

1962

EC62-431 Reinforcing Readymades

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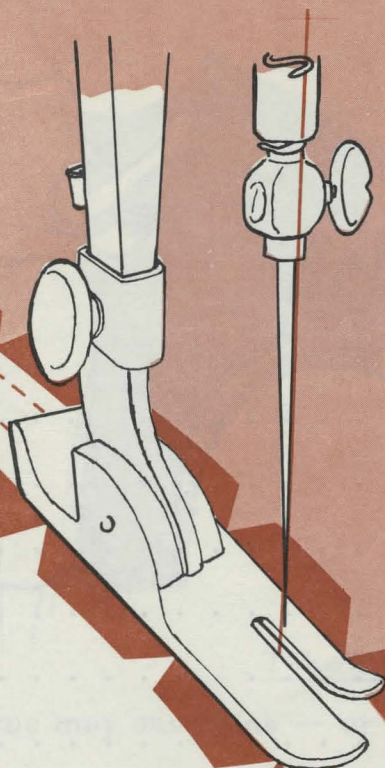
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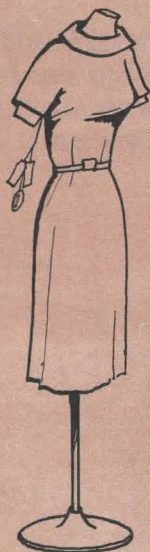
clothing
quick tricks

EC 62-431



Reinforcing

Readymades



EXTENSION SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
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Reinforcing Readymades

by Anna Marie Kreifels
Extension Clothing Specialist

Take Time to Save Time

A stitch in time may save nine -- or ninety or even more.

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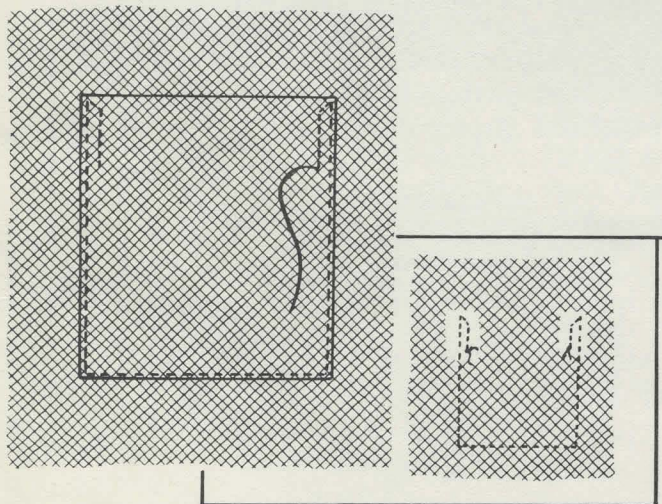
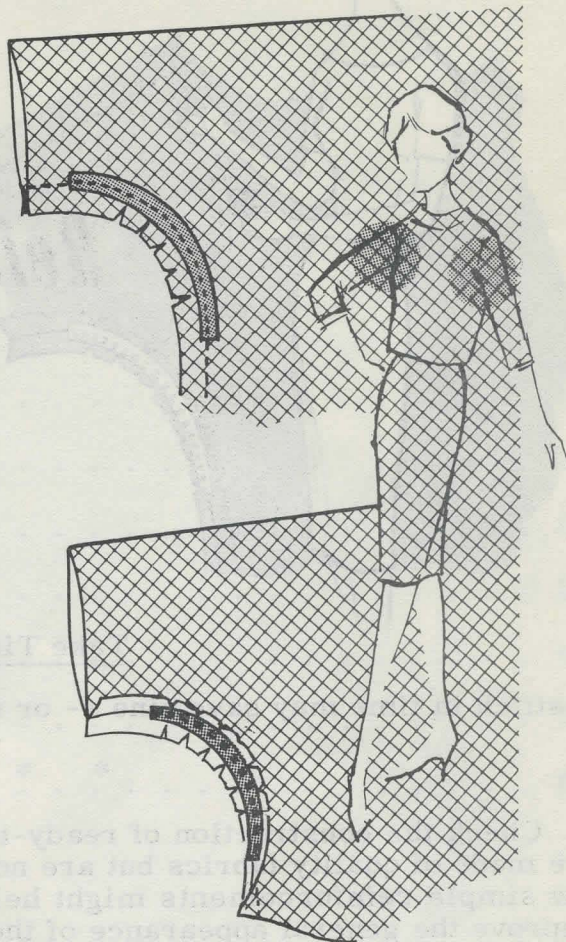
Check the construction of ready-to-wear garments. Many purchased garments are made of quality fabrics but are not durable because of inferior construction. A few simple reinforcements might help them last longer, save some mending, and improve the general appearance of the garment.

The extent of reinforcements you decide to make on ready-mades should be determined by the cost of the garment, the durability of the fabric, and the expected life of the garment. Also take into consideration your sewing skill and the value of your time and energy.

SLEEVES

Because there is much strain in the sleeve area, sleeves should be stitched into the armhole with two rows of stitching. Ready-mades are usually stitched only once, but a second row can easily be added on the seam allowance about 1/16 inch from the original stitching line.

Raglan and kimono sleeves, which are styled without a gusset, require reinforcement in the curved underarm seam. If a garment lacks this reinforcement, stitches will break and the underarm seams are likely to rip when the garment is worn. A strip of narrow straight tape or fabric stitched into the curved area of the seam will act as reinforcement. The reinforcement tape might also be placed flat on the open seam allowances and stitched down along either side of the seamline in the curved area.



POCKETS

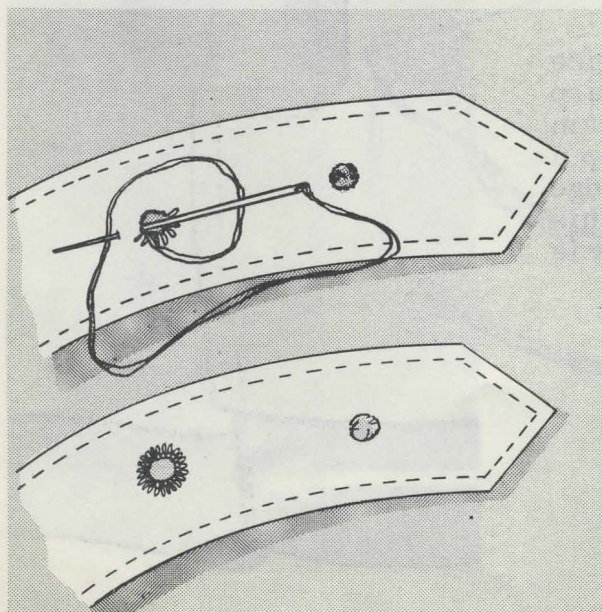
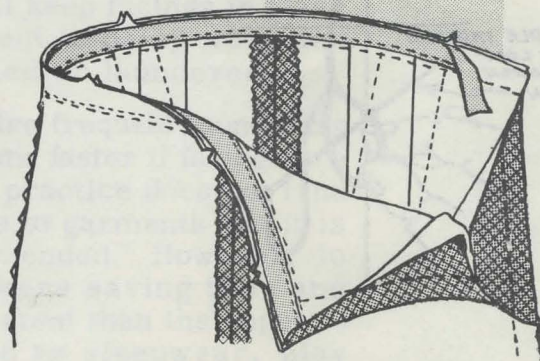
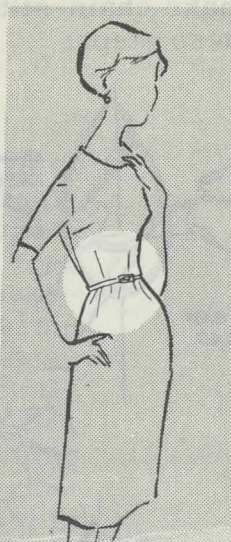
Upper corners of pockets will rip or tear out unless they are stitched securely. To reinforce the corners place a piece of soft fabric or tape on the inside of the garment in line with the pocket corners. Restitch the pocket corners as illustrated.

WAISTLINE SEAMS

Durable construction at the waistline of a dress results from either a double stitching or from the use of a stay-tape at the waistline seam. Either of these reinforcements can be made on girls' and women's ready-made dresses.

If a second row of stitching is preferred, place it on the seam allowance about $\frac{1}{16}$ inch from the original stitching.

If a stay-tape is used, it should be about $\frac{3}{8}$ inch wide. A strip of selvage from a similar fabric, straight tape, seam binding or ribbon may be used as a waistline stay. The stay-tape should be shrunk before it is used and the fiber content should require the same care as the garment fabric. Place the woven edge of the tape near the original stitching at the waistline seam. Stitch the stay-tape to the seam allowance, keeping the stitching line about $\frac{1}{16}$ inch from the original waistline seam.

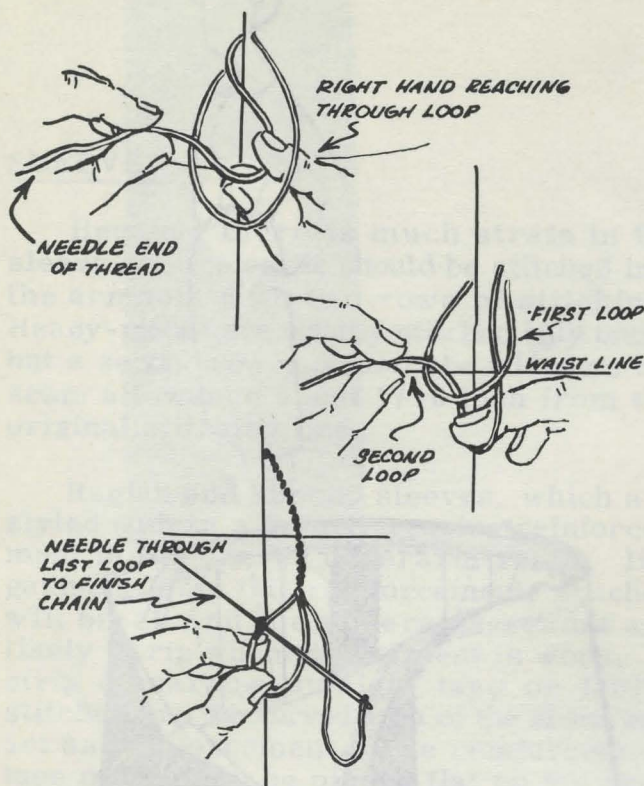


BELTS AND BELT CARRIERS

Metal eyelets or stitched eyelets are more durable than those merely punched in belts. Stitched reinforcement can be worked around punched eyelets. Use a double thread and the buttonhole stitch to work around each eyelet. Metal eyelets can also be inserted and fastened to serve as reinforcement. An eyelet setting tool is required for this process.

Fabric belt carriers on ready-mades are often too long and too conspicuous. These can be shortened so they lie close to the garment, or they can be replaced by chain-stitched carriers made of matching thread.

To make chain-stitched belt carriers, follow these steps:



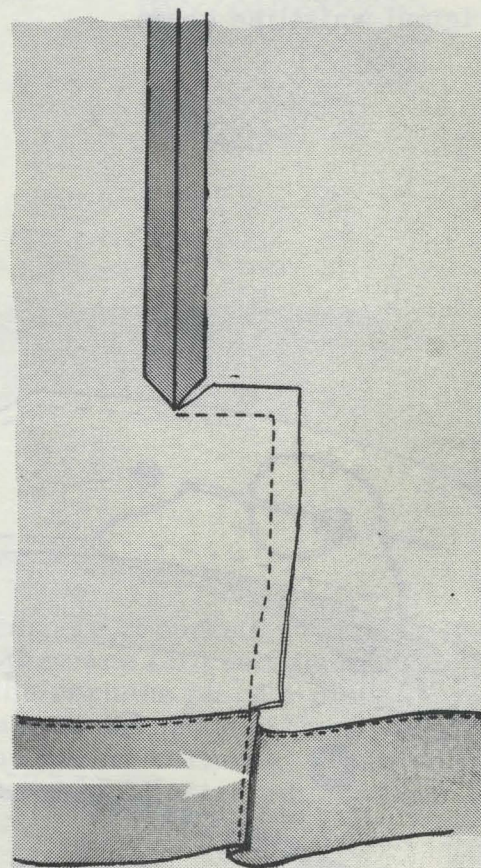
1. Knot a double thread. Take two short backstitches through the side seam allowance and bring the needle through to the right side at the point planned for either the upper or lower end of the belt carrier.

2. Take a tiny stitch through the seam and draw the thread up, leaving a two-inch loop. Hold the needle end of the thread between your left thumb and finger. With the thumb and first finger of your right hand, reach through the loop and take hold of the thread, pulling it through to make a new loop. Keep pulling the second loop until the first loop is pulled tight. Continue making loops until the chain is about 1/8 inch longer than the width of the belt.

3. Bring the needle through the last loop and fasten the chain to the side seam.

KICK PLEATS

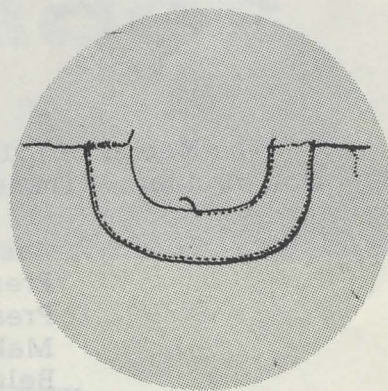
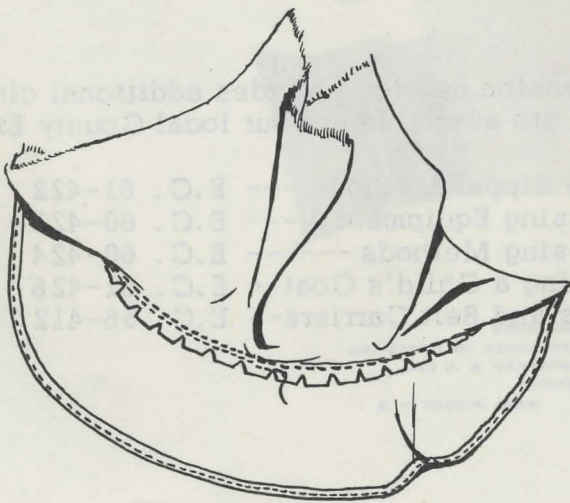
The fold formed by the pleat on the inside of a skirt is difficult to press into a sharp crease at the hem because usually a seam allowance is enclosed. To form and keep a sharp crease, machine stitch along the edge of the crease the depth of the hem. This stitching will not show when the garment is worn.



FACINGS

Sleeve, neckline and front facings of ready-mades often slip toward the outside when a garment is being worn. This is less likely to happen if the facings have been sharp-stitched or under-stitched. Sharp-stitching could sometimes be added to armhole and neckline facings of ready-mades. Stitch through the facing and the seam allowances near the seamline which attaches the facing to the garment. Sharp-stitching will not show from the outside of the garment. Be sure facings are hand tacked in place at or on seamlines and other necessary points. This will keep facings in place both when the garment is being worn and when it is dry cleaned or laundered.

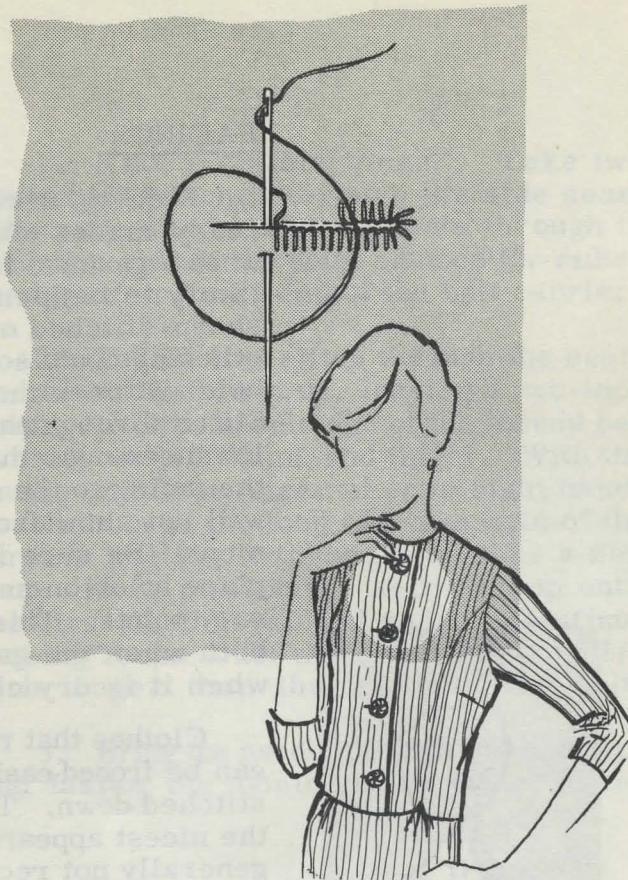
Clothes that require frequent laundering can be ironed easier and faster if facings are stitched down. This practice does not lend the nicest appearance to garments and it is generally not recommended. However, to some busy homemakers saving time and energy is more important than the appearance of clothing such as sleepwear, play clothes and 'everyday' clothes. If saving time and energy is your major concern, facings on some garments might be stitched down.



BUTTONS AND BUTTONHOLES

Buttons on ready-made garments are sometimes sewed on with one continuous thread. If you find this has been done on a garment you buy, it would be best to re-stitch each button separately. Fasten threads securely after stitching each button. Conceal thread ends between layers of fabric.

A reinforcement stitch around buttonholes is not always necessary, but it may improve the appearance and durability of machine-made buttonholes on purchased garments. Using a single thread of matching color, work the buttonhole stitch around the buttonhole starting at a point of least strain. Take only a few stitches at the ends of the buttonholes. Draw each stitch in firmly to help hold the edges of the buttonhole close together. Be sure to fasten thread ends securely.



The Nebraska Extension Service provides additional clothing construction circulars. These are available at your local County Extension Office.

Easy Zipper Methods --- E.C. 61-422
Pressing Equipment ---- E.C. 60-423
Pressing Methods ----- E.C. 60-424
Making a Child's Coat-- E.C. 61-426
Belts and Belt Carriers-- E.C. 56-412