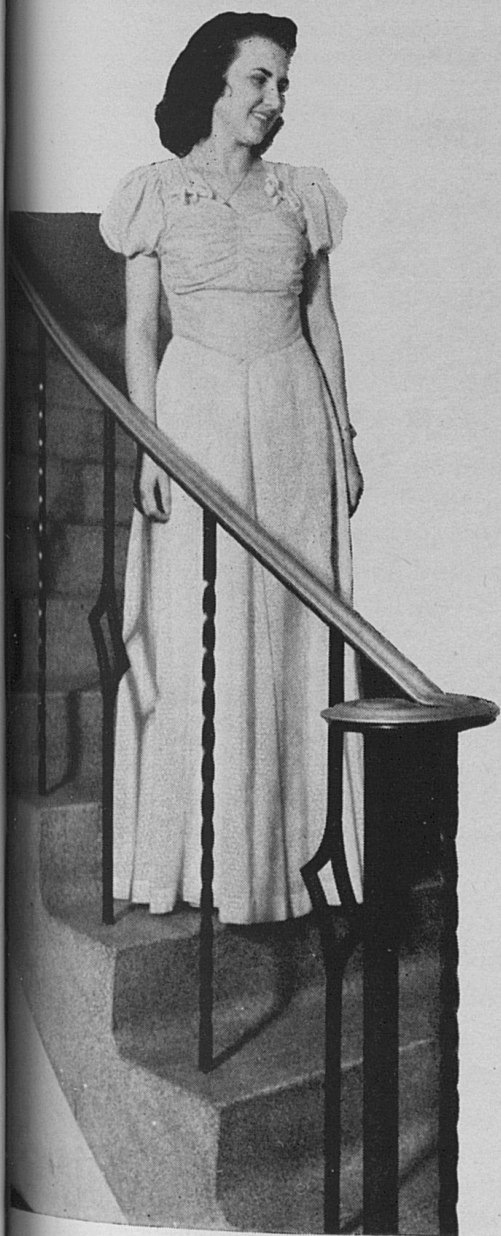


# CLOTHING Project for 4-H Clubs



## 4-H Girl's FORMAL DRESS

for party  
dance  
banquet

Circular 388

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS  
EXTENSION SERVICE . . Thomas P. Cooper, *Dean and Director*

riculture  
of Agri-  
Acts of

M-10-42  
M-10-43

## CLOTHING PROJECTS FOR 4-H GIRLS

The following nine projects of clothing work are available to 4-H Club girls:

- Sewing—A New Venture
- School Frocks
- Sleeping or Lounging Ensemble
- Play and Work Clothes
- Dress-Up Costume
- 4-H Girl's Formal Dress
- Semitailored Cottons and Rayons
- Tailored Suit or Ensemble
- Bringing Your Wardrobe Up-to-Date

Only one project should be undertaken within any one year of 4-H club work. A girl starting in 4-H work with no experience in sewing should take the first project ("Sewing—a New Venture") the first year and "School Frocks" the second. After completing these she may choose either one of the next two ("Sleeping or Lounging Ensemble" or "Play and Work Clothes"). The next three ("Dress-Up Costume," "4-H Girl's Formal Dress" and "Semitailored Cottons and Rayons") may be taken in any order, depending on the girl's wardrobe needs.

The last two ("Tailored Suit or Ensemble" and "Bringing Your Wardrobe Up to Date") may be taken in the order desired. They are for girls above the average in sewing skill and planning knowledge, and should be taken only when the other project requirements have been completed.

Girls who have had some experience in sewing before enrolling in 4-H clothing projects may, upon approval of the leader, or agent, start with the second group, then follow the order given above.

Lexington, Kentucky

October, 1942



## 4-H GIRL'S FORMAL DRESS

### Clothing Project for 4-H Clubs

By EDITH LACY, DOROTHY THRELKELD, and ANITA BURNAM DAVIS

You really need a long party dress? What fun then to select the material and pattern, to actually make it yourself, and finally, what genuine satisfaction and pride to wear a dress you have made yourself. What fun, that is, if you have done a good job. You will do a good job too if you plan it carefully and follow the construction suggestions in this 4-H project.

#### WHAT TO DO IN THIS PROJECT

##### Head H or study group

List the occasions for which you will probably need a formal dress.

Determine what type will best fit your needs.

Plan the entire costume—dress, slip, shoes and accessories.

Check your knowledge of party manners. Learn the correct procedures so you will feel at ease at a banquet, party, or dance.

##### Hand H or work group

Make a formal dress; a slip, and a wrap, if one is needed.

Make one accessory.

Select other accessories.

Use every day the manners you know to be correct. They will be part of you when the time for the party comes.

Keep record of work.

#### SELECTION OF A FORMAL DRESS

##### Choosing for the occasion

Where will you wear this long party dress? At graduation, a banquet, dancing, or perhaps all three occasions? One dress well chosen may be worn at any of these or on other occasions. To select a dress which will meet your needs careful planning is necessary. Local custom determines somewhat the type of dress you will make. Girls living in a small community where there is little formality will find the dinner type (dress with short sleeves or with jacket) more appropriate, while those living near a large urban center may find the more formal type better suited to their needs. The kind of activities to which the dress is worn should be taken into consideration. If the dress is

to be worn at banquets and informal evening parties, then the less formal type is best; if the dress is for dancing only, the strictly formal may be a wise choice. The simple dress with which different jackets or accessories may be worn will prove best for the average girl.

### Suiting the individual

A style of dress appropriate to the individual is just as important with a formal as with any other type of dress. The thin girl should choose a dress which will minimize her slenderness. A sleeveless low-cut dress is not for her. The stout girl should avoid ruffles and frills. They make her appear more stout. The dainty girl looks her best in sheer, fragile materials such as voile, organdy, or lace; the athletic type in piques, gingham, bright-colored printed muslins, and rayons made into the more tailored style of dress. Simple styles are best for teen age girls. Extreme and sophisticated dresses are not in keeping with this age. They are for older people.

### Material

The type of material should be determined by the season and the occasions on which the dress is to be worn. Summer formals may be made of dimity, powder puff muslin, gingham, organdy, voile, and pique; winter ones of rayon, crepe, taffeta, marquisette, rayon jersey, and cotton lace.

### Cost

Initial cost of a dress as well as its up-keep should be taken into consideration. Cottons are easily laundered while the taffetas and some of the other materials require dry cleaning thus increasing the cost of upkeep. Formal dresses are not worn as many times as school or street clothes, so quality in the former is not quite so important as in the latter. Effect may be secured with very little expense. Usually the club girl prefers having two inexpensive dresses rather than one expensive dress.

## UNDERGARMENTS

The slip should be made on the same lines as the dress so it will fit smoothly. Use a cotton slip for a cotton dress; a rayon slip with any material. Rayons which have dull finishes are best. Whether cotton or rayon it should be firmly woven and have considerable body, especially if the dress fabric is sheer. White or a color to match the dress is usually the best choice. Brassieres and panties may be made of the same material as the slip. Both should fit smoothly.



**ACCESSORIES**

Accessories must be in keeping with the dress. Dress shoes should be worn. Oxfords are not appropriate. A plain white pump or sandal may be used with the summer formal as well as with other summer dresses. Special evening slippers in keeping with the material and style of dress may be worn with the more formal dresses.

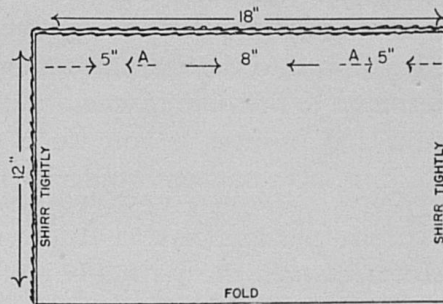
Simple evening bags to hold cosmetics may be easily made by the 4-H Club girl. Velveteen, corduroy, jersey, satin, taffeta, and pique are satisfactory materials.

A bag (see illustration below) (18" x 24") carried over the arm can be made from a straight piece of fabric, 2 wooden button molds, 2 metal or bone rings about 1½ inches in diameter. Fold fabric in half, with short sides together. Seam short side 5 inches from each end. Turn hems under the remaining 8 inches and hem by hand. Shirr each long side tightly. Cover wooden button molds with same fabric as bag and

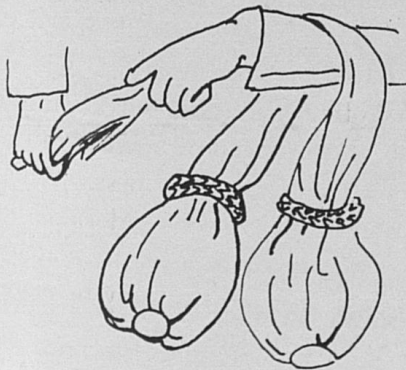


Quilted evening bag

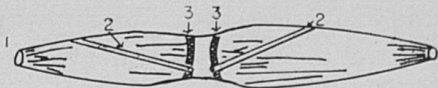
sew to each end of bag on right side. Make two narrow straps of fabric, 4 inches long, and attach to each metal ring. Slip rings over each end of bag. Attach loose end of each strap to bag at end of seam (A in illustration). This method of construction allows rings to close bag giving it the appearance in the illustration (completed bag).



First steps in making a formal bag



Completed bag



Attaching parts:

- (1) button molds
- (2) straps
- (3) rings

### Wraps

Make short jackets of the same material as the dress. Use linen or pique for summer dresses; corduroy, velvet, or flannel for winter evening wraps. Choose a color which may be worn with a number of different dresses; for example, white, black, or red harmonize with a variety of dresses.

## CONSTRUCTION SUGGESTIONS

### Dress

Alter pattern if necessary.

Place on fabric following pattern directions.

Pin, baste, and try on.

### Seams

Finish the waist and skirt seams of sheer fabrics such as organdy, voile, dotted swiss with narrow french seams; the armseye with a net binding or a mock french seam; neck and sleeves with french binding; embroidery, or lace.

### Applying lace

Lace edging should be gathered slightly before applying it. For this purpose gently pull the thread in the straight edge of the lace. If the lace is applied to an edge such as collar or cuff, place straight edge of lace to edge of garment with right side of lace to right side of garment. Using fine thread and small stitches overcast lace to garment adjusting fullness as you work.

Join laces and embroideries by matching designs, then seam with flat or french seam or buttonhole edges together.

### Hems

The hem at the bottom of the skirt should be very narrow if the skirt is full. It may be put in by hand or on the machine. If the fabric is very soft and shear, light weight horse hair braid may be tacked invisibly to the bottom of the skirt on the wrong side. This gives body to the skirt and makes it hang more gracefully. The skirt should clear the floor. Skirts which touch the floor make walking difficult and do not look as graceful as those that are a fraction of an inch shorter.

### Stitch and thread

Shorten the machine stitch to about 18 to 25 stitches to the inch when sewing on sheer fabrics. Use thread number 80 to 100 depending on the sheerness of the fabric.



## PARTY MANNERS

Now that you have a lovely costume, carefully observe party manners. Use good manners at banquets, parties, or dances as on other occasions. Remember that consideration of others is the keynote to correct conduct.

### Banquets

Arrive a few minutes before the scheduled time. If you come with a group of girls, each will check her own wrap. If you have an escort he will check it for you unless there are separate check rooms. Do not crowd at the banquet room door. Take a seat and remain seated until the door is opened. Have your ticket ready. If you have an escort he will have your ticket. When the doors to the banquet hall are opened walk in, never rush. If it is a large banquet you will select a table and be seated. If the group is small and there are place cards, you will find your place and stand behind your chair until all the guests have found their places. Seat yourself from the left side of the chair. If a gentleman assists you by placing the chair for you, thank him.

Do not start eating until those near you are served. It is not necessary, however, to wait until the entire group is served. Eat slowly, talk with the persons near you. If there are souvenirs at your place take them if you like but do not remove flowers and table decorations. They are not souvenirs and are not to be taken with you.

### Parties

Answer invitations promptly. If the invitation is written, answer in the same form. Arrive on time. Greet the hostess and any special guests. Enter into the activity planned by the hostess. Be a good sport.

### Dances

When your escort calls for you do not keep him waiting too long. Upon arrival he should park his automobile and come to your door. Blowing the horn of the automobile to announce his arrival is bad manners. Allow him to open the door of the automobile for you.

When you arrive at the place of the party your escort will enter with you. Arrange where you will meet after removing wraps. Meet him and together speak to the hostess. Do not refuse to dance with any person you know who cuts in on you. A good dancer always has plenty of partners. After a dance is over your partner should remain with you until the next dance starts or until your next partner comes. Before leaving the party say good night to the hostess.

### RECORD—4-H GIRL'S FORMAL DRESS

Record of \_\_\_\_\_ (Name) \_\_\_\_\_ (Age)

Describe the costume you have made: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Itemize costume and accessories:	Cost (money spent)
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	Total \$ _____

List additional garments made for yourself and others: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What effort have you made to improve your manners? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 194\_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Club member)*

Approved \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Project Leader)*

Approved \_\_\_\_\_  
*(County Extension Agent)*