

Trimmings for Hats



Decide on the colours...

Some suggestions:

- With Grey - pink, mauve and dusty purple with touches of green and yellow or cream.
- turquoise, dusty purple and cream
- With Brown - Peach, soft beige, a touch of green and cream.
- Add silk roses, feathers (tiny ostrich or marabou snippets bundled together or dyed budgie feathers)
- The addition of cream softens two stronger colours as does a light butter yellow.
- You will need a trim to finish off the edges and to hide unsightly joins. Tiny braids work well but if they are not available, bunka is the next best choice. (See below)

FINISHING THE EDGES



Bunka is the fine cord which makes up the fringing seen on furniture and can be purchased easily from most curtaining shops. Thicker ones are preferable as they give a larger loop. All you need to do is to carefully unpick the braid and when the cord is gently pulled from the end, a loop twist is formed.

Glue this to your edges without stretching it out - it looks like a ruched trim and is very pretty.



A purchased trimming is the easiest way to finish off the edges - most Miniature Suppliers stock this sort of trim.

It is glued flat onto the brim, with a little overlap (as illustrated here).

When you come to the ends, put some glue on the BACK of the braid where you want to cut it, allow to dry and then clip through -

this will stop it fraying out.

TIP: ALWAYS apply glues with a toothpick, not straight from the tube or bottle (with the exception of STICK glue, when you are applying it to a surface). Rather too little than too much.



If you can't find a suitable trim, choose a contrasting or close match of embroidery thread and plait the 6 strands together. (Clamp the starting ends to a table and plait as evenly as you can - make it a little longer than you need as the start

may be a bit uneven).

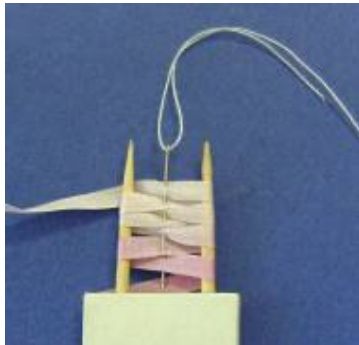
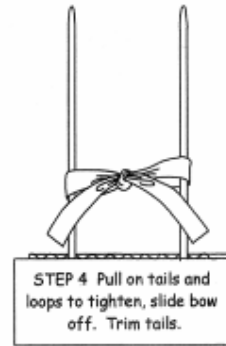
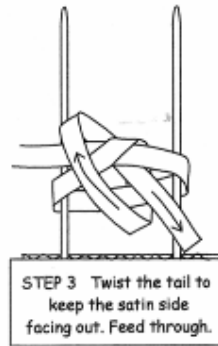
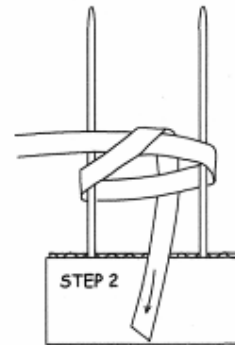
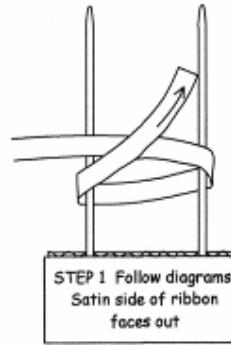
Use a toothpick to apply glue to the edge of the brim - work from the centre front round to the back. Only clip the ends just before glueing down - add a tiny dab to the tip and use your fingers to push the strands together. Glue down. Press plait firmly against the brim edge to make sure it is secure

TIP: If you can't find a good match, try combined colours of embroidery thread - mix dark and light!

DECORATIVE TRIMMINGS



Handmade bows and tiny purchased flowers can be added. Make an adjustable bow-maker from a piece of finely corrugated cardboard. (See picture below) Move the toothpicks apart for larger bows.

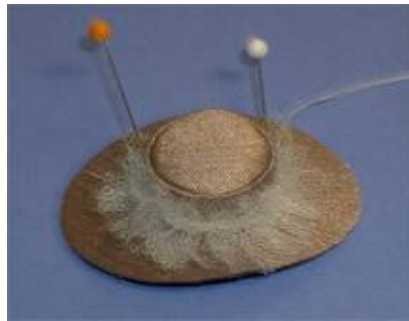


Multiloop Bows are very pretty particularly with a variegated ribbon. Use the ribbon maker and wind the ribbon under and over between layers. Notice how the needle is threaded through the layers (make a knot in the end of the thread to start) Pull up and wind thread tight around all loops a couple of times, stitch off.

TIP: Twist a fine wire around the centre and double to form a stem - this makes it easier to glue on.



Silk roses are a little more difficult to make until you get the knack. You can find instructions to make them at www.swallowhilldolls.com/roses.html



This tiny hat has a 30cm length of tulle, stitched as instructions below, which covers $\frac{3}{4}$ of the circumference of the crown. Once glued in place, the other trimmings can be added.

TIP: Make sure the thread of the stitching is on the join and pull it in tightly, then add a few dabs of glue with a toothpick. You may need to hold them in place until they dry.



Cut tulle 1.25cms wide and run a gathering stitch down the centre (machine stitched is easiest). Tie off one end and draw up from the other end, arranging the gathers evenly, tie off other end.



On the left is a snippet of maribou feather which has had the end painted with glue, then rolled and compressed between the fingers once it had set. On the right is the same tuft (shown slightly closer) which has been trimmed and the feathers curled over the back of a knife.



Ostrich Feathers have a different look to them - use the tips for preference (arrange them to almost the same level). They need to be tied off with very fine wire (fuse wire is perfect). Far left are the clipped ends - as you can see, they are not feathery. On the right are the curled feather tips - you have to curl them individually (and carefully).



These are feathers from a pillow - left, uncurled, right, curled over the blunt edge of a knife. Budgie feathers also work very well. All feathers can be dyed and dried. **TIP:** Place a sieve over them, dry with a hairdryer.



Bunches of cherries made from silvered beads. Tie double knots in a length of embroidery thread, glue beads onto knots, nip thread just below knot. Glue together in bunches, add silk ribbon leaves.