"I Made My Hat to Match"

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The basic hat shell is of buckram, a very stiff, coarse fabric woven of either cotton or linen.

By Millie Willett
Technical Journalism Junior

From the straw covered to the fabric covered, from the sailor to the pillbox, you'll want your Spring hat exclusively yours.

Unless you've done a lot of shopping for the right color and the right style, the "just what I pictured" hat is hard to find.

You, while you're at school, can make your own spring creation. The whole creation evolves from the simple buckram shell or form. Its color, its covering, and its trim can be the result of your imagination.

The basic buckram shell comes in any number of shapes and can be ordered from Chicago millinery houses. Even your headsize isn't a necessary measure when ordering since your own grosgrain lining adjusts the size.

For costume texture you can cover the shell with strawbraid which can be purchased by the yard. Attach the braid to the center of the crown and continue winding down and outward in a circular direction to the brim. Then sew the braid onto the shell.

If you're making a linen suit you may want to cover your hat with the same fabric. Perhaps, you have a summer suit which is lined with a printed silk. A hat of the silk will make it a coordinated costume.

The most important rule to remember is to always cut on the true bias of the material. If a soft material is used such as taffeta or satin, then an underlining of muslin will help to keep the outer material smooth. A handy bottle of milliner's glue which does not stain material will keep the fabric in place as you shape it over the shell.

The lining may be eased into shape using steam from the teakettle, so that the hat and material curve to fit the curve of the top of your head.

The ideas you'll want to use in decorating or trimming the hat will make it your very own, an exclusive and as much so as any Fifth Avenue purchase.

For dressy occasions you can cover the pillbox shell with white satin. Add a curving feather and a cobweb veil. You'll have the perfect answer to the woman's inevitable question, "Where did you ever find that darling hat?" Very simply you say, "I made it!"