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## EC433 Renovation of Hat Materials

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Nebraska

1924

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK  
IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

U. of N. Agr. College & U. S. Dept. of Agr. Cooperating  
W. H. Brokaw, Director, Lincoln.

Extension  
Circular  
433

RENOVATION OF HAT MATERIALS

Not spending less but spending wisely is the essence of true economy. Durable material of nice color may cost more but they last longer and may be used repeatedly, if carefully renovated. Thus, they prove to be a real saving in the end.

To Renew Frames

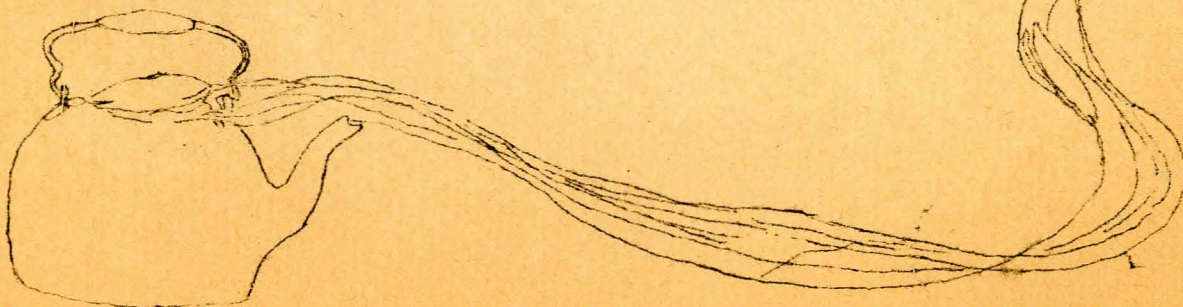
Buckram or willow frames may be re-shaped by steaming. Hold the frame over a steaming tea-kettle. As the steam filters thru the frame, work it back into shape with the fingers. Then set it aside to dry. If the shape is quite regular, it may be dampened and pressed with a hot iron. Crushed crowns may be renewed best by steaming. The softened crown is then packed with crumpled paper to keep it in shape while drying. If the top of the crown is very much crushed, it may be cut away leaving the side to be used as a foundation for a soft crown.

To Renew Velvets

First, brush any velvet to be renewed with a soft brush to remove loose surface dust. Sometimes this is the only cleaning necessary. High test gasoline may be used, to remove any dust or dirt not removed by brushing. Immerse the velvet in gasoline and brush it gently with a soft brush. Rinse carefully and hang to dry.

To steam velvet - turn a hot iron flat side up. Lay several layers of damp cloth over the iron. Pass the velvet right side up over the steaming cloth, moving it constantly and gently brushing the nap up with a soft brush. Work quickly and do not allow the velvet to become wet. The steam lifts the nap, removes the creases and brightens the luster. Do not touch the right side of the velvet before it is perfectly dry.

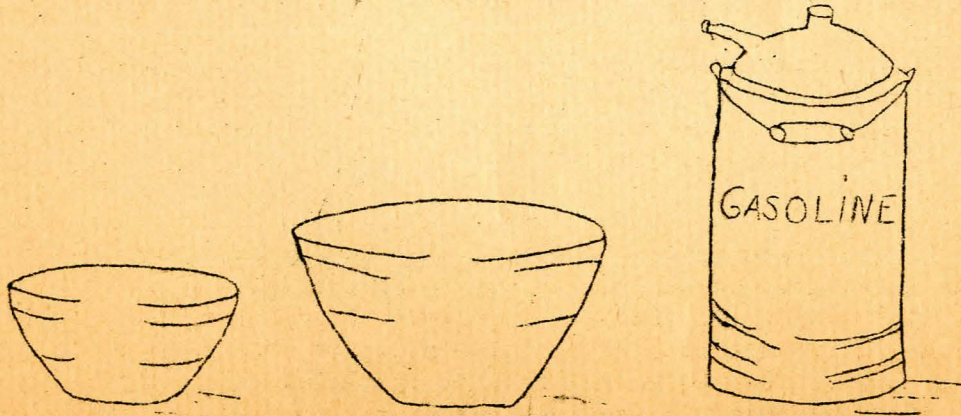
To "broad-tail" velvet - badly crushed velvet may be "broad-tailed", Lay the velvet right side down on the table. Dampen the back by rubbing with a wet cloth opposite to the direction of the nap. When the material is thoroly dampened, fold it once lengthwise with the nap inside. Twist slightly in opposite directions. The ends are then tied securely and fastened to the backs of chair so that the velvet is stretched to keep it twisted. When dry and untwisted the velvet will be nicely "broad-tailed". It is now ready to stretch over the frame.





To panne velvet - Place the velvet on an ironing board right side up. Press lightly in the direction of the nap with a warm iron. Do not allow the iron to rest on the velvet as it will leave its print.

To tint velvet - After faded velvet has been thoroughly cleaned, it may be re-tinted to look like new. Oil paints in many colors may be bought in tubes. If the desired color cannot be bought they may be mixed to get the tint. Squeeze the paint into an earthen bowl. Add gasoline, using enough to cover the article to be tinted and sufficient paint to give the color desired. Dip the velvet to be tinted in clean gasoline then in the tinting solution and hang out doors to dry. (Work with gasoline should always be done out of doors away from the fire.)



#### To Clean Felt Hats

Felt hats may be cleaned by dipping in gasoline and rubbing the soiled spots until they disappear, then putting the hat out of doors to dry. Cornmeal moistened to a paste with gasoline may be used on light colored felt hats with good results. Rub the paste over the hat, paying particular attention to the spots. Shake the hat free of the loose paste and place it out doors to dry. When dry brush to remove any cornmeal.

White felt hats may be cleaned by shaking in a large hat sack with some powdered French chalk. After standing several hours, brush to remove the chalk. Cake magnesia may be substituted for the chalk. If magnesia is used rub the entire surface with magnesia and brush it out thoroughly.

When cleaning felt and some straw hats, one is apt to stretch the head-size out of shape. A head-size wire may be slipped outside the crown and tacked in place before cleaning, to hold the hat firm.

#### To Renew Straw Hats

Leghorn hats are cleaned by washing with a soft cloth in a suds of luke warm water and pure soap. The soap should never be rubbed on the straw. Then rinse carefully to remove all the soap and lay in the shade to dry. This removes the soiled spots but does not bleach the straw. Leghorn turns yellow with age but the tint is so delicate that it is considered attractive. Strong acids that bleach will ruin this delicate straw and should not be used.

Panama straw may be cleaned by following the directions for leghorn hats. If it is badly discolored, peroxide may be used. Scrub the hat with a soft cloth saturated with peroxide until it is clean. Then rinse it with clear lukewarm water and lay in the shade to dry.



Natural milan straw sunburns quite badly. A mixture of lemon juice and sulphur (juice of 2 lemons to one tablespoon of sulphur) rubbed in the hat will bleach it quickly. Rinse with clear water to remove the sulphur. Lay in the shade to dry.

Black straws may be freshened by sponging with a mixture of alcohol and water (one part alcohol to three parts of water).

Faded straws may be renewed by a coat of straw hat dye. The best results will be obtained when dye is used to restore the former color rather than to entirely change the color of the hat.

When cleaned and pressed, straw hats look like new. Cover the straw with a white cloth and press, being careful not to use the iron too hot for straws scorch quickly. If packed with crumpled paper while drying, the crown of a straw hat will regain its original shape.

A solution made by dissolving two level tablespoons of gum arabic in a cup of boiling water may be used to stiffen straw hats that have become limp. Let this mixture cool, then apply it to the hat with a cloth or a brush. This may be used on straw of any color.

#### To Freshen Feathers

Ostrich feathers may be cleaned in gasoline. Shake the feathers up and down in the gasoline. Squeeze the flues between the fingers, moving from the stem toward the tips. When the feathers are clean, rinse in clean gasoline. If the feather is white two tablespoons of white flour may be added to each pint of gasoline for the rinse. Shake the feather in the air till dry.

After cleaning, directions for tinting velvets may be followed to color feathers. When thoroly dry the feathers may be curled by shaking over the heat of a stove or register. They may be curled by drawing the flues a few at a time over the dull edge of a knife with a curving stroke.

#### To Clean Silks

Silks and ribbons may be cleaned in high test gasoline, squeezing them lightly between the fingers. Rinse carefully when clean. After drying thoroly, cover with a cloth and press with a warm iron.

Dry cleaner added to gasoline according to the accompanying directions aid considerably in cleaning any materials. Care should be taken to rinse thoroly to remove the odor.

#### To Freshen Flowers

Clean flowers by shaking them in gasoline. Then trim the frayed edges. If they are faded they may be tinted with a brush or dipped into the color, oil paint dissolved in gasoline being used. Loose petals or leaves may be replaced with milliners glue.

