

Millinery Expert Tells How To Renovate Hats

Miss Esther B. Cooley
Explains the Ways and
Means of Modern-
izing Work

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vice, Oregon Agricultural College.

Old or dingy hats may often be modernized and renewed with very little time, effort, or money expenditure.

Equipment.
Usual sewing equipment and a pair of small pliers can be made to function satisfactorily. There are some millinery equipment pieces that would find more or less constant use in any dressmaking work. Following are descriptions of equipment and supplies:

Milliner's thread—Specially prepared, well twisted, heavily waxed, easily drawn through materials. Silk thread frays out and breaks and should not be used if colors can be matched in cotton. Get a fine hard twisted cotton if you do not wish to buy milliner's thread and use bees wax. Also useful for sewing on buttons.

Milliner's needles—Long, small eye needle. Not absolutely essential but a convenience in long stitches required for millinery. Useful in dressmaking also. Assorted sizes—For drillings and very coarse materials use needles 1-5, thread 5-25 cotton, 40-60 linen; Buckram, needles 4-6, thread 24-36 cotton, 60-80 linen; silks and velvets, needles 7, thread 80-80, A. and B. sewing silk; organadies and chiffons, needles 10-12, thread 100-150, 00-000 sewing silk.

Pliers—For bending, twisting and cutting wire.

Wire—Brace No. 21, white or black, silk or cotton covered, for frame work. Lace wire No. 19, white, black, silk or cotton covered for light frame work, facings, etc. The wire, covered, black, white used for frame work, trimmings, etc. Ribbon wire consists of two or more fine parallel wires over which muslin is folded or pasted forming a flat tape that may be bent to any desired shape. Used for ribbon stiffening supporting drapes and for making head-size bands.

Pins—Small sharp pointed steel pins most desirable as they do not injure or disarrange materials.

Milliner's cement—For use in cementing fitted covering on hats or making various trimmings, etc. Does not stain. Will evaporate if left loosely corked. Add gasoline to thin.

Clips—Can be obtained in various sizes. Suitable for joining ends construction wires, should not be used where there is any strain tending to separate ends of wire.

Buckram—Good for general utility hat. Purchasable in black and white in several grades and widths. Either 2 or 3 ply material. Used as foundation frame for fabric and straw braid hats; as head bands for bias crinolin or netting brims or for fabric brims with spring wire edges. Renovation—Sponge and press with medium hot iron. If it still remains limp in one or two lines, a patch of new buckram may be cemented or stitched over cracks. If it has an all-over limpness, worthwhile renovation is impossible.

Miller's canvas—Used as interlinings in soft sports hats.

Crinolin—Black and white single-ply open mesh fabric, heavily sized. Good for crown foundations, brim bindings, narrow brims for gingham hats, visor edges for toques, linings for drapery trimming foundations, etc. Valueless for anything but brim bindings after sizing is gone. 35 inch width.

Elastic cloth—Flexible net, netting, white, cream or black. Good general utility foundation. Used for roll edges on brims, roll side crowns, roll edge for toques, narrow brims; 44 inch width.

Linings for hats—Silk or cotton; black, white or colored. May be purchased or made if old ones are not available. Small oval tops with bias piece sides preferred style.

Crowns—Netting, most durable; buckram good; rice net, poor damp weather quality; crinolin, poor damp weather. In a variety of shapes, may be purchased from wholesale or retail houses, used as a foundation for various hat crowns and toques. Difficult to renovate without spoiling shapes.

Brim—Netting durable; buckram good; rice net will not stand much damp weather and cannot be renovated as is mostly starch.

Cleaning.
Spot—Oily hair and powder marks may be sponged off with commercial cleaners obtainable from drug stores and filling stations. Rub with soft cloth, continuously until dampened area is dry, paying especial attention to rubbing the margins off the spot so that a ring does not form.
Surface scrubbing—High test gasoline or alcohol may be applied with a soft brush to felt and straw surfaces and much soil removed. Felt hats may also be scrubbed with very fine sandpaper. This cleans and does not roughen the surface.

Immersion—Hats of almost any description may be completely immersed in high test gasoline, rubbing soiled spots lightly until they disappear. The gasoline can be used over again and again if dirt is allowed to settle out and top poured off.

Caution—This type of cleaning should be done out of doors well away from any fire, with the wind blowing vapor away from the individual cleaning. Surfaces should not be rubbed too hard or pressed before thoroughly dry.

Cleaning and Bleaching—Milan.

hemp, Panama and rough straw hats. In natural colors these straws may be treated with oxalic acid solution as described. Do not put hands in solution. Dissolve 1 tablespoonful oxalic acid in 1 pint of water. Test solution by dropping a teaspoonful on a pine board. Bubbles indicate too strong a solution, if it bubbles, add more water. Use small scrubbing brush; scrub rapidly beginning in center top crown, rubbing around and around until all parts of the crown and brim are reached. Whirl in air or sunlight until dry; press with fingers or warm iron if it gets out of shape.

Fabric cleaning: Velvets—To steam, place hot iron flat side up, over which lay a damp cloth. Pass the velvet right side up, over the steaming cloth, at the same time brushing gently against the nap with a soft brush. The steam raises the nap and removes creases. Do not allow steam to wet the velvet. Do not touch surface of velvet until it is thoroughly dry.

To "broad-tail," place velvet face down on a table, dampen the back by rubbing a wet cloth in the opposite direction of the nap. After the material is well moistened, fold it once lengthwise with nap inside. Twist and wring the piece. When twisted tight, tie the ends firmly and stretch between two chairs so that it will not untwist and let remain twisted until dry. Untwist and use for trim or covering.

To panne velvet, press lightly on right side with the nap being careful not to allow the iron to rest too long on any one spot as it will leave an imprint.

Brocade effects may be produced by arranging coarse lace patterns on pile surface of velvet, placing wet ironing sheet over this and pressing with the nap until pattern is thoroughly dried in velvet. Worn, pilled, or faded velvets can be camouflaged by this method.

Ribbons—Black ribbons are renovated with a sponging solution of one-third alcohol and two-thirds water; when partly dry, iron under paper or a piece of black crinolin with a moderately warm iron. Immense colored ribbons into high test gasoline to clean them. Ribbons of good quality will wash if carefully done. Do not wring-iron between papers.

Silk—Japanese, China, India and pongee silks are freshened by washing in warm soapsuds, rinsing quickly and drying in the shade; roll in a sheet before dry, iron on the wrong side. Colored silk fades and white silk yellows after washing. This may be avoided by using medium warm soap and water and rinsing well; wrap in a large cloth (an old sheet is satisfactory) until somewhat dried and then iron on the wrong side with a moderate iron, using thin lawn or paper between the iron and silk. Do not let it come in contact with the light and air while wet, as the yellows and fades the fabric.

When black silk or satin begins to shine, sponge on the right side with a mixture of two parts alcohol and one of water, and iron on wrong side while still damp.

Lace—Baste both edges of lace to a piece of muslin. Place in soap solution, do not rub. Rinse and place between dry cloths or white blotting paper to dry. If carefully stretched the lace will not require pressing.

Feathers and Flowers—Clean by immersing in gasoline or steaming.

White Ostrich—Dip feather in high test gasoline. Squeeze the flues between the fingers moving from the stem toward the tips. When the feather is clean, rinse in clean gasoline to which has been added wheat flour in proportions 2 tablespoons flour to one pint gasoline. Shake the feather in the air until dry.

Dark or Colored Ostrich—Clean in wood alcohol or gasoline and rinse in clean alcohol or gasoline. To curl ostrich—Shake feathers over a jet of steam, holding a few flues between the thumb and a case knife, drawing the knife from the stem out to the end of the flue. Curl only the tips.

Recoloring.
Hats: Painting—Straw or felt hats are colored successfully sometimes with mixtures of oil paint and gasoline or sealing wax and alcohol. Sealing wax-alcohol solution prepared as follows: powder sealing wax, moisten slightly with alcohol and allow to stand 16 or 12 hours until thoroughly softened, then add enough alcohol to make usable as a paint. Experiment with colors you wish to use on lower inside crown to see what effect present color of hat has.

Commercial paints for hats or so-called dyes may be applied. Sometimes give hats an objectionable stiffness. Try out on lower inside crown surface.

Dyeing—Milan hats, straw braids may be boll-dyed with any cotton cloth dye. It will, of course, be necessary to reblock hat. After such a coloring process, straw braids may be pressed.

Flowers and feathers may be trimmed and then retained by dipping in gasoline and oil paints or by painting with oil or metal paints or sealing wax and alcohol. Stamen centers and margins should be given especial attention. Loosened wires may be glued, or better, cemented in place. Feather pom-poms and ostrich tips are rejuvenated and made more attractive if a few flues are brushed lightly with metal paint.

Fabrics, ribbons and braids may be retinted with oil paints and gasoline. Faded out patterns may be traced over and emphasized with oil paints, sealing wax, or crayolas. (Crayon drawings on fabric are fairly permanent if

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A Message--- To The Home-makers Of La Grande

To those attending the Homemakers' Institute which is to be held at La Grande July 13-17 we would call attention to the fact that as furniture specialists we are equipped and in a position to carry out the ideas and suggestions that will be embodied in the lectures on Home Furnishing to be given by the various authorities on this occasion.

LIVING ROOM FURNITURE.—You will find in our stocks productions from the leading furniture manufacturers of the country, such as Levine, Karpen, Gregory and Heywood-Wakefield. This merchandise is not only nationally advertised but the quality is also guaranteed by the makers' reputation for superior merchandise.

DINING ROOM FURNITURE.—A wide variety of period styles carefully chosen and planned to embody every requirement of taste and space, impressive designs, richness coupled with quality.

BED ROOM FURNITURE.—Represented on our floors is the type of furniture of which you can be honestly proud—every item of real significance, because of the splendid quality and beauty of the offerings. Here you can see the productions of the Sleigh Furniture Company, nationally famous for their exquisite and exclusive line of bedroom furniture.

RUGS.—An assembly of the world's finest rugs, among which will be found the Herati, Biglow, Buckingham and Whittals, the wide variety of weaves and colors gives almost unlimited opportunity for a careful comparison and correct selection.

DRAPERIES.—Of all the factors which enter into home decoration that which is nearest to the heart of the homemaker is the question of curtains and draperies. The beauty of a curtain is not in its intrinsic value but in its design and in the skill with which it is draped to meet the two-fold requirement of serving its purpose usefully and harmonizing with the room. Our lines include the Orinka overdrapes, Quaker Lace, Bromley Silk Net and Panel Curtains.

The services of our own interior decorator are at your disposal, and any advice or suggestions you may require in the way of home decoration will be given gladly and involves no obligation on your part.

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