

# Straw Bonnet Workbook



## Materials you will need:

Straw Plait/Braid – 1/8” to 3/4” wide, 15 to 17 yards

Straw Milliner’s Needle or Milliner’s Needle

White or natural cotton thread

Measuring tape (sewing kind)

Fabric for lining or covering

Millinery wire

Scissors

Pencil

Sewing wax

Spray water bottle

Small bowl of water

White glue

## Step 1

### Getting to know your straw plait

Check the entire length of your straw plait for any irregularities, breaks, discolorations, weaknesses, mistakes in the braid, etc. Make note of these problem areas or cut the plait at these points to avoid using them.

Test the flexibility of your plait by bending one end in every direction. The plait should bend without any sign of cracking in the straw. If you can fold the plait back onto itself, you will not need to soak the straw as often.

If you are working with a wider plait,  $\frac{3}{4}$ <sup>th</sup> inch to 1 inch, you will create fewer rows. Use the lower number in row suggestions as your guide. If you are working with a narrower plait,  $\frac{1}{4}$ <sup>th</sup> inch to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch, you will create more rows. Use the higher number in row suggestions as your guide.

## Step 2

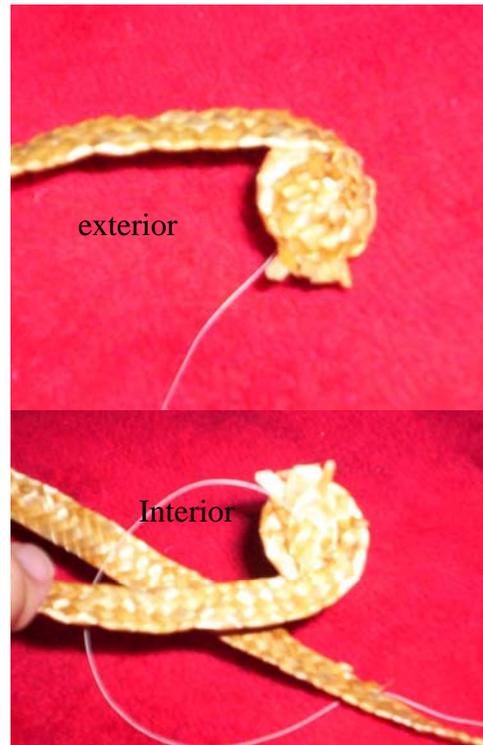
### Creating the crown

Soak about one foot of straw in warm water for several minutes. This will soften the straw making it easier to create the tight center spiral of the crown. Remove the straw from the water and blot it dry. Fold about 1 inch of straw back at a 45 degree angle. This little bit will be the start of your spiral. Firmly begin to wrap the straw plait into a spiral. When you have most of the first circle positioned, begin to firmly stitch the straw into place. Use a



running stitch or an even back stitch to attach straw plaits with

an overlap of about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch. (If you are using a narrow  $\frac{1}{4}$  in plait, the overlap will only be about  $\frac{1}{10}$  to  $\frac{1}{8}$  of an inch.) Continue to wrap the straw plait in a spiral stitching as you go. After 4 to 8 rows depending on plait width, begin to shape the crown into a bowl form. This can be done by tightening the tension on the rows and



working the shape with your fingers. Once you have the turn from the top, the straw will curve to the sides of the crown naturally. Sew 4 to 10 more rows, checking the size of the crown against your head. When you have enough rows cut the straw plait with an inch 'tail'. Tack this 'tail' to the outside of the crown.

Place the crown on the back of you head to determine a comfortable fit and the shape you want. To reshape the crown spray the crown with water. Blot off the excess water. For a flatter back to your bonnet, place the crown upside down on a flat surface and press down the interior coils. For a rounded crown, place the crown on the back of you head and hold for a few moments.

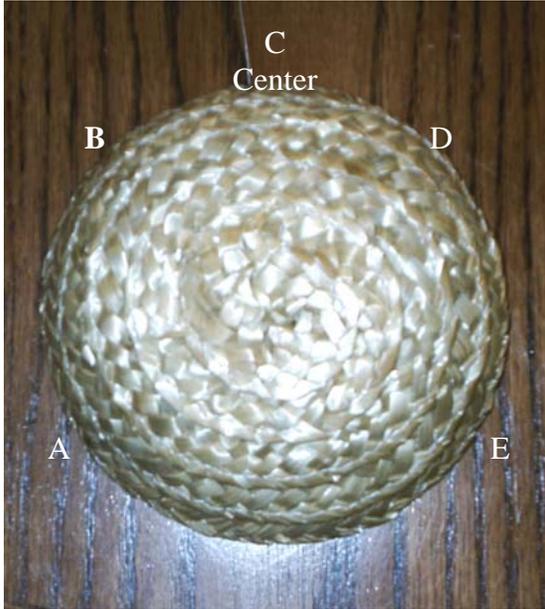


**Completed Crown:**



### Step 3 Marking the Crown

You will mark 5 points on the crown; the center, 2 sides and 2 marks for adding depth to the body. Turn the crown so the last coil is facing down on the right side at 4 o'clock if your straw coils clockwise (or down on the left side at 8 o'clock if counter clockwise.)



Points A, C and E divide the crown into thirds. Check this by measuring the circumference of the brim and dividing by 3. Each point should fall 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the way around the brim. - These markings will be used to line up each additional row of plait for the body and brim of your bonnet.

- Mark the point where the end of the plait is tacked to the inside of the crown E.
- Mark the very center top of the outer edge, Center
- Mark 8 o'clock on the left side A. and the other side of the brim.

The next two marks will be used for creating the height of the brim and depth of the body top.

- Mark 10:30 B.
- Mark 1:30 D.

## Step 4 Creating the Body

Take the straw plait. Snip the end so it is at a right angle to the length. Place this end on the exterior of the left side marking A. Stitch the plait from point A to mark B. The overlap from point A to B should be a little more than the basic  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch overlap. Use a running stitch or an even back stitch to attach straw plaits. At mark B coax the plait forward creating less of an overlap, about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch as you reach mark C. When you reach mark C the plaits should just overlap. Gradually decrease the space between plaits from mark C to mark D. The overlap at point D should be the same as point B. The stitching from mark D to mark E will match what you did from A to B. When you reach mark E trim the plait at a right angle. This is the first plait for the body of your bonnet



Repeat this process with several more plaits. Wider plaits will take 2 to 4 rows. Narrower plaits will take 4 to 8 rows. If you want to have your sides angle down toward your face, make each consecutive strand slightly longer than the last and trim the ends at an angle.

After 2 to 3 inches of plait, the bonnet depth should reach a finger's width behind the ear on each side. At this point you will start bringing the sides forward and creating height. At the same time the sides of the bonnet will curve down into the cheektabs. Each plait attached after this point will be attached on the outside and trimmed slightly longer on the sides with a downward angle. At mark A start begin attaching a plait with a narrow overlap. As you stitch closer to B coax the plait to overlap about half way. Continue attaching over the top of the bonnet



while pushing the plait up slightly. Attach to D where you will coax the plait forward again. Repeat this process moving the sides forward and the center higher. The number of plaits you attach will depend on how deep you want the bonnet on your head and how wide each plait is. The distance on the top of the bonnet from the top of the crown to this point is 6 to 8 inches. Generally about 3 to 6 wide plaits or 6 to 12 narrow plaits will be added to this point.

### Step 5

#### Creating the Brim and Cheek tabs.

Read this whole section before you start sewing. You will be working on the cheek tabs and the brim at the same time.

To create a spoon bonnet, you will need long curved cheek tabs and a high brim with narrow sides. As you attach, push height into the top of the brim. To create a bonnet appropriate for late '50's create a wider brim by pushing the width in at marks Band D. For a fashionable Marie Stuart shape, create slightly shorter cheek tabs and lesson the height in the brim while creating a slight heart shape. Additional depth can be created by inserting shorter lengths of plait at the top of the bonnet. To do so, find the center of the short strip and line it up with the center of the bonnet. Stitch the length of the plait. This can be repeated with an additional strip slightly longer then the previous. When attaching the next full-length plait, be sure to cover the raw edges of the shorter plait so they are not visible from the outside. (see illustrations.)



**Cheek tabs** - The cheek tabs will generally extend 1 to 3 inches lower than the sides of the bonnet. As you add the next plait, cut the end at an angle that extends the plait further past the previous plait. I generally start with an angle that drops down 2 straws, approx 30 degrees. The plait overlap should be  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch. When you reach the other side, extend the plait the same distance beyond the previous plait and trim the plait at the same angle.

Repeat this process while gradually extending the angle the plait is cut at. Wider plait will increase in angle measure quicker than narrow braid. Wider braid may be cut at angles such as 30, 45, 60 and 75 degrees. Narrow braid will increase more subtly with angle such as 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, and 80 degrees. Periodically check the depth of your cheek tabs by looking in a mirror and looking at originals.

The final 1 to 3 rows of plaits will round off the ends of the cheek tabs. These plaits should only be a half inch to inch wide. These ends can be cut at 90 degree angles.

**Brim** - Stitch evenly over the top of the bonnet continuing to add create the brim height and shape. For the most part the overlap will be  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch. To add height,



lessen the overlap and push the length of the plait together. This technique will make the plait widen slightly, just like a bias strip of fabric will widen if you press the ends together. To lessen the height, pull the plait narrower as you sew.

Generally you will add 2 to 5 plaits of wider plait and 4 to 10 narrower plaits to create the brim and cheek tabs. Periodically check the depth, height and shape of your bonnet on your head. The top of the brim will fall 1 to 3 inches directly above your hair line or just behind it if you are making a spoon bonnet. For a late 50s, cottage style bonnet, the brim will be lower and either at your hair line or just forward. The average depth is generally between 8 and 10 inches while the brim circumference is between 25 and 30 inches.



## Step 5

### Edging and wiring the Bonnet

Once you have completed the last plait of the brim double check the shape and fit of your bonnet. You can dampen and reshape your bonnet easily at this point. I have even dampened the bonnet, put it on and tied fabric strips around it.

Trim the shape of your cheek tabs and even out the ends of the plaits with a pair of scissors or the razor blade. Soak the remaining section of plait in your bowl of water. After the plait has become pliable, blot off the excess water.

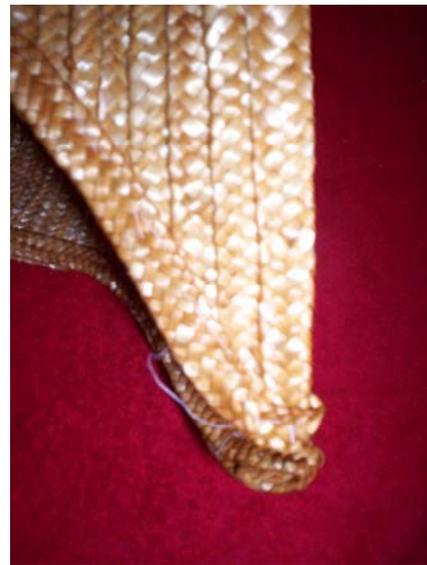
#### **Let the bonnet completely dry.**

To wire the crown, cut a plait at the same angle of the last plait on the brim. Measure the length of the last plait on the inside of the bonnet. Cut milliner wire this length. Shape the wire to the inside shape of the brim. Be sure you are shaping the wire, not the bonnet. You will sandwich the wire between the last plait and a new plait on the inside. Be sure to line up the outside edge of the plaits so the edge of the brim is smooth. You will need to sew two rows of stitches on either side of the wire. I find it easier to temporarily tape the wire to the bonnet. I remove the tape as I sew.



To finish the raw edges on the sides and cheek tabs, you will sandwich the raw edges between two layers of plait. Measure the distance on the outside from the front edge of the cheek tab along the rough edge on the sides to a half inch past the brim. Repeat this on the inside. Add these measurements together and add 2 inches. Cut a strip of plait this length. Repeat this whole process on the opposite side. The sides may be slightly different.

Slightly dampen these two strips. Fold them in half gently creasing the fold so the straw fibers do not break. This fold will wrap around the front edge of the cheek tab. Line the edge of the plait up with to hid the raw edges. Attach the plait with two rows of stitches, one securing the top of the plait to the body of the bonnet, one closing the bottom edges together around the raw edges. When you reach the end of the plait, fold the outside plait a half inch under covering the raw edge. Trim the ends as needed.



The inside end can remain raw. Warning – this is where it becomes hard to push the needle through the plaits. Wear a thimble. Repeat this process on the other side.

Congratulations, you have finished the base of your bonnet!



## Step 6 Finishing the Bonnet

### Lining the Bonnet

Lay your lining fabric out on a flat surface with the wrong side up. Place your bonnet upside down on the fabric. Mark the center of the brim and the top of the crown. While rolling the bonnet to one side then the other, trace the brim and sides on the fabric. You will get a rough half circle for the body fabric. Measure the back of the crown at the widest point. Add 1/2 inch to this measurement. Sketch a circle with this diameter onto the fabric. Cut out your fabric. With right sides together, sew the circle to the smaller curve of the body fabric. Lay the lining inside the bonnet to check edges for fit. Make a rolled hem edge around the entire lining. Attach the lining inside the bonnet. Leave a neat quarter to half inch between the edge of the brim and the lining. On the sides and back you can press the edge of the lining under the edge of the binding plait for a neater look.

### Attaching the curtain

Like the shape of bonnets, curtain lengths changed with fashion. Curtains ranged in length from 2 inches to 7 inches. Fashion trends did include bonnets *without* curtains. Most curtains start on the sides against the cheek tabs. Curtains can be attached to the tabs, loose or curved. On a straw bonnet the curtain can be attached on the inside or outside of the straw. By leaving the binding straw open, the curtain can be neatly contained inside.

To create a simple curtain - Measure the lower edge of your bonnet from cheek tab to cheek tab. Multiply this number by 2, or by 3 for a fuller ruffle. This is the length of your fabric. Determine how long you want your curtain to be. Add 1 inch seam allowance for the top and a 1/2 inch seam allowance for the bottom. Cut your material in the correct length and width. Carefully sew a finished edge along the widths and lower length of your curtain. Create a ruffle by folding the top length edge over a half inch to inch and gather, pleat or ruche the length of your curtain. Pin each end of the curtain to the sides of your bonnet. This should be where the cheek tabs meet the sides. The curtain will start about an inch above the edge of the bonnet. Consult originals for positioning. Equally distribute the fullness along the width of your curtain. Pin the curtain in place on the sides and crown. Stitch the curtain in place.

### Attaching Functional Ties

A bonnet has 2 sets of ties. One is a simple functional tie; the other is the decorative, fashionable tie. The functional ties are attached on the inside of the cheek tabs. These ties are generally 1 inch wide and simple. Their job is to hold your bonnet on. They can be ribbon or flat plait.

Cut your chosen ties a comfortable length, about 18 inches. Cut or stitch the free ends so they will not fray. Fold the top end under about 3/4 of an inch for strength and attach to the cheek tabs with needle and thread. Double check that the bonnet sits on your head the way you like once tied.

### **Decorating the Exterior & Decorative Ribbon**

Decoration on the outside of the bonnet changed in position with fashion. The 1850's called for symmetry while the transition into the 1860 saw a move towards asymmetrical and three-dimensional decoration. When decorating a slightly out-of-fashion bonnet go for ribbons and fabric flat against the bonnet. Add flowers to each side of the bonnet. For a in-fashion or high fashion bonnet don't attach your ribbon or fabric flat. There are many suggestions for folding ribbon, pleating ribbon or creating decorative ribbon & fabric fancies in ladies' literature. Add flowers, feathers and other decorative on one side of your bonnet.

### **Ruching and Decorating the Interior**

Interior decoration moved from focusing on the sides of the 1850's to drawing the eye up to the top in the 1860's. One characteristic common was an interior ruching spanning most of the brim. There seems to be a wide array of ruching materials including ribbon, fine lace and silk satin. This is simple gathered and stitched to the brim interior in one of two layers. Flowers dried and made of paper, silk, velvet, ribbon or feathers can be attached on the inside. I prefer to make my floral piece separately and attach it as one piece to the bonnet interior with needle and thread.

## Notes for Adjusting the Size of Your Bonnet

One of the great things about straw is you can make adjustments as you go. Before you begin you may want to pin your hair up in a period-esque style. Determine whether your head is larger or smaller; then whether it is a matter of depth, width, or height. As you work, check the bonnet against your head to see how the fit feels.

The most important part in getting a good start to the fit is while you work on the crown tip. When you make the back, check it against the back of your head. The width of the tip coil should reflect the width of your head. This back section should reach to the edges of the back of your head or hairstyle (depending on whether you will wear you bonnet over or on your hairstyle.)

If your head is wider, you may need an extra coil or two around the back of the crown tip. This area will really determine how wide your bonnet is from that point forward. Don't begin to curve the plait forward until it comfortably fits at the back of your head. Once you come around the curve, you may need to play with the tension (push on the plait a little) to give a little more room in the crown. If as you work on the body of the bonnet you find you need more width, wet your bonnet and reshape it to reflect the width you need. Let the bonnet dry before you continue sewing.

If your head is deeper, your crown may not need this adjustment in the crown tip. Your adjustments will be as you work forward. As you do, continually check the size. There are three points where I usually add depth – the crown tip, the crown body, and the brim. On the sides of the crown tip, you may want to coil an extra row or two before tacking down the end. (This is where the period hair style helps.) Add an extra row or two of plait in the body of the bonnet. Continue with the shaping in the directions. Add an extra row in the brim as well. I find one row at this point can make a big difference.

If your head is longer, adjust the drop in the sides to reflect your needs. You will basically be lengthening each plait strip a half inch or so.

If your head is narrower or just smaller overall, your adjustments will come in the crown body through the brim. (It is very unusual that you will need to make a smaller crown tip. Most tips will be an average size or larger, not smaller. Even when I make children's bonnets, the crown tip isn't much different. When I do make a smaller crown tip, it becomes a doll bonnet.) You will instead need to reduce the number of rows of plaits in the crown tip, crown body, and/or the brim. If your head is only a little smaller in depth, leave the depth in the crown tip; take out one row in the crown body; then determine if you need to take out another row in the brim.

If you have a shorter face, shorten the length of the sides and cheektabs by shortening the lengths of the plait a half inch or so. A fraction of an inch can go a long way. Plus, it is possible to trim some length away while it is much harder to add length.

## **Caring for and Cleaning Your Straw Bonnet**

Straw bonnets do well in many weather conditions that buckram bonnets do not. Still, you will want to care for your bonnet. These suggestions are those I have found to work best for myself followed by suggestions from two respected women of the time.

### ***Storing your bonnet***

When storing your bonnet, place it in a hat box or other container to keep out dust on its face with a cotton support inside to keep from crushing the decorations. Placing the bonnet upright will put too much weight on the cheek-tabs. Placing the bonnet upside-down will depress the top of the bonnet. Ribbons can be kept from wrinkling by rolling them from the ends up and tucking them inside the bonnet.

### ***Removing Dust and Dirt***

Dust and dirt will accumulate on a bonnet just with daily wear or display. A few methods work well for removing both dust and dirt. For a general cleaning of dust, use a dry medium sized artist's paintbrush. This type of brush works well at reaching the crevices in the plait. Dust the whole bonnet. If a spot of dirt has formed, use a dry toothbrush to loosen the dirt. Brush away the loosened dirt with the paintbrush. If a straw bonnet has become particularly dusty or covered with train engine soot, I like to use my vacuum cleaner. I cover the crevice tool with a cloth to weaken the strength. Then run the vacuum over the entire bonnet.

### ***What if you get stuck in the rain?***

A straw bonnet is a great choice for a warm sunny day because it lets your head breathe a little better than buckram will. It will also hold up better in dust and mild rain than a buckram bonnet. But, occasionally we get stuck in heavier rain. Heavy rain can effect your bonnet in two ways. First, the color of your decorations may run and stain the straw. Second, heavy or prolonged wetness can soften the sizing and the straw.

The problem with running colors is best avoided when you initially decorate your bonnet. Check questionable materials before attaching them to the bonnet. This way you will know what to expect. Paper flowers and dyed feathers tend to be the biggest culprits. If you do end up with a stain, try a white cloth or cotton-tip with hydrogen-peroxide or an oxygenated whitener on the stained area. If that does not work, you will have to rearrange your decorations.

If your bonnet does get wet enough to soften the sizing, find a flat surface to place it on to dry. You may find if the bonnet has become very wet, the weight of the decorations such as flowers may mis-shape the bonnet. In this case, remove the decorations. Check the symmetry and reshape any softened depressions that may have formed. Allow the bonnet to completely dry. If you feel an area of the bonnet needs additional glue solution to strength it, repaint it from the outside.

***Period Suggestions for Cleaning a Straw Bonnet:***

From *The New Household Receipt Book* by Sarah Josepha Buell Hale (New York: H. Long, 1853):

239. *To clean Straw Bonnets.*—Put a chafing-dish, with some lighted charcoal, into a close room or large box; then strew on the coals an ounce or two of powdered brimstone, and let the bonnets hang in the room or box for some hours, when they remain to be blocked.

243. *Straw Bonnets.*—If a straw bonnet is not worth the expense of properly cleaning, it may be greatly improved both in comfort and appearance, by washing it with soap and water, applied by means of a bit of flannel or sponge. Afterwards rinse with clean water, and dry quickly in the air. When dry, wash over with the white of an egg, finely beaten. The wire had better be removed before washing, and put on afresh.

There is no great art in reducing a straw bonnet for a child. Take off all the ribs of straw that form a sort of border by going round the edge; as many also of the straight ribs as will leave the front nearly of the depth required, from the remaining front ribs cut off a little at each end; fasten the ends securely- and again set on the border ribs. Unpick the sewing of the head-piece, till two, three, or more of the top rounds are taken off, so as to bring it to the size required. Then sew again as many as will bring it to a proper depth. It is not intended to say, that a person who never learned the art of straw bonnet-making, and has not the proper blocks, &c., will do it as well as one who has; but any notionable needle-woman may do it, so as to look much better than a large bonnet on the small head of a child. A bonnet-shape of pasteboard or buckram may be renewed by laying it between two sheets of damp paper, and ironing with a hot iron. The wire must be previously removed and afterwards put on afresh.

To clean silk and ribbons, wash in cold rain water with a very little soap. Avoid squeezing and wringing. If very dirty, two waters may be requisite; the second may be slightly blued, unless the color of the silk forbids it (as yellow or red). Spread on a clean towel, and while damp, iron with a piece of clean paper placed between the silk or ribbon and the iron.

From *Miss Leslie's Lady's House-book: A Manual of Domestic Economy* by Eliza Leslie (Philadelphia: Hart, 1850) :

***TO CLEAN A STRAW OR LEGHORN BONNET.*—**

Having separated the crown from the brim and the cape or neck-piece, and removed the lining and wire, the next thing is to take out whatever stains may be found in the bonnet, the crown of which should be put on a wooden block. For grease, rub on with your finger some powdered Wilmington clay, or a little magnesia; and in an hour or two brush it off, and renew the application, if necessary. For other stains use either cream of tartar or salt of sorrel, put on a little wet. If salt of sorrel, must be washed off again almost immediately, lest it injure the straw by remaining on it. Afterwards (keeping the crown still on the bonnet-block) go over the whole surface of the bonnet with a brush dipped in a weak solution of pearl-ash in lukewarm water, (a tea-spoonful to a quart.) Then scour it off at once, with a

*strong lather of brown soap and cold water, put on with a clean brush. When all the bonnet is well cleaned, rinse it in cold water, and hang it in the sun to dry. Bonnet cleaning should never be undertaken in damp weather. When the bonnet is perfectly dry, you may proceed to whiten it. Fill a chafing dish or portable furnace with burning charcoal; carry it into a small close room or into an empty press or closet, and by a line suspended across, hang the bonnet over the charcoal, at a safe distance, so that it will be in no danger of scorching. Then strew over the coals an ounce or two of powdered brimstone, and immediately go out and shut the door, seeing that no air whatever can get into the room.*

*After the bonnet has hung in the vapour six or seven hours, throw open the door, (having first left open an outside door or window, so as to admit immediately the fresh air,) and go into the room as soon as you find you can do so without inconvenience from the fumes of the charcoal and sulphur. Then bring out the bonnet, and hang it in the open air till the smell of the brimstone has entirely left it. If the day is windy, so much the better; but the bonnet must on no account be hung out if the weather is damp, and it must be brought in before sunset. If it is not sufficiently white, repeat next day the process of bleaching it with charcoal and brimstone.*

*The next thing is to stiffen the bonnet. To make the stiffening, boil in two quarts of soft water, a quarter of a pound of vellum shavings, (the vellum of buffalo's hide is best,) filling it up occasionally, if it seems to be boiling too dry. It must boil or simmer slowly for six or seven hours. Then, when you take it from the fire, let it stand a while to settle; after which, pour it off into a basin, and it will become a thick jelly. To the sediment left in the pot, you may add a second two quarts of water; and after a second boiling, it will form another jelly or sizing, strong enough for similar purposes. When you are going to use it for a bonnet, melt up a pint of this jelly, and mix with it a small half-tea-spoonful of oxalic acid, (not more, or it will injure the straw,) and then with a clean sponge or brush go all over the bonnet, inside and out, with the sizing.*

*Dry the bonnet; and when quite dry, go over it again with a second wash of the stiffening. Dry it again, and then spread over it a wet piece of jaconet muslin; or damp the bonnet all over with a sponge and lukewarm water, and then cover it with a fine white handkerchief, while you press it hard and evenly with a warm box-iron, exerting all your strength. The crown must be pressed while on the bonnet-block; the brim may be done on an ironing-table. Afterwards expose the bonnet to the air, till it becomes perfectly dry; and next day it will be ready for putting together, lining, and trimming; first mending whatever defective places may be found in it.*

*The front of a bonnet will keep its shape much better if the wire is thick and stout. In lining a bonnet, the best way for a novice in the art, is to pin a large sheet of thin soft paper on the outside of the brim, and (having fitted it smoothly) cut it of the proper shape and size, allowing a little for turning in at the edge. Then pin the paper into the inside of the brim, and if it fits perfectly smooth, cut out the silk lining by it. A piece of oiled silk sewed all round the inside of the crown, at the joining place, and extending down a little upon the the [sic] brim, will prevent the stain from perspiration, that so frequently disfigures that part of a bonnet.*

*Without a regular cleaning in the preceding manner, a discoloured straw bonnet may be improved in appearance, if previous to putting on a fresh trimming, you stretch the bonnet on a block, (or something that will answer the purpose,) and go all over it with a sponge dipped in lukewarm water, in which has been dissolved pearl-ash, in the proportion of a*

*small tea-spoonful of pearl-ash to a' pint of water; afterwards rinsing it off, wiping it hard with a flannel, and drying it well.*

*Next, go over it with a clean sponge dipped in strong rice-water, which will be the better for having dissolved in it a half-tea-spoonful of sugar of lead. Then dry the bonnet, and having damped it all over with a wet sponge, cover it with thin muslin, and press it hard with a heavy and moderately warm iron.*

References to Straw Bonnets  
from Southern Newspapers

(Visit Vicki Bett's research site for an abundance of primary information.)

CHARLESTON MERCURY, August 9, 1860, p. 1, c. 3

Where Our Bonnets Come From.--There are six or seven millions of women in the United States, and each woman considers herself an injured individual if she don't [sic] have at least four bonnets a year. Now, did all these followers of fashion ever stop to reflect where the multitudinous chapeaus [sic] come from? We think we can enlighten them. Foxboro, in Massachusetts, is, probably, the largest place of straw manufacture in the world. At one factory, three hundred girls and two hundred and seventy men are employed outside of the factory, and fifteen thousand hats and bonnets are manufactured per day. Very little of the straw goods used are plated in this country, the wages being too high here to afford it at the importing rates.

CHARLESTON MERCURY, September 14, 1860, p. 4, c. 1

Our New York Correspondence. Fashion Letter. New York, September 8.

.....The polka spot straw bonnet is very much sought for this season. A fine black straw, dotted with white--some of these are trimmed with vivid scarlet velvet and black feathers. The capes are always bias, sometimes of black silk, bound with the pervading colors. There is a rage for black in bonnets, in silk, straw, or Neapolitan. I saw one of the latter, trimmed with black bitter-sweet berries, with golden eyes, pendant from broad Magenta velvet leaves; the cape was of black velvet, bound with Magenta; one string of the same color, the other of black; the ruche of black Malihes lace, contrasted with rich Magenta velvet flowers, tipped with marabout feathers. I understand that white straw bonnets have to beat a retreat before their colored rivals, or *dye!* Fashion has naught to do with politics, however, and if your correspondent dons a *black chapeau*, be assured it will *not* cover a Republican head.....

NASHVILLE DISPATCH, April 29, 1862, p. 3, c. 4

New Southern Straw Hat and Bonnet Manufactory.

The People of Nashville and vicinity are informed that they can be supplied with Hats and Bonnets from the production of their own soil--no way inferior, if not surpassing any English importation or any handicraft of the Northern States. Also, that their old Hats and Bonnets, however much soiled and out of modern style, can be made to compete with new ones, in shape and finish, at very short notice, and on reasonable terms. Hats and Bonnets are colored and finished in superior style.

Black lace Veils, &c., although reduced to an apparently worthless condition, may be restored to their primitive beauty in color and finish. Feathers colored white and red, and finished to equal new. All those who wish to see "old things pass away and all things become new" in the way of Hats, Bonnets, Lace, &c., will please call at No. 15½ Kirkman's Block, Summer street.

SOUTHERN ILLUSTRATED NEWS, September 19, 1863, p. 85, p. 1-3

A Blockade Correspondence. Edited by Refugitta.

Number 7. Richmond, August, 1863.

.....Straw plating is another mania throughout the State. I have not doubt, you, with your beautiful Leghorn and Dorsey's fall trimming of wheat-ears and lace, would turn up your nose at the bonnet *grown*, and platted, shaped and pressed upon one spot! But you would be astonished at the success of some endeavors in the 'Rough and Ready' style of hat and bonnet. Almost every lady in Richmond sits down in her parlor, with a circular roll of straw, to supersede the old time crochet and tating, two feminine fancies, by the way, of which my ignorance has always cherished unmitigated horror.

Your reduced friend, Florence.

NEW ORLEANS] DAILY PICAYUNE, April 17, 1864, p. 2, c. 5

Spring Bonnets. [From the Round Table.]

.....Black crinoline and black straw are in great vogue for useful bonnets. They are very simply and becomingly trimmed with blue and green tartan, with a pretty aigrette in front of field grass and blue daisies.

Bonnets of gray straw and small black and white checkered silk, with soft (cap) crowns, are most in favor for traveling purposes. The trimming is simply a large cluster of narrow ribbon bows with ends, pinned

near the top, or high on the side of the crown. Gray straw bonnets trimmed in this way have cap crowns in check or plaid to match the bows and curtains.....

Straw trimmings, by the way, are a great feature of the season's decorations. They are very beautiful, and quite as costly as rich lace and imitation jewels. They are straw borderings with pendant attachment, straw bands for jockey hats with rich tassel—narrow straw ribbon daintly [sic] striped; an immense variety of loops and clasps and staffs, and curious ornaments of all kinds, with knobs, rings, chains, knapsacks, and all sorts of vagaries attached, of delicately woven hair. But the triumph of straw art is the production of a sort of straw guipure, very rich and very effective, and manufactured in barbe like bands. Straw flowers are also made with transparent leaves, terminating in aigrette plumes, which compose charming montures, in conjunction with blue corn-flowers upon bonnets of Leghorn for instance, with curtain of Mexican blue.

MONTGOMERY WEEKLY ADVERTISER, April 22, 1863, p. 2, c. 7  
Straw Hats and Bonnets.

The summer season is approaching when straw hats and bonnets will be "in fashion." It is important that we should look about us and see what substitute we can provide for those we have heretofore had of Northern manufacture. A correspondent of the *Edgefield Advertiser* recommends selecting the finest and largest straw from the rye field, for braiding straw, and gives the following direction for cutting and preparing it: "The rye must be cut while in bloom, cut as carefully as possible to prevent breaking, cut early in the morning and bundle it immediately, before the sun has much power on it. It must then be taken to a kettle of boiling water and each bundle steeped three minutes, then open the bundles and spread out to dry and bleach, a clear sun being almost indispensable to fine color. After it becomes properly dried, put into a bundle again to be kept in a dry place where the dust cannot soil it."

Advertisements:

DAILY CHRONICLE & SENTINEL [AUGUSTA, GA], January 8, 1860, p. 2, c. 3  
Fashionable Millinery.

Mrs. E. O. Collins, begs to inform her numerous friends and patrons, that she has recently returned from New York, and is daily exhibiting a large stock of Rich and Fashionable French and American Millinery, consisting of Velvet, Silk and Straw Bonnets; Dress Caps, Head Dresses, Ribbons, Bridal Wreaths, Flowers, Rouches, Hair Braids, Curls, Hair Pins, Wax Beads, Bonnet Pins, &c, &c.

DAILY CHRONICLE & SENTINEL [AUGUSTA, GA], March 8, 1862, p. 3, c. 3  
Millinery Goods.

5 cases Straw Bonnets; [sic]

2 " Leghorn " ;

5 " " Flats;

5 " Blk Straw " ;

5 " Brown " " ;

5 " Slate Color " ;

6 doz. Bonnett [sic] Frames;

25 " " Boxes;

20 boxes Superior Bonnet Ribbons;

20 boxes fine Flowers. For sale by Joseph Lippman, Savannah Geo. feb28-d2w

WASHINGTON [ARK.] TELEGRAPH, February 5, 1862

Fashionable Millinery. Miss L. Tapania Would most respectfully announce that she has opened, adjoining Moore & Smith's Drug Store, a Fashionable Millinery Establishment, Lace, Crape, Silk, Chip, Leghorn and English Straw Bonnets, Misses' and Children's Hats, in every shape and color, Head Dresses, Caps, Gloves, Trimmings, and Berthas. Bonnets bleached, trimmed and remodeled. Every thing in the line got up in as elegant a style as can be procured in the city or elsewhere. Dress making will also be carried on.

LITTLE ROCK] ARKANSAS TRUE DEMOCRAT, April 11, 1861, p. 2, c. 8  
Millinery, Millinery

Ladies if you want a handsome Bonnet, call on Mrs. Jones'—She has just received a beautiful lot of Crape, Hair and Straw Bonnets, which she will sell to suit the times.

April 11, 1861.

COLUMBUS [GA] ENQUIRER, April 10, 1860, p. 3, c. 7

Latest Styles of Dress Goods For Spring and Summer.....Geo. W. Atkinson & Co's.

Straw Goods!

Ladies' newest style White and Colored Crape Bonnets;

Neapolitan, English, Straw and Linen Braid do.

Misses and Children's Flats and Bonnets;

Misses' Neapolitan Flats;

Children's Leghorn Flats and Hats.

We have a beautiful stock of the above goods, and will sell them cheap for cash.