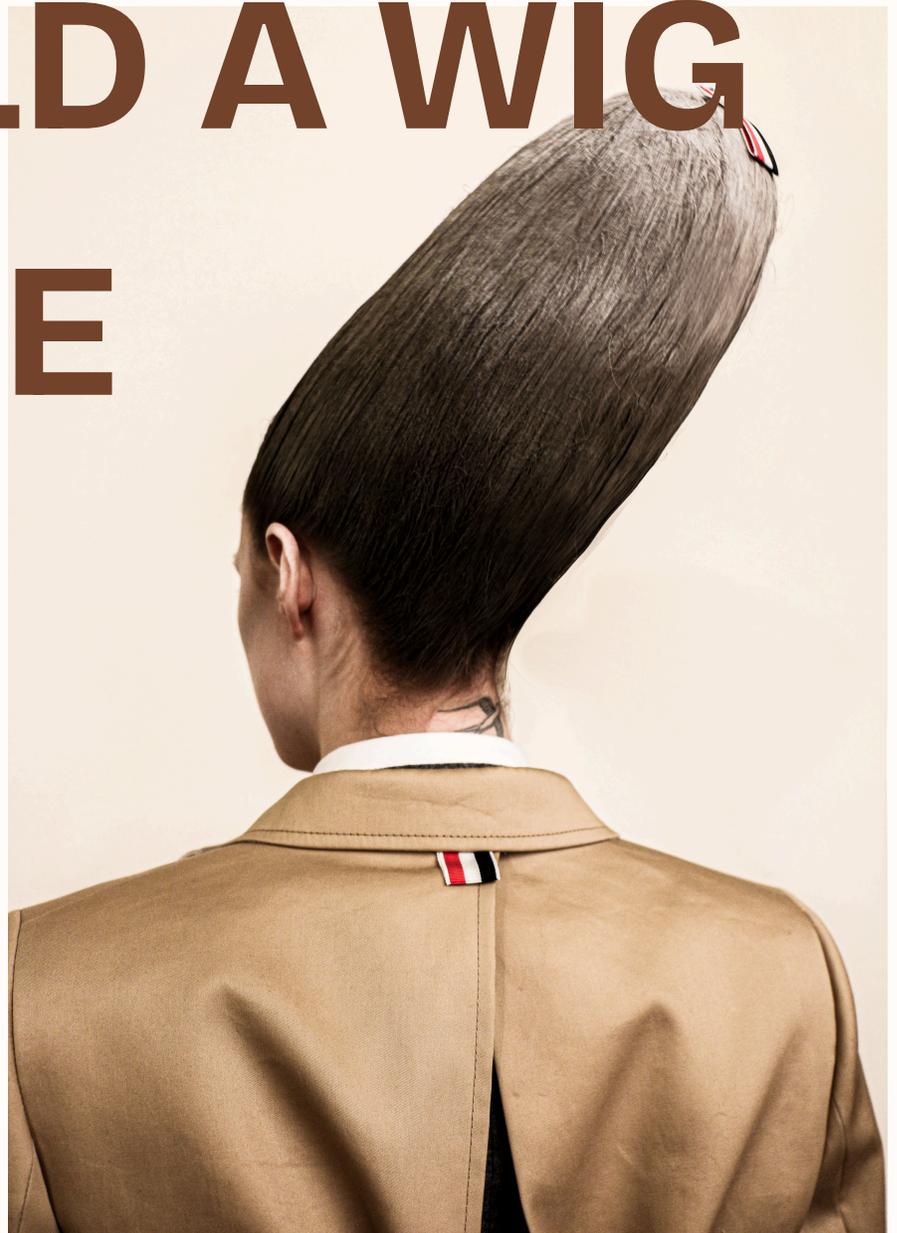


HOW TO BUILD A WIG CAGE

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Hair by Eugene Souleiman

A Detailed Guide On How To Build A Wig Cage

Need List Of Tools

Wires & Structure

- Millinery wire (16–18 gauge, aluminum or steel)
- Lighter wire (20–22 gauge) for splints & small reinforcements
- Wire cutters & round-nose pliers

Binding & Securing

- Millinery tape or cloth tape (for covering wire joints)
- Bendable tie wire or florist wire (for quick fixes)
- Small Silver Clips (to hold parts while working)

Headform & Tools

- Wig block / canvas head (correct size for wearer)
- Table clamp or stand for head block
- Measuring tape & ruler
- Marker or tailor's chalk (to mark hairline/apex)

Padding & Comfort

- Felt or foam padding strips (thin, soft)
- Cotton tape or bias tape (to wrap the base ring)
- Elastic bands or ribbons (for securing cage to head)

Mesh & Covering

- Mesh fabric (wig lace, tulle, or millinery net)
- Hair donut (to cut apart and use mesh for extra grip – Pro Tip)
- Needle & strong thread (for sewing mesh to frame)



Wig Cage

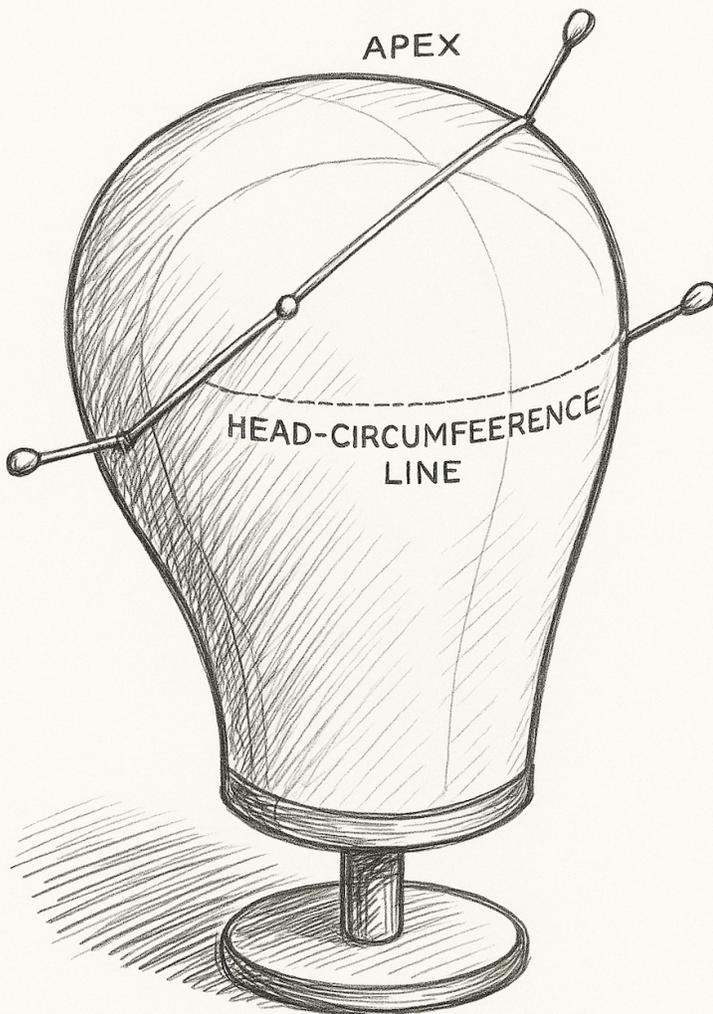
INTRO- DUCTION

A wig cage is the hidden architecture of big hairstyles. Built from lightweight wire, it gives height, width, and volume without extra weight. The cage distributes pressure evenly, keeps wigs secure for hours, and creates a stable base to pin wefts, padding, and styling.

Used in theatre, opera, film, and fashion, wig cages make dramatic looks possible — from towering Baroque wigs to avant-garde creations. Master the cage, and you master the foundation of every massive hairstyle style.

STEP 1

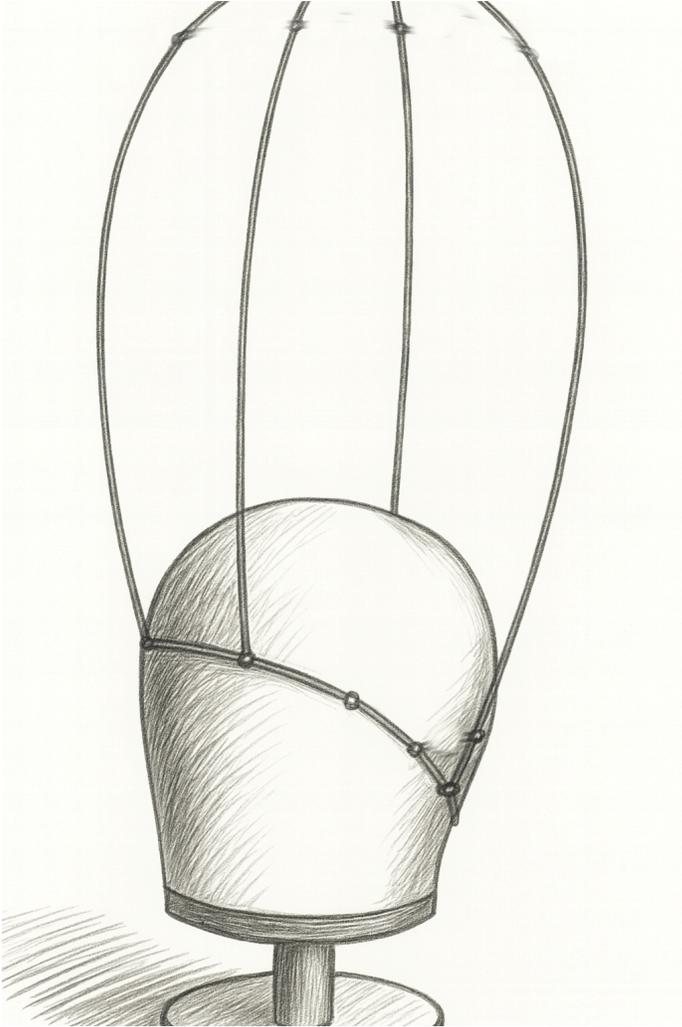
Measure & Create the Base Circle



- Measure head circumference at hairline: ~22" (56 cm) for average adult.
- Cut wire 24" (61 cm) to allow 2" overlap.
- Bend into a smooth oval and secure ends with 1" overlap twist, bind with tape.
- Secure it from the Hairline to the occipital bone on a 22inch Blockhead

STEP 2

Add Vertical Ribs



1. Cut Pieces

- Cut 2 pieces of wire, each 62 cm / 24 in.
- This length allows for the curve over the block and overlap for securing.

2. Attach at Base

- Fix the first wire across the base ring front-to-back, and the second wire side-to-side, forming a cross.
- Secure each end to the foundation band with bendable wire or pliers, then bind with millinery tape.

STEP 2

Add Vertical Ribs

3. Shape the Curve

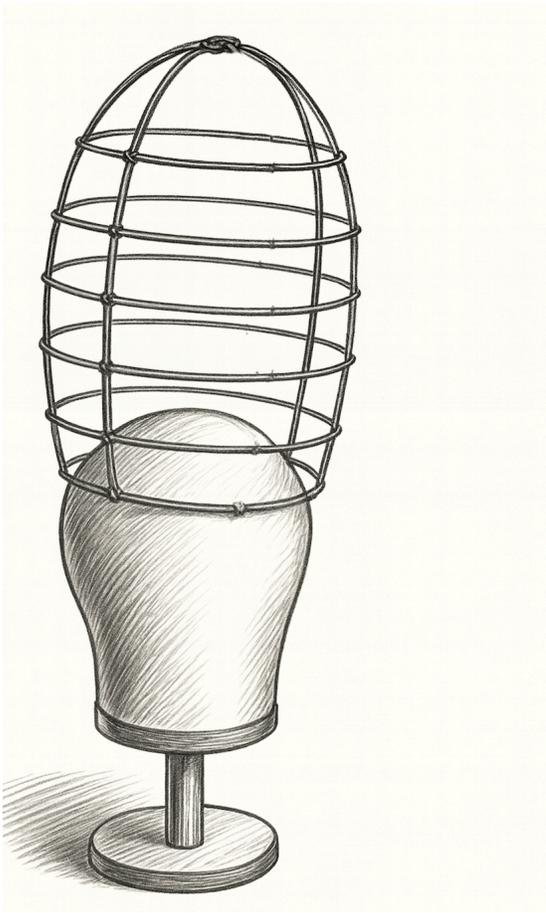
- Bend each rib smoothly upward over the crown of the head block, keeping the curve symmetrical.
- Pull the wire down to the opposite side of the base ring.
- Secure it with small silver clips.

4. Secure Opposite Ends

- Fix the ends to the base ring directly opposite their starting points.
- Wrap with binding wire for stability, then tape over the joins for strength and comfort.

5. Check Symmetry

- Fix the ends to the base ring directly opposite their starting points.
- Ensure both ribs intersect at the apex (top center of block).
- Adjust bends if necessary so the cross is balanced and centered.



STEP 3

Add Horizontal Braces

Pro Tip: Use small Silver Clips to secure Rings before you secure the rings with wire and tape.

Cut 5 circular braces:

- 1st brace: 20" (50 cm) circumference (sits ~3" above base)
- 2nd brace: 18" (46 cm) circumference (sits ~5" above base)
- 3rd brace: 16" (41 cm) circumference (sits ~7" above base)
- 4th brace: 14" (36 cm) circumference (sits ~8.5" above base)
- 5th brace: 11" (28 cm) circumference (sits ~10.5" above base)
- 6th brace (crown ring): 8" (20 cm) circumference (sits ~12" above base)

Adjustments:

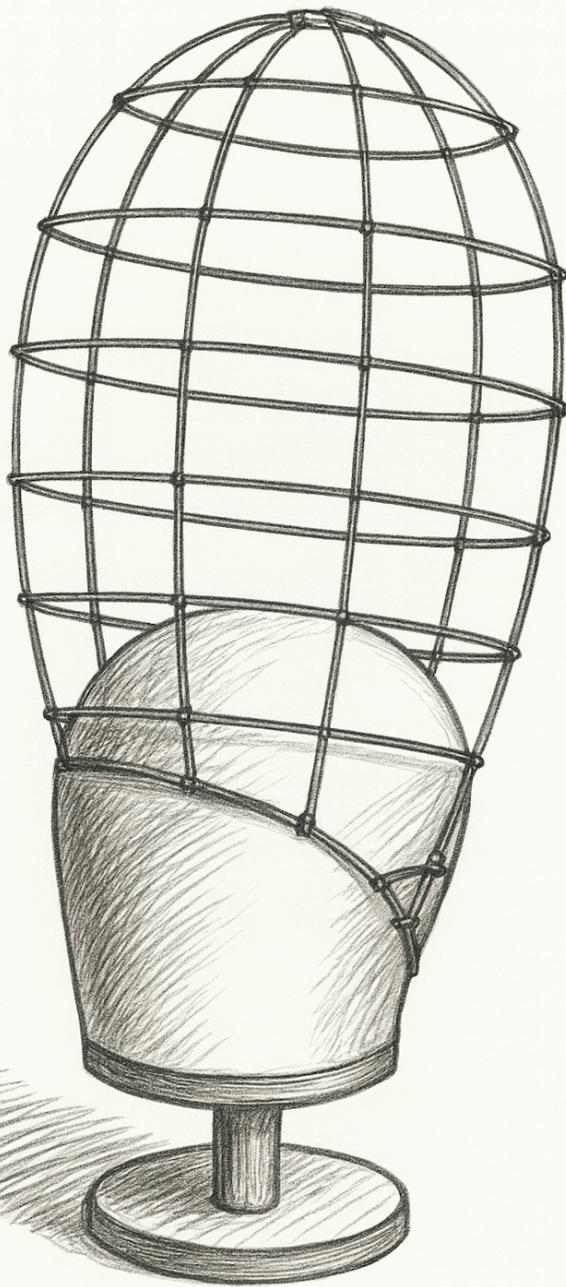
- For a taller/tighter silhouette: reduce Ring 1–2 circumferences by ~1–2 cm each.
- For more width: add 1–2 cm to Rings 1–3.
- Keep the crown ring small (~20 cm / 8") so your vertical ribs converge cleanly.

STEP 4

Reinforce joints

Bind each crosspoint

- Wherever a vertical rib meets a horizontal ring, wrap tightly with small wire and then also millinery tape
- Make at least 2–3 turns around the joint, pulling firmly so the tape compresses the wires together.



Add splints at stress points

- At the temples, occipital bone, and crown, place a short piece of lighter wire (4–5 cm / 1.5–2 in).
- Lay it flat along the rib and ring, then bind over it.
- This works like a splint, preventing the wire from twisting or loosening under weight.

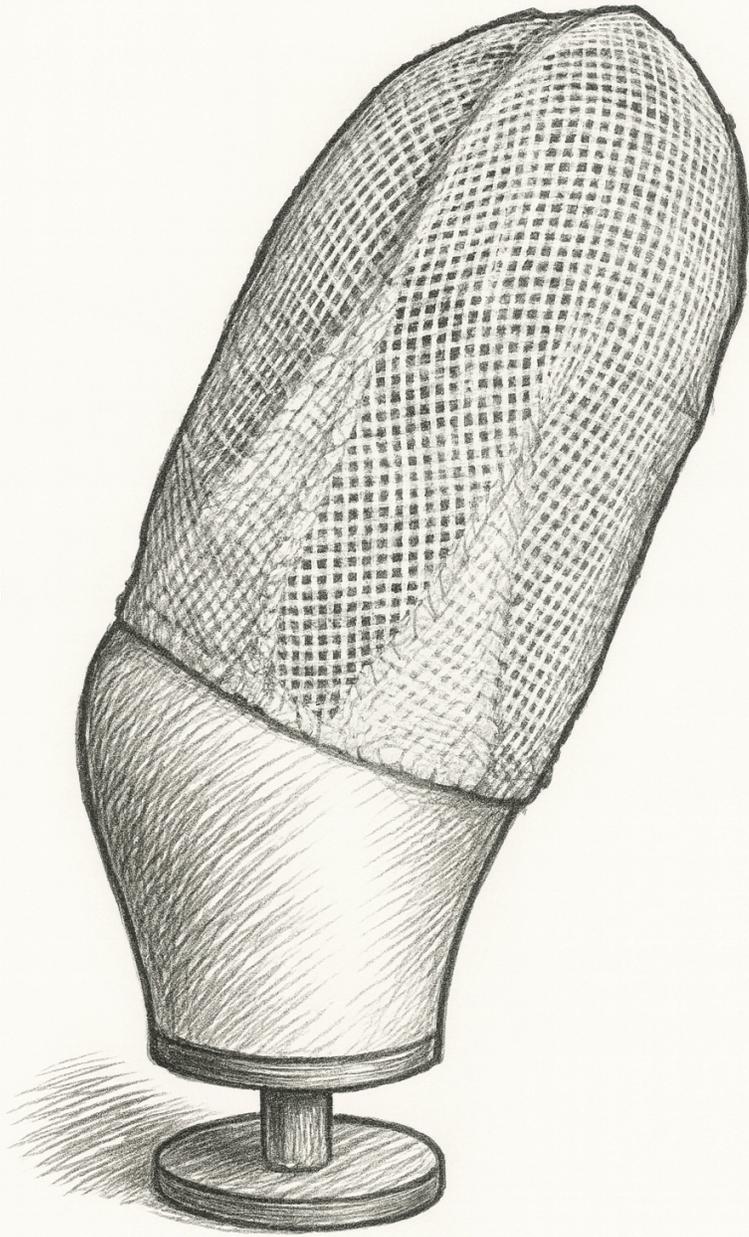
Smooth for comfort

- After taping, check for sharp edges.
- Cover rough spots with a small patch of felt or cotton tape before adding mesh and padding.

STEP 5

Comfort padding

Pro Tipp: Cut a hair donut apart and use its mesh to cover the cage before adding the final mesh fabric. The donut mesh grips pins much better, making it easier to anchor wigs and styles securely.



- Pad the base: Place soft felt or foam padding along the wire ring where it touches the head.
- Drape mesh: Stretch mesh fabric smoothly over the padding.
- Sew in place: Hand-stitch the mesh to the wire frame, keeping it taut and trimming away any excess.



Wig Cage

SHORT HISTORY

Wig cages, also known as pouffe supports or wire frames, emerged in the 18th century during the Baroque and Rococo eras. They were used to create towering hairstyles that went far beyond the natural head shape. These cages provided a lightweight structure, allowing hairdressers to build elaborate designs without overburdening the wearer.

Often made of wire, whalebone, or padded mesh, wig cages were hidden beneath layers of hair, padding, and decoration. They reflected not only fashion but also social status—bigger and more ornate wigs meant greater prestige.



Wig by Eugene Souleiman

Understand the Concept

Break the Rules

ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

As soon as you understand the concept you can go and bend the rules and wire to your desire.



Wigs by Pablo Kuemin



Wig by Eugene Souleiman

**YOUR CAGE IS READY. LET'S CREATE
BAROQUE MASTERPIECES — JOIN NOW.**

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