

Brewin Hat Plait Corn Dolly

Session D, Friday, 1:30-5:00. Also, taught on Zoom from the convention in Sisters.

Designer: Nonie Milling McFarlane (Australia)

Instructor: Marian Vavra

Designation for Project Use: Full use of the project is granted to NAWW members.

Instructor's Comments: This project is loosely based on a photograph of three hat plait corn dollies in her 1968 *Do Me a Favour Corn Dollies---Some Simple Strawcraft Book*. I used the eleven straw Brewin Hat Plait instead of the three plaits she used. Ms. McFarlane passed away many years ago, but I know she would be excited to see this design used again.

Skill Level: Intermediate to Advanced (No Beginners or Open)

Size of Project: 18" x 12" x 2½"

Prerequisites: Participants must know how to plait in-hand and have good plaiting skills.

Prework: Practice in-hand plaiting as this is not a refresher course.

Techniques Taught in Class:

Brewin Hat Plait

Straws Needed: Good plaiting straw, such as Kansas wheat and North Dakota Black Beard Durum

35 matched straws with heads for the dolly

11 or 22 straws to learn the Brewin plait.

Supplies Needed:

Thread

Pins and pinning board

Kit: No kit is offered for this class.

Some years ago, I learned to make an old hat plait at one of our NAWW Conventions and I think it was from Janet Brewin (England) or Nonie McFarlane (Australia), or from them both! I really enjoy it and created one of my Sanctuary Easter Crosses using pairs for the cross arms and leg. I named the cross the *Hope Eternal Cross* ©2002.

I recently revisited this cross and its old plaits and decided to submit this 'corn dolly' for a class at the NAWW Sisters, OR Convention in 2025. I went on a hunt to figure out the plait and finally came to the Brewin Hat Plait. Gladys Brockway (KS) wrote the instructions for the NAWW Plait Directory. Enjoy learning to plait eleven straws into this old fashion hat plait!

