

My New Hat

This Department is written Specially for The Guide by Ida C. Van Auken, of the Editorial Staff, Ladies Home Journal, Philadelphia.

I do not think I have ever known a time when hats have been so graceful and varied as they are this season. They are in every size and shape imaginable, which is characteristic of sameness in designing, doubtless due to the seriousness of mind of the inimitable French designers during this trying period of wartime.

I think the most important point about a hat is that it should be becoming.



ing, and now that hats are so very simple, and we can no longer depend upon soft, waving plumes and gracefully made bows to supply beauty, the hat itself must provide what it lacks in trimming, and this means that the shape must be well made and in a large enough variety to suit the different types of faces.

The dressy hats are both large and small, but, as we have worn small hats quite continuously for several seasons, the big, broad brimmed hats are generally considered the novelty of the year. There is a great deal of talk about "little hats being passe," but I must confess that I do not see any evidence of a lack of interest in them. In this day of, motors women cannot manage to get along without at least one small hat. Hats designed especially for motoring, fitting well down on the head and tying under the chin or requiring the confining influence of a veil are seldom worn in town.

One must be snugly hatted, as well as smartly, and the tiny, close-fitting brimless toques seem to be about the most satisfactory type of headwear which meets all requirements. They are made of velvet, which continues to be the most fashionable millinery material, altho taffeta, faille, satin and many fabrics will also be used. Woolen textures have always been used, of course, especially by your English cousins in the smartest kind of sport hats, which they have always made better than anyone else in the world, but this season soft serge, worsted and the chamois and velour finish materials are made up into very chic straight brim sailors, small toques and berettes, for wear with one's very best tailored suit.

So popular has been the tam hat thruout the summer in all its versions that it did not seem possible for it to run over into the fall season. But here it is again, saucy, piquant and adorable, in the identical artists' tam of the Latin Quarter, in eight sections, made more jaunty by a long-stemmed tassel overhanging the ear, or a jaunty quill rising high on one side; or it may be a circular or shirred tam dignified by a fitted bandeau which almost makes you think it is a reversible brim, placed at the upper edge of the crown instead of at the lower edge where it properly belongs. They are for all ages, these tams, the younger girls preferring the more floppy, unstiffened ones.

One of the most charming hats and a decided novelty this year is that with the rippling brim. Extending wide out, like our new rippling skirts, they fall in the prettiest irregular curves, now concealing, then revealing sparkling eyes and dimpling cheeks. There is no doubt of the flattering qualities of a big curving brimmed hat of dark velvet; one is instantly relieved of the strain of trying to look pleasant and happy as in wearing a tiny brimless hat which reveals not only every wrinkle but almost every thought.

Another point about the new hats which pleases me immensely, for I am the most practical economist, is the fact that some of the loveliest ones can be so easily copied. Even the made of velvet they are made on the softest cape net or willow foundations, and the crowns are quite devoid of stiffening, the silk lining giving it quite enough body. Then the trimmings are so easy to make, and very often instead of a finished brim edge, which I defy anyone but a skilled milliner to make successfully, the edges are soft, extending one or two inches beyond the stiffening and often pasted together or turned under and finished with a long loose over and over stitch, buttonholing, the Kensington stitch or a half-inch running stitch in silk floss, zephyr or Angora wool. Then a curious little ornament of the same material is used as a trimming or the stitching is repeated around the upper crown edge. Futurist stitches they are often called, and when brilliant Indian colorings are used the result is particularly effective. Not only colors but black and white combinations are much favored. You will see a very pretty, simple arrangement on the rolled brim sailor illustrated here, the worsted wool edge being worked in the long and short Kensington stitch, which is so easy to work and goes very quickly.

The five-petalled conventionalized poppy is also of crochet, and you can make many interesting ornaments, including tassels and grapes, if you are familiar with this fascinating work and can steal the time from your war industries.

The small toque is a very popular shape, and very often this same type of hat has the turned up brim cut in three-inch slashes, a la battlement, and this battlement outline, by the way, will be used a great deal on broad, flat brimmed hats.

Taffeta is used for the hat and five knife plaited ruffles, which not only trim the hat but form the fascinating



ruff encircling the neck like unfolding petals.

By next month I hope to have a lot of easily developed ideas for retrimming and altering your last year's hats, and if there is any problem I can help you with, write to me, care of The Grain Growers' Guide. Of course, it is only by knowing what kind of hats you need that I can be of the most service to you.



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