

Your *Tailored* Outfit



4-H CLOTHING PLAN X

JUNIOR MISS SERIES

Extension Service, Institute of Agricultural Sciences
The State College of Washington, Pullman, Washington

Join the 4-7 Club Parade and...

LET'S CHOOSE AN OUTFIT

What a tailored outfit is
Details that count
Sewing and pressing tools are necessary

LET'S MAKE AN OUTFIT

Review altering and fitting
Make two pressing aids
Make four units
 One or both of the following:
 A tailored suit *or* coat
Add other articles to complete an outfit
 Blouse, sweater, undergarments, or accessories.
 Accessories may be sewed, knitted, or crocheted.

LET'S USE LIFE PRESERVERS

Moths are pests
Make a reweave patch

LET'S KEEP SCORE

Judge your outfit and exhibit it
Give a method demonstration at a club meeting
Plan your wardrobe needs for 1 year *or* keep the
 Clothing Achievement Notebook. This includes a
 color harmony for your entire wardrobe.
Keep your records up to date
Have a dress parade

Note: Your County Extension Agent can supply you with copies
of the Clothing Achievement Notebook.

Your Tailored Outfit

by Marjorie Lusk
Extension Clothing Specialist

Let's Choose an Outfit

WHAT A TAILORED OUTFIT IS

A tailored garment has simple, trim lines obtained by careful cutting, sewing, steaming, and pressing. There are two types of tailoring in women's clothes. The "hard" tailored suit has the severe plainness of a man's suit. A good figure and perfect grooming show it off to an advantage.

The "soft" or dressmaker suit with dressy, feminine touches combines tailoring and dressmaking. It's more popular than the man-tailored suit and is becoming to more figures.

Choose each accessory with care to go with its type of suit.

Left to right—a man-tailored suit and a dressmaker suit.



DETAILS THAT COUNT

Tailored suits and coats, well-made and of good quality fabric, are always expensive because they require a lot of knowledge and skill to make. And many girls save money by making their own. If you can fit and sew skillfully and have the patience to do careful work, you can make a garment of which you will be proud. Keep in mind that we are first attracted by becoming style, color, and individuality.

Select your fabrics with great care and buy the best you can afford. All-wool or worsted fabrics make the best-looking suits. They adapt to tailoring methods which differ from dress-making. Stripes and plaids are harder to work with than plain colors, since you need to be extra careful in matching the pieces. You need more yardage when you use patterned fabrics, too.

Practice first on garments that are simple to fit and make. If you plan a dressmaker suit or coat, refer to pages 4 and 5, Extension Bulletin No. 369, *Making a Coat*, before you make out your shopping list. Choose one of the medium-weight soft wools suggested. Then check the width of the fabric and have it cut on the straight.

Unless the fabric has been sponged and pressed at the factory, you'll want to have it done by your cleaner or do it yourself. You learned how to do this on page 5 of Extension Bulletin No. 403, *Your School Outfit*.

Before you choose fabric for a man-tailored suit or coat, refer to page 2, USDA Miscellaneous Publication No. 591, *How to Tailor a Woman's Suit*, to learn which fabrics are best. Some worsteds, like gabardine, need special care. They are the most difficult of all fabrics to handle.

SEWING AND PRESSING TOOLS ARE NECESSARY

Regardless of the type of tailoring you attempt, select your sewing and pressing supplies with care. You can find out what you need by referring to page 5, *Making a Coat*, and to pages 2 and 3, *How to Tailor a Woman's Suit*.

Set up a well-equipped sewing center with as many of the sewing and pressing items shown as possible. You'll find your sewing goes faster and causes you less strain when you select good tools and arrange them so they are handy. This is one of the important secrets of all good sewing.

Let's Make an Outfit

REVIEW ALTERING AND FITTING

Make certain you are skillful in altering your pattern and fitting your garment. Or refer to Farmers' Bulletin 1968, *Pattern Alteration*, and Farmers' Bulletin 1964, *Fitting Dresses*, for this information.

You may choose your fabric wisely and do a fine job of tailoring, but your suit cannot give you satisfaction unless it has a good fit. Be sure you change the pattern to suit your own figure irregularities before you cut into your fabric. You may use the tape measure method suggested in the bulletin. Many girls find it easier, however, to use a dress form for altering their patterns and fitting garments. You can make your own dress form at little expense from paper tape.

If you do an accurate job of altering your pattern, and cutting your fabric, you'll find that your garment goes together like a jigsaw puzzle and fits you to a "T." The keys to fitting are the straight grain of the fabric, both lengthwise and crosswise; side seams that hang straight from underarm to hemline; no unbecoming wrinkles or folds; wearing comfort without pulls and strain; and the flattering look of belonging to its wearer.

If there is doubt about the style or fit of the pattern, cut it first from muslin or a worn sheet. This may save you disappointment and money if you are using an expensive fabric.

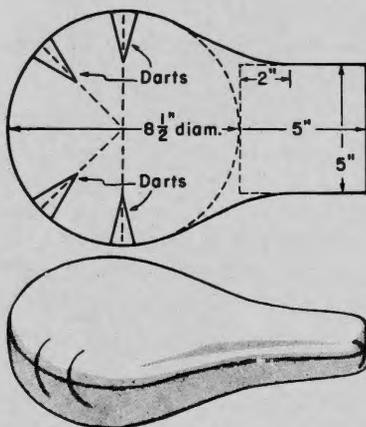
MAKE TWO PRESSING AIDS

Careful pressing as you make a suit is a must. Press each seam, dart, or fold thoroughly before crossing with another seam or fold. The easy-to-make pressing aids shown in the two tailoring bulletins will help you to make your suit with *that tailored look*. They also help to keep your finished suit well pressed. Plan to make two of the pressing aids shown. See page 24, *How to Tailor a Woman's Suit*, or page 5, *Making a Coat*.

Notice the upright pressing ham, in *Making a Coat*, beside the iron on the card table. Since you need some kind of pressing ham, the directions for making one follow:

HOW TO MAKE A PRESSING HAM*

- Make a pattern, like the diagram, on a piece of paper 9 by 14 inches.
- Cut two lengthwise pieces each from firm muslin and flannelette.
- Face each piece of muslin with a piece of flannelette.
- Stitch four darts in each piece as shown on the diagram. Make them 2 inches long and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide from the tops of the folded edges. Press the darts open.
- Baste the right sides of the pieces together.
- With a slightly lengthened and loosened machine stitch, gather across the larger end to reduce the space between the two end darts to 5 inches. Avoid puckers or pleats.



Pressing ham.

- Stitch around the sides and large end of the pieces, leaving the small end open for filling.
- Press the seam open and fasten the edges back with loose catch-stitches. Turn right side out.
- Before filling, slip the cover into a paper sack to keep it clean. Turn about 1 inch of the sack end into the cover.
- Use a fruit jar funnel and fill with *dry* sawdust. Pack the sawdust firmly with the end of a hammer handle.
- Close the ham at the end by catching the seams together and then the ends, to form a square with mitered corners, envelope fashion. Whip the mitered seams securely.

You may slip the small end of the ham into a number 2 size tin can. But be sure you open the can with an opener that smooths the edges as you cut them. This pad is especially useful to shape sleeve caps, shoulders, and collars.

Now you are ready to practice the special tailoring tricks professionals use that are described in one of the tailoring bulletins.

* Developed by Ethelwyn Dodson—Extension Specialist in Clothing, University of California.

Let's Use Life Preservers

When you've made your tailored garment and have chosen becoming and suitable accessories to go with it, you must give it the special care it deserves. Look through all the 4-H clothing bulletins and through books and magazines for ideas to keep them in good condition.

MOTHS ARE PESTS

It's never closed season for clothes moths. They're a constant threat to your wool clothes, since the eggs of a new generation may hatch every 7 or 8 weeks.

It's well known that the moth's favorite dish is your choicest wool suit or coat, especially if they're put far back in the closet soiled. Moths crave darkness. Dry cleaning kills them; so does laundering.

Now let's turn to methods of defense and attack against these pesty moths. Fabrics you buy may be moth-proofed at the factory, but this protection only lasts a limited time. You need to moth-proof your wools as well as kill the moths. Some sprays and moth crystals used at home are not meant to treat the fabric but only kill the moths. A moth preventive spray is effective if you go over the article carefully. Spray DDT lightly over the entire surface of the fabric and the walls of the closet.

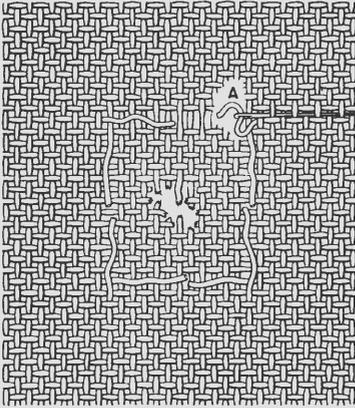
Pay special attention to seams, cuffs, pockets, and hidden places. Use a 5 per cent spray of DDT in oil to kill the moths and larvae. Be sure it is an odorless and non-staining type. You can buy it at the drug or grocery store.

Other valuable weapons are the vacuum cleaner, sunshine, and thorough brushing. The soft eggs are easily crushed, and moth larvae can't stand bright sun.

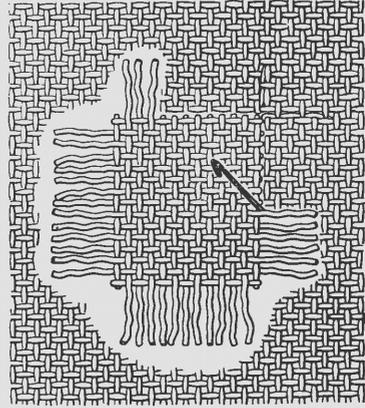
MAKE A REWEAVE PATCH

Since other accidents sometimes happen, here's how to make a patch—just in case.

This type of patch is suitable only for coarsely woven fabrics. Use it for small holes caused by acid or burns when a darn would show too much. The patch covers the hole from the right side of the fabric.



Clip and draw out yarns.



Draw fringe ends to wrong side.

With four pins mark along the exact thread a square or rectangle the size of the patch. Clip one yarn in the center of each side. Then draw out these yarns to each corner, leaving an outline of the patch as shown. Weave the point of a darning needle into the fabric. Thread the needle with the yarn end that lies along its side. Pull it into the fabric, as at *A*.

Measure the patch to match the design of the fabric and the size of the hole. Allow 1 inch for fringe on all sides. Ravel the fringe yarns until the patch piece is an exact fit.

Lay the fitted patch on top of the hole on the right side. Pin or baste it in place.

Draw the fringe ends of the patch to the wrong side through each of the spaces left by the pulled-out yarns. Use a small crochet hook. If you draw the two corner yarns of the patch through each of the spaces at the four corners of the garment first, it is easier to keep the patch from slipping.

Leaving the fringe ends loose, fasten them on the wrong side with hemming stitches along the line where the yarns were pulled through. This holds the patch in place.

A neater way to finish the wrong side is to weave the point of a darning needle into each space of the fabric away from the patch. Thread each of the fringe ends into the needle and pull them into the fabric as you did at *A*. Steam press on both sides to finish.