Examples of Austen Era Bandeaux

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“I wore at the Ball your favorite gown, a bit of muslin of the same round my head, border’d with Mrs. Cooper’s band—and one little Comb.” (1 November 1800)

The following examples of bandeaux show how a simple decorated band—or two or three bands—could enhance a hairstyle. They had the added advantage of being more comfortable to wear while dancing than a cap, hat, or turban. Most were shown in fashion plates as evening or ball wear. Placed in chronological order, they show how the fashion of headdresses evolved along with the clothing and hairstyles, with earlier versions accommodating “Grecian” hair (i.e., hair pulled to the back of the head) and later accommodating “Roman” hair (i.e. that which was piled on top).

Key to file names:

CP/JDM: Costume Parisien in the *Journal des dames et des modes*. Republic alternative calendar (ex.: An10, An11), and plate number where available. https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/cb32799510k/date

LBA: *La Belle Assemblée* from the Hathi Trust. https://babel.hathitrust.org

ACK: *Ackermann’s Repository of the Arts, etc*. from the Internet Archive <https://archive.org/>

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| A drawing of a person with a feathered hat  Description automatically generated  1800-02 Heideloff, (#1, #4) bandeaux with flowers | |
| A drawing of a person  Description automatically generated  1801-12-21 #351 CP/JDM*, Ornée de Perles* | A profile of a person with a hat  Description automatically generated  1801 #320 CP/JDM, *Coeffure Antique* |
| A drawing of a person  Description automatically generated  1803-09-17 (An11) #499 CP/JDM, *Cameos* | A close-up of a person's head  Description automatically generated  1803-10-23 (An12) #506 CP/JDM, *Schall Turque* |
| A close-up of a person  Description automatically generated  1807-04 LBA, *Evening Dress* | A person with her arm raised  Description automatically generated  1809-02 ACK, *Dancing Dress* |
| A close-up of a person's face  Description automatically generated  1810-03 LBA, *The Hon. Mrs. Damer* | A close-up of a person  Description automatically generated  1810-07 LBA, *Empress Marie Louise* |
| A close-up of a person  Description automatically generated  1810-10 LBA, *Empress Josephine* | A person with a feathered headdress  Description automatically generated  1810-11 LBA, *Evening Dress* |
| A painting of a person with a cross necklace and flowers in her hair  Description automatically generated  1810 #1039 CP/JDM, *Costume de Bal* | A drawing of a person  Description automatically generated  1810 #1054 CP/JDM, *Bandeau de Diamans* |
| A person with a flower in her hair  Description automatically generated  1811-03 LBA, *Ball Dress* | A person with flowers in her hair  Description automatically generated  1811-05 ACK, *Full Dress* |
| A close up of a person's head  Description automatically generated  1811 #1123 CP/JDM, *Ornée de Bandelettes* | A profile of a person  Description automatically generated  1811 #1124 CP/JDM, *Ornée de Perles* |
| A profile of a person with a hairdo  Description automatically generated  1811 LBA, *Evening Dress* | A close-up of a person  Description automatically generated  1812-02 LBA, *Morning Dress* |
| A profile of a person with flowers in her hair  Description automatically generated  1812 #1205 CP/JDM, *Bandeau de Ruban-Or* | A profile of a person with a tiara  Description automatically generated  1813-01 LBA, *Evening Dress* |
| A close-up of a person's head  Description automatically generated  1813-02 LBA, *Evening Dress* | A person with a necklace and flowers  Description automatically generated  1815-12 ACK, *Evening Dress* |
| A close-up of a person  Description automatically generated  1816-06 Ack, *Bridal Dress* | A profile of a person with flowers in her hair  Description automatically generated  1817 #1700 CO/JDM, *Demi-Chinoise* |
| A person with a flower crown  Description automatically generated  *1818-03 ACK, Bridal Dress* | A drawing of a person with flowers in her hair  Description automatically generated  1819-10 #1794 CP/JDM, *Ball Gown* |
| A portrait of a person in a red dress  Description automatically generated  1819 C. *Vernet, Countess Maria Ivanovna de Traversay* |  |

**Instructions for Making a Bandeau**

Materials:

¼ yd. lightweight but firm silk or faux silk.

¼ yd. of cotton batting (fabric-style on a bolt.)

Shears

Thread

Needles for hand sewing (I like Milliner size – longer than embroidery type))

Measuring tape

Turner tubes (EX: Dritz® Quick Turn Fabric Tube Turners, 3ct.)

An iron

**Step 1: Measure!**

Be sure to measure your head with any hair pieces or in the style you will be wearing with it.

Wrap a tape measure around your hair at the location you would like to wear the bandeau. It should be loose enough not to pinch, but tight enough to not fall down.

Add 3” to that measurement.

**Step 2: Cutting**

You will be folding the band in half, lengthwise, and including a seam allowance. So, a 4” strip of fabric, with 1/2” seam allowance will yield a 1.5” band (4” folded in half minus ½” seam allowance on both sides. A 3” strip of fabric will yield a 1” band.

Cut a strip of cotton batting a little shorter in length and the same size as the expected finished width (or a tiny bit less).

**Step 3: Sewing (A sewing machine is easier than hand sewing for this part.)**

Fold the strip lengthwise, wrong sides together and press.

Open the strip and put the batting on the edge of the fold. Stitch just over the batting holding it as deep into the fold as you can as you sew.

Refold the strip so that right sides are together and sew the outer edge.

Sew one end to close it. Clip and trim the corner.

Use the turner to turn the band right side out.

Press carefully.

**The 2023 Wiawaka Bandeaux Breakout**

1) Choose your band. You can use one that has trim clipped on or choose an undecorated one and choose a different trim.

2) Before sewing, be sure you have used plenty of clips to hold your trim straight.

3) Hand sew the trim on using a tiny tiny tiny stitch on the right side and a larger stitch (ex: ½ inch) on the wrong side.

4) When done, trim off the ends to make them even—leave about an inch on both ends—then wrap the band around your head. You can certainly experiment with placement. When placed, pin the ends together.

A note about fitting: wearing a hairpiece or putting up your hair later? Be sure to make the band big enough to accommodate that. Too snug? It may pop off your head. Too loose? It may fall down.

5) Tuck and tidy the ends. Then sew them together.

6) Decorate it. You can use cockades, flowers, ribbon, bows, a tassel—get creative! Try layering for even more fun.

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