



Measuring information  
for your doctoral hat





## The Doctoral Hat – A Swedish Craft Tradition Since the 17th Century

The Swedish doctoral hat has the same shape as a top hat and is constructed on a similar shellac foundation. All hats made on a shellac foundation are rigid and cannot be shaped like other types of hats. Adjusting such a hat requires specialist tools. If the hat is too large, it can to some extent be adjusted with hat cork strips. The possibility of altering a hat that is too small is very limited. A correct head measurement is therefore essential for making a hat that fits perfectly.

### Shellac foundation

There are no prefabricated parts. All preparations for the production process are carried out in our hat workshop. All lacquers, fabrics, and strips are made according to recipes handed down from earlier master hatters. First, fine cotton fabric is dipped into a water lacquer solution containing shellac flakes, ammonia, water, and turpentine that has been boiled together. After dipping, the fabric is stretched on frames to dry.

When the fabric has dried, the parts for the hat body are cut out using pre-made templates. These pieces are then joined to form the crown with the help of heated irons over a five-part wooden hat block. The brim is made by melting shellac flakes directly into cotton fabric. Once the crown and brim have been assembled and the base ironed, the hat is shaped to the customers head size on a formillion. The shellac foundation is now ready to be covered with fabric.



### 100 Steps of Craftsmanship

The making of a doctoral hat involves nearly 100 individual steps. Once the shellac foundation is complete, grosgrain fabric is mounted and pleated around the crown. The same fabric is used for the brim.

A black grosgrain ribbon with a woven edge is attached to the roulé edge around the hat. The hatband around the crown is also made of black grosgrain ribbon with a woven edge, but slightly wider. The same type of ribbon is used to form the bow on which the gilded hat badge is sewn on at the front of the hat.

Each doctoral hat is unique. The height of the doctoral hat is today 13 cm, and the model is the same for both men and women. The entire production process is a traditional handcraft from beginning to end.

### Hairstyle

There are no rules regarding hairstyle when wearing the doctoral hat – it may be worn with loose hair, curls, a braid, or clipped back. A good rule is to keep the style low, below the highest point at the back of the head.

If you plan to wear your hair up, measure both with your hair down and in the intended style. A measurement taken for an elevated hairstyle will require adjustment with hat cork strips if you later wear your hair loose.

Before measuring, remove all pins, bands, and clips. Hair should hang loose and evenly. This also applies to braids or dreadlocks.

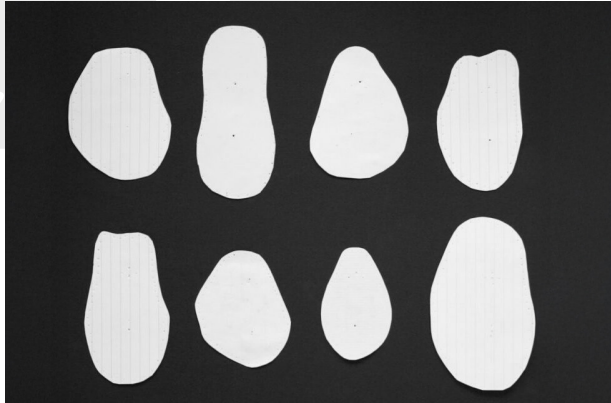
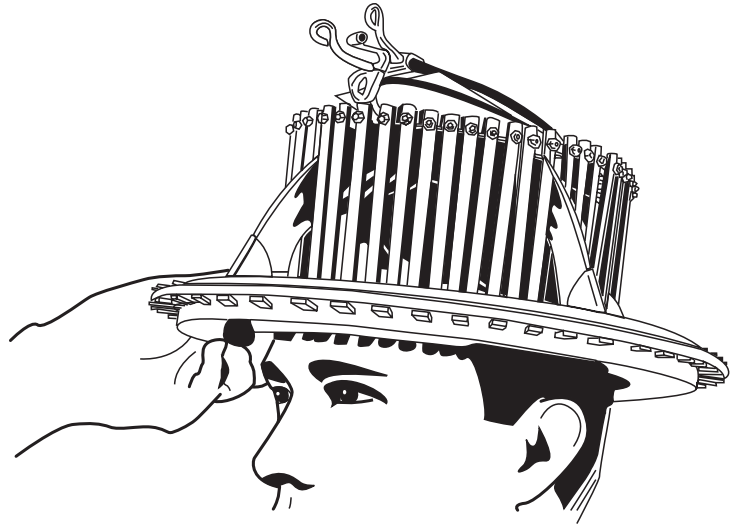


# Head measurement with Conformateur

An incorrect measurement will result in a poor fit. It is important that we receive accurate details of both head size and shape. A simple circumference does not tell us the form of the head.

The ideal measurement is taken with a Conformateur. It produces a paper pattern of the head's shape, which is then enlarged to the correct scale.

A correct measurement is essential for a hat that fits perfectly.



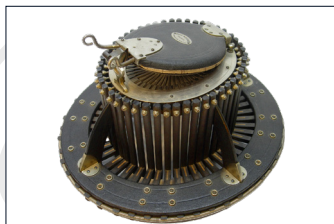
## Head shapes

In the picture to the left, it becomes clear how the shape of the head can vary.

The head is almost never symmetrical, but often with bumps and irregularities. They may be round, oval, long and narrow, or pear-shaped. The shape is unique, like a fingerprint.

The Conformateur allows us to create a hat that matches your head exactly. If only a tape measure is used, small adjustments may be possible, but only if the size is close to what the Conformateur measurement would show.

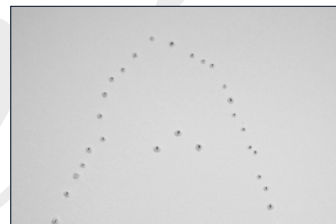
## Conformateur – how it works



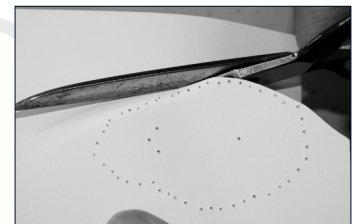
The Conformateur was invented in France around 1850 to record the exact shape and size of the head, mainly for hard hats.



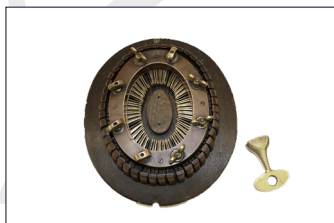
Its arms adjust to the head; pins above create a perforated paper pattern. This reduced pattern is cut out and then enlarged to the correct scale using a Formillion.



The Formillion transfers the pattern to full size, showing both head shape and size, which can then be used to shape the finished hat.



The Conformateur pattern is cut about 1 mm outside the perforated edge.



The Formillion enlarges the pattern to the head's true size and shape. The wing nuts are loosened so the pins can be adjusted.



The pattern is fixed onto the wooden base.



The Formillion is placed over the pattern. The pins are adjusted to match and then tightened.



The Formillion now shows the customer's exact head shape and size. The finished hat can then be shaped accordingly.

## Conformateur measurements can be taken in:

All conformateur measurements for Franzéns Hattmakeri are carried out by approved fitters, trained in the use of the Conformateur and how to take correct measurements. Each Conformateur is inspected and tested to ensure it functions properly and is not damaged or worn.

### Stockholm

Skomakeri Framåt

Visiting address: Sven Vintapparets Gränd 2 A, Gamla Stan, 111 27 Stockholm

Book an appointment by phone: 0046-8-411 37 32

### Uppsala

Guldsmed Stefan Carlsson

Visiting address: Vretgränd 6 A, 753 22 Uppsala

Book an appointment by phone: 0046-18-12 57 08

### Gothenburg

Franzéns Hattmakeri

Visiting address: Västra Skansgatan 1 B, 413 02 Göteborg

Book an appointment by email: info@franzenshattmakeri.se

### Malmö

Hattbutiken Westerblads

Visiting address: Hamngatan 3, 211 22 Malmö

Book an appointment by phone: 0046-703-57 40 35

### Borlänge

CTH Ericson

Visiting address: Vattugatan 3, 784 77 Borlänge

Book an appointment by homepage: www.cthericson.se

### Helsinki

E.R. Wahlman OY

Visiting address: Sofiakatu 5, 00170 Helsinki

Book an appointment by phone: 00358-9-634 313

AB Melanders Hattfabrik OY

Visiting address: Nilsiäkatu 10-14 B, 00511 Helsinki

Book an appointment by phone: 00358-400-485536



## Tape measure option

If a Conformatteur is not available, you may submit a tape measure size in centimetres, together with photos of your head from different angles. This helps us assess shape and size.

We add 0.5 cm to allow for adjustments.

### Measuring tape in centimetres

You will need a measuring tape in centimetres and someone to assist you – it is difficult to take an accurate head measurement on your own. Do not use string or any other soft material that you then place flat and measure with a ruler. This often leads to errors.

The head measurement must be given in centimetres. We do not accept measurements in inches. Do not convert from inches to centimetres – this easily leads to mistakes.

An incorrect measurement risks the hat not fitting properly. Please follow our instructions and refer to the images below. Take the measurement about three times to ensure accuracy.



### How to measure with a tape measure



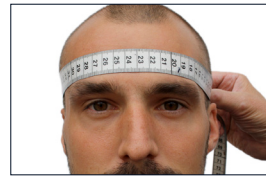
Place the tape measure on the highest point of one eyebrow.



Pass it back over the most prominent point at the back of the head.



Bring it forward to the highest point of the other eyebrow.

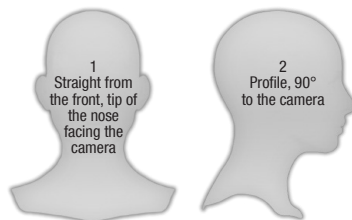


Ensure the tape measure forms a straight line around the head.



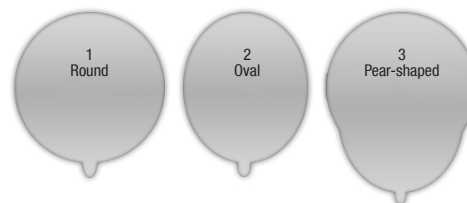
Hold the tape measure tight – not too tight so that it pinches, and not too loose that it slips down over the ears. Read the measurement.

### Photos



Please attach two photos of yourself, showing face shape and hairstyle. Thick hair can affect head size.

### Which head shape do I have?



Covering the head with fabric and tightening slightly can help define the true head shape when viewed from above.

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