

1962

EC62-432 Repairing Garments

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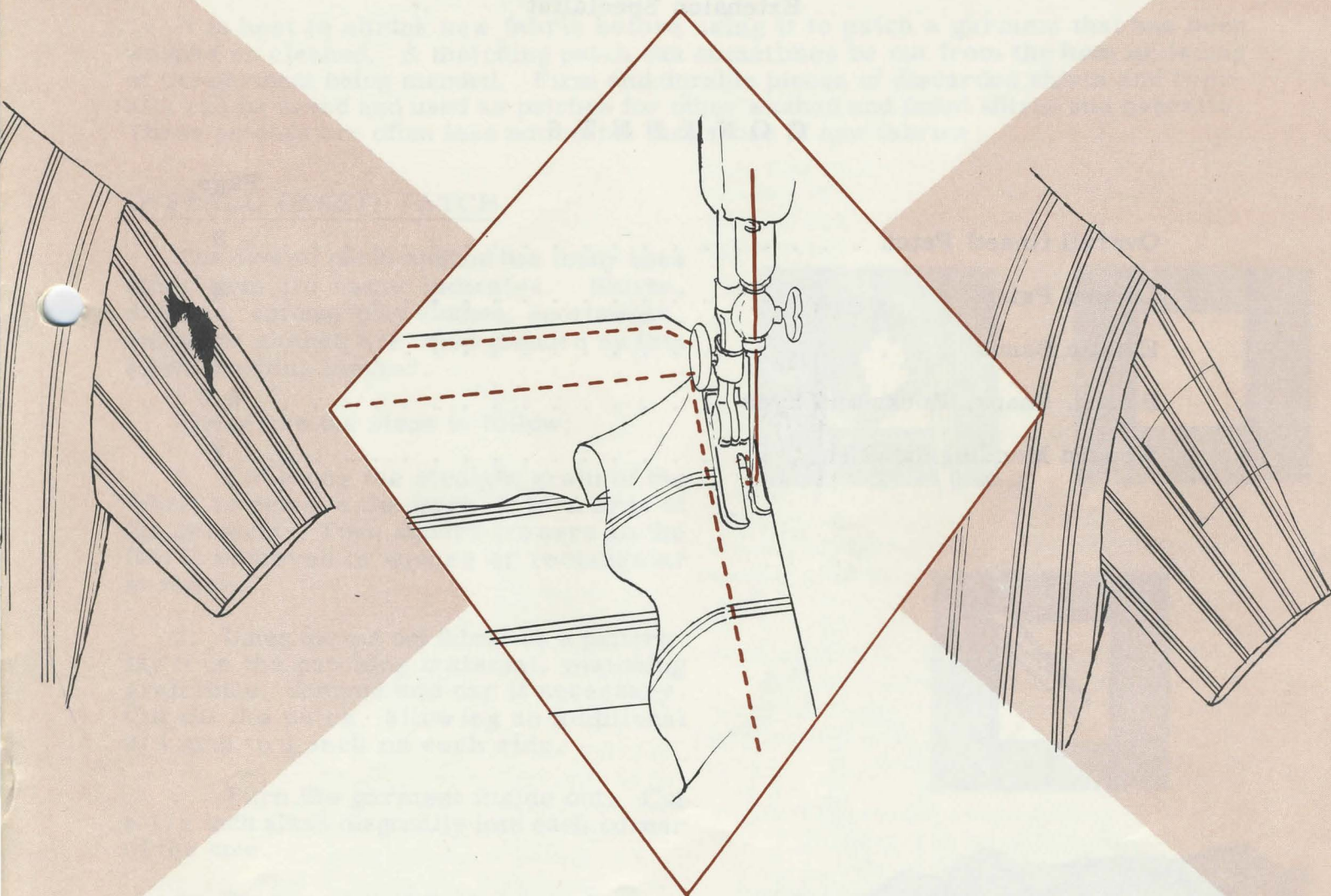
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E.C.62-432



*clothing
quick tricks*

Repairing Garments



EXTENSION SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AND U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COOPERATING
E. F. FROLIK, DEAN E. W. JANIKE, DIRECTOR

Repairing garments

by

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Take Time to Save Time

Doing small mending jobs as needed may eliminate difficult and time-consuming clothing repair.

* * * * *

There are no exact rules to guide the homemaker in her mending tasks. The method used depends on the garment, the type of fabric, the extent of needed repair, the skill, time and energy of the homemaker. Machine mending is quick and is satisfactory for many kinds of clothing and household articles, but there are times when hand mending is best. This circular explains and illustrates various quick and practical methods for mending and repairing clothing.

When mending, try to reproduce the original article as nearly as possible in durability and appearance. The direction of grainlines, the nap, **weave or pattern** in the fabric of the patch should match those in the garment being mended. The size and color of thread, and the length of stitch must be suitable to the fabric.

It is best to shrink new fabric before using it to patch a garment that has been washed or cleaned. A matching patch can sometimes be cut from the hem or facing of the garment being mended. Firm and durable pieces of discarded shirts and overalls can be saved and used as patches for other washed and faded shirts and overalls. These patches are often less noticeable than those of new fabrics.

OVERALL (INSET) PATCH

The overall patch method has many uses other than its name indicates. Shirts, dresses, aprons, play clothes, sportswear, and work clothes are often mended by this quick machine method.

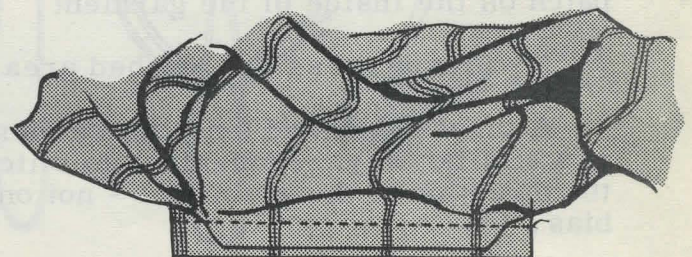
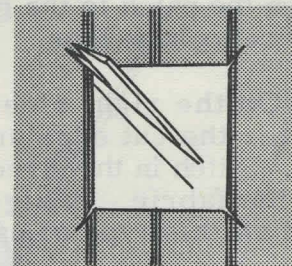
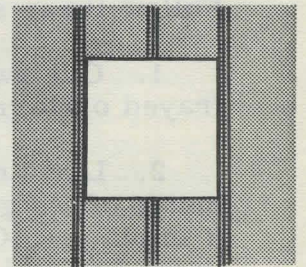
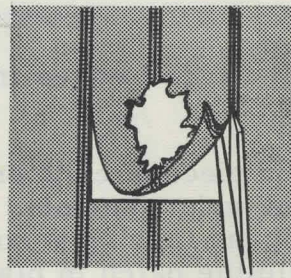
These are the steps to follow:

1. Cut along the straight grain of the fabric to remove the worn or torn area of the garment. Turn square corners so the fabric removed is square or rectangular in shape.

2. Using the cut out fabric as a pattern, lay it on the patching material, matching grainlines, designs and nap if necessary. Cut out the patch, allowing an additional $\frac{3}{4}$ inch to 1 inch on each side.

3. Turn the garment inside out. Cut a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch slash diagonally into each corner of the hole.

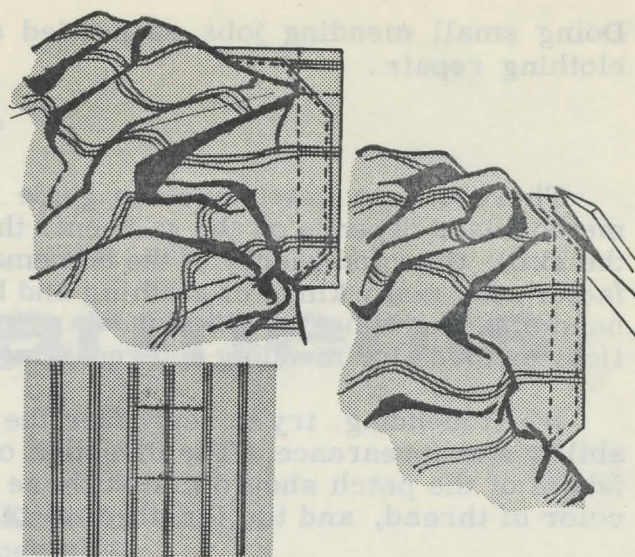
4. Pin one edge of the patch to the garment, right sides together, with direction of grainlines corresponding. Match designs or nap if necessary. Stitch this edge of the patch to the garment, stitching the entire length of the patch. In the same manner pin



and stitch the other three sides, letting the stitches cross at each corner.

Place a second row of stitching near the raw edge of the garment seam allowance, stitching diagonally across each corner to reinforce these areas. See illustration.

5. Trim any excess fabric from the edges of the patch. You may trim near the second row of stitching, but avoid cutting too closely at the corners. Press the patched area. If you have measured and stitched carefully the patch will hardly show.



LAPPED PATCH

The lapped patch is suitable when sturdiness is more important than appearance. The lapped patch may be used on garments and on household linens. It's quick and easy to do. Use mercerized thread slightly darker in color than the fabric being mended. Follow these steps:

1. Cut away all ragged edges in the frayed or torn area.

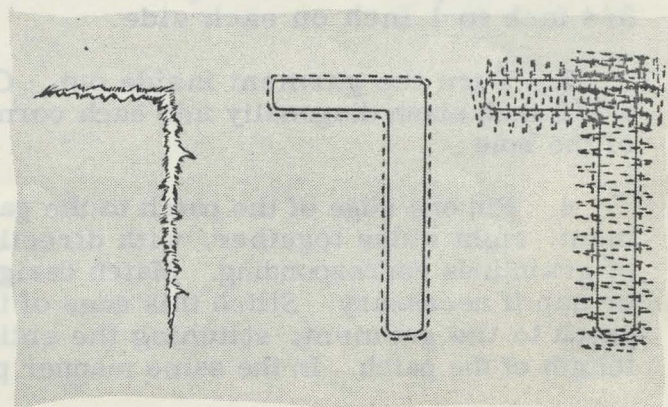
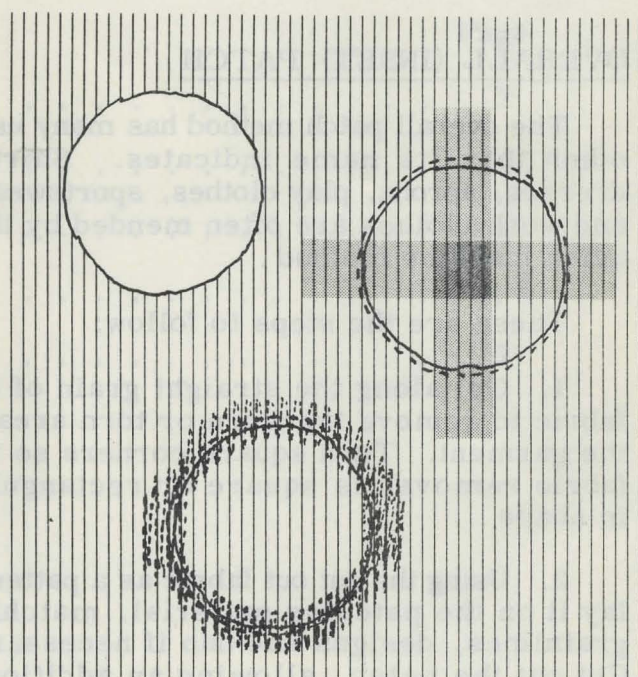
2. Lay a matched piece of cloth on the inside of the garment under the hole. Pin it in place. (Cellophane tape may sometimes be used to hold the patch in place.) From the outside of the garment, machine stitch around the trimmed edge of the hole to fasten the patch to the garment. Remove pins or cellophane tape.

3. On the right side, stitch back and forth over the cut edge until it is firm and secure. Stitch in the direction of the grainline of the fabric. A zig-zag stitch might be used on this type of patch.

4. Cut away extra material from the patch on the inside of the garment.

5. Steam press the patched area.

A three-cornered tear can be mended in a similar way. Remember to stitch in the direction of the grainline -- not on the bias.



ELASTIC BANDS

The elastic band which has started to pull away from the fabric at the waist of panties, pajamas, or petticoats, should be restitched immediately to avoid further ripping. To do this:

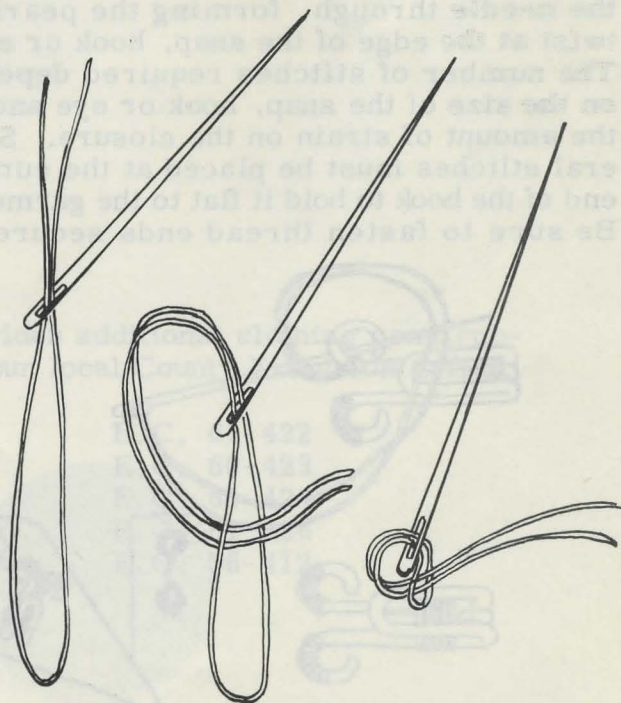
1. Pin the elastic in place, stretching it as you work.
2. Stitch on the machine, again stretching the elastic as you stitch along each edge. If a straight stitch machine is used, lengthen the stitch to about 8 stitches per inch. Elastic thread on the bobbin or a zig-zag stitch will give more stretch to the stitches, and they will be less likely to break when the garment is worn.

If the elastic band needs to be replaced, follow these steps:

1. Rip the worn elastic from the garment.
2. Cut a new piece of elastic one inch shorter than the waist measurement. Overlap the ends and stitch securely.
3. Divide the elastic into fourths and mark. Divide the waistline of the garment into fourths and mark.
4. Pin the elastic to the garment at the four marked points.
5. Using about 8 machine stitches per inch, stitch both edges of the elastic to the fabric. Stretch the elastic as you stitch. Elastic thread on the bobbin or a zig-zag machine stitch will lend more stretch to the stitches.

BUTTONS, SNAPS, HOOKS AND EYES

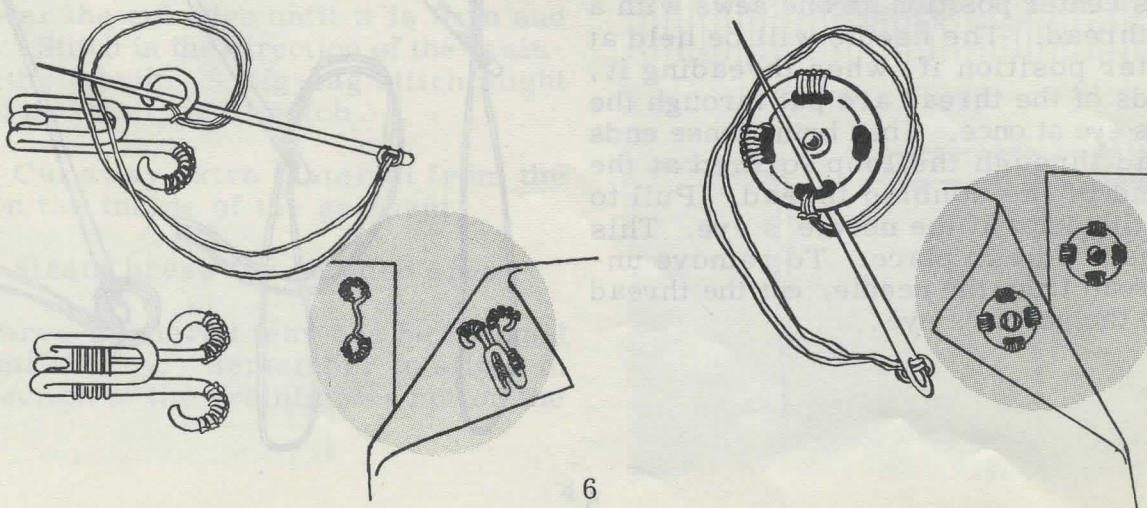
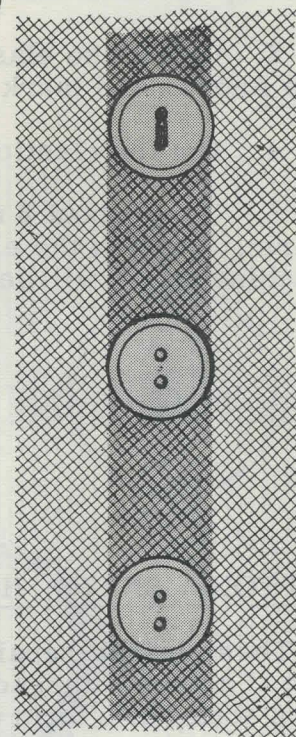
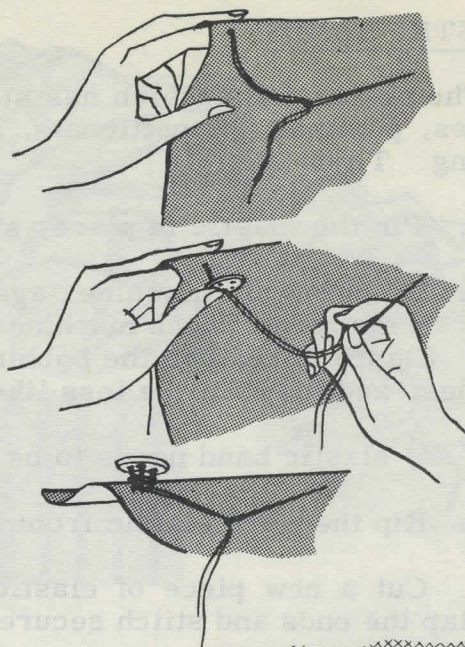
These minor repairs will require less time if a double thread is used. Unsightly loops sometimes form when the needle slips from its center position as one sews with a double thread. The needle will be held at the center position if, when threading it, both ends of the thread are put through the needle's eye at once. Then bring these ends of thread through the loop formed at the other end of the doubled thread. Pull to form a tiny knot at the needle's eye. This holds the needle in place. To remove unused thread from the needle, cut the thread close to the needle's eye.



The method used to sew on buttons depends somewhat on the style of button. When sewing on a common shirt button, use a double thread. Take a tiny stitch on the right side of the garment where the button is to be sewed. Then roll the fabric over the index finger. With your thumb, hold the button against the fabric and bring the needle up through the button. Next put the needle down through the button and at the same time take a stitch through the garment, allowing a loose stitch to form between the button and the garment. Take several more stitches to sew the button on. Then lift the button to the end of the loose stitches and wind the thread under it to form the shank. Fasten the thread securely. If the button itself has a shank, it might not be necessary to form one with thread.

When sewing several buttons to a garment, use transparent cellophane tape to hold them in place until they are stitched down. This trick is especially helpful if buttons are to be sewed on by machine. Remove the tape after the buttons are stitched in place.

A double thread and the buttonhole stitch will keep snaps, hooks and eyes sewed on firmly. Place the snap, hook or eye in position and take an overcast stitch to hold it in place. For the remaining stitches, have the thread behind the needle's eye and under the point of the needle as illustrated. Draw the needle through, forming the pearl or twist at the edge of the snap, hook or eye. The number of stitches required depends on the size of the snap, hook or eye and on the amount of strain on the closure. Several stitches must be placed at the curved end of the hook to hold it flat to the garment. Be sure to fasten thread ends securely.



MODERN MENDING SUPPLIES

Various time-saving mending aids are found at notion counters. The homemaker herself must decide which of these aids are useful to her in terms of time and energy saved. Although these modern mending aids are quick and easy to use, they may be more costly, less durable than conventional mending, and the results may not meet the standards of some homemakers.

Iron-on patches are available in a variety of colors, fabrics, shapes and sizes. These may be used on various garments or on household linens. Stitching around the edge of an ironed-on patch will help keep the patch securely fastened if rough wear or frequent launderings are necessary.

Plastic iron-on mending tape may be used for repairing plastic garments and plastic household goods. Follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Worn out jean and trouser pockets can be replaced quickly with iron-on or stitch-in pocket kits. Follow the directions for application and for laundering or dry cleaning.

Fabric glues are sold under various brand names. Information and instructions on the labels must be read carefully to determine suitability to types of fabrics and to laundering and cleaning. Instructions for use must be followed if best results are to be expected.

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