

1971

## EC71-482 Restyling or Remodeling a Garment

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# restyling or remodeling

## a garment



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## RESTYLING OR REMODELING A GARMENT

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Are you doubtful about restyling or remodeling a garment? Making a new garment from a used one definitely requires patience and skill. The greatest challenge, however, is to your imagination.

A positive attitude is the first step to success. Consider yourself a designer working with available material rather than a seamstress with a made-over garment in mind.

There are many reasons for restyling or remodeling a garment. Change of body size may require major adjustments. You may want to add to the family wardrobe without straining the family budget. Often you have a garment you no longer need or want which can be made into something for another member of the family. Sometimes a favorite garment is not quite in fashion but can become so with a few changes.

An easy place to begin is making a child's garment from an adult's. A child's skirt and vest could be made from a woman's dress or coat. A pair of slacks could be made from a pair of men's or women's pants. Once a fairly easy project is accomplished and you know how to proceed, you will have the confidence to restyle clothing for adults.

Before you tackle a restyling project, ask yourself these questions:

1. Is the fabric worth using?
2. Will there be enough fabric to cut a new garment?
3. Will the new garment be suitable in style and fabric for the person it is to be made for?
4. Will the person like and wear the garment?
5. Do I have the time and patience to complete the project?

6. Do I have the skills necessary to restyle a garment, or am I willing to learn them?

7. Will the restyled garment save me money?

8. Will the final result be worth the time and skill that I'll have invested in it?

9. Do I see the restyling project as a creative and enjoyable process?

Number one must be answered "yes." More than two "no" answers may mean you shouldn't remodel that garment.

## FROM OLD TO NEW...

FROM A WOMAN'S  
COAT. . .  
MAKE THESE. . .



Short pants  
and coat



Jumper



Girl's vest



Child's coat





FROM A MAN'S  
SUIT. . .  
MAKE THESE. . .



Girl's jumper



Girl's skirt



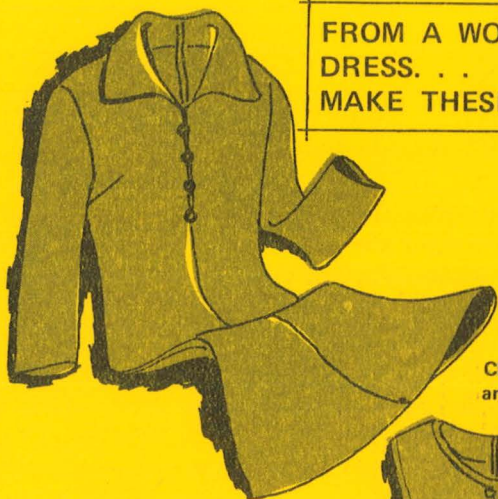
Child's suit



Woman's vest and skirt



FROM A WOMAN'S  
DRESS. . .  
MAKE THESE. . .



Child's skirt  
and vest



Child's dress



Small boy's  
vest and pants



Tunic for pants



## **Examine the Fabric**

Examine the fabric carefully to see if it is in good condition. Hold the garment up to the light to check for worn or weak spots. Pull the fabric on the grain and the bias to be sure that it is sturdy. Don't waste time on fabric that is too worn to be useful or attractive.

The wrong side of the fabric may have a clearer design, texture or color than the right side. It may be practical to use the wrong side in the new garment. When the fabric is reversible, the new garment may be easily cut if both right and wrong sides are used. Often a fabric may be dyed to add new interest or trims may be used to add spark to what seems a dull fabric.

Once you have decided to use the fabric, be sure of your plan before you begin ripping. Decide what trims, design details or previous construction may be used as they are. If there will not be enough fabric to complete the garment you want to make, look for fabrics in other reusable garments or remnant counters to combine with the fabric.

## **Choosing the Pattern**

The new pattern should be somewhat similar in style to the original garment. This will make laying out the pattern easier. If you plan to use another fabric with the older fabric, choose a pattern which will make a combination of color, texture or pattern simple. You could combin a low waistline with pleats of another color or sew on a lapel or yoke of another figure design or insets with some sort of contrast.

## **Dismantling the Old Garment**

Carefully rip the necessary seams apart with a seam ripper, single-edge razor blade or small scissors. If the new pattern will be smaller than the garment you are dismantling, seam edges may be trimmed off rather than ripped. Brush lint from the folds and hems. Save everything



including snaps, buttons, zippers and scraps until the new garment is finished.

Once again hold the pieces up to the light to check snags or worn spots. Mark the spots with a contrasting color of thread so you can avoid these areas as you lay out the pattern. Stitch around any edges which might fray or stretch during construction.

Remove any spots or stains. Machine dry clean or hand launder the pieces you will use. Steam press the pieces on what will be the wrong side of the fabric. Follow lengthwise grain as you press.

### **Laying Out the Pattern**

Place all pieces on a flat area and line them up so the lengthwise grain runs parallel to the edge of the flat area. It may be a help to mark the straight of grain and the right side on the fabric pieces with pins or a basting thread before the pattern piece is pinned on.

Lay out the pattern avoiding the worn spots. If piecing is necessary, plan it into the design. For instance, if half a blouse needs to be pieced, do the other half in the same manner. Trims or braids may be used to cover seams and to add design interest. In other cases, piecing may be placed where it will not show such as an undercollar, facing or the sleeve underarm.

Pin the pattern on the fabric pieces. If seam lines in some cases will not be standard width, mark the seam line with chalk or basting thread. Cut out the new garment and follow usual sewing techniques in the construction.

Retain your positive attitude. Remember that you are making a new garment for someone to enjoy wearing.



# SUGGESTED LAYOUT for

## A GIRL'S JUMPER

