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EC58-415 Preparation for Remaking Garments

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Preparation for Remaking Garments

E.C. 58-415

BY GERDA PETERSEN, Extension Clothing Specialist

Many families have old garments in closets which could be restyled for longer usefulness or could be made into attractive usable clothes for children.

Remodeling a garment or making a new garment from an old one takes time, patience and skill; but if well done it is a source of great satisfaction as well as a great savings in view of the cost of new garments.

What to Look for in Fabric

If the fabric was originally beautiful and durable it can regain much of its loveliness in a new way. Don't waste your time on fabrics that are too faded, too worn, or too old and out of date.

Check the thin and worn spots by holding the garment up to the light. Mark around these spots with a colored basting thread so you will remember to consider this weakness when laying the pattern. Some fabrics are reversible so look at both the right side and wrong side. If the wool nap is worn on the right side you may be able to use the wrong side to better advantage. Likewise, the color may be fresher looking on the wrong side.

If you are planning to make children's clothes from an adult's garment, be sure that the color, weave, and weight of material is suitable for a child.

If you do not have enough material to cut an entire garment, it may be combined with new material. The new material should be selected carefully so the old does not appear faded or shabby, when combined with the new. You may be able to find a suitable companion material in a used clothing store.



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Getting the Fabric Ready for Remodeling

Rip the seams of the garment apart carefully. Cut the thread and pull from both sides of the seam. Use a scissors, razor blade or a ripper designed for this purpose.

When the garment has been ripped apart, brush all lint and dirt from inside hems and folds.

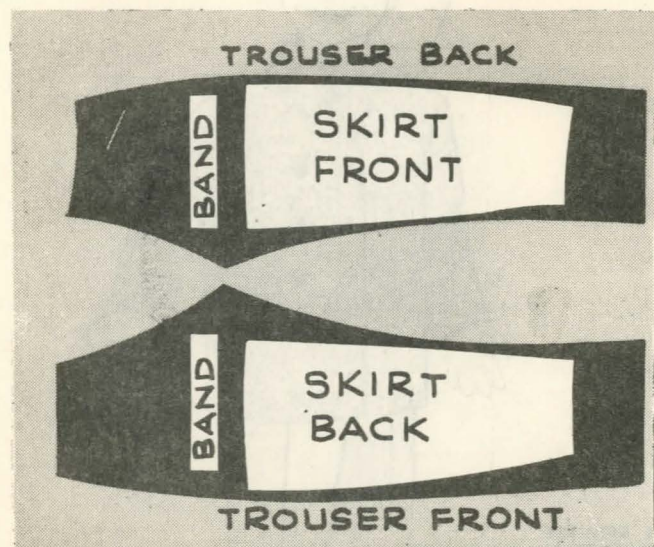
Machine stitch around the edges on fabrics that fray. This also helps to prevent the pieces from stretching.

Be sure the fabric is clean before you begin remodeling. Dry cleaning is advisable for some fabrics. If you plan to launder the fabric remove all grease and oil spots with a solvent. Then wash gently in soft, cool to like-warm water. Rinse thoroughly in water of about the same temperature. Do not wring, but squeeze, the excess water out of the fabric. Roll fabric in a towel to remove excess water and then dry it.

It may be pressed with a steam iron. If a dry iron is used, a dampened cotton cloth should be placed under the iron. Pressing is done on the wrong side and with the grain of the fabric.

Selecting and Placing Your Pattern

Choose the correct style of pattern for the fabric to be used. Keep in mind the number, size and shape of the pieces of the old garment.



If it is necessary to piece the garment, let the seams be inconspicuous in appearance and placed on the garment so they become a part of the design lines.

Place all the pieces of the garment on a table and check the lengthwise grain lines so they will be even with the edge of the table.

Be careful to place each pattern piece on the grain line as indicated on the pattern. Pin securely. Take extra care if the fabric is a plaid or has an up and down.

Be sure to mark your stitching lines if you cannot cut the full seam allowance in all places.

