Phrygian-style Suffrage Cap
Acc. no. 88.6 c. 1880-1920.

Sewing Pattern Instructions

Materials for Historic Reproduction (original or modern size).

½ yd. Wine-coloured silk duchesse satin (www.moodfabrics.com)
½ yd. linen buckram (www.wmboothdraper.com)
#30 or #50 wine-coloured silk thread (www.burnleyandtrowbridge.com)
¼ yd. ea. 1” double-faced silk satin ribbon in wine, ivory, and navy blue (consider sizing up to 1½” ribbon if making the modern-sized hat to preserve proportions)

Materials for Modern Interpretation (one size fits most).

½ yd. 36” or wider fashion fabric: light- to mid-weight silks, satins, sateens, glazed cottons
½ yd. lining fabric: mid-weight linens, cotton twills, damasks or brocades
thread to match fashion fabric
¼ yd. ea. 1½” satin or grosgrain ribbon in three different colours like red, white, and blue or gold, white, and purple (one colour should be the same as the body of the cap)

For a no-fuss cap, use craft felt & omit the lining.
Assembly:

1) Cut two cap shapes in the fashion fabric. If your fabric has a pattern or nap, pay attention to the direction of each piece.

If lined, cut two in the lining fabric.

If self-lined, cut two on the fold in the fashion fabric.

2) The original cap flat-lines the outer silk and the inner linen buckram, which are then made up as one piece. If you want to do that, lay your fashion fabric and its lining WRONG sides together and sew along the curved edge. \(\frac{1}{2}\)” seam allowance is included. You’ll have an extra inch of fashion fabric at the bottom.

2 cont’d) If you would rather hide the seam allowances, lay the cap shapes right sides together and sew along the curved edge. \(\frac{1}{2}\)” seam allowance is included. You’ll have an extra inch of fashion fabric at the bottom.

If self-lined, lay the cap shapes right sides together and sew along the curved edge BUT leave a couple of inches unsewn through which to turn the cap right-side out. \(\frac{1}{2}\)” seam allowance is included.

3) Press seam(s) and clip curves as needed. Turn all variations of cap right side out. If you’re feeling self-conscious about your sewing skills, take a look at the original cap.

4) For caps with separate linings, fold the extra inch smoothly over the lining and fold the raw edge under \(\frac{1}{4}\) to \(\frac{1}{2}\)”. Tack to the lining.

If self-lined, whip closed the open couple of inches. Press if needed.

Making up the cockade:

1) Using 8-9” of the ribbon that’s the same colour as the cap, make a loop that measures between 3 \(\frac{1}{2}\)-4” when flattened. Tack the ends of the ribbon together (the ends will hide beneath the cockade). Using slightly less, or about 7-8” of the other two ribbons, make closed loops of them as well.

2) Place the two shorter loops one on top of the other, ideally so that the lighter colour is on the bottom. With the cap-colored ribbon, tie a loose half-hitch knot around the middle of the two shorter loops. Fluff the flattened loops out so that the six of them form a circular cockade. Don’t worry that they’re not symmetrical: one colour embraces one piece of the cap-colored ribbon, and the other colour embraces the other piece.

Place your cockade on the outside of the cap in the approximate location of the cockade on the cap pattern. Feel free to fuss with the flattened loops to get them positioned as you want. Sewing through both fashion fabric and lining, tack the cockade in place.

You’re done!  Don your cap and go exercise your rights!