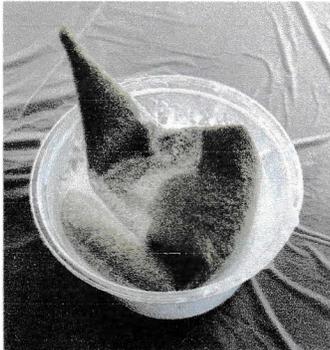


How To Stiffen the Fabric for Your Gnome Hat

Stiffening the fabric is another way to give you a different look for your hat. It lets you strategically put in the wrinkles where you want them. This is great for getting that Harry Potter Sorting Hat type look. Although great for all materials I especially like it for felt. Felt is very easy to work with, it doesn't unravel, you don't need to make a seam and it's inexpensive. However felt has a tendency to look like a kids craft. Stiffening the felt gives it a more finished look.



You will need Mod Podge or a clear glue, water, styrofoam cone or pool noodle and some straight pins. Dilute Mod Podge with water. I don't have an exact recipe, however the more Mod Podge you use the stiffer the fabric will be. So it depends on your fabric, (heavier fabric will need more mod podge) and the look you want.



Dip your hat into the solution and squeeze out the excess. Yep this is messy, make sure you cover your work surface with plastic, foil etc. A cookie sheet with edges covered in something works well because the mixture will pool as it dries.



Place your fabric onto to styrofoam or a pool noodle and use your straight pins to to pin it into the shape you want. Add wrinkles or twist the end.

As it dries this is going to pool at the bottom, keep turning the hat so the mixture doesn't build up in one spot. I usually remove a pin or two after a few hours to check that it is keeping its shape and to make sure its not sticking to the pool noodle. If it's not add more mixture.

When it appears to be holding its shape remove pins and let dry thoroughly.

This mixture also works to stiffen fabric for Gmomes Clothes and to keep burlap from unraveling



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