

Wire Frame Construction Hat



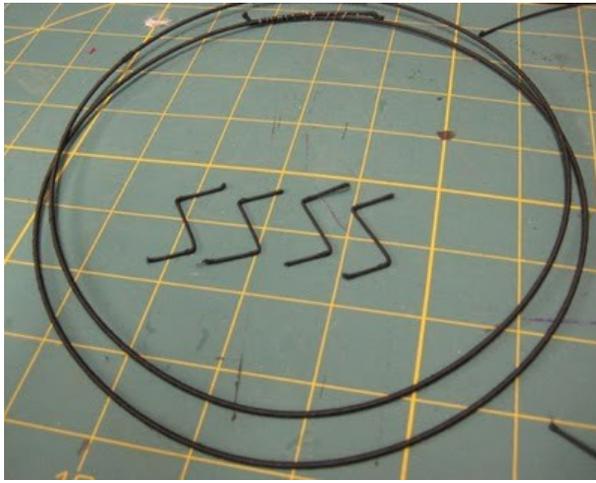
Blocking the crown from parasial straw. Simple crown shape. Use our Parasial Hoods.



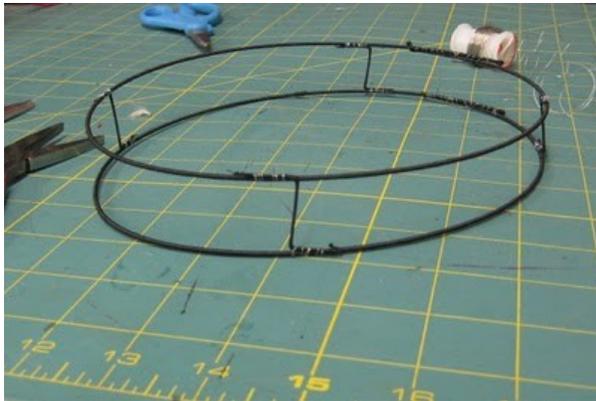
Black millinery wire, #18 gauge. By using black wire with black fabric I didn't have to cover the wire with ribbon or fabric. You will see the wire because the fabric is sheer.



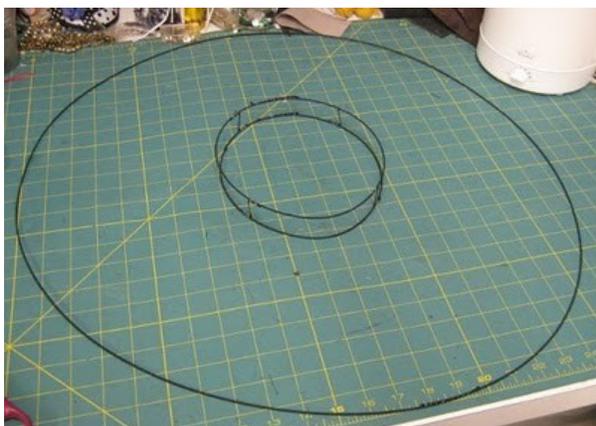
Cut and bound headsize rings. Cut to the customer's headsize and ovaled out. Our heads are oval, not round.



The bracing wires have all been cut and shaped. They will hold the two headsize rings together.



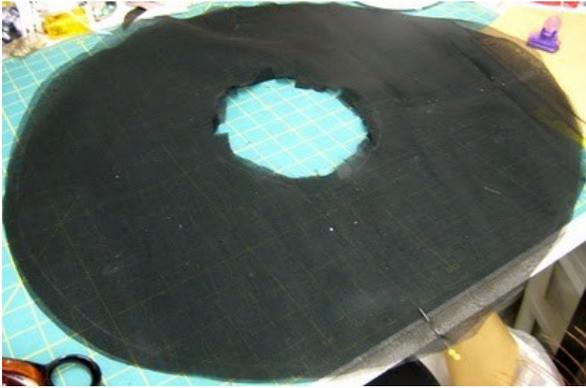
Voila! A headsize piece for supporting the crown and the brim. A very important piece of the puzzle!



I've cut and joined the outside brim wire. This was done with the 8-9" wide brim specification in mind.



I took the brim wire and used it as the 'pattern' for cutting the silk organdy - a stiff but sheer fabric I had on hand. It is a beautiful crisp fabric, perfect for this job. Note that I have cut TWO pieces of the brim fabric. One will lie on top of the wire and one on bottom. Remember that the client didn't want the brim to be TOO sheer, hence the double thickness of fabric.



Headsize opening cut out.



I've left out a couple of steps here. Suppose I was so intent on making the hat I forgot to document a few steps. Anyway, note that I've attached the headsize ring to the brim edge by using three arched pieces of wire. I did this instead of just typical straight wires because I wanted to add some visual interest. Particularly since you will see the wires as a part of the hat design.



Overlapping the cut fabric edge to the bottom headsize ring.



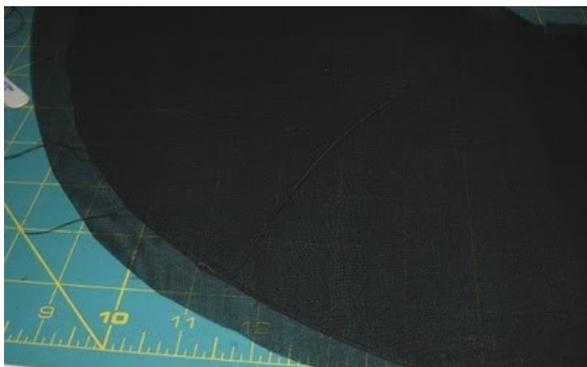
I chose to attach the lower fabric piece first. Here I'm attaching it to the brim edge. I don't have to worry too much about what this looks like because I know it will all be covered with a bias fabric strip eventually. Eventually! I do, however, pay close attention to make sure I'm pulling tight enough that the fabric is not drooping. It needs to be fairly tight.



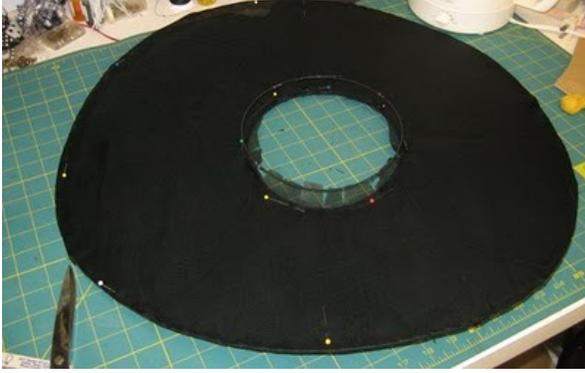
Close-up of the stitching. Just an over-hand stitch across the wire.



Trimming away the excess. Although I'll be putting on a bias strip, the sheer needs to be cut down so that it is not so wide as to be seen past the bias strip. Careful with the trimming!



Ready to attach the upper brim fabric.



This part is now complete. Whew! That took some time and patience, let me tell you. Since there is no block or other guide to this structure, you need to always be checking all parts of the hat. Things can go awry and get out of shape very easily. Check, check, check.



Close-up of the wide bias strip I added. Always adds a bit of luxury to a hat!



The crown has now been placed over the headsize rings and has been stitched into place.



Hatband added and that is the final step!
Complete!!



Tutorial Courtesy of www.janshatshatshats.blogspot.com