Instructions for making the Sou'wester Hat

This pattern requires a heavy duck material, cotton twill, denim or other heavy cottons/linens. Prewash this material if you are planning to waterproof the final product. This will remove the sizing and make the beeswax and linseed oil absorb into the fabric. This pattern is unsuitable for knits or stretch materials. I have not tried it with PUL. But if you were to try with this fabric I would add a grosgrain hat band so it keeps its shape. This hat is a 22.5 inch finished circumference. There is no seam allowance on the pattern so you will need to add this. I suggest a ¼ inch seam allowance but 5/8 is also regularly used.

- Step 1: Lay out pattern pieces with the brim on the fold. You need to cut two full brims. Cut 6 cap pieces following the arrow for the grain.
- Step 2: Starting with the brim lay the two pieces with the right sides together and stitch around the edge of the outside of the brim.
- Step 3: Sew the back of the brim together right sides together down the edge of both the top and bottom pieces.
- Step 4: Turn and press the edge of the brim topstitching along the edge.
- Step 5: Sew along the brim from this topstitch edge over and over from a pressure foot width up the length of the brim. You can do this with a decorative stitch, making the distance between the stitch line shorter as you work from the front of the brim, or anyway that you want. This laminates the two pieces of fabric together making them one. Stop about an inch from the open end of the brim.
- Step 6: Sew the pieces of the cap together. If you like you can cut two sets of this cap to create a liner but this makes it very thick and uncomfortable once you have the waterproofing done. To sew these together you leave about a ¼ of an inch from the top peak of the cap and 1.4 of an inch from the bottom. Once you have all these sewn together you poke the ¼ of an inch pieces into the top of the cap and sew it by hand so that it stays down and together. Once waterproofed this will be stuck together.
- Step 7: Pin and sew one side of the brim to the cap. Snip the cap and brim pieces so that they ease into each other. Press.
- Step 8: Press a ¼ inch of fabric of the remaining brim at the cap edge and pin in place hiding the raw edge sandwiched between the brim pieces. Either use a machine or hand stich this closed. Keep in mind that this will be thick and can be hard on a regular sewing machine. An industrial or heavy duty machine will make this easier. Or you can sew it by hand.
- Step 9: Finish sewing the lamination of the brim.

Now you have your hat you can finish it anyway you want! If waterproofing using the traditional method using beeswax and linseed oil as found in our video.

