

## Letters to the Editor...

Send us your questions and comments! Do you have a problem needing a solution? Or information that you'd like to share?

Email us! [mail@hataalk.com](mailto:mail@hataalk.com)

### Problem:

Do you have any hints for working with crin? I love the look of crin but have heard that it's difficult to use.

### Solution:

It's true – crin, known as horsehair braid in the USA, is not the easiest of fabrics to work with, but very rewarding! Follow these tips from milliner Bobbi Heath to help you get the most out of the experience:

- Crin can be dyed with 'disperse' dyes. These are suitable for synthetic fabrics like crin. Don't expect to get any deep shades, but you'll get good results in more pastel colours.
- You can spray crin with spray paint too – metallic ones are really effective (top right). Test on a small piece, follow the manufacturer's instructions and spray in a well ventilated place.
- When sewing crin, particularly the plain variety, be careful not to break threads with your needle. The material can easily 'ladder', leaving a noticeable line.
- Sometimes you need to remove some or all of the drawstring, present on one side of most crin lengths. It's a good idea to keep this to use for sewing the crin - it's strong and just the right colour.
- Crin ends don't have to be neatened, they can be left 'raw' and shredded for a different effect.
- Try distressing crin by pushing it out of shape with your fingers (bottom right). This can create a quite striking look.



***For more advice on working with crin, try the How2hats ebook [Crin Hats](#). Have fun with crin and don't forget to send us some photos of the results – we'd love to see!***