

# Hat Manual



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We have prepared this manual to help you get the most out of your hat. While a quality hat does not need coddling, proper fit and care will ensure that it provides years of pleasurable use.

We carry Akubra fur felt hats from Australia, Panama hats, and a selection of hats and caps by Tilley, Filson and BC Hats. To learn more about our selection of hats and accessories, please visit us online. You may also request a copy of our print catalog or visit us in person at our retail store in Bothell, Washington.

Enjoy your hat!



# Hats from David Morgan

**Akubra**® has been Australia's quality hat brand since the early 1900's, when Arthur P. Stewart set up in 1874 to make a hat for this bustling new colony. Australians needed hard-wearing hats with wider brims than the usual European styles to protect them from the sun and rain. Akubra soon became known for the durability and comfort of their fur felt hats and were recognized throughout the world for an Australian flair that reflects the independent, confident and sometimes adventurous spirit of the dinkum Australian.



Akubra's reputation is built on the long-lasting quality of their fur felt and the comfort of their reeded roan leather sweatbands. Choose one of Akubra's premium quality Heritage Collection hats or one of their traditional styles. All Akubras are great hats.

**Tilley Hats** (Tilley Endurables) started in 1980 when Alex Tilley needed a good hat for sailing and couldn't find one, and decided to make one himself. He spared no effort, sought advice from a milliner, sail maker and hat maker, and, as he says "got it right". Only afterwards, when he saw that he had an outstanding hat, did he decide to sell it through stores. The sale of the original hat, and expansion into a range of hats and travel ware, has benefited from Alex Tilley's imagination and insistence on outstanding quality.



**BC Hats** was founded by Bill Conner in 1969. He created Australia's first leather hat with a shapeable brim. His unique construction method and use of light weight leather revolutionized the Australian hat industry. For over forty years, BC Hats has created quality hats with innovative designs. They are handcrafted in Byron Bay, Australia.



**Filson** was established in Seattle, Washington in 1897 to supply clothing for the Alaska gold rush. Filson chose to supply the best quality available, and did so successfully. From the prospectors and miners their sales soon extended to the construction workers and loggers throughout Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. Today Filson, recognized for its comfort, protection and durability, is acknowledged as the finest outdoor clothing available, by both men and women throughout the world.



**Panamas** are the classic hot sunny weather hat. Their legendary status dates to the Paris salons of the nineteenth century. Worn by world leaders from Napoleon III through Teddy Roosevelt and Kruschev, they were immortalized by the great movies of the 1940's.

The bodies for our Panama hats are hand woven in Ecuador from toquilla fiber, the finest of the straws used in hats. The bodies are tightly woven, and the weave is kept solid during blocking to ensure good protection from the sun. A substantial fiber is selected to produce a firm hat that holds its shape well. The pinch is reinforced to reduce breakage if the hat is handled by the pinch. These hats are great for hot sunny weather but are not suitable for use in the rain.

# Fit & Size

When your hat arrives, check the fit to make sure you have ordered the correct size. The sweatband inside the hat should fit securely on the head without binding.

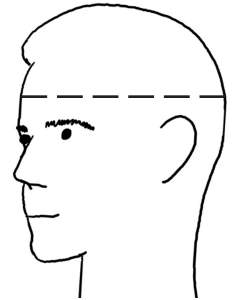
For some head shapes and in-between sizes, you may attain greater comfort by placing felt pads inside the sweatband. Felt pads are enclosed with our Akubra, Panama and unlined Filson Packer hats.

Check the fit for your head shape. Heads come in all sizes and in a surprising variety of shapes. Although fur felt hats—such as the Akubras we carry—are adaptable and will usually conform to differences in shape with a little wearing, some head shapes require a little more attention:

**High Heads:** The top of the crown should not be so low that it touches the top of your head. This can prevent the hat from coming down far enough to seat properly. If this happens with a leather or cloth hat you may need a smaller size. With an Akubra fur felt hat the top can be adjusted. First make sure that the hat is the correct size by pushing the crown up from inside and trying on the hat with the crown out of the way. If it fits well then the crown needs raising. A hat dealer experienced in using steam will heat the valley between the dimple in the crown and the sides of the crown and lift the dimple. The same may be done by lifting the dimple when the hat is wet. Lift it only enough to clear the head, and make sure it is even.

**Long Ovals:** Hats are made to a standard oval shape around the hat at the level of the sweatband. This pattern fits most heads well. However, some heads have round ovals and some, more commonly, have long ovals, with the length longer compared with the width. If you have a long oval the hat will be tight on the front of the head and loose at the sides. Check for the correct hat size by holding the brim firmly on each side and pushing the sides in while the hat is on your head. If the hat then sits at the proper level, and does not feel tight anywhere, the size is right. If the hat fits reasonably well but is just a little loose on the sides, placing felt pads inside the sweatband at the sides will often give a good fit. A hat dealer can change the hat shape to a long oval. Alternatively, you can put the hat on a hat stretcher when it is wet to stretch it out and elongate the oval shape. Use a hat stretcher one size smaller than usual and leave the stretcher in place until the hat is dry. When you stretch a hat to a long oval the brim will change in shape, generally coming down in the front and rear. You may also watch a video presentation on shaping a long oval at [davidmorgan.com](http://davidmorgan.com).

To determine your hat size, measure the circumference around your head, keeping the tape level and firm. Hold the tape across the temples and above the eyebrow ridges. We recommend that you have someone else measure your head so they can be certain that the tape is fitted properly. Check the size chart given below. For in-between measurements use the next size up. For hats offered in S-M-L increments, determine your hat size first, and then check to see which increment covers your hat size, as this often varies from one manufacturer to another. For lightweight canvas hats used for hot weather you may prefer a hat a little larger than your normal size.



Circumference of head where hat brim sits:

Inches	21 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	21 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	21 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	22 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	22 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	23	23 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	23 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	24 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	24 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	25	25 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Hat Size	6 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	6 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	7	7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	7 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	7 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	7 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	7 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	8	8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
Metric Size	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65

## Wear & Care

**Akubra Hats** will offer many satisfying years of service. There is no need to baby your Akubra, but if you treat it with understanding, it will look better and last longer. Do not pick up your hat by pinching the crown, either at the top or front. Pinching will flex the felt and cause a hole or crack to develop. Pick up the hat either by the front and back of the brim, or by placing the thumbs inside the leather sweat band at the sides with the fingers just touching the outside edge of the brim.



Sun and rain do not harm a pure fur felt hat. There is no need for plastic rain covers—these merely keep the felt from breathing properly and will make your head uncomfortable. Do not heat a wet hat. Heat will shrink the felt and the leather. Stand the hat upside down on its crown, or hang it on a hook, and let it dry naturally in a cool place. Wet felt retains the shape in which it dries, so make sure the brim and crown are shaped as you want them before drying. Do not leave a hat flat on its brim as this will distort the brim shape. Never put your hat on the back ledge of your car or truck in the sun as the heat may shrink and damage the leather sweatband. If your hats must of necessity be dried or stored under warm conditions, the regular use of a hat stretcher will be beneficial. Dust can be removed by brushing with a soft brush. Always brush with the nap in a counterclockwise direction. Dust can also be removed by wiping the hat with a damp (not wet) towel.

**Tilley Hats** are designed to withstand the harshest elements. Most of our Tilley hats are machine washable. Check care instructions to be sure for your particular hat. Do not bleach. If your hats must of necessity be dried or stored under warm conditions, regular use of a hat stretcher will be beneficial.



**BC Hats** develop their own individual shape and character with wear. Any scratches or marks occur naturally and are merely proof of its authenticity. The suede finish hats may be cleaned with a stiff brush or fine sand paper. Smooth leather may be periodically treated with leather dressing. If the hat gets wet, first wipe it with a dry cloth. Then, with the brim turned up, place it on a level, clean surface to dry. Do not use artificial heat. All hats may also be treated with a waterproof spray if necessary. Some shrinkage may occur if exposed to extreme heat. The stiffening along the edge of the brim allows the hat to be shaped as desired.



**Filson Hats & Caps** come in a variety of materials. Please see the individual hat for care instructions. If your hat must of necessity be dried or stored under warm conditions, the regular use of a hat stretcher will be beneficial. The Filson Packer Hat and other hats made from either the oil-finish tin cloth or oil-finish shelter cloth should be cared for in the same way as all oil-finish garments: do not wash or dry-clean; rinse off with cool water and wipe or brush clean. The oil-finish hats can be touched up and re-proofed as needed with Filson Wax. Filson hats made from Mackinaw Wool should be dry-cleaned.



**Panama Hats** will last for several years with reasonable care. The firmer weaves we offer should not be crushed. Pick the hat up by the brim and not by the crown or the peak even though the peak is reinforced. A Panama hat is designed for protection from the sun. Do not wear it as a rain hat. If you are caught in a shower and your Panama gets wet, let it dry naturally without heat. Make sure the crown and brim are in the proper shape. When you put your hat down, temporarily place it on its crown to prevent distorting the brim. Store the hat on a hat rack or supported at the sweat band in a hat box. Use a soft brush to remove dust.

# Open Crown Hats

We are pleased to offer a number of open crown Akubra hats for those who still want an individualized bash. A hat store will shape a hat for you, or you may do it yourself.

For those comfortable using steam, we recommend a tea kettle. The nozzle of the kettle directs the steam into a narrow stream. Never apply more than a few seconds of steam, and never apply it on the leather sweatband or hatband. Steam will shrink the felt and it can ruin the leather.

For those of you who wish to avoid steam, you may use the cowboy method. First, shape the hat when it is dry. Get it damp from the rain and adjust it to the desired final shape. The wet felt will hold the shape in which it dries. Examples of the most popular bashes are shown below and on pages six and seven.

## Adventurer — Indy Bash

The traditional bash for the Adventurer is the Indy bash, a modified fedora bash.

Start with the open crown Adventurer



Create the center dent front to back, keeping the front slightly higher than the back



Add two side dents pinched closely together and tapering down to the ribbon



Add a slight curl to the sides



The finished Indy Bash



### **Bushman — Open Telescope Bash**

The Bushman, the traditional hat of the Australian Outback, may be worn with a fedora-style bash, but is more commonly worn with an open or pinched telescope bash. To form an open telescope, first push in the top of the crown evenly all around to the height you prefer. The front, sides and back should all be the same height (1). The inside of the top is then raised into a uniform dome so that it does not touch the head, leaving a valley between the dome and the sides (2). It is usually preferred to have the top of the dome about the same level as the top of the sides. The front of the brim is usually snapped down.



**Bushman, Open Crown**



**Bushman, Open Telescope (1)**



**Bushman, Open Telescope (2)**

### **Bushman —Pinched Telescope Bash**

To form a pinched telescope, first push in the top to form a teardrop shape pointed towards the front with the section towards the back rounded. The front is typically higher than the rear (1). The inside of the pushed-in top is then raised into a dome so that it does not touch the head, leaving a valley between the dome and the sides. The top of the dome should normally be about level with the top of the sides, a little above the top of the back. The pinch is added to the front by putting two small dents right and left of center. The front of the brim snaps down (2).



**Bushman, Pinched Telescope (1)**



**Bushman, Pinched Telescope (2)**

### Squatter — Safari Bash

A variant on the center dent is the traditional safari bash. Two dents are made along the sides near the top, and the brim is turned down in the front and the back as shown here on the Squatter.

### Squatter — Open Telescope

Australians often choose the open telescope bash for the Squatter (see instructions under the Bushman).

### Aussie Slouch Hat

The Aussie Slouch is the standard issue hat of the Australian army. It is usually bashed with a center crease, squared off in front and back, and with two long side dents near the top. The brim may be worn flat for maximum protection from the rain or sun, or snapped up on the side.



**Squatter, Open Crown**



**Squatter, Safari Bash**



**Squatter, Open Telescope**



**Slouch, Open Crown**



**Slouch, Center Crease**



**Slouch, Brim Up**

# Attaching a Chin Strap to Your Akubra Hat

Chin straps ensure against the loss of your hat from wind or brush. All of our Akubra Imperial Quality hats have chin strap hooks. Our Heritage Collection hats, which includes the Banjo Patterson, Lawson, Burke and Wills, Overlander and Lightning Ridge, do not have chin strap hooks. The chin strap hooks are put on the Akubra hats especially for us, and many Akubras available elsewhere do not have the hooks. If you purchased a hat somewhere else, you may look for the special chin strap grommet on the side of the hat.

Please follow these steps to attach a chin strap:



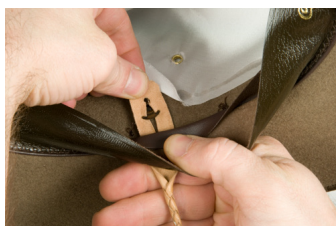
1. Locate the general position of the chin strap hooks from the grommet on either side.



2. Locate the small opening between the crown and sweatband, indicated here by the Akubra tag.



3. Slip the flat end of the chin strap through the opening.



4. Lift the lining. Slip the slit in the end of the chin strap over the hook.



5. Make sure the chin strap is flat against the crown.



6. Tuck the lining back under the sweatband. If the knot is difficult to slide, pull the strands apart until the knot moves.

## Attaching a Stampede String

Stampede strings are ideal for hats without chinstrap hooks. They work for our Heritage Collection Akubra Hats and for our Panamas. If your hat has a sweatband, you can slide it between the stitching.

Hold the cotter pins tightly together and push them through the stitching where the sweatband meets the body. Pliers may be helpful to hold the pins together.



Pull the pins completely through the base of the sweatband until the braid is firmly against the sweatband.



Spread the pins outward, as close to horizontal as possible.



Check by tugging on the braid. If the knot is difficult to slide, pull the strands apart until the knot moves.



## Repacking your Hat

You will get the most service and pleasure from your hat with a proper fit. We ask that you check the size when it arrives. Hats can be returned for exchange or refund within 90 days of purchase. Hats returned must be in the condition received. Please take care to keep the hat free from grease or dirt. Do not remove labels or ribbons. Do not crease the crown or otherwise alter the hat before you are sure you are satisfied. Please follow these repacking instructions if you need to return the hat to us.



1. Place the hat on a clean table and replace the plastic crown cover.



2. Replace the round corrugated sleeve over the crown, gently easing it over the foam strip covering the band or puggaree so as not to crush or tear the band.



3. Center the hat upside down in the box.



4. Replace the tissue on top of the hat.



5. Replace the rectangular corrugated support with the four tabs pushed down inside the hat. Put the cardboard ring or some crushed paper in the center to hold it down.

6. Fill out the original packing slip and reorder form sent with your hat, or use our online Returns/Reorder Form. Close the box and tape it shut. Ship either by United Parcel Service or insured parcel post to:

David Morgan

11812 North Creek Pky N, Suite 103

Bothell WA 98011

# Common Questions

## **I have a big head. What is the largest hat you carry?**

We carry size 8-1/8 and smaller in the Snowy River, and size 8 and smaller in most of our other Akubras. We carry most Tilley and Filson hats up to 7-3/4 or 7-7/8, depending on the style. Few people require hats as large as size 8, so do not casually order a size 8 because you have a large head. Many stores carrying hats do not carry sizes over 7-5/8! Measure your head and check the size on our hat size chart. If you need a size above 8-1/8 you may need to go to a custom hatter. A hat renovator may be able to enlarge a smaller hat, but discuss it with the renovator before you buy the hat.

## **Are Akubra fur felt hats good in the rain?**

Akubra fur felt hats are not damaged by water. Though a light shower will not penetrate the felt, during the course of a good long walk in a rainstorm the felt will absorb water. This is not a problem, you will still be kept warm and dry beneath the hat, as the hat will not leak water. Just make sure to dry the hat at room temperature setting it on a hat hook, cardboard box or shelf in such a way that the shape will not be affected.

## **How do Akubras® compare with Stetson® and Resistol® Western hats?**

Akubra, Stetson and Resistol all make great hats. We feel Akubra hats compare very well for durability and quality of fur felt. At any price range the sweatbands used by Akubra are hard to beat, making an Akubra an excellent choice for a quality hat which will feel great and wear well. The quality of the felt in American hats is often designated by a number of X's, an arbitrary value differing between manufacturers. Akubra does not use X's. They produce three felt qualities. Their standard quality, with a world-wide reputation for durability, is offered in two finishes: the Imperial Quality, used in most of the standard hats we offer, and the Superfine, used in the Slouch hat. The Sydney is made from a lighter weight felt, using a finer fur, with a finish similar to the Imperial Quality. Their premium quality, developed recently for the Heritage Collection, is very much in the Akubra tradition. It is a stronger, more dense felt with even greater durability, and which also allows a finer pouncing for a superb finish.

An interesting difference between Akubras and American hats is that Akubra does not use hat powders to correct or even out the colors of the felt in their hats. The felt is dyed to produce the color required. The dyeing will leave slight variations in the final color of the felt. These variations are subtle, but in a manner similar to the subtle variations found in good leather, enhancing the character of the felt as a natural material.

## **I'm going to Australia. Can I buy an Akubra there?**

If you go to Australia you are likely to bring back an Akubra hat. Akubra offers a wide range of styles, colors and bands, and you are sure to find one that catches your eye. More Akubras leave Australia with tourists than any other way! Make sure you have the right size and fit—exchanges after you leave are costly and awkward. If you bring back an Akubra for a friend, make sure you know their metric hat size. Before switching to metric sizes, the Australians measured hats in inches differently from Americans, so if you tell them the U.S. hat size you may well end up with a wrong size. Don't guess. Only the right size works.

## **What do I do if I have a problem with my Tilley hat?**

If your Tilley hat wears out, send it to them with a check for \$7.50 or charge card information to cover shipping costs and they will replace it free. Their US address is:

Tilley Endurables, 3176 Abbot Rd Bldg A, Orchard Park, NY 14127; (800) 363-8737

### **I saw an Akubra in Australia that you do not show on your website. Can you get it for me?**

Akubra makes a wide range of styles and colors that we do not bring into the U.S., such as the Boomerang, Bronco, Pastoralist, Arena, Sombrero and Coolabah. It is not practical for us to bring Akubras we do not carry in as special orders. It takes four months or more for us to obtain a hat, and if the size, color or shape is wrong for you we would be unable to exchange it. We try to stock a good range of the best shapes and colors, and chances are we do offer a style similar to what you want. For instance, the Riverina is the same shape as our Coober Pedy.

If we do not carry a hat you seek, make it an excuse for a trip to Australia, or look on the Internet for a reliable dealer in Australia, such as The Strand Hatters, who can supply you from stock. Contact them by email at [info@strandhatters.com.au](mailto:info@strandhatters.com.au) to enquire. Be sure to check shipping costs, duty and return policies before buying.

### **Do you have sales on Akubra hats?**

As with all our goods, our prices are set to give you good value all the time, and do not permit us to put regular items on sale. Whether you shop online, through our print catalog or in our retail store, our prices are the same. We are occasionally able to offer discontinued Akubra styles or colors at special prices.

If you live in (or are visiting) the greater Seattle area, we do have some reject Akubra hats available in our retail store. Of the thousands of Akubras we sell each year, these rejects are the few hats that slip through Akubra's excellent quality control, or have been damaged in shipment. Most of the hats only have small flaws or defects, and are offered at very reasonable prices. The reject hats are only available in our retail store and are not sold online or by phone. There are no returns or exchanges of the reject hats allowed.

### **Can I wear my Akubra in the heat of summer?**

Quality fur felt hats such as the Akubras we offer are surprisingly comfortable in hot weather. The shade provided by the hat, with only the sweatband actually touching your head, and the breathability of the fur felt contribute to the comfort in hot weather. Generations of Australians have worn these hats in the extreme heat of the Outback, and we think you'll be pleased with your Akubra in heat or cold, sunshine or rain. If you prefer a much lighter weight hat for summer we suggest Akubra's Hemp Range, our Panamas or Tilley Hats as alternatives to the fur felt hats.

## **Our Guarantee**

We stand behind our goods. Any item found unsatisfactory on inspections should be returned in unused condition within 90 days with all tags for full refund. Special orders, books and DVDs may be returned only if defective or not as specified.

### **David Morgan**

11812 N Creek Pky N, Suite 103  
Bothell WA 98011

Tel: (800) 324-4934 • Fax: (425) 486-0224

[www.davidmorgan.com](http://www.davidmorgan.com) • [catalog@davidmorgan.com](mailto:catalog@davidmorgan.com)