

THE FLAT CAP



Origin of the flat cap

Flat caps are rounded hats with a small stiff brim in front and are considered a culturally historic item of clothing. The origins of the flat cap can be traced back to Britain in 1571, when Parliament ordered all non-noblemen and boys over the age of 6 to cover their heads with wool caps on Sundays and holidays. Those who didn't would be at risk of a fine of three farthings (close to a penny)!

The purpose of decreeing a law like this was to boost England's domestic wool sales, which made up most of the economy at the time. But centuries on, people began to like the comfort and feel of their wool caps and carried it on, so much so that immigrants took them over to America where it was popular among young boys and began to take on other names such as driving caps, duffer caps, golf caps, scally caps, cabbie caps, and most commonly, newsboy caps.

The newsboy cap was first seen to be worn by newspaper sellers in the late 1800's and early 1900's, although it was worn almost universally by the working class. It is still similar to the flat cap as both are classically made from tweed and have a low profile, a small visor/brim, and are rounded.



Characteristics of the flat cap



In recent years flat caps seem to have experienced a huge resurgence, also thanks to the TV series “Peaky Blinders”, becoming a fashion icon worldwide.

Let’s have a few words about this stylish piece of headgear: the first traces of the flat cap, sometimes known as scally cap can be found in Northern England in the 14th century, when it was known as a bonnet, a name by which it’s still called in Scotland, although crippled in “bunnet”. In Wales it’s known as a Dai Cap, while in Ireland as a Paddy Cap.

It’s a garment that was also a must of the stadium terraces, worn by skinheads, casuals and common fans, but also an iconic garment on golf courses, to demonstrate the extreme ductility of the flat cap.

As said at the beginning, flat caps are back in vogue thanks to the series “Peaky Blinders” in which members of the gang hide a razorblade inside the headdress, so you can use it as a weapon.

The flat cap has made its way through the centuries and anticipating fashions, without ever being unprepared through the passage of time.



The flat cap in Sicily

In Italy the coppola has long been linked to the stereotype of the south and in particular of Sicily. Here it was worn by all men and was a symbol of wealth and therefore often also associated with men of honor. In particular, the picciotti, or boys and young men affiliated with the clans, wore it upside down, askew, to demonstrate their bravado and rebellion against conventions. Although born as a fairly heavy wool hat, over time we have seen many versions of this hat have inspired stylists and designers, so caps in linen, cotton.



A Sicilian man with the flat cap

The social classes of the flat cap

In the period of its first diffusion in Anglo-Saxon countries, approximately 1600, the flat cap was associated with fairly low social classes. Over the years and with the change towards slightly more mobile social classes, the flat cap also became part of the imaginary linked to hunting and sports for the rich, such as golf, but also to specific musical currents such as jazz born in America in the 1920s.



This is what on the flat cap.

We hope you liked it

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