

MEN'S HATS 18TH & 19TH CENTURY

A NOTE ON OUR HAT MAKING METHODS

With the exception of the noted ocassional use of machine sewing, most of our hatmaking techniques pre-date the English industrial revolution. The trade has separated into the two fields of feltmaking and hatmaking, but the methods used here pre-date the factory hatmaking system and early machine-made hats. We do not make our own felt, but all other aspects of the work use methods which date from the time during which the feltmaker was also the hat blocker and hat finisher.

NOTE ABOUT BLOCKING

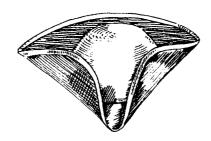
All felt hats are stretched over wooden shapes called hat blocks which give the hats their individual shapes. Prior to 1817 all hat blocks were lathe turned and, therefore, round. When a wig is worn, the resultant shape of the head is more or less round. If a round blocked hat needs to fit an oval head, the head opening of the hat is stretched to form the required oval shape. This also gives the characteristic curve to the brim of round blocked top hats.

After 1817, oval hat blocks more closely approximating the natural shape of the head were introduced and an overlap occurred during which round and oval blocking were used. Certain hat styles can be found late in the 19th century which existed in the early 19th century. Certain hats were made on round blocks as late as the 1850's and many hats (Beaver top hats especially) were often passed down several generations.

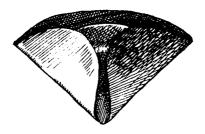




"Wideawake" Hat (Quaker Hat) 1720 - 1817
Hand-blocked, handsewn, round-blocked fur felt with cotton drawstring seatband.
4" deep crown, plain unbound 4" wide brim.
Available in black or brown (other colours available upon request)
HT001



"Triangular" Tricorne 1740 - 1760's
Hand-blocked, handsewn, round-blocked fur felt with cotton drawstring sweatband.
4" deep crown, 4 1/2" wide brim.
Black or brown with matching brim-edge binding (other colours upon request)
HT002a Brim held in place by "English Lacing"
HT002b Brim held in place by French system of hooks



Silk Tricorne (Speaker's Tricorne) 1740 - 1760's Hand-blocked, handsewn, round-blocked. Felt foundation covered with ribbed bombazine, cotton drawstring sweatband. 4" deep crown, 5" wide brim at the corners and 7" wide at the sides.

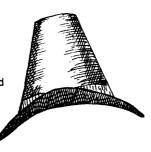
Black (other colours upon request) HT003





Bicorne/Tricorne 1770 - 1800
(2 distinct side corners with 1 front "spout")
Hand-blocked, handsewn, round-blocked.
Fur felt with cotton drawstring sweatband.
4" deep crown, 4 1/2" wide back brim, 4" wide front brim.
Matching brim edge binding.
In black or brown (other colours upon request)
HT004a

Early Top Hat 1785 - 1800
Hand-blocked, handsewn, round-blocked.
Beaver-finish fur felt, leather sweatband, cotton lining.
Tapering crown 7 1/2" deep, 2 to 3" wide brim(unbound brim edge).
In black or grey (other colours upon request)
HT005









Top Hat 1800 - 1820 (worn up to 1870's)
Hand-blocked, handsewn, round-blocked.
Beaver-finish fur felt, leather sweatband, cotton lining.
Flared, straight or tapered crown 7" deep.
2 1/2" wide brim.
In black or grey (other colours upon request)
HT006a Unbound brim edge
HT006b Ribbon bound brim edge



"Wellington" Top Hat 1800 - 1820
(worn up to 1860's)
Hand-blocked, handsewn, round blocked.
Beaver-finish fur felt, leather sweatband, cotton lining.
Flared 7" deep crown, 2 1/2" wide brim.
In black or grey. (other colours upon request)
HT007a Unbound brim edge
HT007b Bound brim edge



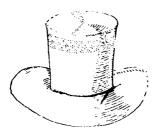


"John Bull" Top Hat 1800 - 1820 (worn up to 1860's) Hand-blocked, handsewn, round blocked. Beaver-finish fur felt, leather sweatband, cotton lining. 4" deep flared crown, 4" wide brim. In black or grey. (other colours upon request) HT008a Unbound brim edge HT008b Ribbon bound edge

"John Bull" Straw Top Hat 1800 - 1870's Hand-blocked, handsewn, round-blocked. Ventilated Panama straw, cotton drawstring sweatband.
Flared 4" deep crown, 4 1/2" wide brim.
Natural Panama colour
HT009







Straw Top Hat 1800 - 1870's
Hand-blocked, handsewn, round-blocked.
Ventilated Panama straw, cotton drawstring
sweatband.
Flared 7" deep crown, 4 1/2" wide brim.
Natural Panama colour.
HT010

Panama Planter's Hat 1820 - 1900 (Plantation Overseer's Hat)
Hand-blocked, handsewn, round-blocked.
Ventilated Panama straw, pork pie/telescoped crown,
4 1/2" wide brim and cotton drawstring sweatband.
Natural Panama colour only.
HT015

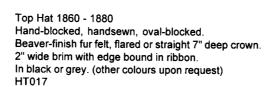




Top Hat 1840 - 1860's
Hand-blocked, handsewn, oval-blocked.
Beaver-finish fur felt, flared or straight 7" deep crown.
2" wide brim with edge bound in ribbon.
In black or grey. (other colours upon request)
HT016















Bowler Hat 1850 - 1900 (still being worn today) Hand-blocked, handsewn, oval-blocked. fur felt, leather sweatband, ribbon trim. Dome crown 1850 - 1900 (1990's) Conical crown 1860 - 1900 Square crown 1865 - 1910 (1945 Winston Churchill) In black, brown or grey. (other colours upon request) HT018



Homburg Hat 1860 - 1900 (still seen in the 1960's) Hand-blocked, handsewn, oval-blocked. Fur felt, leather sweatband, ribbon trim with 2 to 2 1/2" wide brim. In black or grey (other colours upon request) HT019





Top Hat 1880 - 1900 (worn into the 1920's)
Hand-blocked, handsewn, oval-blocked.
Beaver-finish fur felt, leather sweatband, cotton lining, ribbon trim.
Straight or flared crown , 5 3/4" deep. 2" wide brim.
In black or grey. (other colours upon request)
HT024



Straw Boater Hat 1860 - 1900 (worn into 1930's) Hand-blocked, hand-finished, machine-sewn. Milan braid straw. Leather sweatband, ribbon hatband. 3 1/2" deep crown, 2 1/2" wide brim. HT022

Cloth Cap 1890 - 1910
Hand-cut, hand-assembled, machine-sewn and hand-finished.
6 section crown with visor.
In tweeds and wools to match the suit.
HT023



Deerstalker Cap 1860 - 1900 (worn into the 1930's) Hand-cut hand-assembled, machine-sewn. Wool with cotton lining HT020

MEN'S HATS-MILITARY





Bicorne/Tricorne 1770 - 1800
(2 distinct side corners with 1 front "spout")
Hand -blocked, handsewn, round-blocked.
Fur felt with cotton drawstring sweatband.
4" deep crown, 4 1/2" wide back brim, 4" wide front brim.
Matching brim edge binding.
In black with white brim-edge binding, button, loop & cockade.
HT004b Military

1812 British Army Officer's Bicorne 1800 - 1820's Hand-blocked, hatter's foundation felt covered with woolen cloth, ribbon bound edging, cotton sweatband, leather plume sleeve, stay lacing.
Button, loop & cockade.
Folding/non folding.
In black only.
Plume and any required badges supplied by customer.
American pattern available upon request.



British Stovepipe Shako 1800 - 1812
Hand-blocked, handsewn, round-blocked.
Fur felt crown with leather visor, sweatband and plume sleeve.
Linen size liner.
In black only.
HT012a Smooth Finish Felt
HT012b Officer's Beaver Finish Felt
Leather rain flap.(additional cost)
Customer must supply any required plume, shakoplate, cords & buttons.
American pattern upon request.





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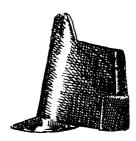
1820
Hand-blocked, handsewn, round-blocked.
Fur felt crown and "false" front.
Leather visor, sweatband and plume sleeve.
Linen size liner, cording hooks, ribbon edging and cockade.
In black only.
HT013a Smooth Finish Fur Felt
HT013b Officer's Beaver Finish Felt
Leather rain flap.(additional cost)

Customer must supply any required plume,

shakoplate, cords & buttons.

British Waterloo Pattern "Belgic" Shako 1812 -





American 1813 Issue Leather "Belgic Copy" Shako Hand-blocked, handsewn, round-blocked. Leather crown, visor, sweatband and plume sleeve. Linen size liner. In black only. Customer must supply any required plume, plate, cords & buttons. HT014

1856 Pattern British Shako 1856 - 1880's Hand-blocked, hand-finished.
Hatter's foundation felt-covered with machine-sewn plain or quilted woollen cloth.
Leather visor, sweatband, chinstrap and plume sleeve.
Customer must supply badge and plume.
HT021a Plain
HT021b Quilted

