



CREATE A BEAUTIFUL HEADBAND

This is a guide to help you get the best out of your headband hat blocks.

WWW.HATBLOCKS.CO.UK



SOPHIE COOKE

OF IMOGEN'S IMAGINATION

Based in her Sheffield studio, milliner Sophie uses traditional techniques to create beautiful handmade hats, fascinators, and hair accessories for all occasions. Her signature style is vintage-inspired, with a contemporary twist, and we're thankful for her generosity in sharing her knowledge with you to help you get the most out of your headband block.

WWW.IMOGENSIMAGINATION.CO.UK



WHAT YOU'LL NEED

Buckram
Cotton covered wire (hard)
Underlay (ice wool)
Covering fabric (velvet)
Blocked lining (taffeta)
Blocking Pins and Clips
Block Stand (optional)

Owen's Tip: Use clips on the ends of the headband, to avoid damage over time, from repeated use of pins.

1 PREPARE BLOCK

Cover your block with your chosen barrier material. We suggest PVC-free cling film (saran wrap).



2 PREPARE MATERIAL

Cut a bias strip of buckram large enough to fit around the block.

3 BLOCK MATERIAL

Secure the centre points with pins. Secure the ends using clips. A block stand is handy but not essential.



4 BLOCKING

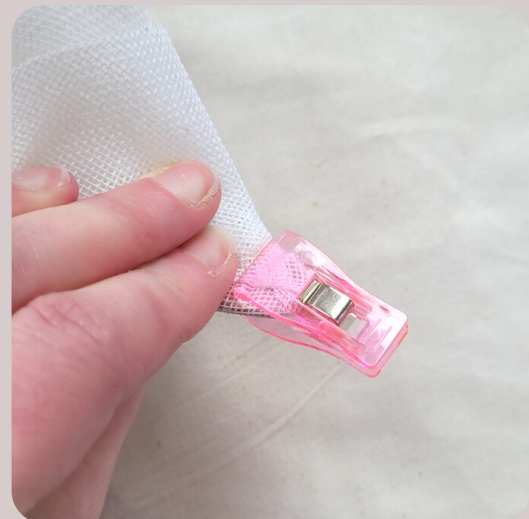
Using the bias, stretch the ends of the buckram over the ends of the block.



5 FOLD THE BUCKRAM OVER THE END OF THE BLOCK.

Use small tight folds and secure with a clip.

Tip: Any excess bulk can be trimmed out later, if required.



6 BLOCKING

Complete blocking to ensure a smooth finish overall, and leave to dry.
Tip: Use natural tension from the bias and clips, rather than pins, towards the more delicate ends of the block.



7 WHEN DRY

Remove the buckram from the block and trim off the excess.
Used: Approx 2cm / $\frac{3}{4}$ inch overlap

8 WIRE

Prepare the wire for shaping/sizing.

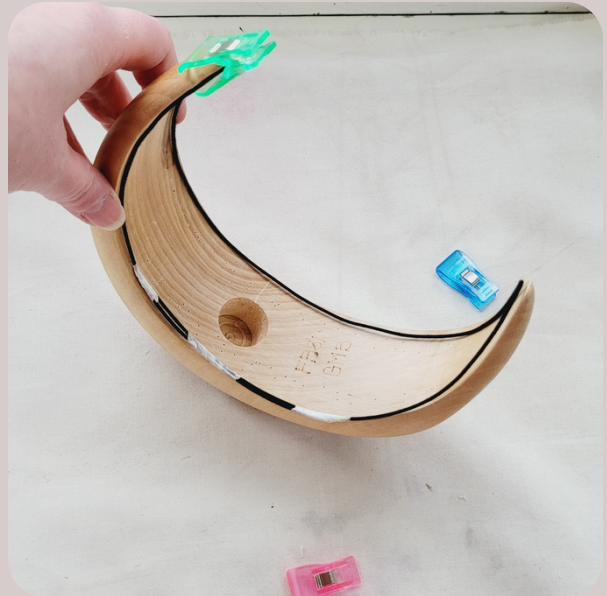
Tip: Want to alter the profile of your headband? Don't take the spring out of the wire before shaping. This will cause the shape to flare outwards making the band wider



9 SECURE WIRE

Use your preferred method to secure the join in the wire, eg. ferrule, tape or floristry tape.

Tip: Use a clip to secure one end when checking shape



10 FITTING THE WIRE

Fit the wire to the block and hold it in place with clips before sewing. Use your preferred stitching method to ensure that the wire sits snugly into the shape's edges.



11 UNDERLAY

Cover the headband with your preferred underlay fabric(ice wool used.)

Tip: Use small stab stitches on the outer to avoid unsightly dips when overlaid with the final fabric.



12 CUT A BIAS STRIP OF YOUR CHOSEN FABRIC LARGE ENOUGH TO FIT AROUND THE BLOCK.

Use your preferred stitching method to secure the fabric to the underlay.

Tip: If using a heavy-weight fabric: FIRST, add a tarlatan bias inside the shape to act as an anchor point. This will act as a stronger foundation, rather than stitching to a lightweight underlay like ice wool.

Fabric Used: Velvet

Sophie's Note: This velvet was blocked before fitting to the shape.

- Faster to fit without using lots of pins
- Reduces the risk of "dints" as less time is held in place by clips.



13 THE LINING

Cut a bias strip of lining fabric large enough to fit around the block. Repeat Steps 3-6 to block the lining fabric.



14 FITTING THE LINING

Remove the lining from the block and trim off the excess using the line of the block as your mark

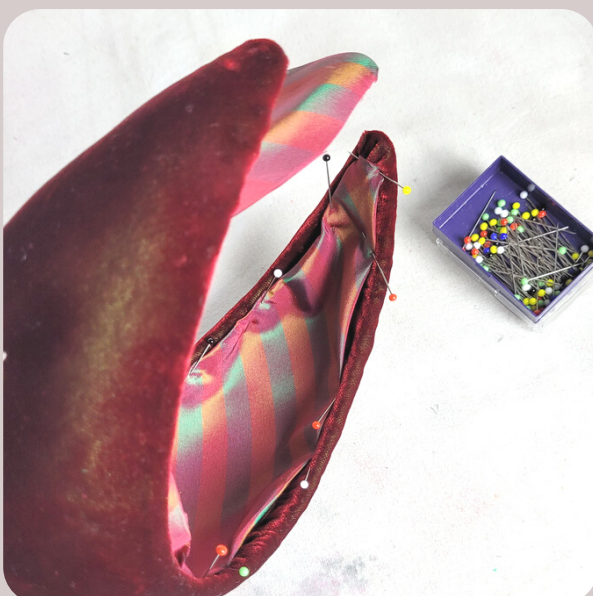
Insert lining and ensure it is placed centrally.

Fold the raw edge inside the headband working with the curve of the shape and the bias of the lining.

Start in the centre of the headband, easing the fold towards the end and pin as you go.

Repeat from centre to other end

Tip: The lining may be too big – don't be alarmed! This is what offers the excess needed to create a neatly folded join between the lining and the headband



15 PREPARE AND FIT AN ELASTIC



Cut and knot elastic to your required length.
Unpin the end of the lining and stitch the elastic in place – repeat at the other end

Tip: You may wish to remove more of the excess covering material than shown in this example. This has been left to create a softer “pad” behind the ears.

16 SEW THE LINING

Use your preferred stitch to sew the lining in place.

Tip: Avoid sewing the lining right at the very tip of the end.

Sew only to either side of the elastic will allow space for movement.

It will also make it easier to unpick a few stitches, should you need to replace the elastic for any reason.



FINISHING

If required, add a curved Petersham ribbon.

Tip: For ease of shaping, use two pieces of ribbon joined at either end of the headband, rather than a single piece.



ALTERNATIVE MATERIALS/TIME SAVING TIPS

This technique could be used with other materials such as straw, felt or sinamay.

You may wish to skip the lining stage if:

- If working to a tight deadline
- Designing for a client with a limited budget

Choosing materials and trimmings to suit these circumstances will also negate the need for a lining (reduce what you need to hide!)

Thermoplastics such as Fosshape can be useful for reducing the blocking and preparation time. These can be handy alternatives to using buckram and underlay fabrics.

