

APPENDIX 1 BEARSKIN CAP INSTRUCTIONS

1. As a detailed specification is not available for Caps, Bearskin, the following information and instruction is for guidance with regard to materials used, construction and aesthetic features of the Cap. It also offers advice on Inspection. The diagrams referred to in this Appendix can be found in Appendix 4.

2. MATERIALS

2.1 The body of the Cap is of Bearskin Hide which has been dressed and dyed black satisfactorily.

2.2 The inner foundation consists of:

2.2.1 Wicker basket of sound quality and construction; and

2.2.2 A base foundation of seamless black felt which is stiffened and cut to the required shape before securely attaching to the basket.

2.3 Three black japanned pronged type ventilators are fitted through the back part of the body, near the top in such a way that the fur masks their visibility.

2.4 Two large hooks, black japanned, are sewn on the inside of the felt foundation, one on each side of the Cap. These hooks are to hold the curb chain.

2.5 Two leather topped plume sockets are securely fitted outside the Cap, one on either side exactly midway between front and back; each socket to be 2-1/2 inches from bottom edge of Cap.

2.6 Head-leather of goatskin dyed black is cut in two pieces as in Standard Pattern Cap. The two pieces are joined on either side of the Cap and a length of black tape is threaded through the metal holes fitted to the ends of the tongues.

2.7 For inspection, the following implements are required:

2.7.1 One large hand comb, preferably in bone and large toothed;

2.7.2 One tape measure;

2.7.3 One brass ring gauge for measuring head sizes; and

2.7.4 One length of narrow wood or straight rule, marked with the minimum depth measurements of the inside of the Cap 9 inches front and 13 inches back. See Diagram "A".

3. INSPECTION

3.1 Before examination in detail is carried out, hold Cap in upright position at eye level to observe regularity in overall shape.

3.2 Check any signs of weakness in the basket structure by holding the Cap between the flat of each hand and applying slight pressure around the full area of the basket. Breakages and weakening of struts can occur during the construction of the Cap.

3.3 Check the inside of the Cap for fitting of ventilators, secure sewing of basket to felt foundation, fitting of side hooks and fitting of head-leather which should conform to the shape of the felt base.

3.4 To check head size, the brass ring gauge is placed inside the Cap, level with the brow line, and then extended with slight hand pressure to the full internal circumference of the Cap at this level. To allow for the insertion of the curb chain, each Cap should have the head size measurement larger than the actual size marking, ie, Size 7 (marked) should measure on gauge just under Size 7-1/8.

3.5 Diagram "A" is a guide to measuring height from inside junction of main struts of wicker frame to the base of the felt body. The respective measurement of 9 inches and 13 inches apply to smaller sizes up to and including size 7. Larger sizes must be deeper to produce a properly proportioned Cap.

3.6 The outside (fur) is then carefully examined by shaking the Cap causing movement of the fur. This enables the examiner to determine whether the fur will fall back into the correct lay after disturbing and also detects any uneven joining of the fur pieces, mixed standards of fur and bad matching.

3.7 The Cap is then lightly combed with an upward motion to examine for possible bare patches and then with light down strokes to return fur to its original position.

3.8 During this action, the examiner is able to confirm that the fur lie is correct from top to back and from top to front brow. See Diagram "C".

3.9 The fur at the back of the Cap must fall below the head-leather line and should be of sufficient length to form a "ducktail" shape. See Diagram "C".

3.10 It is important that the front fur should form a drop of approximately 2 inches below the leather brow line. This must be natural and evenly distributed. See Diagram "C". "D" fringe.

3.11 The fur at the top of the Cap must be flat. See Diagram "C".

3.12 Any tendency to a flattened top is unacceptable. Hair at the top should fall evenly in every direction.

3.13 This is determined by the standard of Bearskin Hide used as, although the joining seam passes across the top of the Cap, the difference between the lie of the fur on the back piece and the lie on the front piece must be compatible. There must be no indication of a joining seam visible on the outside of the Cap.

3.14 It is important that the hair is long enough at the front to come down evenly over the brow and long enough at the back to allow combing to a point at the center.

3.15 We would consider a length of 3 inches (tail) to be satisfactory but acceptable Caps have been produced from shorter hair. It is essential that the hair be of a type which can be groomed to lie correctly. The loose "floppy" type of hair is not suitable as it may result in a flat top and will blow too readily in a light wind. The wiry type of hair which tends to stand out all round and cannot be groomed to stay in a downward direction at the bottom of the Cap is also unsuitable.

3.16 The hair must not be trimmed with scissors.