

## **Flat Cap**

By Laurellen de Brandevin, Baronial A&S Competition.

The flat cap, better known as a bonnet, was a common piece of headgear from the mid to late 16<sup>th</sup> century. Bonnets occur all over Europe, starting during the time of Henry VIII (or a little earlier) and running through the reign of Elizabeth I.

Almost everyone across the social strata wore a bonnet. They were both plain and fancy and were worn both indoors and out and by both sexes. Being a common item, it is entirely appropriate for my persona to wear one. Mostly, bonnets appear to be decorative, except in the lower classes, where they appear to function to keep the sun off the head.

First, I selected my fabric based on examples seen in portraits. I started by cutting out the crown and brim and lining both. Then I cartridge pleated the crown per what appear to be examples of cartridge pleating from several of the portraits. I finished off the brim and attached the crown, using some of the techniques discussed in Janet Arnold's *Patterns of Fashion*. The cording was a common decorative item, based on the portraits I have seen.

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### **Bibliography**

Arnold, Janet. 1973. *A Handbook of Costume*  
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Dupuis, Tammie L. 2005. *The Renaissance Tailor* [online].  
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### **Other Sources**

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