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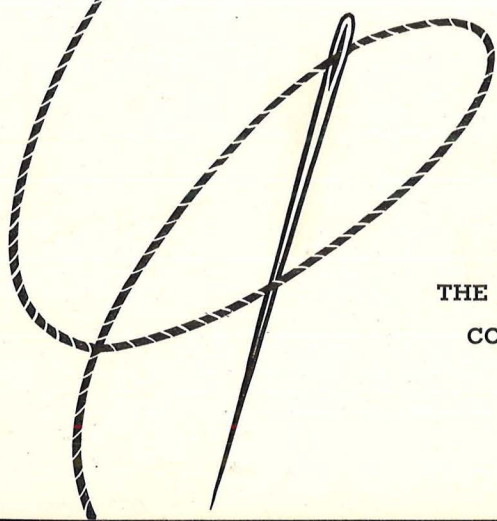
FALL AND WINTER *Clothes*

EXTENSION CIRCULAR 470

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Extension Circular 470

August, 1943, 20M

The College of Agriculture Extension Service
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Fall and Winter Clothes

by Helen Rocke

SEWING up the family for the winter is an old story. This year it is a real challenge because it presents opportunities for actual war service at home, and for using and developing the skills and ingenuities that have served thrifty homemakers in so many trying times.

A few new ideas, perhaps a few old ones used in a different way, and a few suggestions for making all of it easier to do, are what it takes to give us inspiration and the urge to restyle last year's dress or make over the old coat for one of the children. The purpose of this circular is to give such suggestions, because conservation and remaking of clothing are more important than ever, and every family will want to do its share of war service in this way.

As war needs make greater demands upon textile production, the supply of fiber and cloth for civilian use becomes more limited. War demands for cotton are extremely heavy. Attempts are being made to produce the maximum amount of serviceable cotton fabrics. Restrictions have been placed on the closeness of weave and the weight of the finished product. Fewer kinds of fabric are made. Cotton fabrics will be lighter weight and less tightly woven. Some of the materials affected by these restrictions are wide sheetings, broadcloth, poplin, and twills. Percale and dress goods that have a thread count of 80 in the warp and 80 in the filling may not now be made for civilian use.

The basic ingredients for making rayon are being used also for making ammunition, synthetic rubber, plastics, and tire fabric; nylon is still monopolized by the war industries. Shortages in manpower and machines limit the production of wool fabrics.

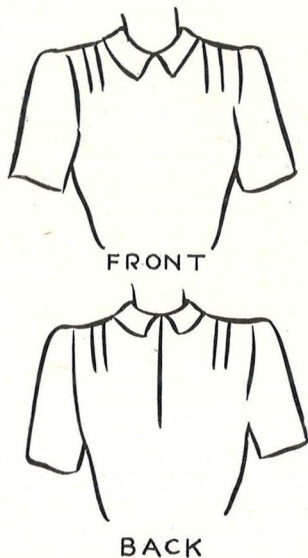
Further restrictions have been placed upon the amount of material which may go into women's and children's clothing. Maximum allowances of material to be used in dresses and in fabric trimmings have been established. Trimming allowances are to be figured on square inches of fabric used. In most instances 700 square inches or one-half yard of 39-inch material is the maximum allowance. Bows, ruffles, revers, etc., are restricted in width and thickness, and cuffs are to be made with only two buttons and buttonholes. Double-breasted fronts have been abandoned in two-piece suits. Pockets have been limited to two, but four flaps are permissible.

Simplified Clothing Has Advantages

The simplification of clothing has brought many advantages. For a long time designers have been telling us to wear simple clothes in order to be well dressed. Clothes that are simple in design are easy to make and easy to care for, which is an important item now when there are so many extra demands upon time and labor. It is fashionable and practical to use less material and to use what you have. Again, material in pre-war clothing is often of much better quality than some of the new material to be found on the counters. So let's look through the closets, trunks, and boxes again to see what we have and consider how we can use it to the best advantage.

Refitting May Be All That Is Needed

Since the new silhouette has slimmer lines, you may want to do some refitting of the dresses and blouses at hand. Shoulders are wide but not exaggerated. Sleeves vary in length. Three-quarter or bracelet lengths are popular. Skirts are smoothly fitted. Front seaming, or fullness in the center front, help to give a narrow line.



Shoulder darts.

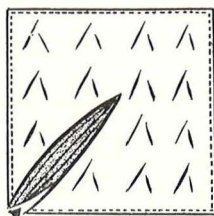
cover each triangle with dress or lining fabric. If the cut edge of the pad is left open there will be more fullness at the outside edge where it is usually needed. Attach the pads to the shoulder seam and armscye of the dress, with diagonal edge projecting over the armscye seam from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch.

Sloping shoulders may need larger pads with more fullness in the center to build up the shoulder. Other variations of the shoulder line may be fitted by shifting the greater thickness of the pad to the point that needs additional building out.

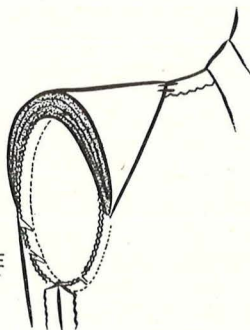
A loose, baggy skirt may be straightened by lifting and refitting. Wide shoulders may sometimes be remedied by inside darts, and new pads may be needed to give the smoothly-planned look to the shoulders. Suggestions for accomplishing these changes are outlined.

Shoulder Darts. Rip the shoulder seam in the center. Make two small darts in the front and back, sloping them slightly toward the center. Taper darts gradually to the lower end.

Triangular shoulder pads are easily made by cutting two squares of thin muslin 6 to $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches in size. Cut slightly smaller squares of cotton batting or sheet wadding, cutting each layer slightly narrower than the last until the pad is about $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch thick in the center and tapering to nothing at the outside edges. Place between the muslin squares. Tack through the several thicknesses or quilt the pads with long stitches to hold the filling in place. Cut the square in half diagonally, and



CUT THE SQUARE PAD DIAGONALLY



How to make and attach triangular shoulder pads.

The Refitted Dress May Need New Belt Carriers

When dresses are refitted at the waistline or hips it is usually necessary to make new loops for holding the belt in place. This is an easy way to make or replace the loops. Mark the length for the belt loop on the seam line. Next thread a needle, doubling the thread and making a knot in the end. Insert the needle through the seam of the dress from the wrong side and bring it out at the upper marking for the loop on the right side. Make a small button-hole stitch at this point, then take another stitch in the same place, making a large loop by not drawing the thread through the material. Place the thumb and forefinger in the loop and use forefinger to draw the thread through the loop, and to form another loop. Draw this loop out to tighten the first one and continue in this way until the chain is the required length. Put the needle through the last loop and draw the thread tightly. Next insert the needle through the seam at the lower marking, draw thread to the wrong side and fasten securely.

New Lifts for Old Dresses

New collars, necklines, sleeve changes, yokes, vests, or dickeyes are always a means of adding freshness and new life to an old dress. The trick is to find a new and becoming line to use, a different material, or a different way of shaping or applying the vest, yoke, or collar. Yokes are used in many designs this year to give a broad-shouldered, slim-waisted effect.

As you try the dress on before a full-length mirror check the length— is it becoming to you or should it be slightly longer or shorter? Styles this year lend themselves to adding length either at the waistline, at the hemline, or above it. Bands of contrasting material, grosgrain, or velvet ribbon, braid, or plaiting are used for skirt trimming, so if length is needed it may be obtained this way.

The illustrations (pages 6 and 7) suggest possibilities for changes such as are suggested here.

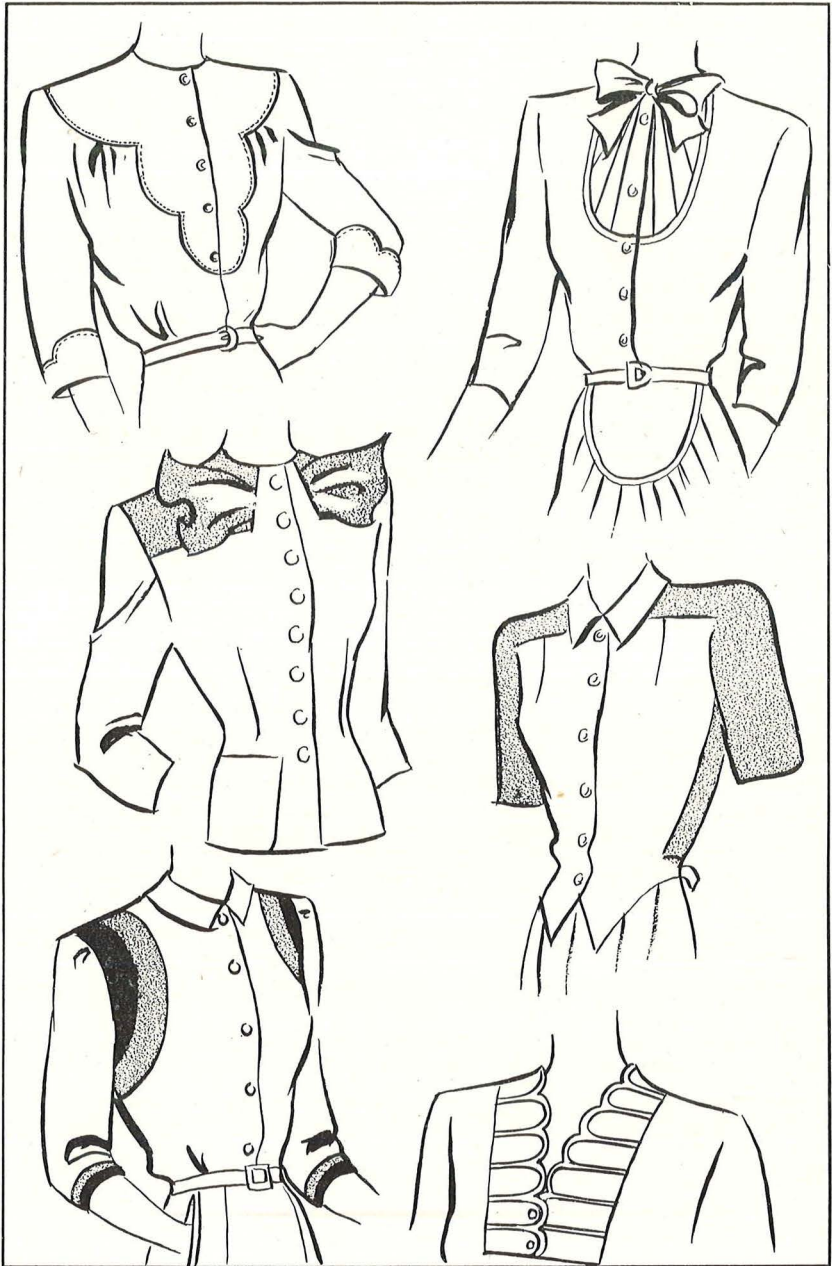
Remade Garments

Men's wool suits, topcoats, and women's wool coats and sweaters usually offer some wearable material which may be salvaged for new garments.

The short boxcoats for girls and women which are so wearable for many occasions are possibilities from some of the longer coats. A number of simple patterns are available.

Snow suits and girls' coats may be made from women's coats if the pieces are large enough after ripping, and the color and texture of the material seem suitable for the child. Zippers from worn-out garments may be used for fastenings, and wristlets could be made from tops of men's heavy wool socks with the raw edges hemmed or crocheted. Wristlets may be knit from yarn salvaged from worn sweaters.

An outgrown, one-piece snow suit with a zipper closing has possibilities for making a child's jacket. The lower part may be cut off at the crotch, and the upper part hemmed at the end of the slide fastener. Material from the legs may be used to make pockets and add length to the sleeves.



Yokes are fashionable and require only a small amount of new material.



Combinations of material may be used in these or similar designs.



A jacket may be used with several skirts and dresses.



A boxcoat is easy to make.

A medium-weight topcoat also offers possibilities for coats for small boys and girls. The styles best adapted are boxcoats for boys and princess style for girls. Try to choose a pattern that fits the pieces you have.

A suit for a little boy or a girl's jumper may be made from a man's suit, and it has been a common practice to make suits for women and girls from men's suits. However it is well to remember that the size of the man's suit limits the size and possibilities of the garments that may be made from it. Some characteristics of men's suits which limit their possibilities for women's suits are:

1. Colors may be drab and dull, and textures may be harsh and difficult for some women to wear. Both need to be considered in relation to the person for whom the suit is to be made.
2. The design—a seam down the back, two darts at the waist, a side pocket on the left, front opening from left to right and sometimes flap pockets—limit the selection of the pattern.
3. The small amount of material in the trousers means a narrow straight-line skirt, unless the suit has two pairs of trousers.
4. A large size is necessary. Most large-size suits will supply material for a woman's suit with a 28" waistline.

It is best to rip the entire suit. This will allow for turning worn material, changing buttonholes to right side, and changing undesirable tailoring. The vest is usually saved for piecings.



Boy's boxcoat (left) and princess coat for girl (center). Some coat patterns include leggings like these. A two-piece snow suit (right).

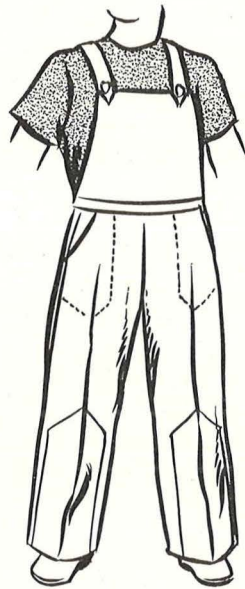
Worn housecoats and house dresses often have enough good material to make pinafores, aprons, or sunsuits for children.

A pair of worn overalls or work pants and jacket may have enough good material to make a pair of overalls for a child. There are a number of commercial patterns similar to the one illustrated here.

Scraps of all kinds may be utilized for making house slippers or scuffs. Tough wash material for the sole, combined with padding of some kind to give thickness, and a few scraps to make the toe section, makes a slipper which can be put in the washing machine when soiled.

Getting The Material Ready

When garments are to be completely remade it is well to review the familiar precautions of examining the fabric for weak and worn spots, of careful ripping, cleaning, and pressing. Don't forget that often careful laundering with mild soap and plenty of warm water will give new life to soiled woolen fabric; also that fabrics may be turned and used wrong side out.



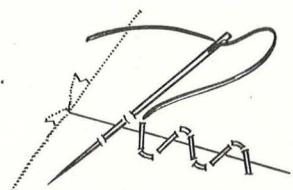
Overalls for small child.

Here Are Some Helps

If You Need To Piece The Material

It is often possible to make the piecing form part of the design, outlining or applying it with several rows of machine stitching done on the right side.

In other places piecing may be made almost invisible if the following method is used. Match the grain and any design in the fabric exactly, stitch the pieces together in a plain seam. Press the seam open. On the right side

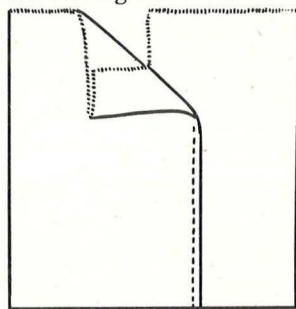


Rantering stitch.

pinch the seam line between the thumb and forefinger and with tiny stitches of perfectly matching thread, pull the seam together. Be careful to catch only one yarn in each side of the seam. The stitch used is called the rantering stitch. The diagram shows how it is made. Press carefully and the piecing will scarcely be noticed.

The lapped seam is a good one to keep in mind when remaking clothing. It may be used on almost every kind of material for joining yokes to waists or skirts, for waistline seams, and in other places where the seam is along a curved line.

In making a lapped seam decide which part of the garment is to lap over the other. Fold back the seam allowance on this piece and baste or pin, being careful not to stretch the edge. If the edge is curved, clip in from the edge toward the seam allowance at several places along the curve before basting or pinning. Lay the folded edge exactly on the seam allowance line of the other piece and baste the two pieces together. Press. Stitch from the right side close to the folded edge. Two or more rows of stitching may be used if desired.



Lapped seam.

Suggestions for Combining Materials

Combining two fabrics is often an economy and offers greater possibilities for using all material at hand. Some suggestions are:

1. Satin yokes and bows may be used to dress up soft wool or crepe dresses.
2. Plaid wool might be used with corduroy.
3. Velvet, velveteen or satin sections on woolen dresses make interesting variations.
4. Machine-knitted material from sweaters and blouses used for cuffs, yokes, etc., on wool dresses.
5. Hand-knitted (wool) yoke, sleeves, and back for a spun rayon blouse.
6. Wool crepe with faille.
7. Velveteen and wool jersey, or corduroy and jersey.
8. Material from men's shirts for collars, vestees, or blouses, to wear with suits or jumpers.



Some variations of the jumper.

Choice and Handling of Material

If you need to consider "size diminishers," choose dull-finished fabrics, dark colors, soft or dusty tones, small-patterned or blended prints, vertical lines. Use shiny material only in small areas as a soft bow, narrow band, or a shallow yoke.

Consider the texture of the material in relation to the design of the garment. A stiff or wiry material will not hang in soft folds nor gather well.

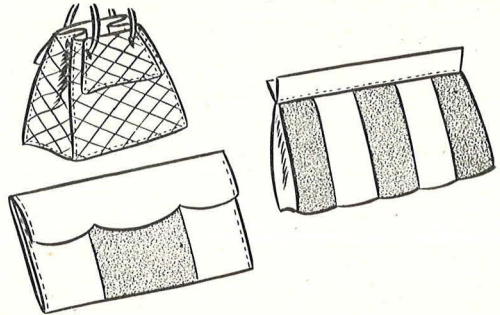
Check the grain lines in the material before cutting to see that lengthwise and crosswise threads meet at right angles. Press out the center fold, and any wrinkles in the fabric before cutting. Pin the pattern pieces according to the instructions.

Accessories From What You Have

Scarfs and belts may be made from left-over dress materials seamed together in designs like a patchwork quilt. Make them double to take care of the raw edges easily.



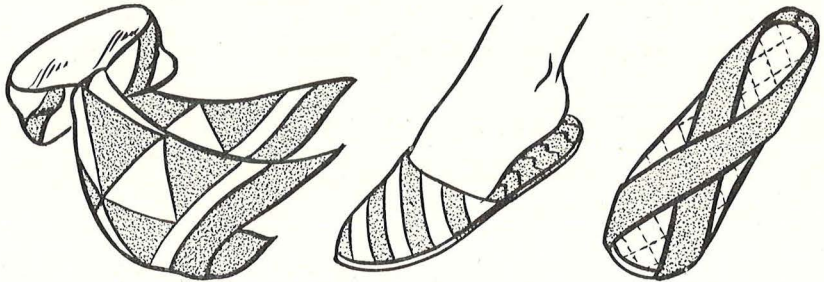
Easy-to-make mittens.



Fabric bags may be made from small pieces of material.

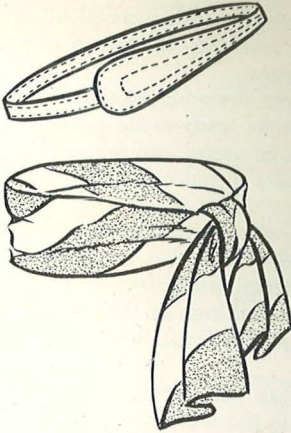
Purses may be made from material left from coats, suits, or dresses. Two kinds of material or two colors may be combined as in the illustrations.

Mittens with the thumb cut in one with the front section are easy to make and offer possibilities in the use of scraps. Made of a bright colored material, they add a gay touch to a girl's or child's outfit.



A patch work scarf and slippers made from scraps.

When felt hats can no longer be remodeled for use as headgear they may be flattened by steaming and pressing and the material used for other accessories as belts, purses, caps, beanies, slippers, or amusing lapel decorations. Harmonizing or contrasting colors may be combined. The edges may be decorated with yarn or binding, and flat sections with stitching or applique. The sections are laced together or held by various stitches used for joining flat edges of material.



A fabric belt and sash.

Belts may be made by cutting small circles of felt which can be stitched to rug binding, or small pieces can be locked together like a chain.

Patterns for felt cutouts are on the inside back cover of this circular.

Reconditioning Yarn

Not all knitted garments may be successfully ravelled. Do not try to unravel a sweater which is closely matted. Neither is it practical to unravel a machine-knit sweater with side seams. This material may be cut up and used

for trimming or for making small articles such as mittens and caps, or the pieces may be used as interlining for jackets and vests. It is a good plan to stitch by machine around the edges of such material before cutting. Hand-knit sweaters are easily raveled as the yarn winds off in one continuous motion. The process is as follows:

1. Examine the article to be ravelled to find the finished end of the work.
2. Ravel the yarn, winding it into a skein at the same time. This may be done by bending the elbow and winding the yarn around the elbow and thumb, or by winding it around a board, or the back of a chair. If there is a break in the yarn, lap the ends over each other several inches and keep winding.
3. When the skein is about the size of a commercial skein, tie it with a piece of yarn to hold the strands together.
4. When all is unwound, wash the skeins in warm water and mild soapsuds, rinse in water of the same temperature. Squeeze out the water and hang the skeins to dry in a shady, warm place but not close to the stove or radiator.

Washing takes out all the kinks and leaves the yarn soft and fluffy. If faded, it may be dyed after washing.

5. When the yarn is dry, wind it in balls but do not pull or wind it tightly. The yarn is now ready to be used as new yarn.

Conservation the Watchword on the Fashion Front

Essential, practical, and becoming clothing is the trend today. Specially designed work clothes for the heavier outdoor work which many women are doing are a factor in clothing conservation. Such clothes are meeting with approval and are worthy of consideration by more women. Before selecting

a work outfit it is a good plan to check the actions and motions required in the work you are to do, then consider the points listed below to help you choose an outfit that is comfortable and practical.

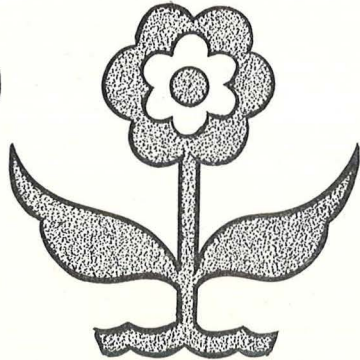
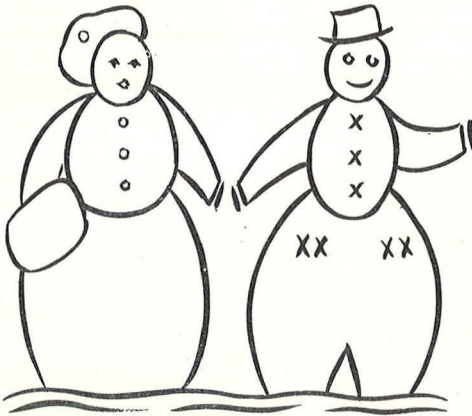
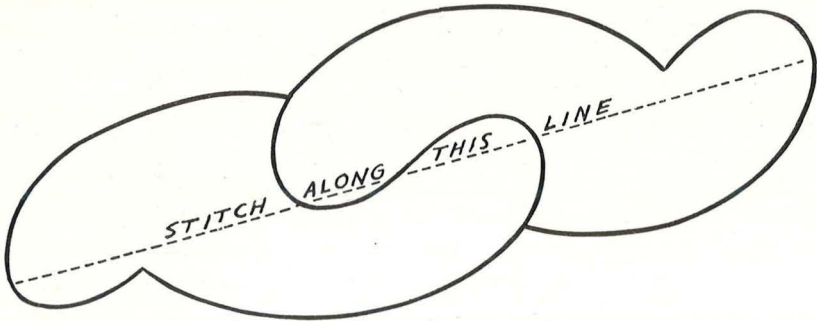
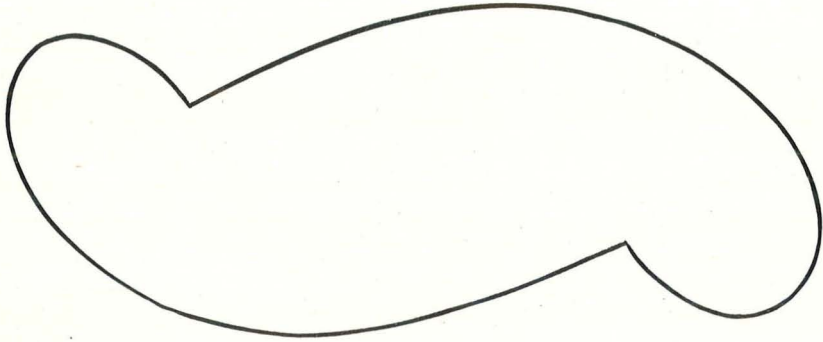
Action Room. A work garment needs to fit well, but still have plenty of room for action. If the job calls for stooping and reaching, choose an outfit or design with stooping and reaching room built into it.

Design For Service—Time-Saving Styles. Simple designs, streamlined to the figure, are available in commercial patterns or in ready-made garments. Every seam should serve a purpose, and the pockets be useful and safe. Openings the right length are placed so the garment is easy to put on and take off. Fasteners which are easy to open and close are time savers in dressing.

Cloth Which Will Wash And Wear. Hard wear calls for strong, firmly woven material which can stand many hard washings yet be easy to wash and iron. Colors need to be fast to water, light, and perspiration. Buy materials that are pre-shrunk, or shrink the material before making, so the garment will fit after it is washed. Look for labels giving such information either on the material or on a ready-made outfit.

Becoming Color. Work clothes can be pretty as well as practical. Try to find a color which is becoming and gives a lift to the wearer as well as to those about her.

Safety. This is a most important feature when working around machinery. Watch for pockets that are placed so they will not catch, for shaped-in trouser legs, and for freedom from loose or dangling ties or belt ends.



Cutouts of felt for belt and lapel gadgets.