The history of caps

From everyone's dear possession to poor style and low quality. Unfortunately, that's how the history of Danes' habits for headwear begins.
Luckily, the relationship with how we use a cap or hat is changing.
This could be seen in increasing activity among the city's hatters, milliners and cap makers.

At the beginning of the 19th century every man in Copenhagen owned a hat. In fact, at that time, there was more than 400 hatter and around 50 manufactures in Copenhagen.

The hat was both sporty and formal, and men could never dare to walk on the streets without having a handcrafted headwear on their hats. This continued until the 1960s, where the trend completely died.
Today, the demand for handmade headwear is growing, as people want the same quality as the traditional craftsmanship builds upon.

People find themselves to just go on with the massproduced bad caps!

In recent decades, there has been a deterioration in the quality and supply of headwear and there amoung caps. As production has moved to Asia, the old artisanal virtues of the profession as capmaker have been compromised. Even people who dress up just a bit have lost the ability to see the cap as essential to a complete look.

At Wilgart, we fight for good style and traditional craftsmanship. You could say that we are at war against the prevailing indifference in the Danes' use of headgear. Eg. it is not possible to wear a random worn-out sponsor's hat that you got 7 years ago during a weekend course or teambuilding trip in your company. Especially not if you already have good style.
It simply doesn't fit.

WILGART

The last capmaker in Denmark

It all started rather randomly when in 2010, Silas travelled along the roads in Germany. On his journey, he heard of a workshop where they still produced hats and caps from scratch. A fascination for the diligence and pride of the subject, it motivated Silas to endure the long-forgotten craft. Having proved his worth, he could learn from the cap maker master Mr Bullmann in Bamberg, Bavaria South of Germany.

Three years later, he started his own cap maker shop in Copenhagen's Northwest quarter, which at that time was only open by appointment. In the next few years, interest in headgear increased again, and in 2017, Silas could move the workshop and the shop to the popular shopping street Jægesrborggade in Nørrebro. The same year, the business received EU support to start a cap production on Bornholm. Because the use of great headgear was once again trendy.

TIMELINE

2010

Training as a cap maker in Germany

2013

Opens a workshop in Copenhagen

2014

Media mention in TV2, Lorry & Local news

100 caps sewn in a year

2017

Opens shop in Jægersborggade

260 caps sewn in a year

2019

Exclusive production line in Bornholm

450 caps sewn in a year

2021

Exhibition about danish hats

Tomás Chovan becomes partner

2026

Book release "A Capmakers Journey"

For more press material and pictures: wilgart.dk/en/press/ silas@wilgart.dk // tel. +45 2814 8929.

Design **your cap** here

Hatmaker, Milliner & Capmaker

As a hat maker, you typically work with felt that is pulled over wooden blocks where they are steamed, sanded and polished. Cap maker's core of the work is, that you work with woven fabric that is cut with scissors and sewn together on a sewing machine. Cap making is thus a kind of tailoring within headgear. For comparison, milliners work more broadly and sew both hats and knit hats. There is a guild in Denmark: Danske Milliners & hatmaker with 18 members. Here, 16 members are either milliners or hat-makers, one has a hat shop and one is a cap maker. Wilgart is the last capmaker in Denmark.

Design signature

The original Wilgart design signature is located on the brim, where one of the corners is marked by fish leather or a piece of fabric. The detail is clearly visible from distance and Wilgart is the only one in the world that makes this detail. Therefore, be aware, if you see such a cap in the city, it comes from us. See videos from the workshop on vimeo.com/Wilgart

Young entrepreneur

We are almost financially stable, at a level that can support the frugal living conditions of a cap maker. With several new initiatives for 2019, we help the Danes to retrieve style and etiquette around a cap. The front of the battle is a kick-start campaign, where we will sell the perfect baseball cap. We hope this campaign can make breakthroughs on the international market, while also opening up people's eyes to the beauty and value of a tailor-made cap.

In the media

Domestic media

BØRSEN Weekend “Når en niche er fremtiden”
5. marts 2021.

Ud & Se med DSB “Hatten i hånden”
Januar 2021.

Politikken v/Kasper Foged Rasmussen “Det ville pynte i bybilledet hvis flere gik med hat”
iByen sektionen
7. august 2020.

Politikken v/Niels Fez. “Kasketten bliver siddende” Kultur sektionen
21 februar 2019.

Local media

TV2 Bornholm “Kasketfabrik - Bornholmsk kasketmager åbner ny produktion” af Kathrine Friis
2018.

Nørrebro/Nordvest avisen. “Kasketmager ved et tilfælde”
30. Juli 2014.

TV2 Lorry Nyhedsudsendelse kl. 19:30
5. August 2014.

Niche media

Bookazine HÅNDVÆRK No. 8. af Rigetta Klint
Marts 2023

MONOCLE “Jaegersborggade - My cabinet” Artikel om Wilgart og andre erhvervsdrivende i Jægersborggade.
Sept. 2021.

MESTER - Håndværkerforeningen i København Magasin v/ Jacob Bo Andersen ”Kasketmageren i Jægersborggade”
2020.

Denvelklædtemand.dk v/ Torsten Grunwald. “Wilgart er en kasketmager i Jægersborggade”
Blogindlæg
17. April 2018.

Handcrafted
Danish
Headwear

Contact

Articles and pictures **www.wilgart.dk/en/press**

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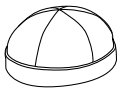
Many videos are available at **www.vimeo.com/wilgart**
Lifestyle fotos, workshop fotos and more at
www.wilgart.dk/en/press

FLATCAP 700-1.500 kr

Classic Harris Tweed from
Scotland. Herringbone.
Orcanic linen, Cashmere, Silk

BASECAP 900 kr

Wilgart signature detail
Salmonskin from Iceland.
Handcrafted in Denmark



SAILORCAP 590-890 kr

Handmade on Bornholm with
GOTS certified linen from
Belgium and the Netherlands.

CUSTOMMADE 1500-1700 kr

Hand-sewn in Copenhagen to
the customers wishes.
The best craft tradition.

EARFLAPS 990 kr

Some of our caps are made
with earflaps from lambskin.