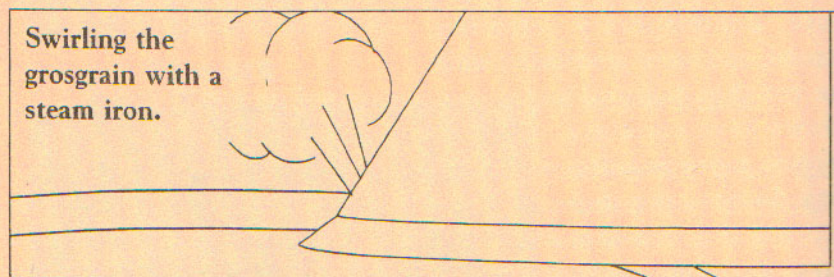


Materials you will need.

Now, to actually place your grosgrain into your hat, you will need grosgrain (approximately a yard-and-a-half will do two hats), a steam iron, and needle and thread. The needles should come in a package that says, "milliners", and these come in various sizes. The thread must match the color of grosgrain that you are using exactly. If you have to travel to five different fabric and notion stores to find the color that you need, do it. It is this attention to detail that will mark you as a designer of taste and culture who knows the difference and, consequently, gets paid more.

Swirling explained.

The swirling process itself can be both very simple and quite complicated. The simple part is this: using your iron with enough steam (you will know if your iron is too hot and does not have enough steam if it starts to turn your grosgrain shiny), start pulling the grosgrain away from the iron so that it starts to take on a smooth, natural curve, all going in one direction, of course. Now the complicated part is this: if you make the curve too sharp or too shallow, your grosgrain will not lay flat when you sew it in your hat, and you will end up with bunches and ruffles.



There is a secret for success, however, and here it is: just keep doing it until you get it right. Unfortunately, there is no formula or clever trick to getting your grosgrain to curve just right every time, and every hat is going to be different than the last. It is simply a matter of feel, and it may come more naturally to some people than to others, but just hang in there and you are sure to get it.