

How to make a Hat Block

You will need:

- 3 x 7" (18cm) or 8" (20cm) round cake decorating dummies - styrofoam (purchased from a cake decorating shop) see ****note** below.
- PVA Glue
- Dust mask (or tie and handkerchief or soft cloth over your nose and mouth)
- Medium sandpaper and a sanding block
- Sharp straight edge knife
- Wood filler
- Soft clean cloth to wipe block free of dust between sanding
- Polyurethane water-based clear lacquer (if using spray can - spray in well ventilated area)
- 1" paint brush (to apply lacquer)
- Soft tape measure (access to a mirror if self measuring)
- Pen and paper to head record measurements

****note:** 7" (18 cm) cakes dummies for 54cm (21") or less hat sizes
8" (20 cm) cake dummies for 54cm - 58cm (21" - 22.8") hat sizes

Instructions:

**When cutting or sanding styrofoam, remember to ALWAYS wear a dust mask!
Inhaling styrofoam dust can be a serious health hazard!**

1. With the PVA glue, stick the three cake cylinder dummies together and set aside to dry overnight
2. Measure your head (see diagrams below). Record your measurements (a) circumference around head above eyebrows (third-eye), (b) over head from top of ear join to head to other ear join and (c) circumference from base of skull around to 'third-eye' position (above eyebrows)
3. With sharp flat edge knife begin to cut and shape styrofoam cake dummies into an oval cylindrical shape to fit your head measurements
4. Mark the front and back of the block. The back of the block will have more curve as the back of the head has more curve than the front. The front of your head is almost vertical (see diagram below)
5. Using the sandpaper shape the crown of the block. Continuously check the size of the block with tape measure working it down to your measurements. Once you are happy with the shape of the block, gently wipe it with a damp cloth (final unfinished measurements will need to be approx. 1/4" smaller as wood filler and lacquer will increase the overall hat block size)
6. Prepare wood filler and apply two layers to the block allowing to dry between coats
7. Sand between coats (don't forget to wear your dust mask!)
8. Wipe any remaining dust from block with a damp cloth (what did I tell you about the dusk mask!)
9. Apply a coat of the polyurethane clear lacquer as the final coat and set aside to dry

Your personal hat block is now ready for use!

MATERIALS / SUPPLIERS:

Most items can be purchased from your local hardware store.

- *Agnews Multi Purpose Wood Filler \$7.32*
- *Water based Acrylic Clear Varnish (spray can or tin)*
- *Crafter Choice PVA Glue \$4.99*
- *Styrofoam Cake Dummies from \$3 each (Cake Decor Shop)*
- **Approx. cost \$45 (with product left over to create other blocks)**

