

CLOTHING Project for 4-H Clubs

TAILORED SUIT OR ENSEMBLE

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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, omit the first two projects listed above.

Lexington, Kentucky
March, 1947

TAILORED SUIT OR ENSEMBLE

Clothing Project for 4-H Clubs

By EDITH LACY and DOROTHY GENTRY

If you are eligible for this project you have finished a number of simpler 4-H clothing project units. You have developed certain skills in choosing and handling various fabrics and in making costumes appropriate for different occasions. You are now ready in confidence and sewing ability, to undertake the tailoring of a costume. You may want to remodel or remake some garment, or you may want to make a new one. Distinctive clothing bought ready-made, is expensive. Professional dressmakers and tailors charge much for their workmanship and skill because it requires time and experience. A girl who learns the right ways in tailoring and applies them skillfully can turn an old garment into an attractive up-to-date one, or a few yards of carefully selected fabric into a distinctive costume.

WHAT TO DO IN THIS PROJECT

"Head H"

- (a) Make a plan for your clothing for the year, basing it on an inventory of your clothing and on the clothing account you kept last year.
- (b) Study ready-made tailored costumes, noting particularly lapels, collars, facings, buttonholes, linings. Compare inexpensive garments with expensive ones. Notice the difference in construction.
- (c) Plan a tailored costume for yourself, basing it on your wardrobe needs. If you have a used garment which has possibilities for remodeling, you may renovate it rather than buy new material.

"Hand H"

- (a) Make a complete tailored costume. This may be either (1) a dress; (2) a dress and jacket; (3) a suit; (4) a dress and topcoat; or (5) a suit and topcoat.
- (b) Make or select accessories to go with this costume.
- (c) Get or make undergarments to go with costume.
- (d) Continue keeping an account of your expenditures for clothing. Use "4-H Club Girls' Clothing Account and Budget Book."
- (e) Keep a record of work in this project.

Girls who have had little experience in sewing woolens should make a dress or simple jacket suit. Only older girls who have sewed wool before should attempt tailored suits or topcoats. A girl may take this project unit more than one year, if she makes a different type of outfit each year and progresses from the simpler to the more difficult costume.

PLANNING THE WARDROBE

The most satisfying wardrobe is one that has been carefully planned. Every garment should be chosen to fill a real place in the wardrobe as a whole. By checking the condition of each garment, decide which articles can be used as they are, which need remodeling, and which are no longer of use to you. Decide whether or not those no longer of use to you need to be replaced. With this list of needed articles before you, study your last year's record of expenditures. Will the same amount this year take care of your needs? Do you think you can buy more wisely this year? Talk with your parents about the amount of money available for the entire family's clothing. Are you getting more than your share? With the answers to these questions in mind, make any adjustments necessary in your original plan.

FOR ECONOMY IN CLOTHES

1. Choose double-duty clothes.
2. Remodel garments if the fabric is worth the time and effort necessary to make the garment wearable again.
3. Take good care of all clothing.
4. Avoid fads in fashion, because a fad dates a costume.
5. Choose all garments and accessories to harmonize with one basic color.
6. Choose clothes with pieces that can be switched around, making several outfits.

FABRICS FOR TAILORED GARMENTS

In selecting fabrics for your tailored costumes, consider the type of outfit to be made, where and when the outfit is to be worn, the kind of fabric that will be the most becoming to you, and finally your experience in working with woolens.

Type of Outfit to be Made

Wool crepe and other light-weight or medium-weight soft woolen materials are suitable for dresses. Suiting fabrics such as medium-weight tweed, stripes, men's wear worsted, and coverts are all firm and heavy enough to tailor well into suits. Coat materials should be chosen with care. Woolens of good quality have a springy feel when crumpled in the hand. Heavy, stiff woolens are a poor choice for coats or suits.

Wool is being combined with other fibers such as cotton, aralac (made of casein from milk), rayon, and rabbit's hair. This does not necessarily mean poorer-quality fabric, but the fabric may require different care. Be sure to read the labels on the fabrics so that you will know from what they are made and so that you will get your money's worth.

Occasion for which the Outfit Is Made

Gaberdine, coverts and other worsteds, simply made, are right for many occasions. Tweed, flannel, shepherd checks, plaids and corduroy are good for casual and sport wear. Velveteen (cotton) and such fabrics may be made into dressy costumes.

Material in Relation to Wearers' Figure and Face

Rough tweeds, pile fabrics like velveteen, and bold plaid designs make a figure look larger. Smooth-surfaced medium weight materials such as flannel and shepherd checks give a slender, trim look. Bright, warm colors (reds, yellow, and orange) and light neutral shades (gray, beige, and tan) make the figure look larger. Cool colors (blues and greens), dark shades of brown, and black make the figure look more slender.

Besides considering material in relation to your figure, think about the colors which are becoming to your individual coloring. Try it near your face and see if it is right with your complexion, hair, and eyes. If the material is poorly chosen you cannot make a costume you will like to wear.

Your Experience

If you have not had much sewing experience on woolen materials, choose plain or indistinct designs, and avoid plaids and stripes because they require matching and take more time and skill. Select firmly woven material that is not too heavy to handle and to stitch well. Such fabric made by a simple pattern will not be too difficult to make into an attractive, good-looking costume.

THE PATTERN

Before selecting the pattern look at pictures in the latest style books and fashion magazines. Visit ready-to-wear stores and observe costumes that are good in design and construction. Determine what pattern will make a perfect costume for you. Remember that patterns which have severely tailored collars, lapels, and set-in pockets require expert workmanship. Collarless jackets, boleros, and loose-fitting styles are easier for 4-H girls to make and are also more youthful. Simple well-cut garments of good materials make an excellent foundation costume. Such a one can be varied by a change of accessories, making it suitable for many occasions. Keep in mind that costumes of extreme design may not be good

more than one season. Therefore, don't be led astray by fads, for you will want your good wool costume to last several years.

UNDERGARMENTS

Outer clothing requires a proper foundation if it is to look its best. Undergarments should furnish this necessary foundation. Modern undergarments are simple, dainty, comfortable, and well-fitting. The undergarments to choose for your costume will depend upon the type of outfit and the materials from which the costume is made. Usually a girdle or garter belt, shorts, and slip or petticoat are needed.

Most girls prefer to make a slip or petticoat. Synthetic materials and cotton are appropriate for these. Matching, contrasting, or harmonizing colors may be chosen. Such tailored finishes as french bindings, fitted facings, shell edge, and fagoted or hemstitched hems are appropriate on undergarments for tailored clothes. Look at ready-made underwear and note any new finishes that might be copied.

ACCESSORIES

Accessories can add greatly to or ruin a costume. Just as much care should be given to their selection as to the costume itself. Each accessory should harmonize with the costume in color, texture, and design.

You may choose to make part of the accessories, such as hat, purse, belt, scarf, or gloves, thereby creating individuality and interest in the costume as well as decreasing the cost. Fashion booklets give many suggestions for accessories you can make. Also a visit to the stores may furnish ideas.

GENERAL GUIDE TO CONSTRUCTION

Professional-looking garments require certain practices which the 4-H Club girl can use. Following are practices you should observe:

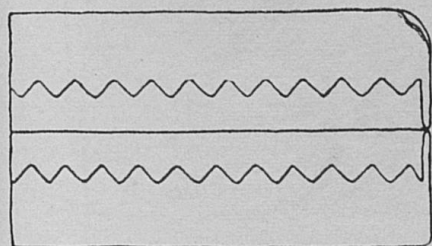
1. Fit the pattern carefully before cutting the garment. Pay particular attention to waist and shoulder lines, and to corrections for stooped shoulders or other figure differences.
2. Place the pattern on the correct thread of material. Follow pattern directions for this.
3. Cut with long, even strokes accurately following pattern outline.
4. Mark carefully all perforations, with tailor's tacks.
5. Remove pieces of pattern from fabric only as each section is needed.
6. Pin pieces of garment together carefully and baste, being careful not to stretch any part.
7. Try garment on and fit it right side out.

8. Stitch carefully, using right size and color of thread and correct length of stitch for fabric.
9. Press each seam as it is stitched. Test temperature of iron on a scrap of material. Most of the synthetic fibers and wools require a moderate to cool iron. Press on wrong side with dampened cloth next to garment and a dry cloth over the dampened cloth. Lift iron rather than running it over the surface. Do not press entirely dry.
10. Study the pattern guide and read carefully the pattern instructions.

DETAILS OF CONSTRUCTION

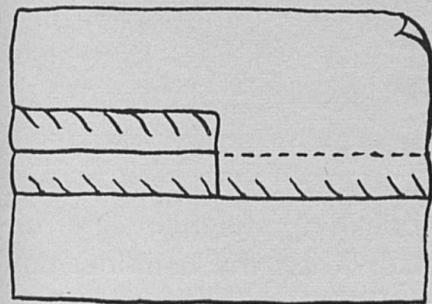
Seams

The type of seam to use depends on the kind of material and the way the garment is made. The pattern chart will suggest the types of seam suited to the pattern and for various materials. One of the following seams may fit your needs.



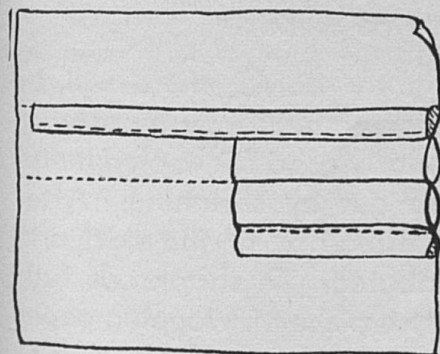
Seam with edges pinked

Edges pinked.—Place right sides of the material together. Baste, fit and stitch not less than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide; $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inch would be better. Pink with pinking shears or make shallow notches with scissors. This seam is used for firmly woven materials that do not fray.



Seam with edges overcast

Edges overcast.—Make a plain seam. Then overcast each edge separately, working from right to left. Depth of stitch and space between stitches vary according to the texture of the fabric. The space between stitches should be twice the depth of the stitch. This seam is used on fabrics that fray moderately.

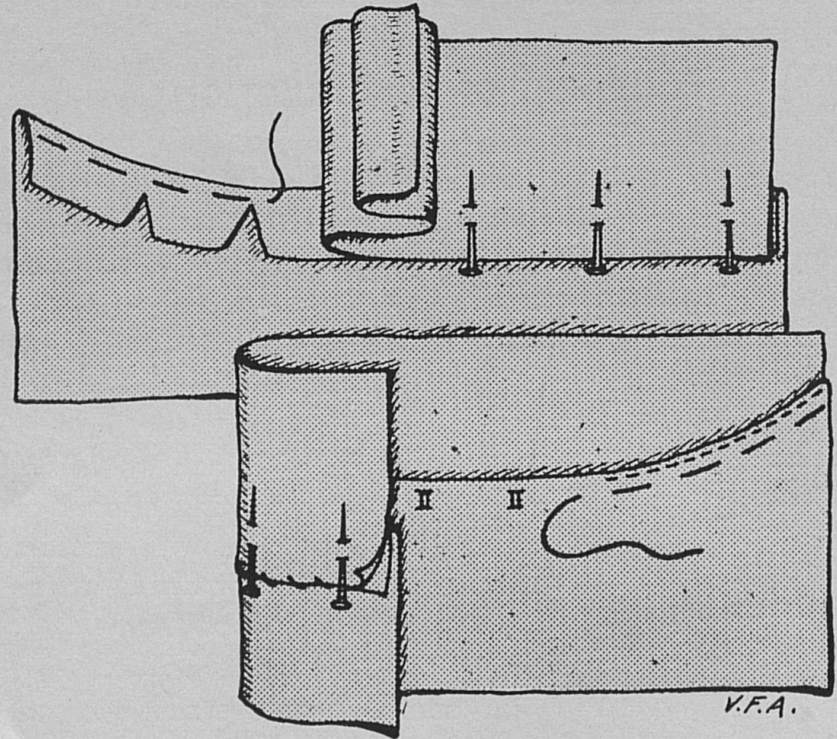


Seam with edges bound

Edges bound.—Bind edges of a plain seam with ribbon seam binding. The edges are usually bound separately. This seam finish is used on unlined coats and jackets.

Edges stitched.—Machine-stitch each side, $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the seam stitching. Trim fairly close to edge stitching and press open flat. This seam is flat and durable on firmly woven fabrics.

Lapped seams, which are stitched on the right side of the garment, are an effective means of accenting the seam line and giving finish to a tailored garment. Turn under the seam allowance of the top piece, baste, clip the edge along the curve, and press without stretching the raw material. Working from the wrong side, lap the two pieces with the raw edges matching. Pin, turn to right side, baste and stitch near edge of the fold. The raw edges may be overcast.



Lapped seam

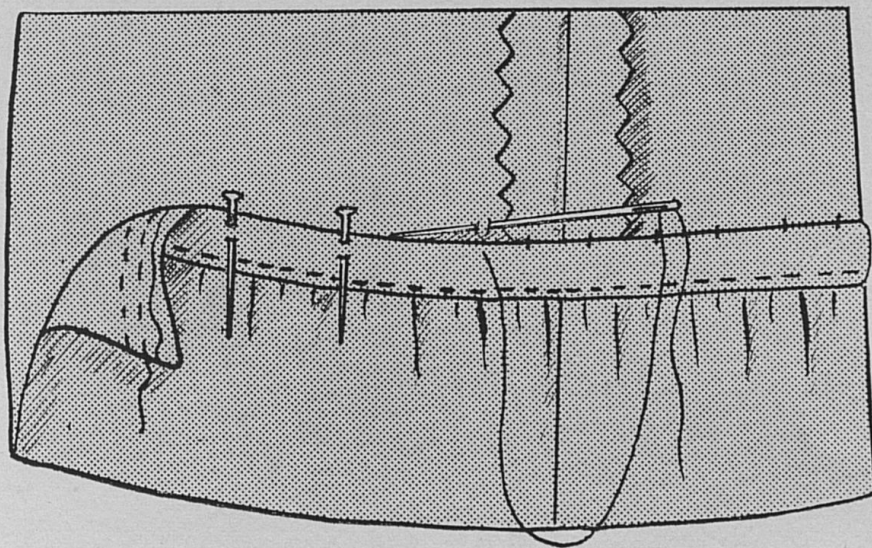
Hems for Tailored Garments

Types of hems.—A hem is the last step of construction on a garment. When it is tried on for establishing the hem line, all closings and the belt should be fastened. Then the hemline may be marked with chalk or a row of pins. This can be done by another person, using a hem marker or yard stick. A cardboard gage is needed for marking the width of the hem. The type of hem used depends on the material and the type of skirt.

Flared skirts.—If the skirt is slightly flared, there will be fullness at the top of the hem. Darts or gathers may be used to ease in this fullness. Gathers are particularly good for woolen material where this fullness may be taken out by shrinking. After gathering the top edge of hem, draw thread to fit the skirt and pin in place, with gathers evenly distributed. To shrink out fullness remove a few pins at a time and slip a piece of wrapping paper into hem. Place a damp press cloth on top of the hem. Cover with a dry cloth. Press from the bottom toward the top of the

hem. Repeat until entire hem is pressed. Stitch seam binding to top edge and put down by hand.

Methods of hand-hemming for dress hems.— Catch-stitch hemming is suitable for hems that do not have the raw edge turned under. Work from left to right. Take a small stitch $\frac{1}{8}$ inch, in the hem, then a stitch in the garment just above the hem, with the thread kept to the right side of the needle and the needle



Hem with seam binding using slip-stitch hemming

held horizontally pointing toward the left. Pick up only a few threads of the fabric and do not draw too tight.

Slip-stitch hemming gives an inconspicuous finish on both right and wrong sides and is suitable on hems that have been turned a second time, or for those that are finished with seam binding. To slip-stitch, bring the needle out from the fold of the hem; insert it in the garment directly opposite, taking up one or two threads; and then slip the needle through the fold of the hem or underneath the edge, bringing it out again about $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch farther on.

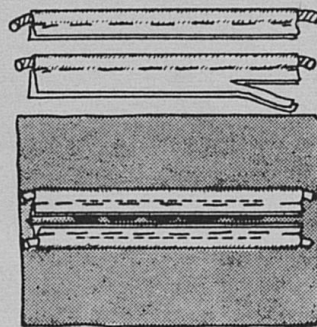
Vertical hemming is similar to slip-stitch hemming but may be done faster since the floats show on the wrong side instead of being concealed.

Shoulder Pads

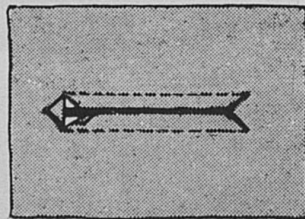
Tailored dresses, jackets, and coats need padding at the shoulders to give a smooth line. The size and shape of the pad will depend on the individual's shoulders and the type of garment. These pads may be made or bought. If satisfactory ones can be bought it may be wise for an inexperienced girl to buy rather than make them.

Corded Piped Buttonholes

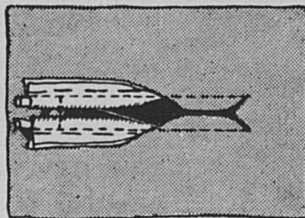
This type of buttonhole may be made without the cord if desired. Mark the length of the buttonhole with basting. Cut two cords of medium cotton twine one inch longer than the marking. Cover with bias or straight material and baste. Trim raw edges to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Place the cords on the right side of the material with raw edges of covering meeting at the marked line. Stitch the length of the marked buttonhole. Turn work to the wrong



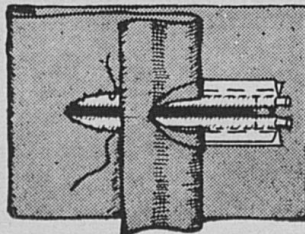
RIGHT SIDE



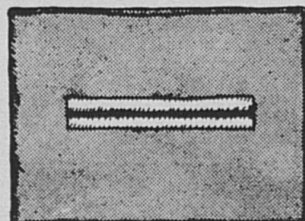
WRONG SIDE



WRONG SIDE

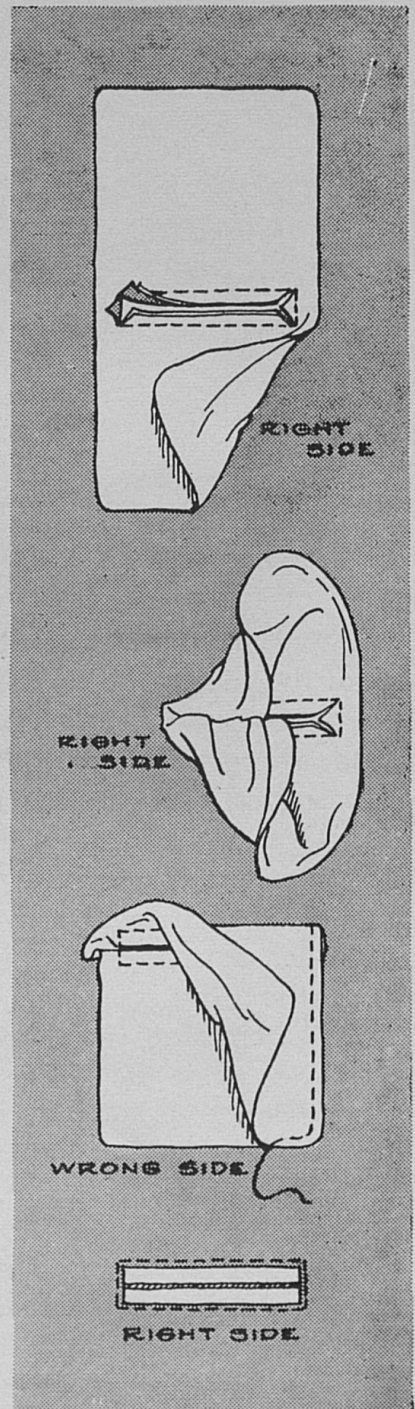


WRONG SIDE



RIGHT SIDE V.F.A.

Corded piped buttonholes



RIGHT SIDE

RIGHT SIDE

WRONG SIDE

RIGHT SIDE

V.F.A.

Bound pocket

side and slash in center of space between the stitched lines and then diagonally to the ends as shown, being careful not to cut the stitching or the piping. Turn the cords through the slash to the wrong side. Stitch across the cords, sewing through the slashed triangles at the ends of the buttonhole opening. Slash the buttonhole opening in the garment facing and slip to the wrong side of the corded buttonhole.

Bound Pocket

Cut the piece for the pocket and binding as wide as the pocket opening is to be made plus one inch, and twice as long as the depth of the desired finished pocket plus 2 inches. For a dress, an average size pocket piece may be $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and 7 inches long. Mark the pocket opening and stitch the pocket piece over this, as shown. Cut exactly on the center thread through the oblong, to within $\frac{3}{8}$ inch of the ends; then make diagonal slashes to stitching at each corner. Turn pouch piece to wrong side of the garment, then fold to meet exactly in the center of the slashed opening. Baste in this position and stitch from right side. After stitching this binding, fold the upper part of the pocket down and stitch around the pouch, catching the triangular pieces in with this stitching at the ends of the pocket slash.

HELPS ON SEWING AND TAILORING

There are a number of government bulletins which give detailed instructions and pictures for the girl who wants to learn good standards. Three U. S. Dept. Agr. publications (Leaflet 1954, "Making a Dress at Home"; Leaflet 1968, "Pattern Alteration"; and Leaflet 1964, "Fitting Dresses") are excellent. If you are making a suit by all means use U. S. Dept. Agr. Miscellaneous Publication 591, "How to Tailor a Woman's Suit." The U. S. Dept. Agr. Farmers' Bulletin 1894, "Coat Making at Home," will be invaluable if a coat is in your project. Ask your Home Demonstration Agent for the use of the bulletin which will help you with the outfit you are making.

4-H RECORD — TAILORED COSTUME

Record of _____ Age _____
(Name)

Describe the costume you have made: _____

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

List and describe additional garments, made or remodeled for yourself and others: _____

Have you started a clothing account? _____

How long have you kept one? _____

Date _____ 194____. Signed _____
(Club member)

Approved _____
(Project Leader)

Approved _____
(County Extension Agent)

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