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## **Pillbox Hat** with Amy Karol

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### **Chapter 1 - Introduction**

#### Overview

- I was shopping with my five year old daughter and found this vintage hat that she fell in love with, and I was looking at it for a while and thought, you know, I can totally make this style of hat. They're really fun and easy to make. I'll show you how to cover a buckram hat form with fabric. We'll decorate it with flowers and trim and a baling. Then we'll line it, add the little loops for pinning, and I'll show you tips on how to keep it on your head, so when you wear your hat, it won't fall off, and you'll look fabulous.

#### Materials

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- Here are some materials I use when making my hats. You might not use all of these things, depending on what kind of hat you end up making, but these are good items to have on hand. You'll need some fabrics, a fabric to cover your hat and a thinner fabric to line your hat and veiling is always great to have. This batting I use to cover the form, if I'm using a thin fabric. Then glues, I primarily use a glue gun for hat-making. Spray adhesive is nice if you're using a thin fabric and you want an even coat. Then, I use a lot of flowers and trims and ribbons and beads and appliques. These are all the fun beautiful things that are great to collect. Pins are nice to secure, for draping, pipe cleaners, to make little loops and actual hat form which is buckram, you can get these online. When I glue, I use a bone folder and tweezers because I burn myself constantly on a glue gun and it hurts and so I use the tweezers and the bone folder to secure everything so I'm not touching anything. And then, dress maker's scissors or fabric scissors, ideally a pair that you can get a little gluey if you have to and that's what you need.

#### Make hat

#### Drape and glue

- When I'm making hats there's really three things that I think about. I think about the hat shape, I think about the trims, and I think about the fabric I'm going to use. It's easiest for me to decide on one of those things that's the most important and then make my decisions accordingly. So if I know I want a headband, I'll start with a form that's that shape. I'll cover it and then choose my trims, but I've made the hat shape I want. If there's a fabric I love I'll start with that. Trims, same thing. It can get confusing if you have too many decisions, so it's nice to narrow it down to what's the most important thing. I'm gonna be making a pillbox hat today out of a buckram form. You can get these online. They're great because you just cover them and they're all ready to go, and they're pretty inexpensive so I recommend ordering two or three so you can have fun and not stress about ruining your only one. Then I'll usually start with a bunch of different fabrics. This process is one of my favorites, because you can drape and experiment. I just take a lot of time draping fabrics, sort of stretching it over, thinking about what might look good, what might look terrible. You can do a lot

of different layers. Using a sheer fabric is nice, because then you can layer that over a solid color which is a nice layered look. This process is sort of messy. You have to use your imagination because it's not gonna look perfect. But if you wanted a lighter hat you could change the look a lot by adding a sheer over that, and it completely changes the look, which is really fun to do. At this point I like to just at least grab a couple trim pieces to lay on and get a sense do I want the flowers to lie flat or do I want them to sort of be up and more sculptural? Do I want it to be crazy and I could glue a bird's nest on there or a little mushroom? You can have a ton of fun with these, but it's nice to sort of know where you're heading. And at this point you need to decide if you're using a thin fabric or a thick fabric. If you're using a thin fabric, a first step is going to be to cover your form with a little bit of batting that's squishy. This is just a cotton batting. You can use a poly batting. You can get this at craft stores, fabric stores, and it comes usually in a sheet. I just lay the hat down and cut it and cut strips. It doesn't have to be perfect. This is just two strips. And it actually kind of sticks here, but you'll wanna just glue gun that on. What that does is it keeps the pattern from the buckram showing through the thin fabric. I'm going to use a thicker fabric for my hat form so I don't need to do this step. I'm gonna be using this synthetic wool felt-ish type material which will work perfect. When I've covered the buckram forms before I usually use two different methods. One method is to drape the fabric over the form, tuck it in, and then take another fabric element, either the same fabric or a contrasting one, and use it as a strip around the edge of the hat. What this does is it's concealing any wrinkles in the fabric, and it creates this beautiful turban look. That's a beautiful way to cover this kind of form. The other way is to drape the fabric and then pleat it because what you're doing is you're covering a three dimensional shape with a flat piece of fabric, and we don't have hat blocks, and we're not steaming. That's a different kind of millinery that's wonderful, but it requires supplies that most people don't have. So we need to cover this, but deal with the fact that it's a three dimensional form. So drape and then you just pleat and pleat and pleat, and it makes a lovely little pleat. If there are any pleats that don't look perfect to you, that is a great place to add your trim. This green fabric is very fabulous, and that's what I'm gonna use today for this hat that I'm making. I just lay the fabric down and pick up the buckram form that I'm gonna use. I've pre-trimmed this, but what you can do is just fold the fabric in and get a sense of how much you need. Leave more than you think you need, but if you have too much it gets all crazy in there. Then you won't have enough room to pleat it well. At this point you can decide whether or not you want to use a spray adhesive or a glue gun. I usually use a glue gun for almost everything unless the fabric is really sheer and then a spray adhesive is nice to use. I don't even need to glue the top. I can just glue the sides. I fold and glue and fold and glue; that's the first step. So I'm gonna take my glue gun and get a pretty hefty bead of glue and fold. Then I'm gonna take my bone folder and press and try not to burn myself, and let it sit there for a second. The glue will drip down and that's just fine. If you're using a thin fabric you might have to be a little bit more careful with excessive glue use, because it will bleed through the fabric. If it bleeds through, don't worry, keep working, because that's a great place to add a flower. You can cover up a lot here. I'm gonna turn it and do the opposite corner and pull it tight. Let's just take a peek here and make sure nothing is showing through, and it's not. Now I'm doing the opposite side. I have some glue on there, and then I'm gonna just press. Even though I'm so tempted to use my fingers I'm not going to, because then I will burn myself and I will be unhappy. So we have two sides glued now. We'll take a look and see. That looks nice. We're gonna do the other two sides. It's a really good idea to have a stack of extra glue sticks right next to you, because it always seems I'm right in the middle of something when I run out of a glue stick, and it's nice to have that extra backup. You might wanna buy more than you think

you need, because this project uses a lot of glue. And here I go and I'm running out. There, I got it. I really like using the mini glue guns for this, because I feel like I can get right into those tiny little spots. So the beauty of doing it in four spots is you have a place now for your four pleats, and they're evenly distributed, and that makes your work a lot easier. So here you're just kind of pressing your pleats in. You can make an aesthetic decision here. You can have your pleats face each other or go around where they all go the same way, which is usually what I do, unless the fabric is telling you it really wants to go the opposite way and then I listen to the fabric and I let my agenda go, and that's what we're gonna do pleat. I'm just coaching it into shape, and now I'm gonna glue these down. So I take the glue gun and just do a little bead of glue, and I'm only gluing on the inside. You don't need to put glue under the pleat on the outside. It's not necessary. It also will mean that you won't accidentally get glue on the outside of your hat, which you don't want. The pleat is glued to the fabric, but the fabric is lifting there. So then you have to put it down and secure it. This process of pleating and gluing is just organic. Just make sure the fabric doesn't lift off your hat is really what you wanna do at this point. Ouch, I didn't use my bone folder. See, I burnt myself for you to remind you to use it. So now you don't have to burn yourself. You're welcome. Okay. You're gonna have a little extra fabric when you're all done with this. Sometimes it's worth trimming it off. Sometimes it's not even worth it and you can just glue it or press it into the body of the hat and just cover it with lining and that's fine. Make sure you open up a window because even though we're not using a spray adhesive the glue gun starts to get a little stinky. It's just a good idea whenever you're using adhesives to get some fresh air. And we have a lot more gluing to do. I'm gonna take a peek here on the outside and look to see if there are any bumps that are making me unhappy, and I am happy. The inside has a little bit of extra fabric. So I'm gonna lift that off. We are going to be lining this so don't worry if it's not perfect. It doesn't need to look perfect right now. The beauty of the pillbox hat is that there's a lot of room in there. You could hide things in there. So if there's a bunch of extra fabric in there it doesn't really matter. Although we want it to look kind of tidy and using a pretty lining is nice, so I'm just trimming off the extra. I'm gonna add just a little bit more glue to make sure that this all stays down. Now this fabric is doubled up on itself, so I'm being brave and I'm not using tools. And now I'm picking all those tell-tale glue gun threads off. All right, this looks beautiful. This form is complete.

#### Add lining

- It's time to line the hat now. And I like to use a really thin fabric for that, and something decorative and sweet that will make you smile when you take your hat off and look inside, when you're hiding notes in there or something. So I just sort of press it down in there and get a sense of how much I need. We have plenty. I'm gonna take it off and I'm just going to run a bead of hot glue on the inside of the hat, not on the flat part of the crown, just where those two edges meet. I'm gonna get this glue on there kind of quickly and throw that fabric in there pretty fast because I don't want the glue to dry. If it dries, that's okay. You can just peel the fabric off and squirt some more glue down in there. And I'm going to try to remember not to use my fingers. So I'm gonna just press and turn. This is sort of like making a little pie. It's a hat pie. It's a hat tartlet. I should actually do fabric that has berries on it or something. Alright. So that's down in there and I'm just gonna sort of pull this back and stretch it tight. Just sort of doing on the inside what I did to begin with on the outside. There's gonna be wrinkles and pleats and folds and that's fine because that's the shape of this hat. Now, I'm going to trim off some of the excess. I'm not gonna go down too low. But I'm doing this to make it easier to maneuver the fabric. We'll trim it even more after we glue it. And be careful with

your scissors. I'm sort of confidently snipping away here, but it's really easy to accidentally cut right into your pleat. So don't do that, that would be tragic. But if you do do that, keep going, 'cause we can put a flower over that spot. It's amazing what you can fix. Okay, I seriously almost just cut a pleat. So please be careful. This is when using fabric scissors will come in handy, not paper scissors. Alright. We're gonna run another bead of glue, but not right near the top, down in the middle of this section, because we want to be able to cut again. So we need to get in there and pull it away to do that. This part, I'm gonna glue in segments. Just do what's comfortable. Might be easier to glue from the top down and press. You might find it easier to work on the side. I end up sort of doing whatever I need to do to make it happen. This fabric is really thin. So I'm really gonna actually use my tool here every single time and not burn myself. So this is just a process of peeling the fabric back, running a bead of glue in the middle of this shape, not close to the top, but in the middle, and then pressing. If you don't have a bone folder, you could use a piece of thin cardboard, something that's flexible but hard enough that you can really press with it. That would work fine, too. Later, we'll be running a ribbon around this raw edge. So don't worry if it's not perfectly even or if it looks unfinished, because we'll be taking care of all that at the end, after we add the beautiful trims and the veiling. I've already used almost two glue sticks of these many glue sticks, so far, just to give you a sense. I'm always amazed at how much glue I use. But that's just what it's there for. Alright, I'm gonna just make sure we're all pressed in. This is how this looks. It's not 100% smooth and it really doesn't need to be. You're just covering it on the inside and making sure you're not seeing that buckram. I'm gonna pull this back just a little bit and do a little tiny snip in here and start cutting around. And it's a little counter-intuitive. You'd think that you'd want it to be really, really close to the edge, but actually you want it to be not quite to the edge because you'll be running that ribbon and that ribbon will conceal it. But you don't want this excess fabric dipping below the edge of the ribbon that we'll use. And again, sharp scissors will make this process easy and dull scissors will cause you to have a lot of frustration. Let's see if I can lift any of that off. And that's gonna be fine, because what will happen is we'll just run a ribbon right around this whole edge here. And these little pleats will lie flat. At this point, the lining looks a little unfinished because it is. But we'll fix it up later.

#### Arranging florals and embellishments

- This is my favorite part is trimming the hat with the flowers and the beads and the ribbons and all the things I've collected for I don't know what reason, it's to put it on hats, so now you have a reason to keep buying and collecting all those things that you probably don't think you need. I like to start by looking at some examples, either ones I've made or vintage. This hat here has flowers around the edge in a spiral pattern and then four leaves that radiate out with netting. That's a really beautiful look and it's not quite symmetrical because there's a bow and some twigs. A lot of vintage hats will have this element of symmetry and then some sort of asymmetrical element. This is a hat that I've made that definitely is more of an asymmetrical placement of just flowers on one side. At this point, you want to sort of decide what your favorite part of the hat is and how you think you might wear it. So if you know okay, this is the best part, go ahead and look in the mirror, you have to look in the mirror a lot when you're doing this because then you'll sort of decide okay how did that look, and if you're alone snap some photos so you can remember exactly what you're doing. Sometimes I design a hat and I always meant it to be on the other side, it's no big deal but it's an easy sort of thing to forget. This hat I just used the leaves around on only one side and then clustered sort of an asymmetrical part on the top. I really like using veiling and I use it on all my hats.

I just think it creates a beautiful sculptural element that also sort of diffuses. You can pull it down, or bring it back. So when I'm designing I like to sort have these elements. And then to cover up a little glue, I just added a flower in back which actually looks intentional and it's a nice technique. For this hat, the sky is the limit. I could use an applique and just glue this on, this would be graphically very bold. I could use some ribbons, this is a beautiful textural ribbon. I just like to have fun at this point and pile on different trims, see what works. These silk flowers are really inexpensive. You can get them at craft stores, these aren't fancy. These are vintage, and this was worth it to me, I bought these especially for this hat and I'm really glad I did, but I also just like to keep these flowers handy. And decide is it a spring hat is it a summer hat, where do I think I'll wear it and play around with ideas. That's actually very cute. So at this point, I stop, and I take a photo because I'm going to take all these things and try it with something else but I want to remember this. One thing that I like to do if I'm stumped is go for a look that's more monochromatic, so greens, different color greens, maybe a third color of green, and then just a brown in this case because it's a green hat to start. These leaves are wired so I can play around with whether or not I want them to lie completely flat the way they are on this hat or if I want to lift them and really get some dimension. So that's a nice clustering there. This is sort of like decorating a cake, and sometimes I will stick in pins if I'm afraid it's going to move and I'll just take some straight pins and stick it in and then carefully try and put it on my head so I can see what it looks like. I'm adding just another leaf here just for contrast, and then I'm adding one color. I mean there's more colors than just one, but sort of one feature color. And that, that's really pretty. So I think that's where we're going to go with this one. Then, before I start gluing, I'm just going to do a little quick sort of scrunching of netting to get a sense of what this will look like and sort of drape it. This reminds me so much of cake decorating. That looks pretty nice. So at this point, I could photograph it or I could just have a laser-like memory and remember it and glue on the trims. One thing I like to do is I sort of like to take them off in a way that makes sense to me. So I'm going to move them around the edge here and I'm also going to take a look at my hat. Because I'm developing the composition right here, I want to look and see is that really where I want it to be and it's not. I don't want that pleat to be kind of right here on my head. I'm going to develop it here where it's flatter. So I'm going to twist that so I can orient myself. And then for the leaves that have dimension, I like to use tweezers and you can either, depending on what you think is appropriate, glue on the fabric directly or glue on the element which is what I'm going to do here because I want that back leaf to have dimension, I don't want to glue it flat. So I'm just sort of lifting it up in the back and just touching it with the tweezers. That's what's so cool about using something that's wired. Just put in the glue right where that flat part of the leaf is going to touch. Now, I've used other glues before, not hot glue, and hot glue for me has worked the best. For your leaves and flowers, sometimes the glue will leak through the front and you'll be able to see it. It will maybe drive you crazy but give it a day or two because usually even if it's slightly stained and looks wet, you really don't notice, and by the time you get the veiling on, it's just another layer of screening and details like that don't show up as much. I'm going to add this final leaf here for some added dimension. I had five leaves before but I think we're going to change it to four. And I need to figure out on this leaf where my glue is going to go. I'm going to give it sort of a glue spot. And I'm actually going to at this point glue directly on the leaf because I need to sort of create a little glue puddle and I'm going to be patient and not get too crazy at this point and let this glue get set up. And I can figure out where I want these flowers to go and I think I'm going to add a little cluster of berries. I'm a huge fan of little tiny balls of berries on hats and sort of figure out a good way that this needs to go on. At this point, when you're using these kinds of pieces, you're going to be using a lot



of glue and you might also need to take it apart and carefully snip away. When you're buying these things, the berries, the flowers, you need to sort of completely take them apart, so don't be afraid to cut and cut and cut and cut until you end up with just one leaf or one petal even because when you see them just as in bunches, and they look really tacky and you're going to want to take them apart. That's nice, coming out of there, so I'm going to just take, okay that's golden. So now, I'm going to glue it while it's in place because it's going to be hard to recreate this. So I'm going to just remove this and do just a little spot of glue right on the hat. And take my tweezers and just tap it. You can always go back in later and secure it. I'm going to take this off and glue the berries now because I don't think I can get in there otherwise and I'm going to use kind of a ridiculous amount of glue for that. And tap. Again, as long as it stays on enough for you to pick it up, then you can go back in with more glue if you need to. Okay, one last flower. I'm going to tap there. That is looking really nice. Now at this point, I like to just add a few more things just to make sure I'm comfortable with how it looks and I also want you to see how different it can look if we just went back through and added another color, it changes everything. The orange is lovely, the red is pretty. This is kind of crazy but you could add a bird's nest, but you can see it just doesn't, it's too much, the eggs don't match, but you can still keep adding if you want. The white doesn't quite work, so I feel pretty confident that this is the way to go. One thing I like to do sometimes is to add little beads to the center of the flowers but not always. So we can take a look and see what we think if we just drop those in. And it's pretty, I'm not sure actually. It's pretty, it changes the look, it makes it more formal, the pearls. Let's see what it looks like when we're adding the veiling. You know, I think it stands out too much. I think there's too much contrast with that white so I'm going to go ahead and take those off. And if I want to I could probably add them back in later so you could wear the hat, and then add more stuff later. I know that seems crazy, but you can, of course you can. So the veiling I like to put on next after we investigate the flowers and petals. There's a couple places where I'd like it to just stick down a little bit more so I'm going to just go back through here and make sure it's all on there, okay. And I'm going to take off some of those strands. This is looking ready for veiling now.

#### Add veil

- What I like to do it sort of scrunch this up. And there's so many ways you can do veiling. And I just do it sort of the same way every time because it gives me a lot of choices. When I drape it, I just tie a knot on one end. The veiling that have here is large. The diamond is smaller. That's typical, and it's beautiful. It creates more of an opaque screen. I mean, it's still transparent, but it's less transparent. This is harder to find. I would look at a fabric shop that has a lot of bridal veiling. If you can't find it at a local fabric shop you can find it online. I've heard it referred to as Russian veiling. But other things too. Really you're just going for the largest veiling you can find. I haven't seen anything bigger than this. This is a taupe color, which is really lovely. White would look very, very different. This reminds me, imagine this whole hat in white. It would be so pretty for a wedding, for bridesmaids or for a bride. So the white veiling is completely different. And then the black is different, it's more contrast. So it becomes more of a statement. And the black is actually fun to use in layers the way I did on this hat. So what we're gonna do with this is we've created sort of this little cage, and we can kind of just tuck here and we're gonna glue it. And don't fuss too much at this point about exactly the way it's laying. Because you can adjust that. That's the beauty of doing it this way is you can pull it forward or push it back. You're just sort of creating this nice little additional layer to your hat. So now I'm going to carefully glue in the veiling. And I have to hold it like this. This is awkward, but it's because we have this beautiful trim here and we don't wanna crush

it. So I'm gonna be working with it on its edge. And before I do any gluing sometimes I try to, and this sometimes works, sometimes it doesn't, but I'll just sort of try to get something to kind of prop a little bit on here, without crushing the berries. I'm just sort of angling this. It's not really holding it up, it's just sort of gives me something to lean on. Gonna push this veiling into the inside of the hat and I'm just twisting and laying it down. We'll trim off the extra, what we want is just to create a surface to glue. So I'm gonna take my glue gun. Now the veiling has holes in it, which means that hot glue is right at your fingertips. I'm gonna twist this, do you see? Twisting and twisting. This will allow me to get just a perfect little line there. And this is just awkward, there's just no other way around it. I have to hold it down until it dries. I can't actually even use a bone folder at this point because it will just stick to the glue. Because the veiling has holes in it. And we can re-glue it, we're just trying to get it down. And it doesn't take very long at all. We'll just do the same thing on the other side. But before you glue the other side go ahead and take one more look at it and make sure that it's behaving in a way that is reasonable. The next thing we're gonna do is we're gonna take some ribbon and run that around the inside perimeter of the hat. And that will finish all the raw edges and hide the netting. I'm gonna just let that sit here. Because there actually is one more step with pipe cleaners. The pipe cleaner is used to make little tiny loops, which you're going to glue into the hat edge. And then you can use it as a way to secure it to your head, you just use a little bobby pin, I'll show you how to do that in a second. I got that idea from a vintage hat. And you don't pin on this hat. This just grips your head, it's got a really strong grip here. But when you're wearing your pillbox hat it's fun to wear it really far forward. And then you're totally paranoid and moving like a strange robot, 'cause you're afraid. I just did the robot. (laughs) Because you're afraid that the hat's gonna fall off. These loops will make you feel a lot more comfortable. They're really easy to make. I just do a little loop, I don't measure. Cut. And then I'm just going to kind of get it into sort of a semi arc shape. And then I do another one with the looping. The reason why I'm doing a loop in dark brown, I know it doesn't match the hat at all, is that it matches my hair. So if you are blond, try to find a lighter pipe cleaner. Because this does dip down just a little bit from the edge of the hat, you can see it on this one. These just sort of poke up. So you'll see it just slightly, but you really won't notice it if matches your hair. The loops don't have to relate to the veiling at all, and in fact, if I'm wearing the hat sort of like this, I want my loops to go back where I can get to my hair, which isn't gonna be here. It's gonna be sort of here and here. I'm kind of just feeling my own head. You'll wanna do this in a mirror and just sort of get a sense of, okay, where can I really anchor that in. And then sort of carefully take it off your head. There. And that's about right. Ooh, but don't crush your flowers. I'm gonna just memorize this placement right now. So here I am memorizing it. And I'll even just move my thumb and just take a little pin that I have handy. Because I always keep my boxes of pins handy and then I can drop them in a handy way. Alright. Gonna just kinda go like this now because we have to be careful. I mean, this won't break, but you know, you don't wanna mess it up because you just spent all this time doing it. I think it's easier to, well you can do what you're comfortable doing, I think it's easier to run a bead of glue. And I can use the loop as a little holder. And where's my... There it is. And it doesn't need to dip down a ton. It just needs to dip past the edge of the hat enough that you can get a bobby pin in there. And then I'm gonna repeat it back here. And I'm gonna put this down. Just for a second. I'm gonna actually go like this so it doesn't... And I'm gonna trim these little legs 'cause it doesn't need to be this big. There's my pin. I'm really glad I pinned. That was a good decision. Okay. We're almost done with the inside of this hat. Now we're just going to let this dry for a second and find, in this pile of ribbon, to go around the perimeter. And I'm gonna just carefully put this down and let these sit for a second. The

ribbon for the inside, you actually need to use a ribbon on bias. Because it's going around in a circle, but it's not going in a circle. So you can use whatever ribbon you have handy. And I'm just gonna drape this around here to get a sense of how much I need. And we'll just overlap it. I just wanna make sure I have enough, but not way too much. But these loops are on here, I'm gonna just clean this up a little bit. I can trim the knots off because the glue is holding it. And that looks good. This is this awkward moment where I'm going to be gluing it when it's on its edge. And that's fine. So since this is the front, I'll start gluing in the back. Because that makes sense. I'll just overlap pieces in the back. And I just do this in stages. Just run a bead of glue, put it down, sort of drape it down and look for some sort of tool that allows me to not burn myself. The one thing you wanna keep in mind when doing this is you want it to be close to the edge, but you don't want it even with the edge of the hat because just a little bit of that ribbon might peek through. It's not that big of a deal, really. Especially if your ribbon matches your hat exactly. I like the ribbon to match the lining a little bit more. But to be honest, I usually use whatever ribbon is free and closest to my hand. That's often my decision making process. So this is covering that loop. It's also helping really secure that veiling. You'll wanna give it some slack when you are kind of forming it in. Don't pull it tight because then it won't make the curve. Again, it's like a pie. Another pie analogy. Traditionally in millinery these hat bands are sewn in, but when you're dealing with a buckram form like this and you're gluing everything, this is definitely the way to go because hand sewing at this point gets tricky because you're going in through glue, which is near impossible. A lot of vintage hats are glued. I was feeling a little bad about using so much glue because I'm a sewer and I live millinery, but when I look at vintage hats I can see the glue right there, especially if they're straw and made out of buckram. That was really common. So don't have any glue guilt about this. I'm just trimming off a little extra and I'm overlapping. Trying to get rid of those pesky little extra... Oh gosh, we did it before we had to fill new glue in. So it doesn't matter, but I just like to think about it, we've used three sticks for this. I just think that's interesting. You don't wanna put it on right now. You wanna let it dry. Not that long, you know, give it a half an hour. And then you can wear your beautiful hat. You can get fussy at this point, too. Alright, I'm pulling out some strands. The veiling you can put up, take down. It looks great.

#### How to wear your hat

- We've made a hat. Let's talk about how to actually wear it in real life. You can wear pillbox hats in a couple of ways: on the top of your head, which isn't my favorite, back, more in like a 60s style, or forward in a jaunty kind of angle. And this is, I think, the way to go, for most people. And it's nice to angle it forward more than you even think is reasonable. So, when you're looking in the mirror, just look at where your eyebrow is and try to get the front of it to kiss your eyebrow there. That's a good way to wear a hat because when you wear your hat that way, you're sort of saying, "I'm wearing a hat." It's a real confident move. When you wear it back on your head, that's great for a 60s look. But it's good to have attitude when you're wearing a hat, and that angle helps with that. So what I like to do when I'm wearing a hat like this is I get a bobby pin ready to go, and I put the hat on my head and get a friend, ideally, to sort of balance it. And then, I'm gonna show you here because you won't be able to see it back there. You take your bobby pin and just go ahead and anchor it on one loop. And then do it on the other side. Put that bobby pin in. And then you might find that's enough. If it's not, you can take another bobby pin and anchor it through your hair, not through the loop but through your hair and create an X. And the ridges in the bobby pin will lock it into place so you'll have an X here and here. I really like this method of securing a hat. It works very



well. The bobby pins match your hair. In other hats, I've seen elastic. And that works okay. I don't like it as much, just because it sort of changes the line of your hair. You could either have to put it behind your neck or under your chin, and I just like the sort of gravity-defying look of it, just hanging right here with no way to know how we did that magic. So that's how I would wear the pillbox hat. If you're interested in making hats but you are kind of nervous about really wearing them, you can just make them and have fun with it and say, "You know what? "I might wear it, I might not. "I just like making hats." That's fine. If you really want to start wearing hats on a more regular basis and don't feel like you can justify just making hats you're not gonna wear, which I do, occasionally, a good place to start is with a buckram form that's more like a headband. And these are really inexpensive and fun to decorate. You can do a big, crazy flower. You can just do a pattern. And when you wear this, you can wear it forward, you can wear it back. You will go ahead and put your loops in here just the way we did on this hat. And you cover it in a very similar way. Once you get the idea of covering these, you can kind of extrapolate that into any form. This is a vintage version. And you can see here, there's this beautiful sequin pattern in all black so it's not too crazy. This poor little tattered veiling which I'm gonna replace. And what's nice about this is it, you can kind of see what's going on here, it doesn't contrast with my hair too much. So that's something to keep in mind. If you're new to wearing hats, a good rule of thumb is, make the hat kind of in the same color value as your hair. So if you're blond, go for a lighter band. If you're brunette, go darker. Because then you don't see it as much, so then, you don't feel like, "Hi, I'm the hat person "wearing the hat." You know, it could be a little weird. And so then, you're like, "Eh, I'm wearing a hat." It's not like a scream-at-you hat, but it's just a little headpiece. So that's a fun place to start. The other thing that's nice to do is to see how hats are worn in publications like vintage magazines, old movies. I get a lot of inspiration from old movies because they just have hats everywhere, and it's fun to see them in action, especially the crazy little tiny, tiny hats from the 40s. Those are really fun. Another really fun idea for hatmaking is to buy maybe six or 10 buckram forms and use it as a theme for a party, maybe a shower or a birthday party or whatever. Instead of decorating cupcakes or cookies, you could have a hat decorating party. And people could bring fabrics and trims and ribbons, and everyone could leave with a hat that maybe they don't intend to wear but then they think, "I have this cool hat. "I'm gonna wear this cool hat." And now, you're the cool hat lady. I hope you had fun making these hats, and I hope you wear them.