

1969

## EC69-458 Sheers

Gerda Petersen

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/extensionhist>

---

Petersen, Gerda, "EC69-458 Sheers" (1969). *Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension*. 3935.  
<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/extensionhist/3935>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Extension at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.



AGRI  
S  
85  
E7  
#69-458  
C.1

AS YOU SEW

EC 69-458

# SHEERS

By Gerda Petersen  
Extension Clothing Specialist

69-458

Sheers are light weight, transparent, fabrics that give a feminine dressy effect. They may be made of cotton, wool, silk, or a number of different synthetics.

Some sheers are soft and supple such as voiles, chiffons, batistes. Some are crisp such as organdy and organzas.

The soft supple types are appropriate for patterns having fullness and draped or fluid lines. Full skirts made of chiffon are usually made with two layers of fabric.

Crisp bodied fabrics relate to more bouffant designs since they stand away from the figure. Bodice treatment is best if it is kept simple and smoothly fitted.

When selecting patterns and fabric consider also the facings, styling seams and body seams. Most sheers will need to be completely underlined when fitted facings are used.

## Lining and Underlinings

Underlinings depend on the outer fabric and the effect desired. Types of fabrics suitable for linings and underlinings include taffeta, satin, sateen, marquisette, tulle. Sheath linings may be used with chiffons. Cotton sheers may be lined with a lightweight but opaque cotton fabric.

Underlinings may match or may complement the sheer by creating an illusion of color intensity or variation.

Underlinings may also give body and durability as well as opaqueness when used with a sheer.

## Laying the Pattern—Cutting—Marking

Lay sheers on straight grain. Some are slippery and may need to be pinned to paper to keep from shifting under the pattern. A table with cork surface is very good for laying and cutting. Another possibility is to cover your regular cutting table with a sheet pinned tightly over the edge. A surface covered with felt is also good.

When pinning the pattern in place use more pins than for ordinary fabrics. Pin around the edges in the seam allowance. Snip the selvedge every few inches before cutting the pattern.

Cut with the grain, using a sharp shears that isn't too large and heavy.

Use tailor's tacks or chalk for marking. Do not use tracing wheels as marks may show through the sheer fabric.

## Getting Ready to Sew

Test stitch on a double strip of fabric. Try 15 to 20 stitches per inch. Loosen tension slightly. Use average to light pressure. Use a very fine needle such as a 9 - 10 for hand sewing and size 14 for machine sewing.

Choose a fine thread that is comparable in fiber content to the sheer. For example, cotton thread is good for cotton sheers and synthetic threads for synthetics such as nylon.

It may be necessary to stitch some sheers on tissue paper.

## Sewing Underlined Sheers

When sheers are underlined the two fabrics are stay-stitched together and treated as one. Darts, facings and seams are then hidden.

A closely fitted sheath dress needs to be completely underlined. Sheers are fragile and no seam line should be under tension.

The upper bodice may be lined with net to give the illusion of a sheer yoke and sleeve.

## Sewing Sheers That Are Not Underlined

In unlined sheers use fine French seams 1/4" or less in width. To make this seam, place the two wrong sides together. Stitch 3/8" from the seam line on the right side. Clip and trim seam close to stitching line (about 1/8"). Then turn to wrong side, press and stitch on 5/8" seam allowance.

A simulated French seam may also be used. Lay two right sides together and stitch on 5/8" seam allowance. Then stitch a second row of straight stitches 1/8" to 1/4" from the first. Zigzag or overcast over the second row of stitches. This is a good finish for armholes.

Avoid fitted facings on necklines and armholes. Instead, finish with a fine double fold binding sometimes called a French binding. To make this binding cut bias strips from the sheer fabric. Strips are cut six times as wide as the desired finished width. Fold strips in half lengthwise with right side out. Press. Pin, then baste raw edges even. Stitch at a distance from the edge exactly equal to the finished width. Press strip upward. Fold to wrong side over cut fabric edges. Slip stitch to first stitching line.



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE, UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS,  
AND U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COOPERATING. E. F. FROLIK, DEAN; J. L. ADAMS, DIRECTOR

EC 69-458



### Fasteners

Corded button loops and small covered buttons give a couture effect. Lightweight zippers are suitable for sheers that are underlined. Hand application of a zipper gives a neat effect. Hand worked or machine made buttonholes might be used.

### Hems

Hems for sheers may range from fine hand-rolled hems to hems that are 10" wide. This depends on whether the fabric is underlined and whether the skirt is cut straight or circular.

1. On a straight skirt the outer fabric and underlining may be treated as one piece and a regular 2 1/2" to 3" hem used.

2. A wide hem might be used on a straight skirt that is not underlined. Width of hem depends on the length of skirt. Consider proportions of the two.

3. Hems on some sheers might be narrow and machine stitched.

4. A narrow hand-rolled hem might also be used. To make this narrow rolled hem, staystitch on hemline and trim fabric close to stitching. Turn edge under once. Take a stitch through the fold at stitched line and then one through the garment at the raw edge or 1/8" from the fold, continue alternating placement of stitches and spacing them 1/8" apart. After making stitches for about 6" pull the thread toward you to form the rolled hem.

### Pressing

Use extreme care. Set iron temperature for fiber content of fabric. Test a scrap of fabric and experiment to see if steam or dry iron should be used. Press on wrong side. A press cloth may be necessary.