



So you'd like to get into Traditional (men's) hat making?

Hat Making is a great thing to get into but we know that it's hard to know where to start! The trade has been somewhat lost since hats became an optional item of clothing but it is coming back.

There are currently no online courses available that we are aware of and you will find that you will need to dedicate yourself to learn what you can from the internet, books, asking other hatter's (please be aware that not all will want to share their secrets) and then lastly, it will be down to trial and error – by making your own hats and learning what works and what doesn't.

Yes, this can be an expensive learning curve but well worth it if you persist. You will be able to recoup this initial expense when you begin to sell your hats (if you plan on doing so).

We hope you find the information below useful, please don't hesitate to contact us if you have more questions, we're always happy to help.

- To start with, if you'd like to hand - form your fedora crowns then we suggest starting with our '**Hat Making beginners kit**': <https://hatblocksaustralia.com.au/open-crowns>
This kit has everything you'll need to get started in Hat Making.
- The **Open Crown and Brim** that you chose in the kit will depend on the look you're after. If you're not sure which crown and brim will make which style, please feel free to send us images of the hat styles you'd like to make.

You will also find that you can make the currently, very popular, flat brim, which can be ironed flat on a table without using the Flange brim, that will give you some variety.

- We also have a range of **Pre- shaped Fedora crowns**, if you prefer (which in traditional hat making are more often used with straws which don't hand form as well): <https://hatblocksaustralia.com.au/fedoras>
We can make you a kit with one of these if you prefer, however, they will only ever make the one Fedora shape – something for you to consider, especially if you are selling your hats, you might find that you need a range of sizes in the future.
- You will need to choose the base style that you would like your crown to have: If you plan to just make hats for yourself or keep your business/ range small then we suggest that you go for the **3 hole base option**. Image below:



If you are considering getting into larger volume production in the future, you may decide to purchase a Pouncing Machine which turns the crown while you sand your felts. In this case, you will need to consider the **Pouncing Base option**, which does cost a little more. Image below:



- We suggest that you **source your felts and sweatbands** from Chris Morris at the Hat Makers Emporium: <https://www.etsy.com/au/shop/TheHatmakersEmporium>
You can also email him (he's very helpful when it comes to beginner hat makers): mrleqbas@hotmail.com
- We recommend the book '**Scientific Hat Making**', it has loads of useful information: <https://www.etsy.com/listing/37959984/scientific-hat-making-very-rare>
- We have a series of videos on Youtube that you might find useful:

Intro to men's hatting blocks: <https://youtu.be/A7bG-E0FMRw>

What blocks do I need to create a fedora:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bTxdEXj3ixA>

The Rounding Jack with Chris Morris:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7mh3AvXctvc>

(This video also explains the difference between Millinery and Hatter's weight felts)