

Creating a Top Hat Using Fosshape™



1. Create a simple pattern for the top and the side of the crown and cut it out of fosshape. Using a fairly tight stitch, machine the pieces together. The top is being reinforced with a circle of foam core cut to the desired finish and pinned in place. Set this onto the form which can be as simple as a tin can atop a wooden head block that you have covered with plastic and taped into place. The look will be most successful if the circular seam joining the top to the side of the crown is rolled slightly to the top of the hat as it is pinned in place. Secure a piece of elastic around the bottom.



2. Begin the steaming process, starting with the vertical seam. Apply steam directly to the surface of the material, but keep the steamer moving so as to not leave marks.



3. Here you can see one side steamed and one side not. The purpose of this photograph is to illustrate what happens in the steaming process. We don't recommend you doing the process this way but rather to apply the steam evenly around the shape as you work, minimizing the distance of the steam source from the shape as you proceed.



4. The fully steamed, fosshape top hat crown.



5. Choose your brim block (flange). Stretch the fosshape over the brim block, pin and secure with elastic.

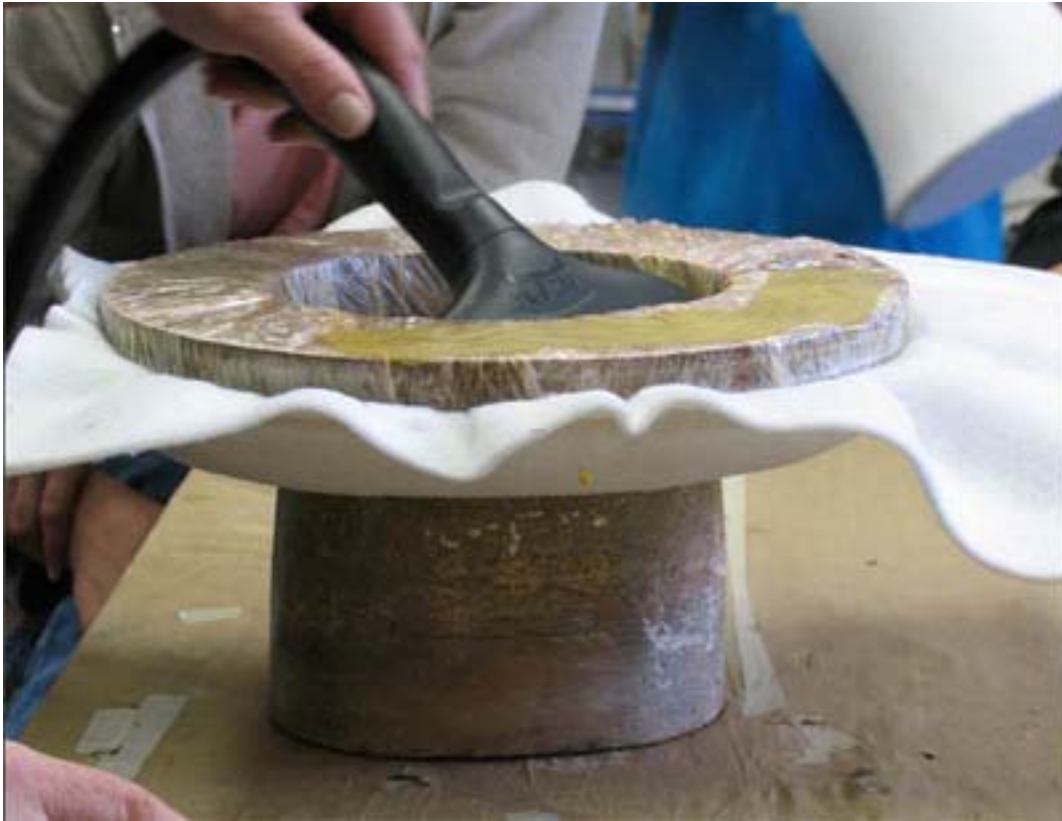




6. To create the “lip” that will attach the brim to the crown, use a hat block or wooden disc the size of the desired circumference +. Push the block or disc into the fosspace as you steam.



7. Further stiffening from the underside will guarantee a stiff lip to be sewn to the crown.



8. Trim the outside of the brim first.



9. Mark the height of the crown carefully, double checking to be sure you maintain the desired circumference as well.



10. Fit and mark the placement of the crown on the brim.



11. Finish trimming the brim. Cut an oval from the center of the brim leaving a 3/4" lip to be clipped and sewn to the crown.



12. If the hat is to be wired, and we suggest that you do as the fossshape will stretch and soften slightly over time, it should be done prior to joining the crown to the brim. Here the brim is positioned and pinned to the crown before sewing by hand. In theory, the fossshape will adhere to itself when this join is re-steamed, however, stitching adds security.



13. Here we have a top hat ready to be dyed, covered or painted.

