

How to make Colonial Bonnets

George Washington's Hair

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George Washington's Hair

EASY

Like many gentlemen of the 18th century. George Washington powdered his hair to make it white, and tied it behind in a ponytail, or queue.

George Washington Gilbert Stuart, 1755-1828 Rodgers Fund, 1907
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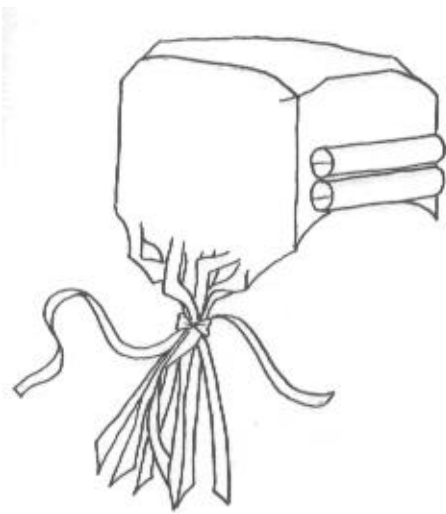
Materials needed:

- Size 12 paper bag
- pencil
- ruler
- scissors
- white glue or transparent tape
- 30" piece of ribbon or string

- 1.) Draw the cutting lines on the bag and cut it as shown in the drawings below. Save the cutoff pieces.



- 2.) Cut the back section into strips to make "hair", trimming the ends with zigzag cuts.



- 3.) To give the wig a rounder shape on top, tuck in the corners, as shown
- 4.) Using parts of the bag that have been cut away, cut 4-inch-wide strips at least 3 inches long.
- 5.) Roll the strips, securing the ends with glue or tape. Glue or tape the rolls in place on the sides of the wig.
- 6.) Tie the hair in back with a piece of ribbon or string, tying a bow.



Blue-Ribbon Bonnet

EASY

Women's fashions in the 1830s and 1840s were very romantic. Full skirts and bonnets that framed the face and shaded the skin were in vogue.



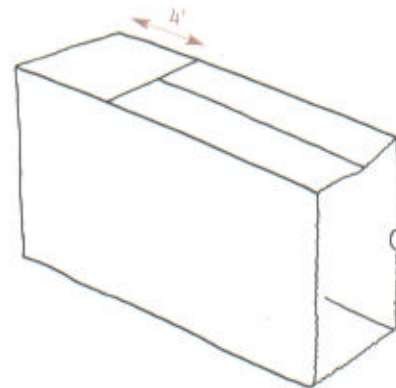
Straw Bonnet
American, 1845-49
Edgar J. Lorie

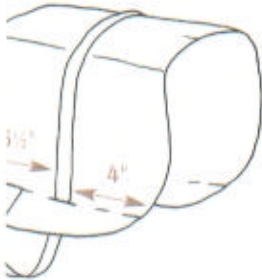
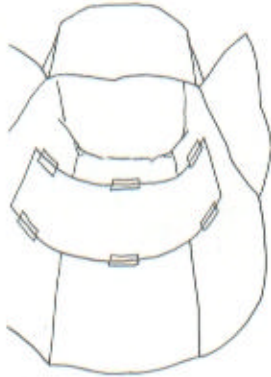
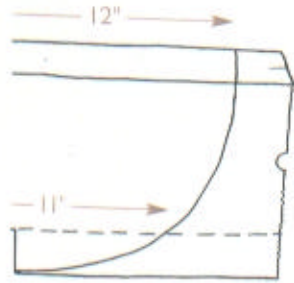
Materials needed:

- Size 12 or 16 paper bag
- pencil
- ruler
- scissors
- 8 ½" x 11" sheet of construction paper or other medium weight craft paper
- transparent tape
- 5 feet of ribbon



- 1.) Open the bag. Cut down the center of one of the narrow sides of the bag to about 4 inches from the bottom. Turning the scissors, cut to the fold on both sides of the center, as shown.





2.) Open the two flaps out, and turn the bag flap-side down. Flatten the bag slightly at the open end, lining up the edges. Draw an arch shape on the bag, as shown at left. Then cut along the line, cutting through both layers of the bag at once, to create a 12 inch bonnet.

3.) Open the bonnet. To give the back of the bonnet a rounded shape, tuck in all four corners.

4.) To give the top of the bonnet a rounded shape, fold the piece of construction paper in half lengthwise. Tape it inside the bonnet about 2 inches from the back, as shown at left.

5.) Turn the bonnet right-side up. Cut a slit, just wide enough for the ribbon to pass through, in the fold of each side flap as show. Gently ease the ribbon through each slit. Fold the flaps up slightly.



Mrs. Elliott's Wig

ADVANCED

hairdos were so elaborate in the 18th century that ladies often wore wigs. Hairstyles that were powdered gray or white were the most fashionable.



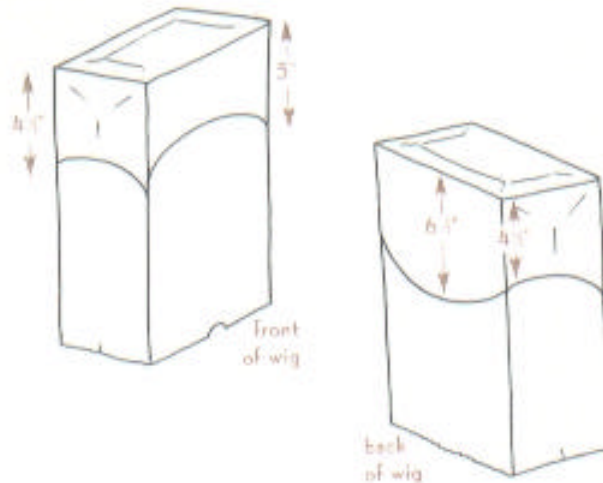
Mrs. Grace D. Elliott
(1754?-1823)

Materials needed:

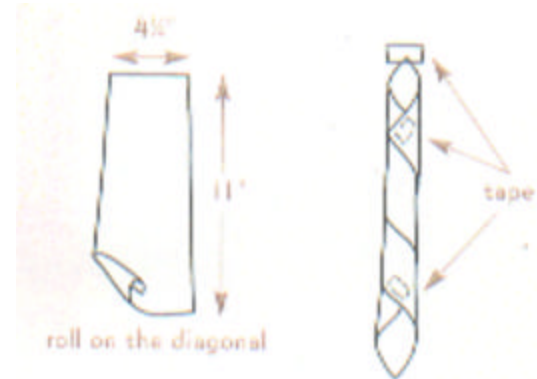
- Size 12 paper bag
- pencil
- ruler
- scissors
- 8 ½" x 11" sheets of paper
- transparent tape
- 1 ½ yards of ribbon



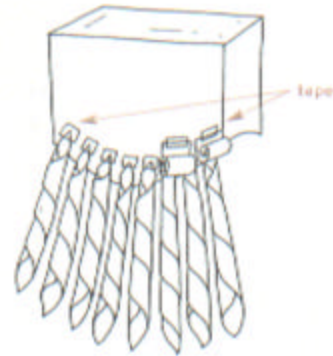
1.) Draw the cutting lines on the bag and cut it as shown in the drawings below.



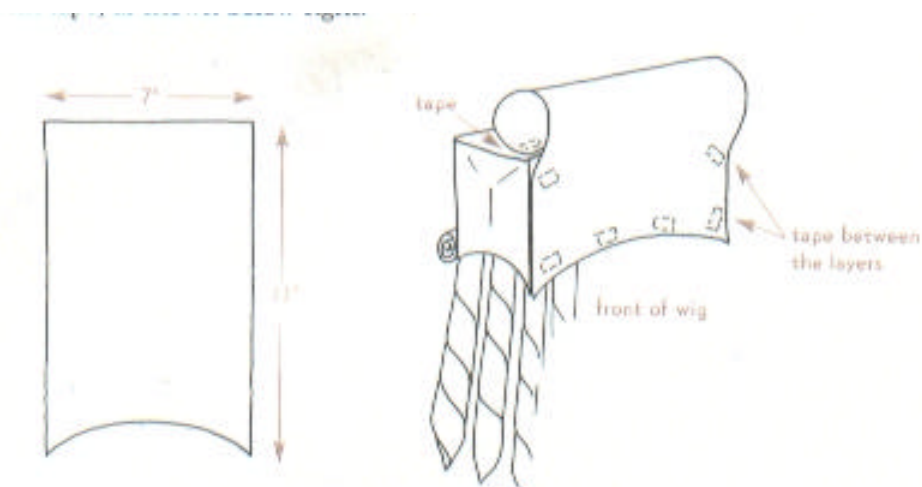
- 2.) Cut eight 4 1/4" x 11" pieces of the paper. Roll each strip on the diagonal to form sausage curls, as shown. Secure the curls at the top and bottom by tucking a small roll of tape between the layers. Use tape to attach the curls to the lower back edge of the wig as shown.



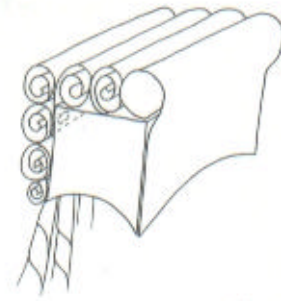
- 3.) Cut ten 4" x 11-1/2" strips of paper. Roll each strip around the pencil to make short curls. Attach the curls to the back of the wig with tape, as shown, hiding the tops of the sausage curls.



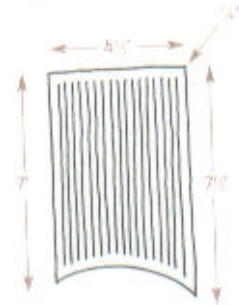
- 4.) Cut another piece of paper as shown below left. Attach the arched end to the front of the wig with small rolls of tape between the layers. Roll the opposite end backward into a fat curl and attach it to the top of the wig with tape as shown below right.



5.) Cut five 7" x 7" pieces of the paper. Roll one piece into a fat curl and secure the edge with tape. Tape the curl, seam-side down, across the center top of the wig with small, concealed rolls of tape. Align one end of the next 7" x 7" piece of paper across the top back of the wig and tape in place. Roll the opposite end so that it meets the fat curl on top of the wig, and tape it in place. Roll the other three pieces of 7" x 7" paper into fat curls and secure them with tape. Arrange them horizontally on the back of the wig, as show top right, and tape them into place.



6.) Cut two more pieces of the paper, as show center right, folding the paper slightly to start each parallel cut. Leaving a 1/4" margin at top and bottom, cut the interior of each piece into 1/4" strips. Attach the pieces to the sides of the wig with tape along the top and bottom edges so that the side pieces bulge outward.



7.) Wrap the ribbon around the wig, threading it through the hair on the sides, and tying it into a bow at back.

