

Scarlett's Victorian Bridal Headpiece

BY DARLENE LANE

I wanted to create a luscious Victorian wedding gown for Scarlett. I enlisted my two dear friends, Gerri Traher and Lisa Mendez. We each had a task to accomplish to come up with the design I had envisioned. Gerri took the challenge of changing the length of skirt panel, bodice and sleeves. Lisa came to my rescue with her beautiful ribbon roses and head piece frame design. She is the owner of West Coast Bridal and has a wealth of knowledge in the bridal head piece industry.

If you want to duplicate the look of this outfit, you absolutely must use crinkled silk chiffon. The only way you're going to get the draped effect is by using this fabric. Synthetics just don't drape or lay the same. I used the natural white which blended well with ivory colored beaded bridal trim. It will take you five yards of this trim and is quite expensive. You may be lucky enough to get it on sale.

I used a very wide scalloped trim that was cut, snipped, and





pieced together to follow the contour of the skirt edge. It is not difficult, but rather time consuming. In the end, the effect was absolutely breathtaking.

This article will feature the lovely Bridal headpiece. Next month, the techniques to change the Scarlett pattern and all of the techniques for putting the Bridal dress together will be covered. You will probably want to get your Scarlett pattern and be ready for the next issue. This lovely Victorian-look headpiece and veil are perfect for "Scarlett", because she has a pretty, delicate look. Use your creativity when embellishing the headpiece and delight in the results.

Instructions:

Step 1 – Cut a piece of millinery wire 24" long. Bend the wire into an 8 ½" diameter circle. Your wire will make a 1 ½ revolutions with a ¾" overlap at each side. Secure the ends by wrapping with paper-wrapped wire (found in the floral department of your local craft store) around each joining point.

Step 2 – Tilt the front of the wire slightly backward, as this will give a better overall look when your headpiece is finished. Next give your circle a slightly oval shape. Use a hot glue gun to attach wide horse-hair braid over the front part. Trim away the excess. Several layers of netting can be substituted for the braid if needed. The horse-hair braid or netting gives the headpiece front support and gives you a place to glue your trimmings.

Materials Needed

- 24" Cotton Covered 18 Gauge Wire
- 12" Paper Covered Wire
- Hot Glue & Hot Glue Gun
- 8" of Net or Horse-hair Braid – 3" Wide
- 1 ½ Yards x 120" of Netting
- Ribbon Roses
- Other Decorations



Step 3 – Everyone’s bridal trimming will be a little different, according to your taste. I cut two pieces of the bridal trimming to cover the braid and hot glued these in place. Then, I glued a third piece of trimming behind these to give the headpiece more height. (Your trim will probably vary, so adjust accordingly).

Step 4 – Use identical ribbon roses and other embellishments as was used on the dress for the headpiece. Attach to the headpiece by pinning each piece in place first. When you are satisfied with the design, hot glue it to the netting.

Step 5 – After the decorations are in place, hand gather a piece of netting, 1 ½ yards long by 120” through the center (at the ¾ yard position) to approximately 7 ½ inches wide. Whip stitch it to the wire, to secure it well.

Step 6 – Round off the corners with scissors. Now the veil needs to be attached so that it “poofs” up as it flows over her head. You can pin an extra piece of gathered netting to the top of her head for greater “poof support”. When you place the veil on her head, make sure the curls are covering the wire that encircles her head or try coloring this circular piece with a permanent marking pen to match her hair.

Sources: Molds, patterns, porcelain slip (Gold Marque French Rose or French Antique), china paint and media and all supplies are by Bell Ceramics, Inc., Dress Pattern number RPM5026 and other supplies can be ordered at 1-800-874-9025. Silk Fabric from Exotic Silk, San Mateo, CA. Address correspondence to Bell Ceramics, Inc., P.O. Box 120127, Clermont, FL 34712. ❖