

# Basic Detail Report

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**Title**

Speedo 1996 Olympic swimming cap worn by Petria Thomas

**Date**

1996

**Primary Maker**

Speedo International Ltd

**Medium**

Latex

**Dimensions**

Overall: 190 x 240 mm, 0.02 kg

**Name**

Cap

**History**

Early swimming caps were made of fabrics such as cotton and silk. By the mid twentieth century they were primarily made of rubber. During the 1950s and 1960s swimming caps soared in popularity. Often designed by milliners, they were brightly coloured, appliquéd with flowers or ribbons or moulded into shapes and used to protect women's permanent wave hairstyles. Competition swimming caps have evolved with developments in textile technology. The late twentieth century has seen the use of latex and silicone, focusing on reducing drag and smoothing out turbulence created by the head when moving through the water.