

Children's Summer Hats

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NOW the weather is becoming warmer and children are playing outside again for long periods they need summer hats to protect their faces and necks from the direct rays of the sun. Hats should offer ample protection and yet be easily washed and ironed if possible.

THERE are many kinds of summer hats for children, but print hats which match the clothes have become increasingly popular in the last few years. Various patterns are available in different shapes and with different finishes. The hats illustrated in this article are easy to make and consist of one main piece only and they will open flat for ease of washing and ironing.

Any cotton material is suitable for the hats, and as only $\frac{1}{2}$ yd. of material is needed for each, they can be made of the same material as frocks or suits, or even from the skirt of an older child's outgrown frock. The materials needed for the girl's hat are $\frac{1}{2}$ yd. of cotton material, cotton thread, and 2 buttons and for the boy's hat $\frac{1}{2}$ yd. of cotton material, cotton thread, and 1 yd. of each of three colours of cord.

To find the size for the hat it is necessary to make two measurements: One from ear to ear over the crown of the head; the other from the base of the neck over the crown of the head to the forehead. To this second measurement 2 in. or 3 in. is added for a brim to shade the eyes. In the hats illustrated these measurements were as follows:—

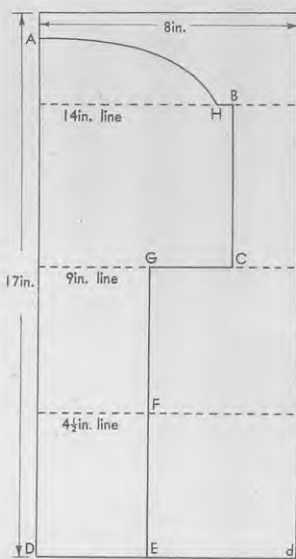
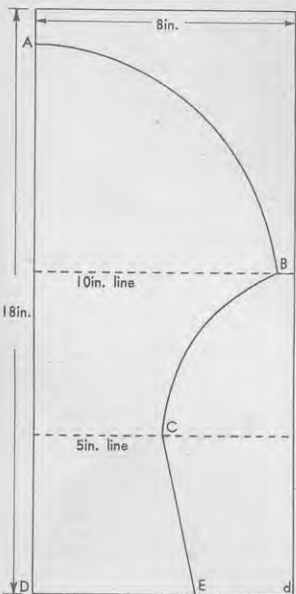
Girl's hat **Boy's hat**
in. in.

From ear to ear 15 12
From neck to forehead . . . 15 + 2 14 + 2

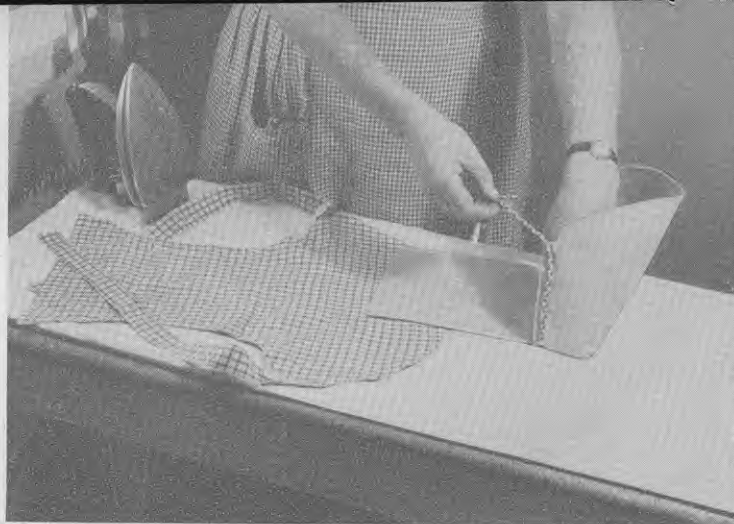
The hats will fit a girl of 3 to 4 and a boy of 1 to 2.

Making the Patterns

Girl's hat: Take a piece of paper 18 in. x 8 in. Mark off 17 in. on one side (point A). Mark off 5 in. and 10 in. along both sides. Join these marks across the paper with dotted lines.



Patterns for girl's hat (left) and boy's hat (right).



(Sparrow Industrial Pictures Ltd. photo.)

The hats opened for ironing; girl's hat (left) and boy's hat (right).

Along the 10 in. line mark off 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. (point B). Join B and A with a smooth curve.

Along the 5 in. line mark off 4 in. (point C). Join C and B with a smooth curve.

Along the base line, Dd, mark off 5 in. (point E). Join E and C with a straight line.

The resulting pattern is of one half of the hat.

Boy's hat: Take a piece of paper 17 in. x 8 in. Measure off 16 in. on one side (point A). Mark off 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in., 9 in., and 14 in. along each side. Join these marks across the paper with dotted lines.

Mark off 6 in. along the 9 in. and 14 in. lines. (Points C and B.) Join C and B with a straight line.

Mark off 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. on the base line, Dd, the 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. line, and the 9 in. line (points E, F, and G). Join E, F, and G with a straight line. Join C and G along the 9 in. line.

Mark off 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. along the 14 in. line (point H). Join H and A with a smooth curve and H and B with a straight line. The resulting pattern is of one half of the hat.

To Cut out Either Hat

Place the straight line AD on the lengthwise fold of the material and pin the pattern on to the material. Allow $\frac{1}{2}$ in. for seams and cut out the pattern. Each pattern must be cut out twice. From the material left cut out the ties for the girl's hat.

To Make up Either Hat

Place the two pieces with their right sides together and tack them firmly. Stitch round them by machine, but leave a 2 in. opening at the base. Trim the seam allowance carefully, paying special attention to the curves and angles. Turn the right side out and press it flat. Slip stitch the opening at the base of the hat. Then proceed as follows:—

Girl's hat: Five inches from the base of the hat (point C on the pattern) work a buttonhole on each side. Stitch each tie across one end and along the side. Trim the seams and turn the ties inside out and press them. Slip stitch the open ends. Sew one button and one tie to each point of the brim. Time is saved if the button and tie are sewn on in the same action.

Boy's hat: Work loops $\frac{1}{2}$ in. long at B, C, and G. Plait the three cords together and thread the plait through the loops. Tie it either over the brim or under the chin.

Stiffening

No stiffening is included in the pattern, because a cotton material will be sufficiently stiff if starched. The peak of the boy's hat and the brim of the girl's hat may be further stiffened if necessary with several rows of stitching (as in the boy's hat illustrated).

The hats may be piped or bound round the edges or may be embroidered. (What little boy would not like a bucking horse embroidered on the tail of his hat?) The girl's hat may also be embroidered around the edge of the brim or it could have a frilled edge. The frilling is stitched in when the pieces of the hat are being seamed together.