

German Renaissance Tellerbarret Hat



by Baroness Genoveva von Lübeck

16th century Germans wore many hats, one of which we call a Tellerbarett (platter hat). You can see versions of this large, round, flat hat in many paintings and woodcuts of the era. I could find no reference to surviving hats from this era, so I have only images to go by. It seems clear to me that the hats were constructed in different ways—each of the three images below shows a slightly different construction—but they all share the large, round shape and feathers are common.



Musketeer and Wife by Max Geisberg *Magdalena of Saxony by Lucas Cranach the Elder*



Judith Victorious by Lucas Cranach the Elder

How to Make a Tellerbarret:

Here are instructions to make your own tellerbarret like the one shown in the woodcut on the first page (Campfrau).

What You Need:

About one yard of wool

(Optional) Another yard of wool or linen in a contrasting color

(Optional) Ostrich and/or peacock feathers

About two yards of braid or ribbon

Matching thread

Needle

Scissors

Fray block

Step-by-Step Instructions:

1. Cut out two pieces of wool (one in main color, one in contrasting color) in 20 inch* diameter circles. Note: the second piece can be a fabric other than wool, such as linen, for a cooler effect.
2. Cut out a strip of wool in your main color 8" wide by 63" long (63" is the circumference of the 20 in-circle you cut in step 1)*.

* Note: You can have a larger or smaller diameter hat, of course. Here's a chart that indicates the circle diameters and corresponding strip sizes:

Circle Diameter	Strip Size
14"	5" x 45"
16"	6" x 51"
18"	7" x 57"
20"	8" x 63"
22"	9" x 70"
24"	10" x 76"
26"	11" x 82"

3. (Optional) “Slash” (cut with good, sharp fabric shears) a pattern in the circle of your main color wool. If your wool is likely to fray, either hem the edges of the slashings or use something like FrayBlock on the edges. It also helps if you avoid cutting along the grain of the fabric—if you cut at a 30–40° angle, you can minimize fraying.
4. Baste the two circles together along the edge.
5. Sew a casing with a narrow braid or ribbon along one edge of your wool strip. You will later use this ribbon to pull in the strip to the circumference of your head in step 9.
6. Sew the raw edge of the wool strip to the edge of the wool circle, right sides together. Sew the narrow ends of the wool strip where they meet.
7. Using strong wire, create a circle the same diameter as the circles cut out in step 1. If you’re lacking strong wire, you can use two old (and strong) wire clothes hangers, cut each to form a long wire, secure the ends of the two wires together (I used duct tape because it was handy), and bend the now one long wire into a circle. Other options include dry reeds, rims of straw or leather hats, macrame hoops, etc. I’ve used all and prefer wire; I believe it gives the right look.
8. (Optional) Sew the wire circle to the seam edge of your wool circle, trying to stay as close to the seam you created in step 5. It’s not necessary to do this.
9. Turn your hat right side out, pull your braid/ribbon in the casing tight until it fits your head, and try it on.
10. (Optional) If you need help keeping the hat on, as I do, you can sew ribbons to either side of the casing to tie under your chin.
11. (Optional) Embellish with feathers!



About the Author, Contact Details, and Copyright Notice

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I love to help anyone who is interested in blackwork embroidery! You can e-mail me at geneveva.von.lubeck@gmail.com and visit my web site at <http://GermanRenaissance.net>, where you'll find tutorials, projects, photos, articles, and information!

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