How to Choose a Hat

Below gives you some advice of the types of hat shapes which suit your face, however there are no hard and fast rules because it can depend on the color of the hat, length and color of your hair, and outfit you intend to wear the hat with.

Anyone can wear a hat. You only need to become familiar with your face shape and what hat shape suits you. Use the information below to determine your face shape, and then learn about what sort of hats suit you best and how to wear them.

Oval

- Almost any hat can be worn.
- Wear them straight across the brow or straight across your hairline as fashion or mood demands
- However, watch out the crown is never narrower than your cheekbones. This is for all hat types.

Round

- Avoid “flower-pot” hats.
- Brim should be worn on an angle, not straight.
- Asymmetrical lines are very useful
- The crown of the hat must not be narrower than your face unless it is balanced by the trim.

Triangle

- The same rules apply to triangular faces as oval faces. Almost any hat can be worn
- Wear them straight across the brow, or straight across your hairline as fashion or mood demands
- However, watch out the crown is never narrower than your cheekbones. This is for all hat types.
Square Peg

Square

- Slant the brim of your hats, or simply tilt your hat.
- Wear hats with asymmetrical shapes
- Try wearing earrings when wearing hats

Oblong

- Avoid narrow and tall hats
- Brims can be worn, do experiment
- Balance your shoulders and the rest of your body

If you Wear Glasses

- Try wearing your hat with the brim turned up, as it is more flattering
- Brims that swoop up on one side and asymmetrical shapes are more flattering
- Avoid "flower-pot" hats

Prominent nose/Ears, etc.

- Hats should have a forward movement
- Brims and peaks can be worn as well as front trimmings
- Draw attention to your hat and away from the nose or ears, or other little things you prefer not to highlight

Double chin

- If you have a double chin, wear your hat slightly lower at the front, this will ensure you keep your head lifted thus reducing the appearance of a double chin.
Skin Tones

- Because a hat is worn so closely to your face it is important that the color of the hat flatters your skin tone.
- If you have pale skin, a warm color such as pink or rust is a good choice.
- Darker skin is easier to choose for, although if it is very dark, black is best avoided.

Outfits

- The color of the outfit with which the hat is to be worn must also be considered.
- If the hat matches the color of the outfit exactly it is important to introduce at least one other color into the outfit.
- If the hat is to be a contrasting color, it must be a color that complements the outfit.

How to Wear a Small Hat

- Small hats, those less than full sizes, confections, go by many names: cocktail hats, fascinators, minis, etc. They are festive additions to outfits for the holidays, weddings, special events, etc. And they are a bit different than full size hats. Here's some advice about how to wear them with panache.
- **Step One. First Thing's First: Choosing the hat for you.** Just like clothing it is important to think about size color and shape when choosing a hat. Same hat worn by different people with different shaped faces can look quite different. Proportion is especially important. The smaller the person, and/or the head and face, the smaller the hat that can be worn and still look in proportion. But an average or larger person will probably look best in a slightly larger mini hat.
- **Step 2. Practice and finding the sweet spot.** Now that you've found your hats of your dreams, it's time to figure out how to wear it. Just popping a mini or midi onto the top of your head will probably look tacked on, it's important to place it carefully so that it is flattering to your face. Most hats look better worn slightly off center, at an angle, and/or tipped forward partially onto the forehead, and this especially true for small hats. You will need to practice different positions of placement in front of a mirror until you feel you have found the perfect place for your hat.
**Square Peg**

Although the label is generally placed on the inside center of the sweatband and intended to be the center of the back of the hat, there is no “right way” to wear it, only what looks best on you! Take the hat off and flip it over to view its underside. Notice whether or not there is an elastic band and where the combs are, if any, and put it back on the sweet spot of your head and make a mental note of the approximate spots where the combs are on your head.

- **Step 3. Now the Hard Part, Made Easy: How does a small hat stay on your head?** Unlike a full size hat, a small hat does not encompass and grip onto your whole head, so it needs some extra help to stay in place. Many small hats will come equipped with a thin elastic band, a ribbon to tie the hat on under your chin, or combs, or a combination of these. Unlike under chin ribbons, which are fairly self-explanatory, the elastic is meant to go at the back of your head under your hair. To use it put the hat on, and pull the elastic gently down and in back, pull your hair over it and smooth it down again over the elastic to hide it. If your hair is fine and/or slippery, it is often helpful to give the elastic a little something extra to grab onto by applying a light coat of hairspray to the back of your head. Most hats come with a black elastic band, but they are also available in other colors according to hair color.

Combs are also very useful, especially when your hairstyle doesn’t allow for use of elastic, or for taller hats, like toppers, that need extra security. For very small cocktail hats that have only one comb gently pull the ends of the comb away from the hat base and then starting just above the hat sweet spot, slide them down into your hair until the hat is in the desired position. As long as the flat end of the comb is facing upward and the ends of the comb are facing down, gravity will hold it in place. For hats that have one comb on each side, you’ll see that these are usually sewn into the hat facing upward. To insert them into your hair, first flip on comb downward with the ends facing your head, press the end into your hair at its intended spot, swirl the comb around into your hair in a circle or two to get a good grip on your hair. Then, turn the comb back upward and push the flat end of the comb, the end that is sewn into the sweatband, back in towards the center top of your head so that the comb is completely hidden again under the hat. Then do the same on the other side with the second comb. If it feels too tight, or pulls your hair uncomfortably, try it again with fewer swirls. If it’s still loose, swirl more and start the swirl a bit further out from the center of the hat. For extra grip use both combs and elastic. A little bit of hairspray in the spot where the combs will be placed also helps the combs to stay in place.
better. For a hat that is tall, or has tall feathers, you may want to prepare your hair and wait until you’ve reached your destination to put on the hat to avoid damage to the hat by bumping up against the top of low ceilinged vehicles.

How to Secure a Medium to Large Hat

Securing a medium to large hat is not as hard as securing a mini or a midi given the fact that it sits completely on the head. Thus, all that is ever usually required if you feel you need extra security is a hat pin, or a black elastic inserted into the hat sweatband that can be worn under the hair.

How to Avoid Hat Hair

- If you have bangs, or “fringe” as the British call it. I would suggest pinning them back so that they do not stick out from under the brim.
- Some people will wear their hair back in a ponytail or a chignon.
- Long hair should be controlled and styled.
- Wearing a fascinator or a mini, avoid fussy braids or curls. Stick to a sleek chignon or ponytail.
- If your neckline to your outfit is high, wear your hair up under the hat.
- If you neckline is low, you can wear a long ponytail if your hair is long.
- When positioning your headgear, always part your hair on the opposite side of your head. Part to the right and wear you fascinator on the right, so the bulk of your hair will offset it, then hair on the left.
- French twist is always a perfect classic Derby Day Chic. Consider this style is wearing a larger or angled hat.
- If wearing your hair down and you want it curled: large soft curls will do the trick, be sure to pull the hair back away from your face so that the hair is behind your ears.
- Wet hair under a hat will become flat hair. Always make sure your hair is completely dry before you put on a hat, otherwise your hair, if at all damp will take on the shape of the hat, thus causing bumps and ridges in your hair.
- Build volume with products before putting on your hat. Volumizing sprays will add body to the hair keeping it full for hat days. Other styling tricks include twisting your hair into pin curls after using a curling iron; this will help set hair in soft waves and will hold longer. This will also provide
some extra padding for the hair and won't be seen under the crown of the hat, thus when you are ready to remove your hat for an evening party, all you need to do is remove the pin curls and style your hair. Voila!

Key Items to Always Have in your Bag

- Small hairspray
- Small comb
- A few bobby pins
- ...You can fix any hat hair with these three items!