TYPES OF RIBBON
DESIGNS AND PATTERN

Stripes
Stripes were most often woven into the ribbon. Striped ribbons can be monochromatic or polychromatic. In striped ribbons of a single color, the stripes are woven into the ribbon such as stripes of satin weave or stripes with a damask design. In multi-color ribbons, the ribbon may be of one weave or multiple weaves.

This example of a striped ribbon has two areas, one blue and one brown, with clouding where the color varies across the area. The narrower stripes have a twill weave.

This ribbon is mostly one color with three different weave patterns, a taffeta with a moiré effect and two satin weaves, creating the stripe. (The left edge is stitched under. It matches the edge on the right.

Examples:
Metropolitan Museum of Art, Accession number C.I.44.3.7 (I'm not convince of the date on this hat. The striped ribbon is nice.)
Metropolitan Museum of Art, Accession number 11.60.302
Boston Museum of Fine Art www.mfa.org – Accession number 48.1209 (with dot like design)
Metropolitan Museum of Art, Accession number C.I.41.161.14
Metropolitan Museum of Art, Accession number C.I.43.72.2
http://dlxs.lib.wayne.edu/cgi/i/image/image-idx?id=S-HFHCC-X-00.1510.58%5DEM02A00_1510_58D.JP2
TYPES OF RIBBON

DESIGNS AND PATTERN

Plaids

Plaids can be woven all in a plain weave or with some portion in a satin weave. A plaid like design can also be created by cross damask stripes over color stripes. Plaids can be symmetrical or asymmetrical in ribbons, though symmetrical ribbons seem to be more common.

In this plaid example you can see satin stripes running through the plaid. The ground is a blue and white check style plaid woven with two colors (white and blue). The ribbon has both warp and weft running stripes in the same colors as the ground plaid. This plaid was woven in at least two color sets, this blue and a lighter blue.

Examples:

Boston Museum of Fine Art
www.mfa.org  - Accession number 43.1583
Boston Museum of Fine Art www.mfa.org  - Accession number 51.659
Boston Museum of Fine Art www.mfa.org  - Accession number 50.2695b (shows ribbon and bavolet off bonnet)
Metropolitan Museum of Art, Accession number C.I.38.23.186
Metropolitan Museum of Art, Accession number C.I.39.135.9
Metropolitan Museum of Art, Accession number C.I.43.72.1
Metropolitan Museum of Art, Accession number C.I.43.72.1
Metropolitan Museum of Art, Accession number C.I.53.67.2
Metropolitan Museum of Art, Accession number C.I.55.24.4
Metropolitan Museum of Art, Accession number C.I.55.24.3
Metropolitan Museum of Art, Accession number C.I.55.24.5
Metropolitan Museum of Art, Accession number C.I.55.24.8
Metropolitan Museum of Art, Accession number C.I.55.24.7
Metropolitan Museum of Art, Accession number C.I.55.24.11
Metropolitan Museum of Art, Accession number
TYPES OF RIBBON

DESIGNS AND PATTERN

Moiré, Watered Silk and Clouded Ribbons

Each of these techniques create a variation in the coloring of a ribbon. Moiré and watering effects are created during the finishing process by running a ribbon, sometimes wet, through heated heavy rollers. The pressure of the rollers combined with the moisture and heat create the water like look to the ribbon. The moiré and watered effects work better on a gros-grain ground due to the texture of the ribbon creating more friction with the rollers during the finishing. The clouding effect begins a the thread dyeing process. The tread is dyed at regular intervals in different shades or colors. This thread is then woven into a ribbon with a graduated look to the color.

This example is striped ribbon with a moiré finish. The finish created a watered look with light and dark gray ripples through the center of the ribbon.

This example shows the clouding technique. Working from left to right, the green on the fades from medium to light as it becomes cream in the center where it reaches a thin, solid green stripe, then the cream darkens to a medium brown. (Belongs to K Krewer)

Examples
Metropolitan Museum of Art, Accession number 17.15.6 (a variated ribbon possibly 'clouded')
Metropolitan Museum of Art, Accession number C.I.41.125.25
Metropolitan Museum of Art, Accession number C.I.41.161.12
(May or may not be clouded) http://dlxs.lib.wayne.edu/cgi/i/image/image-idx?id=S-HFHCC-X-00.1510.58%5DEM02A00_1510_58D.JP2
**Types of Ribbon Designs and Pattern**

**Jacquards**

Jacquard woven ribbons were most often floral designs with occasional birds and insects. Stripe, plaid and geometric designs were also woven with a jacquard loom. Frequently the design was woven on a plain color ground such as solid black or solid white. Please take time to see the examples listed below at the Victoria and Albert Museum. These ribbons were exhibited at the 1851 Great Exhibition. They demonstrate fine examples of two different looks of jacquard ribbons woven in Coventry, detailed polychrome floral designs and two color geometric designs.

This example shows a polychrome floral design on a black taffeta ground. This design runs across the ribbon rather than with the length of the ribbon which was more common. The color palette includes blue, green, pink, white and gold.

This example shows the front and back of a wreath and flower design. The design is woven in a tapestry weave rather than Au-launce where the threads would not be as neat on the reverse side.

**Examples**


Metropolitan Museum of Art, Accession number C.I.43.72.3 (a plaid woven with a textured jacquard weave.)

http://dlxs.lib.wayne.edu/cgi/i/image/image-idx?id=S-HFHCC-X-90.0.284.1%5DEM02A90_0_284_1D.JP2 (weave in stripe)

http://dlxs.lib.wayne.edu/cgi/i/image/image-idx?id=S-HFHCC-X-94.0.18.87%5DEM02A94_0_18_87D.JP2 (weave in stripe)
**TYPES OF RIBBON**

**DESIGNS AND PATTERN**

**Damask**

"Damask is a term generally applied, not so much to the weaving of threads of different colours, as to the formation of a pattern by peculiar mode of weaving threads of the same colour. Table-cloths present a beautiful instance of this in linen; and the furniture employed frequently for beds, windows, sofas, and chairs, illustrates the same peculiarity in silk. Such fabrics are not much used at the present day for ladies' dresses." (The Useful Arts Employed in the Production of Clothing. London: Parker, 1851.)

Damask ribbons came in a wide range of designs. A damask ribbon could have small motifs arranged at regular intervals throughout the whole ribbon or in a stripe pattern. A damask design may border a plain centered ribbon. This border could be quite narrow or rather wide. A combination of damask motifs may create a striped pattern. A damask pattern may create an overall pattern on a ribbon such as a basket weave or zig-zag.

This example shows a small damask motif arranged throughout the whole ribbon at regular intervals.

This image shows what could be a damask ribbon (it could also be a satin and taffeta weave combination in several color combinations) with a zig-zag design.

**Examples**

http://dlxs.lib.wayne.edu/cgi/i/image/image-idx?id=S-HFHCC-X-76.104.2%5DEM02A76_104_2D.JP2 (the sheer is a support for the ribbon not the ribbon)

Metropolitan Museum of Art, Accession number C.I.38.23.173


http://www.thegracefullady.com/civilwargowns/images/originalgarments/bonnets/gorgeousbluebonnet5.jpg

**TYPES OF RIBBON DESIGNS AND PATTERN**

**Floral**

Floral designs can be all over, as motifs or in stripes. A floral design can be woven into a ribbon (see jacquard) or printed on a ribbon. Flowers can be small or large, at times in bunches and other times in a design that runs the length of the ribbon.

This example shows a pink/rose floral all over design printed on a taffeta ribbon. The design has a slight watered look to it that could have been done during the finishing process. The flowers are rather small in bunches.

This example shows a floral design that runs the length of the satin ribbon. The flowers are larger than the example above.

**Examples**
Boston Museum of Fine Art www.mfa.org - Accession number 43.1581
Boston Museum of Fine Art www.mfa.org - Accession number 46.690
Metropolitan Museum of Art, Accession number C.I.41.138.3 (post war)
http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O86352/ribbon/ (A page of floral ribbons)
*(These ribbons were exhibited at the 1851 Great Exhibition.)*

By Anna Worden
TYPES OF RIBBON
COLOR

Distribution of Bonnet Ribbon Predominate Color
Polychrome 17.3%
Greens 16%
Black 11%
Reds 9.9%
White 9.9%
Pinks 8.6%
 PURples 7.4%
Blues 6.2%
Browns 6.2%
Golds 2.5%
Yellows 2.5%
Creams 2.5%