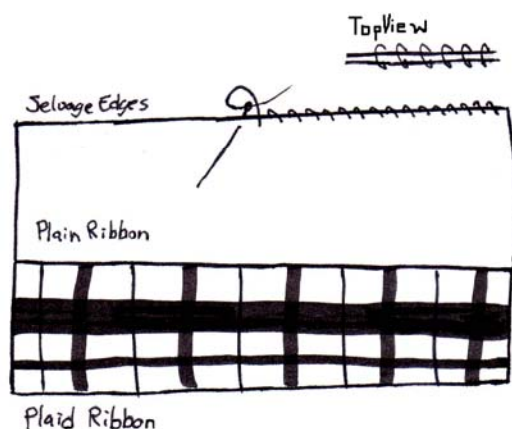


Making Bonnet Ribbons

One of the hardest things to find for mid-century costumers is wide silk ribbons appropriate for bonnets. Wide silk ribbons in floral, stripes and plaids are simply not widely available to us as they were in the past. Occasionally, we can find vintage ribbons that would work for a bonnet. But, then we have to decide whether or not to risk damaging a vintage textile. There are options for creating passable bonnet ribbons. Techniques include combining narrower ribbons or making ribbons from silk fabric.

Combining Ribbons

Wide ribbons can be created by combining lengths of narrower ribbon. The edges of the ribbons are best connected using a tiny whip stitch. Holding the right sides of the ribbon together, whip stitch the length of the ribbon. Then, press the ribbon and seam flat.



This ribbon could be mimicked by combining two 1" moiré silk ribbons, a 1" satin ribbon and a coordinating 1" satin ribbon.

A handsome, and easy ribbon can be created using a patterned 2" ribbon in the center and plain 1" ribbon on both sides. The center ribbon could be plaid or floral. Another can be created from a solid center ribbon bordered by coordinating striped ribbons. The center could be wide or narrow.

This ribbon could be mimicked by edging a paisley motif fabric with narrow grosgrain ribbon.



Making Ribbons from Fabric

Another method for making wide bonnet ribbons is to use silk taffeta fabric. Often you can find 54" or 60" silk fabric with a horizontal design that can be cut into lengths. As little as a third of a yard of this fabric is needed for making enough ribbon for a bonnet. If the design runs with the warp, or length of the fabric, more is needed for the ribbon. But you can always pass the extra on or use it on another project.

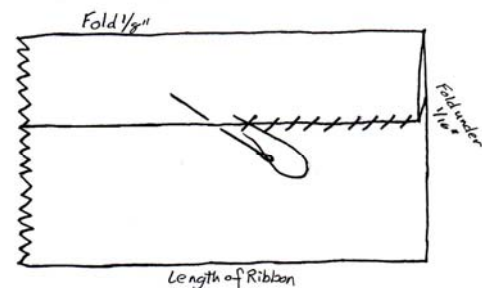
The key is to center the design, whether a plaid, stripe or floral, into two lengths to be cut. These lengths should be 4 to 8 inches wide. Determine how you will finish the ribbon before cutting it. The edge of the fabric can be hemmed with a narrow 1/8" hem, edged with a narrow ribbon, or sealed with glue. An additional option is to sew the fabric in a tube and iron flat. This creates a heavier weight ribbon than is ideal though.

This ribbon could be mimicked by cutting a length of plaid silk taffeta with the plaid centered and either hemming or securing the edge.



To hem the edge, cut the length of silk on the grain leaving 3/16th" to fold, press and hem. Press 1/16" under. Then roll 1/8" of the edge over. Use a tiny hem stitch to finish the edge.

To glue the edge, prior to cutting the silk, mark the edges of the ribbon with either a pencil or by pulling a thread from the weave. Dilute white glue with water, 1:1. Mix well. With a wide paint brush, paint the glue along the edge of the ribbon fabric. After the fabric is completely dry, cut the fabric where marked.



This ribbon was created by painting the edge of the fabric with a glue then cutting on the grain. Warning- Glue will change the color of your silk



This ribbon was created by hemming the edge with a narrow 1/8" hem.



This ribbon was created by sewing the fabric in a tube and pressing flat.