

Some timely and helpful advice regarding the beret from our Former District Master Bryant Sayers and District Master Drew Mansager:

Many of you are receiving, or have received, your Official uniform of the Fourth Degree. You can take care of your own tailoring needs. The beret is a different story.

You need to make a personal commitment to learning to form, and then forming, your beret. When you receive it, the beret is bulky and does not form easily to the "ideal." Here are a few steps I ask you to follow. Plan ahead.

1.) Cut out the liner, cutting around the cardboard, leaving it intact. The cardboard is where you will attach your Fourth Degree emblem and perhaps "flash." The flash is the colored shield designating your former cape color. They come directly from Supreme. Red capes have no flash. FN, PFN, CCC must order them (no cost).

Cutting out the liner will lighten the weight of the beret. If you buy a spare beret from a military surplus store, there should be no liner. The liner makes the beret hotter and also harder to form.

2.) Shave, yes, shave your beret, inside and out. Put it over your knee and work from the center out. This also lightens the weight of the wool and makes it easier to form.

Plan on using at least two disposable razors on the inside and two on the outside. There are several You-Tube videos and numerous suggestions available. Let me know if I can help.

Again, put the beret over your knee and shave it, from the center to the outside. (Note from a friend: Do this outside and you won't have as much cleaning up.) Reverse the beret and do the same. You are lightening the weight of the wool so you can form it better.

3.) With no flashes or emblems attached, soak the beret in hot water. Put it on and form it (looking in the mirror) to look like ... Pat Tillman... is popular. Wear it until it dries. I repeat, Plan ahead.

4.) Draw the string in the band snug. Tie a square knot, not too tight. Do not cut the ends of the ribbon or tie them in a bow. Use a pen cap or blunt, narrow tool to insert the ends of the ribbon back into the leather band that holds the adjustment

ribbon. If your hair style (long, short) changes, you can adjust the fit of your beret if you haven't cut the ribbon.

4.) Your flash/badge should line up over your left eye. I suggest you not sew your colored flash to your beret. The Fourth Degree emblem badge (Holy Spirit descending) will hold the flash in place. Due to the angles of a well formed beret, the flash and the badge should be adjusted to be horizontal, level.

5.) The beret should drape over your right ear, covering no more than half the ear.

Do not, insert the keepers on your Beret until everything is done to it (soaking, shaving, removing the lining and etc.). Let the powers to be (or who-else will be working on your Beret) do it. Because if you insert the keepers (end caps (dammits)) prior to the final step, you may not be able to remove or adjust them. Which could cause more delay in wearing your new "New Uniform" (Regalia) and or additional expense to you. So please adhere to the instructions below as stated.

Please pass along to your fellow 4th Degree Knights that when they receive their "New Uniform" that they DO NOT attache the pin onto their beret with the foam backing. It makes it extremely difficult to remove from the beret. The black foam backing will also hide parts of the flash that is sewn onto the beret.

On a different note regarding the pins. The metal backing (Also Known As "dammits to those that were in the military) that comes with the pin may poke into your forehead and scratch/cut. Please reference the link below to order rubber pin backs that I use.

<https://www.amazon.com/Black-Rubber-Pin-Backs-Pack/dp/B0038Y0RDK>