or material.

19. Your crown is now ready for a brim. If you don’t want a brim, trim with flowers, bows, or a couple of feathered birds. Notice the hats in the shops—lots of times you will see that foundation crowns carry nothing but trimming. These are usually large trims to give the proper line.

Note: A “cute hat for a cute young girl” would be a jockey cap. Use this same foundation, cutting it very shallow before you wire it. It should measure about 10 inches front to back and 11 inches side to side. (Check on these measurements by trying foundation on the head.) After the crown is covered, add visor brim (pattern on page 69) across the front. Trim with a bow at top center where you joined visor to crown.

Foundation No. II: Foundation II required a crinoline under-layer because the crown covered so much of the block that it would have been impossible to remove it without the crinoline underneath. Foundation II, however, is shallow; and buckram may be used directly on the block. It will stick, but when thoroughly dry may be peeled off. Use a corset stay to loosen the edge.

1. Cut the buckram by the pattern. Use bias as indicated.

2. Wet the buckram. Put it on the block. Remember that if you wish a “forward” hat, you will place the buckram toward the front of the block. If you want a pompadour, place the buckram on the back of the block.

3. Smooth the wet buckram so that it conforms to the block, keeping an oval in mind as you stretch it on. Lift it off the block several times and
Foundations No. 2 (use pattern, page 69 and cut bias buckram).

1. Smooth again. Each time you do this you will find that there are fewer wrinkles in the edge of your buckram.
2. Let it dry thoroughly before taking off the block.
3. After taking it off the block, trim the edge so that it is clean and even. Wire the edge.
4. Cover this crown with material cut after the pattern and on the bias. Make ¾ inch seam allowance all around.
5. Stretch your material over your block just as you did your buckram. Steam-press and pin it to the block. Let it dry.
6. Put the material over the frame and turn under the edge. Follow steps 17 and 18 for Foundation 1.
7. The crown is now ready for brims or trims.
FOUNDATION PATTERN NO. 2  
(to be enlarged)

(a) To enlarge this pattern, draw a rectangle 9" x 10". Rule off rectangle in one inch squares. Draw outline, following the lines of this pattern which are set in one-half inch squares.

(b) Lay completed pattern on buckram (bias as indicated). Cut out buckram, wet and stretch over block. Notch is center front of foundation.

(a) To enlarge, follow procedure above in first paragraph.

(b) Lay pattern on buckram, cut out and wire buckram along edge indicated by dotted edge of pattern.