

**Pattern 4881: Girl's Sun Bonnet** was originally issued in *Madame Weigel's Journal of Fashion* in November 1923. The pattern text read:

This little sun bonnet, which is suitable for infants as well as for little girls of any age to eight years, is made with a drawstring which can be untied allowing the bonnet to be ironed easily. Gingham, crepe, cretonne, and all similar cotton materials are suitable.

The drawstring on the back of the bonnet adjusted the 'curtain', the frill of fabric that draped over the back of the neck to shield the sun. Note the broad brim over the forehead, another device to keep the sun's rays at bay.

This was a popular pattern for home sewing: after first being issued in November 1923, the pattern was repeated three times in Madame's journal, in 1928 and 1930. Each repeat was in one of the spring or summer months, firmly aligning this pattern with Australasia's summer heat. The bonnet was shown with a new dress pattern, illustrated above:

- Pattern 5444: Girl's Magyar Frock, Gathered into Neck, issued in December 1928 and described as a 'cool little summer frock'
- Pattern 5194: Girl's Frock, Smocked from Yoke, Seam to Seam Sleeves, Long or Short. First issued in September 1926 and shown without the bonnet, this pattern was repeated with the bonnet in December 1928 and December 1930.

Patterns such as this were often published ahead of the season they were intended to be worn in – this gave the mother time to sew ahead of the time of need.

Dr Veronica R. Lampkin Madame Weigel devotee, writer, collector www.madameweigel.com.au