

Esparterie Hat



Research inspiration for hat style, purpose, and feeling. I started this project knowing that I wanted to work with this interesting material that has mostly disappeared from our world. Esparterie, otherwise known as Willow has a beautiful quality to it that makes it able to create free form, draped shapes along with being able to block with it.



When covering I had to do each part seperately, leaving seam allowance. Once I combined the brim and crown together I then covered the back of the brim and wrapped all the excess seam allowance, graded, to the inside. It was then all finished by putting in the lining and horsehair that could attach the hat.



I wanted this project to display both of these qualities of willow, so I made the crown by blocking it on a hat block (above), and I did a more draped affect for the brim (below).

For the small darts in the crown and the seam in the brim I had to layer the piecies of straw and buckram in the willow to eliminate bulk. For the brim below, after seaming it I trimmed it down to the correct shape.

