

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

College of Agriculture

SEWING IS EASY AND FUN



4-H Clothing --- Plan 1

Join the 4-H Parade and . . .

LET'S SEW

Begin with good sewing habits.
Tools can work for you.
Practice comes first.
Use the sewing machine.
Learn about cloth.
Have a sewing box.
Make a pincushion.

LET'S MAKE THINGS FOR HOME

(Choose any three)

Tea or hand towel.

Tray cloth, place mat, or luncheon cloth.

Pot holder (hand or machine-made.)

Ironing board cover.

Peasant apron.

Garment cover.

LET'S USE LIFE PRESERVERS

Wash, iron, or press your clothes.

Fold them with care.

Make a darn on a tear.

Spend 4 hours helping with the washing and mending.

LET'S KEEP SCORE

Judge your work and exhibit it.

Keep your record book up to date.

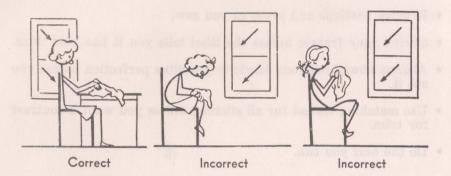
Give a method demonstration or illustrated talk at a club meeting.

Have an apron parade.

This is a revised reprint of Extension Bulletin No. 173, originally published in 1948 jointly by the Extension Service, University of Idaho and the Extension Service, State College of Washington. A revision was also published in 1953. Authors of the original bulletin were the Extension Clothing Specialists for the cooperating states. Revisions in this edition are by the Idaho Clothing Specialist and the 4-H Staff.

Published and distributed in furtherance of the Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914, by the University of Idaho Agricultural Extension Service, James E. Kraus, Director; and the United States Department of Agriculture, cooperating.

Let's Sew . . .



Begin With Good Sewing Habits

- Always sew with clean hands and nails.
- Choose a *comfortable* chair. Sit *straight* with your feet on the floor.
- Sit where the light is *good*, without glare or shadow.
- Work on a table, not in your lap.
- Keep all tools and materials together and bring them to each meeting. Fold your fabric to prevent extra wrinkles.
- Pick up scraps and carefully put your work and tools away in your sewing box.
- Always use a *thimble* on the correct finger.
- Do your own work. Ask for advice only.
- Cut thread ends with *scissors*. Biting thread often chips teeth.



Pick up scraps

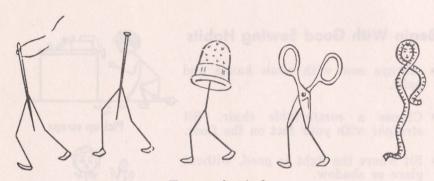


Always use a thimble



Do all your own work

- Follow all directions carefully.
- Remove bastings and press as you sew.
- Shrink your frabric unless the label tells you it has been done.
- Always *straighten* your fabric to grainline perfection before you cut it.
- Use matching thread for all stiching unless you want a contrast for trim.
- · Do the best you can.

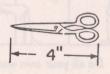


Your sewing tools

Tools Can Work for You

Success in sewing calls for the *right* tools at the *right* time. They can be your friends or your enemies. You'll want as many tools as you can have.

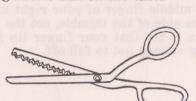
SCISSORS AND SHEARS



Scissors

Scissors have short cutting blades and small ring handles. They have tips that are blunt or pointed. Use them to snip threads and to cut small pieces of fabric. Buy the best you can afford and take good care of them.

Shears have blades at least 6 inches long. Eight inches is a good length. Usually they have one long handle and one small one. Shears with bent handles are handy for cutting fabric flat on the table.







Use good long cuts so you material won't have a chewed look.

Pinking shears have blades that are notched. They are used on firmly woven fabrics that will not have hard wear. Pinking keeps raw edges from ravelling.

Keep both scissors and shears well-sharpened and clean, and don't cut into pins. You'll ruin them if you cut paper or cord with them. Use a drop of oil occasionally at the joints to keep them from getting rusty. Take care that you don't let them fall on the floor. Most pinking shears must be sent to the factory for sharpening.

ON PINS AND NEEDLES

The best pins to buy are those labeled dressmaker pins. They have sharp points so they won't make large holes in the fabric. Keep pins in a pincushion or in a small box so they won't get rusty or dirty.

There is a size and type of needle for every kind of sewing.

For hand-sewing small numbered needles are coarse and large ones are fine. Size 3 to 9 are most often used. Usually size 7 or 8 is best for neat sewing on medium-weight fabrics. You can buy needles in packages of one number or in an assortment.

Choose a needle to fit the thread you use.

Needles also come in lengths. Most common are sharps. They are medium in length with small, rounded eyes. Betweens shorter and are used for finer work. There are needles of other lengths to use for special sewing.

Machine needles are made in several sizes. Choose one to fit the thread you use on the machine. Use number 60 thread to sew fabrics like gingham and percale. See page 20, Sewing Machines, Care and Adjustment, Farmers' Bulletin No. 1944, for the needle size to use with it.

TRY A THIMBLE



Maybe you think you can't sew with a thimble, but you'll find it protects your fingers as you push. It takes longer to wear a hole in the thimble than in your finger.

Thimble Wear it on the middle finger of your right hand and learn to use the side of the thimble, not the tip.

Make a thimble a habit. Try it on to see that your finger tip just touches the end. Be sure it is snug enough not to fall off.

CHOOSE THREAD CAREFULLY

To sew on most fabrics, use a cotton sewing thread called *mecerized*. You can get it in regular and heavy-duty sies. It's shiny and comes in all colors. You can get a more tightly twisted cotton thread called *six cord* in black and white only. It comes in a greater variety of sizes, from No. 4 (course) to No. 120 (very fine.)

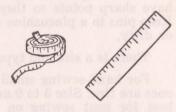
Choose a size of thread that suits your fabric.

Basting thread should be of a color that contrasts with the fabric you are using. Later on you will use silk thread to sew on fine silk, wool, and rayon fabrics.

LEARN TO MEASURE

An oilcloth or cloth tape measure is beter than one of paper. Metal tips make it wear longer. Choose a tape that begins with number one at both ends.

A 6-inch ruler or the small metal measure you can find in many stores is also handy. Be sure you know how to read your measure and that you know the parts of an inch.



Measuring helps

Measuring is important — so do it carefully.

1995

Wrist pincushion

A PLACE FOR PINS

It's a good idea to make a pincushion to wear on your wrist. With a wrist pincushion, you always have your pins on hand when you need them.

PRESSING AID







A good *ironing board* is firmly built and well-padded. The cover should always be clean. Perhaps you'll want to make an ironing board cover that you can remove easily to wash.

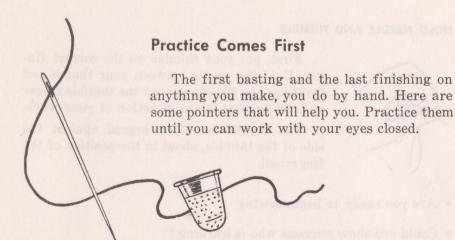
A *sponge* or a *soft piece* of cloth is useful to dampen cotton things and take away stubborn wrinkles. Have on the end of your ironing board a small flat bottomed pan containing a little water.

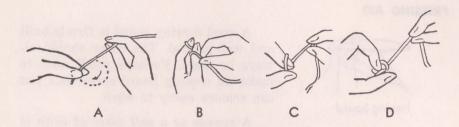
You also need a good *iron* for careful sewing. Let's hope yours is electric with a heat control. If you use the kind you heat on a stove, be careful to keep it clean and waxed.

Pay attention to pressing each step of your sewing as you go.

A NOTEBOOK AND PENCIL

These are *musts* to bring to every meeting. Add both to your supplies. You'll want to make notes about your sewing. You'll also need to write down the things you told your club leader you would do.

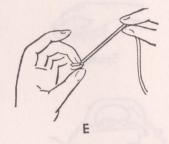




MAKE A KNOT

Hold the thread about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the end between the thumb and fore-finger of your left hand. Look at A to see how it's done.

With your right hand, as in *B*, bring the long end of the thread around the left forefinger and left thumb, which is holding down the short end. Still holding the long end between the thumb



and forefinger of your right hand, roll the short end forward between the left thumb and forefinger. This is shown in C.

Continue rolling the end through the loop and off the forefinger as shown in D. Pull the loop down into a knot with your thumb and forefinger, as in E.

• Can you make a knot now?

HOLD NEEDLE AND THIMBLE



First, put your thimble on the correct finger. Hold the needle between your thumb and forefinger so the eye is near the thimble finger and the point is in the direction of your work.

The needle should be braced against the side of the thimble, about in the position of the fingernail.

- Are you ready to begin sewing
- Could you show someone who is learning?

Use the Sewing Machine

You can do some sewing by hand, but for serious stuff you need a machine to zip up the seams. Don't give up until you know how to:

- Set the needle correctly.
- Choose thread *suitable* for your fabric and a needle of *correct size* for the thread.
- Wind the *bobbin* and place it in its case or shuttle.
- Thread the machine top and draw up the bobbin thread to get ready to sew.



Using the sewing machine

- Stitch on straight *lines*, on *corners*, and on *curves*. Practice on paper with the machine not threaded until you get the hang of it.
- Adjust the stitch length for the fabric you are using. See chart below:

FABRIC, THREAD AND NEEDLE CHART

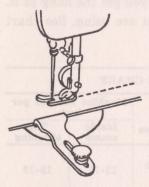
Types of Fabrics	Thread	Sewing Machine	Machine stitches per inch		
Types of Fabrics	Sizes	Needle Sizes	Inside seams	Top stitching	
Sheer Fabrics Lawn and Dimity	80-100 Cotton 00 or 0 Mercerized	Very Fine Size 11	12-15		
Lightweight Fabrics Gingham, Chambray, Percale, Broadcloth, Pique	60-80 Cotton A or 50 Mercerized	Fine Size 14	12	14-16	
Medium Heavy Fabrics Unbleached Muslin and Sheeting	40-50 Cotton Heavy Duty Mercerized	Medium Size 16	10	12	
Heavy Fabrics Sailcloth, Denim, Tick- ing, Drillcloth	30-40 Cotton Heavy Duty Mercerized	Heavy Size 18	8	10	

· Check the tension and know how to adjust it.

Proper tension adjustments will greatly increase the wearing quality of the articles you make. There are two tensions on the sewing machine which should be adjusted to suit various types of fabrics. The upper tension controls the thread from the needle,

whereas the lower tension controls the thread from the shuttle or bobbins case. When the upper and lower tensions are drawn into the fabric *equally*, you have a perfectly locked stitch. Ask your leader or mother to help you adjust the tension.

- Run the machine smoothly.
- Fasten the thread ends so they will hold and look neat.
- Take good care of the machine. Keep it clean, well-oiled, and adjusted for good stitching.
- Study the book of directions for things that puzzle you. For help in using and caring for your machine, see Farmers' Bulletin No. 1944, Sewing Machines, Care and Adjustment.
- Use a Cloth Guide. This is one of the handiest tools which comes with your sewing machine. Maybe yours is different from this.



Cloth guide

A cloth guide makes it easy to stitch seams straight. Place the cut edges a seam's width from the needle. Then tighten the screw in one of the two screws holes in the base of the machine.

Hold the seam edges close to the guide while you stitch.

If you do not have a cloth guide for your machine, use a piece of adhesive tape. Place it the full length of the bed of the machine. Place one edge of the tape about 11/4 inches from the needle. Mark on the tape with pencil a line 1/2 inch

from needle. Mark another line, in red, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch from needle. Draw the lines the entire length of the tape.

Your leader will help you do all these things.

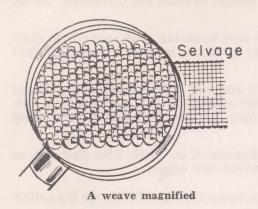
Maybe you'd rather learn to use the sewing machine before you learn hand-sewing. It doesn't matter which you do first.

AND THEN

When your 4-H group has finished one set of articles, ask your leader to help you judge them. She will explain how to do this. You'll find a score card on the last page of this clothing plan. Keep a record of the scores you make as you go along.

Jot down suggestions to improve your work, too.

Learn About Cloth



You'll find sewing easy and you'll do a better job of buying good fabrics if you know some things about cloth.

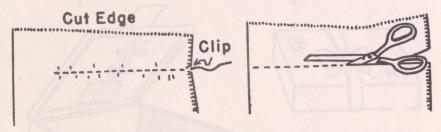
One way that cloth is made is to carry yarns or threads over and under other threads, as in the picture. This is called weaving. You call the threads

that run lengthwise of the cloth warp. The threads that weave through the warp threads are called *filling*.

Along both edges of the length of cloth is a finished edge called *selvage*. Good cloth has a firm, even, and regular weave. Has yours?

If the cloth is torn at the store when you buy it, it's straight with the thread. If you cut cloth straight with the warp or the filling threads, you call it *cutting on the straight*, or on the thread.

If the end has been cut crooked, you may need to straighten it. To do this, make a clip into the cloth, as shown in the picture.



Straighten cloth

Take a thread next to the cut, and pull. This puckers the cloth. If the thread breaks, pick up another. This puckered thread or a thread pulled through makes a line to guide you in cutting.

Sometimes the cloth is *pressed* crooked and needs only to be pulled back in shape. If this won't work, you may have to wet the fabric and press it again. Garments won't hang properly or keep their shape if your cloth is not cut on the straight.

Check the straight of the fabric for everything you make.

Good cloth doesn't shrink enough to make any difference. Watch for terms that tell you so.

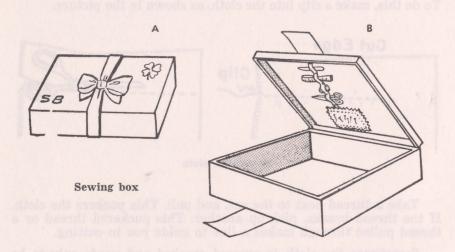
If you have any doubt, be sure to shrink your own cotton cloth before you cut into it. One way to do this is to soak the folded cloth in warm water for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour.

Then run cold water on it and roll it in a towel or lay folded on a flat surface, until it is dry enough to iron on the wrong side. If you put it through the wringer, you may have stubborn wrinkles to iron out.

A bias edge is cut on the diagonal of the cloth. Bias stretches, so it is useful to bind or face curved raw edges.

- Ask your leader to help you choose the right fabric for the article you plan to make.
- Do you know what a binding is? A facing? You will need to know what these means later on.

Have a Sewing Box or Bag



If you're going to be a good workman, it's not only important to know good tools but also how to use and care for them. Having a special place to keep them is part of their care.

A stout candy box or a basket is fine as long as it's large enough to hold your tools and your sewing. You might enjoy a box like the ones fishermen use to keep their hooks and lines in separate sections. You may place small cardboard boxes in the large box to keep your tools in order. It's important when you sew to be a good house-keeper.

If you want to make your own box, try one of these suggestions.

Paint a lightweight wooden box cream or white, both inside and out. Use enough coats of paint to cover the box. Decorate it with your initials or name and with a 4-H emblem.

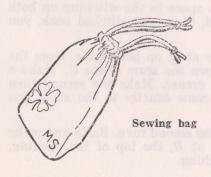
Use a strap, cord, or ribbon to keep the lid closed. Attach it to the bottom of the box with cement or with some kind of metal fastener so it will stay in place. For a wooden box, buy a fastener at the hardware store.

A wooden or cardboard box may be covered and lined with fabric. The plastic-covered muslins are tough and attractive. Measure the lining, but before you put it in, stitch a strap or elastic to the inside of the cover to hold your scissors, tape, pencil, and thimble. Look at B.

You can make pockets along the sides of the bottom if you wish. Fasten the strap through the cardboard lid and lining with a heavy needle and thread or with metal fasteners so the lining will not pull out: Now cement the lining in place and the cover to the outside. Finish with a few hand stitches to make the corners strong.

If you ride your bike to your 4-H club meetings, perhaps you'd like to buy a small suitcase or make a bag instead of a box. They're easier to carry because you can slip the straps over the handle bars and pedal away!

CHOOSE THE MATERIAL FOR YOUR BAG



You can make your sewing bag from ½ yard of cotton crash, gingham, cretonne, feed sacks, or any other firm and durable fabric. Choose a dark color that won't show soil easily.

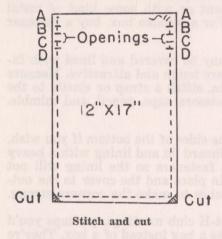
You also need 2 yards of cord, some matching sewing thread, and some heavier thread to outline the 4-H emblem.

STEPS TO FOLLOW

Cut two pieces of fabric 12 inches by 17 inches on the straight. Place the right sides together with all edges even. Leave one 12-inch edge open for the top of the bag. Pin-baste or pin and thread-baste

along the other three sides, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the edges. Make the basting stitch as in the picture.

Now, with your measuring tape and a pencil,



- ----

Basting stitch

make short marks across your basting line at 2, 3, 4, and 5 inches from the top of your bag on either side, as shown here. Name these marks A, B, C, and D, starting from the top.

Begin stitching at the top and stitch to *B*. Leave the needle down, raise the presser foot, and turn the fabric on the needle. Stitch back on the row of stitching to *A*. Cut the threads.

Now place the machine needle at D, with the top of the bag toward you Stitch to C. Turn the fabric as before with the needle down. Stitch back on the row of stitching past D and keep on stitching around the bag to C on the other side. Turn the stitch back to D. Make exact square corners at the bottom. Then cut the threads.

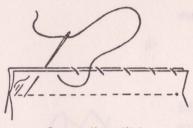
Begin stitching again at A, stitch to B, turn, and stitch to the top of the bag. This leaves an open space in the stitching on both sides between B and C for the cord. Since you stitched back, you do not need to tie the thread ends.

Make a slash with your scissors at C, on both sides, from the raw elges to the stitching. Press open the seam above C. Make a ½-inch turn for the top hem, and crease. Make the second turn $1\sqrt[3]{4}$ inches. The hem edge should come exactly to the slash you made at C.

Baste and stitch on the edge of the second turn. Baste and make a second row of machine stitching at B, the top of the opening, 1 inch above the first line of stitching.

This space between B and C will be the casing opening for the cord. Pull the ends of the stitching threads through to the wrong side, tie and trim them. Cut the bottom corners diagonally as shown. This makes the corners less bulky so they will be flat and pointed when you turn them right side out. Overcast the seam.

MAKE AN OVERCASTING-STITCH



Overcasting-stitch

The overcasting-stitch is used to keep the cut edges of seams or other parts of articles from fraying.

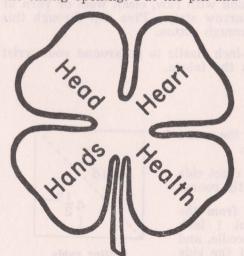
First trim the seam edges evenly. Hide the knot between the thickness of fabric. Hold the seam loosely in the left hand with the raw edges up. Point the needle toward your left shoulder as you take stitches.

For thin fabric that doesn't ravel easily, take stitches ½ inch deep. Take deeper stitches if the fabric is heavy or ravels easily.

Keep spaces and stitches even and twice as far apart as they are deep. Keep the stitches loose so the fabric won't pucker.

PUT IN THE CORD

Cut the 2-yard length of cord into two equal pieces. Fasten a large safety pin at one end of a cord length to draw it through the casing opening. Put the pin and cord into one opening. Draw



them through the casing and around to the same opening. Knot these cord ends together.

Repeat at the opposite opening with the second cord length. Pull on both pairs of cord ends to close the sewing bag.

The bag may be trimmed with a monogram or with the 4-H club emblem. Work it with the outlinestitch. Use cotton thread that won't fade in the sun or when you wash it.

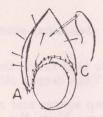
If you prefer a design in textile painting or embroidery, keep it simple and attractive. You will find it easier to make the trimming before you sew up the bag.



Outline-stitch

Make a Pincushion

A pincushion to fasten to your wrist saves time because the pins are always where you need them. A pincushion can be your number one assistant. Wouldn't you like to make one?



Wrist pincushion

WOOL'S THE THING

If you choose a dark-colored fabric, the pins will show up better. If it is firmly woven, it will give longer wear and will be easier to handle. Wool flannel makes a good covering because pins and needles slip through it easily.

Plan to stuff the pincushion with raw, clean wool or yarn or with wool scraps cut into narrow strips. Pins slip through this stuffing more easily than through cotton.

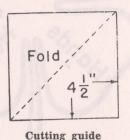
You also need enough $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch elastic to go around your wrist and sewing thread to match the fabric.

HOW TO MAKE IT

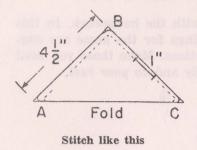
Cut a piece of fabric on the exact grainline $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches square.

Fold diagonally with the right side inside. Cut the corners slightly round.

Baste and stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the open edges, beginning about 1 inch above A. Stitch to A, pivot needle, and stitch to B. In the center of the side

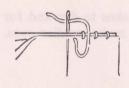


BC, raise the needle and presser foot of the sewing machine. Pull the fabric toward the back until you have a 1 inch opening.



Finish stitching to C and backstitch 1 inch to make it stronger.

Turn right side out. You may wish to place a piece of cardboard (5/8 inch by 31/2 inch) over fold on the inside. This is to avoid pins piercing the wrist. Cut points on both ends of cardboard. Then stuff tightly. Sew up the opening with invisible overhand stitches.



Overhand stitch

MAKE OVEHAND STITCHES

Conceal the knot between the folds as you begin. Make your stitches from right to left. Overhand stitches are small, straight stitches to hold two folded or finished edges together.

FINISHING THE PINCUSHION

Measure the elastic to go around your wrist snugly. Add $\frac{1}{2}$ inch for a seam. Join the elastic ends in a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch seam with hand stitches. Open the seam. Attach to the center of the fold of the pincushion from A and C. Use overhand stitches on either side of the elastic so it will lie flat.

You may prefer round, square, or oval pincushions. Perhaps you'd rather put a tab into the seam similar to the one given in the directions for making a pot holder. Then you can fasten the pincushion to your dress. Place the tab at a corner or on the center of one side before you stitch around the outside.

Some girls like to fasten a pincushion to the arm of their sewing machine with tape or elastic.

Let's Make Things for Home . . .

All 4-H girls help their mothers with the housework. In this section, good ways to make a few things for the home are suggested. Make any *three* by these directions. Make those you need and can do. Select your fabric carefully and *do your best*.

Tea or Hand Towels

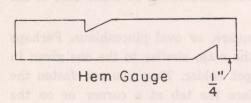
Towels must take up moisture and dry quickly. Linen toweling is good fabric for either tea or hand towels, but cotton toweling is less expensive. You may wish to use a feed or flour sack. A handy length for a tea towel is 27 inches, although 30 to 36 inches is often used for large square ones.

Choose a large size when there are many dishes to dry and for grownups to use. For you and the younger fry, make smaller ones.

MAKE A TEA TOWEL

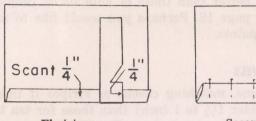
Straighten the raw edges of the fabric by the thread. Leave the selvages on the tea towel if they are firmly woven. Measure and cut the towel the size you prefer.

You are now ready to hem it. Use a *gauge* to put in all hems. This tool will help you make even hems, buttonholes, and spaces between buttons, snaps, and pleats. Keep one in your sewing box.



You may make a gauge of your own by cutting a small piece of lightweight cardboard about 5 inches long. Measure from the end of the cardboard the width you wish to turn up your hem.

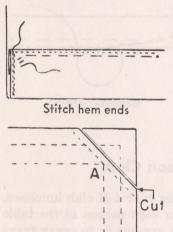
Cut out a section of cardboard exactly at this point. For a tea towel, a good hem is 1/4 inch for fabric of medium weight.



First turn Second turn

On single thickness run a row of machine basting a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from raw edge. Use your cloth guide on the machine to measure. Fold on this stitching. Make a second fold at raw edge of first turn. Let the first machine basting turn under a bit on edge of fold and then it will not show. Use your gauge to check the width of the fold of the hem. It should be $\frac{1}{4}$ inch. Pin and baste.

Stitch selvage ends of the hem closed, going from the hem fold to the outer edge. Stitch back on this row of stitching as you learned to do on your sewing bag.



Turn and stitch the length of the hem as close to the edge as possible. Stitch the second hem end closed. Pivot the needle and stitch back to the hem.

If you prefer to overhand the hem ends, do so, using the loose threads at the beginning and end of the machine stitching. Thread them both into a needle for the overhanding. To finish, run them through the fold of the hem.

If all four sides need hemming, the thickness of the fabric will make the corners bulky.

To avoid this, cut off the corner on a line, as shown. Do this after

creasing the hems and before you baste. Avoid cutting as far as the crease at A, or the fabric will ravel when you turn the hems. Baste hems and stitch along the sides on the machine.

Overhand the corner of the hems. They will be neater than if you stitch them on the machine.

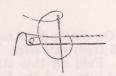
A tea towel must stand rough treatment. A design on a tea towel is not necessary. But if you wish to put a design on your towel, choose one that looks well with the kitchen color. Use cotton thread that will wash without fading. Simple designs of dishes, pans, or flowers are better than those of animals or people. See the outline stitch on page 18. Perhaps you would like to make a design with textile paints.

HEMMING HAND TOWELS

Pin and baste hems, matching checks or stripes if there are any. Hems may be wider ($\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch) than those for tea towels.

You may wish to use the *napery hem*. To do this, fold the basted hem back against the right side of the fabric and use the overhand stitch.

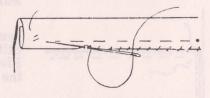
The napery hem is so called because it is often used for napkins and tablecloths. Take small, even stitches toward you.



Napery hem

You may prefer to make the *hemming-stitch*. Take you stitches from right to left. Make small, even, and slanting stitches, ½ to

1/4 inch apart. Bring your needle through the fold to hide the knot. Under this stitch pick up a thread of the fabric. Again put your needle through the fold. Repeat. Avoid pulling your thread tight.



Hemming-stitch

A Tray Cloth, Place Mat or Luncheon Cloth

It's nice to have a set of *place mats* for your 4-H club luncheon. Perhaps your mother uses place mats for each person at the table instead of a large tablecloth. *Tray cloths* are handy to cover trays for informal meals, for children, or for invalids. You also use trays for luncheons served around the fireplace or on the lawn. How would you like to make a tray cloth, place mat, or small luncheon cloth?

TRY THESE

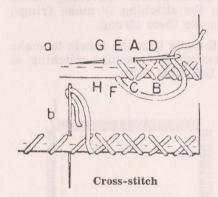
Some suitable fabrics are percale, gingham, toweling, Indianhead, denim, sail cloth, monk's cloth, and feed sacks. Attractive colors add to their appearance. You can buy the amount of fabric

needed after deciding the size of the cloth and the width of the hem. One yard of 36-inch material makes six tray cloths 12 by 18 inches with narrow hems. Allow extra for a larger size or for wider hems. Be sure the fabric has been torn or cut on the straight when you buy it or you'll need more.

HOW TO MAKE IT

Cut a tray cloth the size of the tray on which you will use it. Cut carefully on the straight of the fabric. Baste a ¼-inch hem on all four edges with a scant ¼-inch turn the first time. Use hemming-, cross-, or blanket-stitches to put in the hem.

CROSS-STITCHING IS FUN



Stitches should cross in the center, and their corners should meet. Use cotton embroidery thread that launders. Work right to left with the lower edge of the hem held toward you, right side up. Take stitches over the entire basted hem. To begin, fasten the thread with a small knot between the thicknesses of the hem.

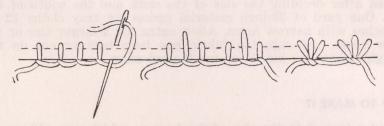
For the method shown in a, bring the needle to the right

side of A. Insert it into the bottom fold of the hem at B, and bring it out at C, insert into the top fold of the hem at D, to complete the first cross. Bring the needle out at E to start the second cross, insert C, bring out at F, insert at A, bring out at G, and start the third cross. Stitches need not show on the wrong side if they are slipped through the folds of the hem.

You may prefer to use the method shown in b. Make all the diagonal stitches in one direction first, and then cross them in the opposite direction.

BLANKET-STITCHING IS EASY

The blanket-stitch is easy to make. Change its appearance by taking stitches of different lengths and positions. Work from left to right with the edge of the hem turned toward you, right side up. Each time you take a stitch, you sew into a loop of thread. Take stitches over the entire basted hem.

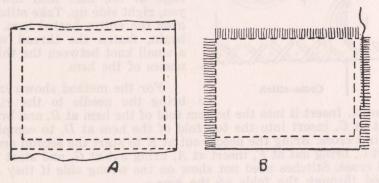


Blanket-stitches

WHY NOT FRINGE IT?

Draw threads and cut the fabric to make it straight, as in Illustration A. Draw another thread the width you want for the fringe (about 1 inch). Machine stitch in these spaces where thread is drawn out with matching thread to prevent ravelling inside this line. Then ravel the fabric to the stitching to make fringe, as in B. Overhand the corners to make them strong.

You may pull rows of colored threads into the fabric to make a simple design. Do this before making the machine stitching so the thread ends will be caught at the same time.

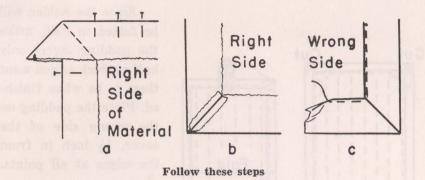


Fringe the edges

MAKING MITERED HEMS

Use this method if you make wide hems. Pin the hem against the right side of the tray cloth or place mat. Baste the extra fabric at the corners for a diagonal seam as in a. Keep the two sides of the hem smooth and flat. Stitch on the basting, trim the seam to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch and press open, as in b. Turn the hem to the wrong side, as in c. Be sure to make the corners exactly square. Pin in the hems and baste.

Use the hemming-stitch to fasten. Remember how you did this when you make your tea towel.



How About a Pot Holder?

When 4-H girls help their mothers in the kitchen, they find a pot holder prevents many burned hands.

Making holders is good practice. If you enjoy it, why not make several? They are attractive and useful, and make inexpensive gifts.

MATERIAL AND SIZE MUST BE RIGHT

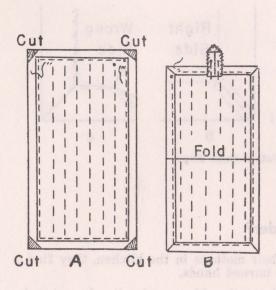
Choose a cover fabric, firm in weave, and a color that goes with the kitchen. Some prints or checks are good. Perhaps there are enough scraps left over from your aprons. For the padding, use an old cotton blanket, outing flannel, layers of soft cotton fabrics. Cotton batting — unless it is cotton wadding in sheets — forms lumps when the hot pad is washed. Used thick-enough padding to protect your hands.

The size of the pot holder is up to you, but it should be large enough to protect your hand. Look at the handles on your kitchen utensils and the size of the hands that need protection. Seven inches across finished is a good size.

If you're just learning to sew, perhaps you'll want to make one by hand.

MAKING A HANDMADE POT HOLDER

For a 7-inch holder, cut the cover fabric 8 by 15 inches on the straight of the grain. Draw threads, if necessary. Cut the padding on grain 7 by 14 inches or 1 inch smaller that the cover. Be exact in your measurements.



Since the holder will be folded in half, make the padding layers only half as thick as you want them to be when finished. Place the padding on the wrong side of the cover, ½ inch in from the edges at all points.

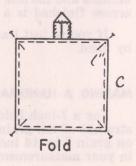
Baste the two together with long stitches, as shown in Illustration A. You'll probably find you need to put rows of basting about 1 inch apart to keep the padding from slipping. Cut off the cor-

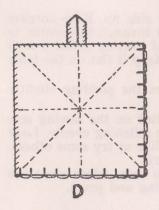
ners about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch from the corner of the padding, as shown. Turn the $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch edges of the cover over the padding all around and baste as in B. Be careful to turn square corners.

You may or may not need a tab hanger. If you have a handy drawer near the stove or a hanger case for holders, you won't need to make the tab hanger. If you plan to hang the holder within easy reach, make a tab hanger by folding 3 inches of ½-inch twill or bias tape lengthwise in the exact center. Crease, baste, and over-

hand the edges. Place the tab in the center of one side or at a corner. See how this is done? Fasten it tightly to the inside padding.

Fold the holder so the padding is on the inside. Pin diagonally through the corners. This keeps the fabric from slipping. Baste around the four sides.





Overhand the edges of the holder together, as shown in upper left corner of D. Or you may want to use the blanket-stitch around the outside edges, as shown in lower right corner of D.

Perhaps you'd rather quilt a design with short running stitches as in *D*. Use a heavy-duty thread for strength if you do it this way.

MAKE ONE ON THE MACHINE

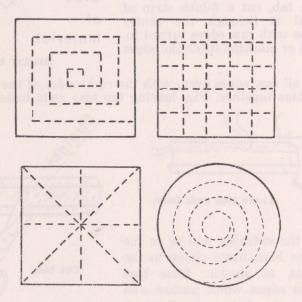
You may make a pot holder square,

round, or oval, but make it large enough to protect your hands.

If you make a square one, cut two pieces of fabric on exact grainline so they measure 7 inches across. Allow no extra for seams. Round the corners slightly and cut your layers of padding accurately and the same size. Place one piece of the cover fabric on the table *wrong* side up. Put layers of padding on this. Make the layers thick enough to keep

side up. Put layers of padding on this.

Make the layers thick enough to keep your hands from being burned when you handle hot dishes.



Designs for stitching

Then add the second cover piece, *right* side up. Keep corners and edges even. Pin around the edges and through the center to keep the layers from slipping. Use rows of basting about 1 inch apart through all the layers of the fabric. Keep it flat on the table as you work.

Trim all the edges even, and then trim the padding slightly smaller than the covering.

The pot holder is now ready to be quilted on the sewing machine. This will give you good experience in stitching evenly. Look at the designs of stitching. Choose one you like or try some others. The stitching shows up better on plain fabric.

You need not tie the threads that go to these edges since the

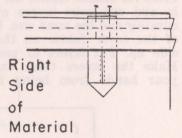
bias binding will cover them. Remove basting and press.

BINDING RAW EDGES

Use a firm bias tape that comes prepared. Use bias because it will fit around the corners and lie smoothly. Later you will learn how to cut bias from your own fabric. If you already know how, go ahead. There are two methods to use in sewing bias on the edges of the pot holder.

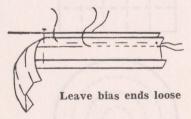
First Method—Measure enough bias tape to go around the pot holder. Hold firmly but try not to stretch it as you measure. Allow 1 or 2 inches extra to join the ends.

For a tab, cut a 3-inch strip of bais, fold it through the center lengthwise with raw edges turned in. Overhand or machine stitch the edges together.

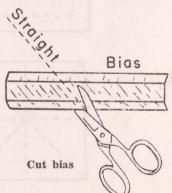


Basting bias

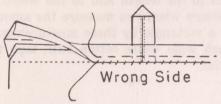
Place all raw edges even, with the *right* sides of the pot holder and the bias together. Pin, leaving the bias ends loose.



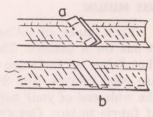
Since the stitching will be in the fold of the bias, baste closer to the raw edges, as shown. Ease bias slightly so edges won't pucker and pull when the holder is finished.



Join the ends of the bias on the straight of the fabric. Cut off the ends, leaving a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch seam. Pin, baste, and stitch the pieced ends, as in a.



Hem bias to stitching line

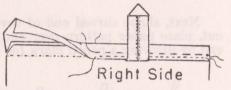


Join bias ends

Press open, as in b. Stitch around the pot holder in the fold of bias. Bring the opposite fold to the line of stitching on the wrong side

of the holder. Baste and fasten with the hemming stitch. The tab is in place on the opposite side. You may use a plastic ring for this purpose, but the fabric tab launders better.

Second Method—In this method, place the *right* side of the bias on the *wrong* side of the pot holder. Keep the tab for the hanger against the *right* side of the holder, with all raw edges even. Pin,



Stitch bias to stitching line

baste, and join the bias, as in the first method. Stitch in the fold of bias. Bring the opposite fold of bias to cover the row of stitching on the right side of the holder. Baste and stitch on the machine. Fasten the thread ends and remove the bastings. The tab is in place for the hanger.

An Ironing Board Cover

It's always important to keep your clothes clean and well-pressed. A good ironing board is large enough so you don't have to keep moving the things you're ironing. It's well-padded and always clean. Maybe you'd like to make an ironing board cover. Since you can take it off and wash it, it will always be easy to have a fresh one handy.

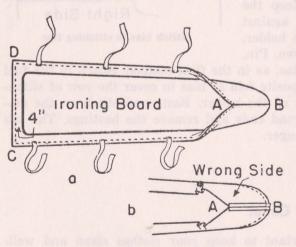
USE MUSLIN

First, make an outlone of your ironing board on paper and cut it out for a pattern. Then choose a smooth, firmly woven fabric that takes up moisture and launders easily. Muslin and drilling are good fabrics. Add 8 inches to the length and to the width at the wide end of your paper pattern when you measure the amount of fabric to buy. Cut or tear a rectangle by these measurements. Three yards or more of ¼-inch wide white cotton twill tape for ties is desirable, but not essential.

MAKING THE COVER

Place the paper pattern in the center of the rectangle of fabric. Cut with 4 inches on both ends and sides. Place the cut-out fabric over the board. Pin the two sides of the narrow end together into a center seam between A and B, as in b. Then baste and stitch. Trim the seam to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch and press open.

Next, shape curved end of cover at B. With cover wrong side out, place paper pattern over end of cloth cover. Shape the small end by drawing a pencil mark for seam stitching. Baste and stitch



around curve at *B*. Trim the seam to ½ inch. Overcast the edge of the seams. Baste ¼-inch hems along the sides and wide end. *Do not stitch* hems until the ties are in place.

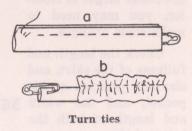
Clip the corners of the hem to remove bulk. Remember how you did this when you made your tea towel.

Cut the 3 yards of tape into 18 - inch lengths for the ties.

This length fits a board 16 inches wide. Wider boards take a longer tape to reach across. Narrower boards take less. Place the ends of tape into the fold of the hem, spacing them as shown in the first picture. There will be strain on the ties, so fasten each one with the hemming-stitch to the fold of the hem for extra strength before machine stitching the hem.

If tape for the ties is not available, make them from the cover material. Cut strips $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide. Make a casing, as in a, by folding through the center lengthwise. Stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the edge.

Fasten a safety pin to one end. Turn right side out, as in b. Remove the safety pin, turn the raw edges in at one end, and fasten with the overhand stitch. Press, machine stitch the tie edges, and fasten to the ironing board cover, as in directions for attaching tape ties Fasten the threads and remove the bastings.



Adjust the ironing board cover over the small end of the board. Pull the cover firmly over the wide end and fasten the extra width with thumb tacks to the underside. Tie opposite tapes to fasten the sides. If there are wrinkles at the shaped end, AB, lay pleats on the wrong sides, as shown, and fasten with thumb tacks.

You'll Want a Peasant Apron

Surely you want to wear an apron when you help your mother with the housework, especially in the kitchen. It saves having to wash your dresses so often.

Maybe you'd like to make a peasant apron similar to the one pictured. You won't need to buy a pattern if you follow the cutting guide.



You can make an apron from 1 yard of fabric if you are about 4 feet 8 inches tall, and weigh about 80 pounds. Smaller girls take less material; larger girls, more.

Cotton prints, ginghams, broadcloth and muslin are good fabrics to use. Feed sacks make attractive aprons. Whatever fabric you use, be sure it is durable and colorfast, as well as pretty. Will your fabric shrink?

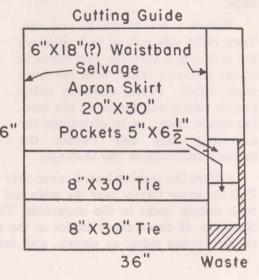
CUTTING ISN'T HARD

Follow the diagram of cutting shown. Since it's only a guide, be careful. These measurements are for a girl about the size of

the one described. If you are either larger or smaller, you may need to make some changes.

Check the length and fullness of the skirt, and size and position of the pocket, and the width 36" and length of both the belt and ties.

It might be a good idea to cut a paper apron and try it for size before you cut your material.

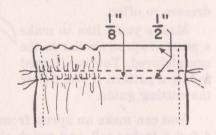


MAKE THE SKIRT

Fold the apron skirt in the center and mark with a basting or a pin. Unfold and mark the center of each half in the same way. Make a ¼-inch hem on each side. Machine stitch close to the edge or use the hemming-stitch.

If you use the entire width of the cloth, you may use the selvages for a finish if they are firm and look like the other fabric.

Baste a ½-inch turn toward the wrong side at the bottom of the apron. Machine stitch ¼ inch from the fold from the right side. On wrong side pin and baste the second turn ½ or 3 inches. Use your gauge to make the hem even. Put in the hem, using the hemming-sitch you have learned on page 20. Overhand the ends of the hem.



Make two rows of gathers

With a lengthened machine stitch (6 or 8 stichest to 1 inch), make two rows of stitching across the top.

Make the first row $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the edge. Make the second row $\frac{3}{8}$ inch from the cut edge. This makes the rows of stitching $\frac{1}{8}$ inch apart. Two rows of stitching make more even gathers.

If you prefer, you may make the two rows by hand. Use small running stitches with a double thread.

TIES

The double ties shown in the cutting guide are neater than hemmed ones and have no wrong side. If the fabric is too heavy for double ties, cut single ties 4 or 5 inches wide. Fold the double



tie pieces lengthwise through the center with the right side of the material turned to the inside. Pin and baste along the raw edges as shown.

Cut one end of each tie on the diagonal. Baste and stitch 1/2 inch

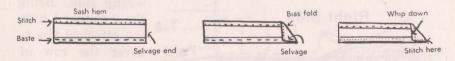
from the raw edges. Leave the end that you attach to the waistband open. Cut away the corners of the tie ends. This is to prevent bunching of extra material at the corners when the ties are turned. Be careful not to cut the stitching. Remove the basting.



Turn the tie

Turn the ties right side out by putting a pencil or ruler in the closed ends. Work the tie over the pencil until you reach the other end. Pull the ties through and slip the pencil out. Pull out the corners with a needle until they are smooth and pointed. Crease exactly on the line of stitching, baste if necessary, and press the ties.

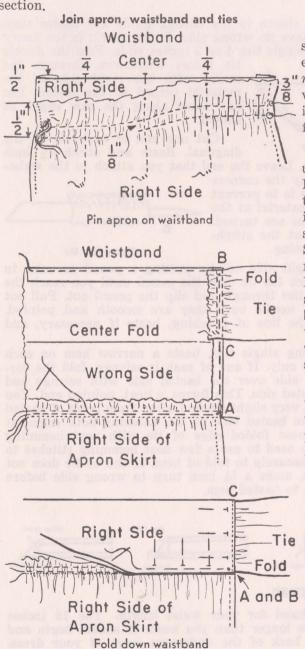
If you are making single ties, baste a narrow hem on each side. Stitch one side only. If end of sash is selvage, fold the corner of the stitched side over the basted side with selvage end matching fold of basted side. This forms, a neat, pointed end. You might need to trim a very slight amount away from point of basted hem. Then stitch the basted side of tie, catching both edges at the point. Fasten loose folded edge of tie with neat hemming stitch. You may also need to use a few neat hemming stitches to fasten selvage edge securely to fold of hem. If end of tie does not have a selvage edge, make a 1/4 inch turn to wrong side before machine stitching it to basted hem.



PUTTING PARTS TOGETHER

Check the waistband for your waist length. The 18 inches you have cut may be longer than you need. It should begin and end about 2 inches back of the underarm seam of your dress.

Allow an extra $\frac{1}{2}$ inch at each end of the seams. Crease the seam allowance on both sides and ends. Fold through the center lengthwise. Divide the waistband into fourths and place a pin at each section.



Place the wrong side of the gathered skirt against the right side of the waistband, matching the pins at the fourths.

Pin and distribute the gathers. Baste slightly above the line of gathering as at *A*, in the second picture. Stitch on the lower row of gatherings. Fasten the threads and remove the bastings. Crease the wrong side of the waistband along the stitch line.

Baste and stitch waistband ends flat to the gathered or pleated ties between B and C. Keep the fold of the tie at B side of the band. Tie threads on the wrong side. Bring the waistband with the attached ties to cover the row of machine stitching on apron skirt. Pin, baste, and stitch. Tie the threads.

Finish the underside of the waistband and the ties between B and C with the hemming-stitch. The machine stitching at the ends

of the waistband will show only on the right side.

Another way to attach the skirt to the waistband is to stitch the gathered ties to the inside of the waistband ends, leaving a ½-inch seam allowance along its sides. Then adjust the gathers and sew the *right* sides of both the waistband and the skirt together. Fasten on the wrong side with the hemming-stitch along the row of machine stitching. By this method, no stitching shows on the right side of the waistband.

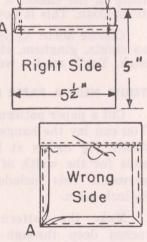
PATCH POCKETS

You'll want a pocket on your apron, perhaps two. Pockets should be well-made and well-stitched at the corners so they can't tear back. The size and shape of the pockets are important. The size must be good for the apron itself. The shape should follow the same lines of the apron. A good example would be a pocket with straight lines set on an apron with straight lines.

MAKE A POCKET

The pocket size for this apron is $5\frac{1}{2}$ by 7 inches. Before basting along the sides, turn back a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch seam allowance at A and stitch $\frac{1}{8}$ inch from the folded edge. Turn back $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches of the top of the pocket to the right side of the fabric. Baste and stitch along the sides of the hem $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the edges as in A.

Begin stitching at the top fold and stitch to the bottom fold Raise the presser foot, turn the pocket on the needle, and stitch back 1 inch. Tie the threads at the top fold only.



Make a pocket

0 0

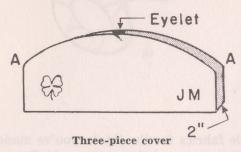
Make stitching strong at the top

Turn the hem to the wrong side of the pocket to make square corners and fasten with the hemming-stitch. See page 20. Turn under the seam allowance of the lower sides and bottom. Clip across the lower corners at *A* and paste flat.

Try the pocket on the apron and decide just where you'd

When you have stitched to within $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of the pencil mark or pin, raise the presser foot and needle, and pull the stitching to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch on the other side of it. This leaves a $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch space in the exact center. Continue stitching to the other side. Slash from the raw edges to the stitching at both ends of this $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch space and crease this part of the seam open.

Blanket-stitch on the right side around the top opening to finish and to make it stronger. Overcast the raw edges. Baste and stitch a ½-inch hem at the bottom. Remove the bastings and tie threads. Press and put the hanger in the cover.



Second Method — If your dress or coat has padded shoulders, your cover needs more width. Cut a strip of material 3 inches wide and the length around the sides and top of the pattern. This width allowed for a ½-inch seam on either side, making it 2 inches

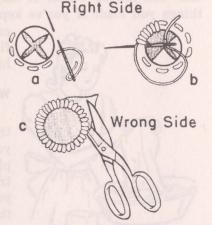
when finished. Baste and stitch this piece between the two sections, as shown.

If it is necessary to piece the strip, make the seams at points A on the sides. Add 1 inch to the length of the top strip and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to the side lengths for piecing. Finish the seams the same as

for the first method. An eyelet for the hanger opening is necessary in the center of the top piece.

MAKING AN EYELET

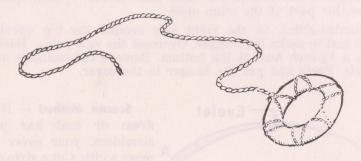
Mark a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch circle with a pencil in the center of the strip. Clip two slits a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, as shown is a. Make small stitches around the circle. Work the eyelet, as shown in b. Turn the points to the wrong side as you work.



Trim off the points close to the stitches, as shown in c. Use washable embroidery cotton to work the eyelet.

Perhaps you'd like to add a design to the garment cover as you did on your sewing bag.

Let's Use Life Preservers . . .



Wash, Iron, or Press . . .

Now you've chosen suitable fabrics for the thinks you've made for your home. You've made them as carefully as you could. Pressing as you went along was as necessary as all those careful stitches.

You have been sewing mostly on cotton cloth that is washable and needs no special care. But there are a few tricks to make their care easier. Mend torn places before you launder an article so the tear will not be worse. It may not be necessary to launder the things you made if you've kept your hands clean and have been



Wash with care

careful in handling them. But if you find that you must, here are a few hints.

WASH THEM

You can wash practically all the things in the washing machine that you've made in this 4-H clothing plan. You might need to wash the tray cloth or place mat by hand if you used a material or an edge finish that needs careful handling.

Use mild soap and water that is not too hot. Somethings to remember about washing are: have a good suds, rinse things two or three times, and hang them outdoors in the sun, if possible. If the articles are colored, hang them in the shade. Even sunfast articles can lose some of their brightness if you hang them in the sun.

If starching is necessary, use prepared cold starch or boiled starch. In most cases, the boiled kind is better. Be sure you cook it well and strain it. Thin it with warm water as you use it.



Press or iron

IRON OR PRESS THEM

Pressing differs from ironing. They are the twins of good sewing. When ironing, place the iron directly on the cloth. Heat, moisture, and pressure smooth out the wrinkles. Iron most cotton materials on the wrong side so they won't become shiny. Then lightly on the right side to finish.

See that the iron doesn't get hot enough to scorch the cloth. Test the heat of the iron on a scrap of cloth or an inside seam even though the iron has an automatic regulator.

When pressing, let heat and steam do the work. It's best to place a cloth or paper over the fabric. The iron

should rest on the fabric very lightly. Use a patting motion. It's a good idea to have a pan of water and a sponge or a soft cloth on hand to moisten stubborn wrinkles when either ironing or pressing.

Always iron or press with the straight of the material, without stretching or creasing. If you wish, iron cottons when you take them off the line before thy're quite dry. Otherwise, dampen and roll them tightly to make the moisture even, if this is handier. Fold or place on hangers to dry thoroughly before putting away.

FOLD THEM WITH CARE

Fold the pieces you iron carefully so they lie smoothly in the drawers where you keep them.



Fold or hang

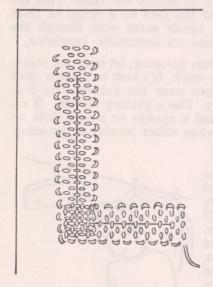
Towels look well if they are folded once through the center lengthwise, then folded again in the same direction. Fold crosswise one or two times. If there is decoration, fold it on the top.

Place mats or tray cloths may be laid flat in a drawer or wrap them around a cardboard roll. Fold the peasant apron as little as possible, because the gathers are easily wrinkled.

The garment cover needs no folding, since it hangs in your clothes closet.

Make a Darn on a Tear

What would you do if you caught the skirt of your apron on a nail and tore a hole in it? Often you need to mend a tear in one of the things you make. Why not learn how, in case this happens to you?



Darn a tear

In the picture you can see how to make a darn on a three-cornered tear. If it is a single straight tear, darn it like one of the sides. This is the way to do it.

Use matching thread. Some girls ravel threads from matching scraps of material. Bring the thread through the fabric from the wrong side about ½ inch beyond the end of the tear, and a little to the right. Leave a 6-inch thread end. Follow the thread of the material and take small running stitches in rows back and forth over the tear. Leave the stiches rather loose so they can't pucker the fabric.

When you reach the tear, fit the edges of the fabric together and take stitches across the opening. Continue darning ½ inch beyond the tear. Fasten the thread through the stitches of the last row and clip. Thread a needle to the 6-inch piece you left on the wrong side of the beginning of the darn. Fasten this thread through the stitches of the first row as you did at the end. Press with a damp cloth.

Ideas for Demonstrations and Illustrated Talks:

SHOW HOW TO:

- 1. Pull thread to even the hem of a tea towel. May use a very coarse material to show this burlap bag, monk's cloth, straw cloth.
- 2. Cut and join bias. Use colored fabric and stitch seams in contrasting colored thread.
- 3. Fringe tray cloth.
- 4. Cut padding and apply it to a pot holder.
- 5. Thread a needle and put knot in thread.
- 6. Thread the sewing machine and wind the bobbin.
- 7. Make a blanket stitch.
- 8. Take hemming stitches in a hand towel.
- 9. Stitch for gathering and how to pull up the gathers.
- 10. Make a neat turn in end of single apron sash.
- 11. Prepare a pocket for stitching on an apron.
- 12. Make a darn on a tear.
- 13. Press your apron.
- 14. Use the cloth guide or adhesive tape to keep stitching straight.
- 15. Oil the sewing machine.
- 16. Make an overcasting stitch.
- 17. Make a tab hanger for a pot holder.
- 18. Make an turn a double sash for an apron.

Exhibit Your Work

How To Label

Label each article you make so it will be ready to exhibit at your county fair. Cut a piece of cloth about $1\frac{1}{2}$ by 2 inches. Pink the edges to keep them neat. Write in pencil or type, your name, address, county, leader's name, and division of project. Baste this cloth label neatly to your sewing article. If you fold any article, be sure to baste the label through one thickness only. Baste the label to the inside hem of your apron.

Judge Your Work . . .

Here is a score card to judge the things you make. Suppose you call it a yard stick of your progress. Place a check $(\sqrt{})$ in one of the four columns as you think it deserves.

		Excellent	Good	Fair Poor
1.	Size and shape	HEAT HEE	and the last	Design From 11
2.	Fabric cut on grain	T wed	0.7	dim as barrer
3.	Color or color combination			musts whether the
4.	Kind and quality of fabric	go cotf	anid n	or two seller
5.	Seams, bindings, hems, etc., suitable and well-made	Juneau.	batolog missin	yest on the
6.	Stitches (machine and hand).			
7.	Trimmings and finishes			
8.	Kind and size of thread			
9.	Thread ends fastened		77,272	
10.	Basting removed			ald a safett
11.	Clean and well-pressed		office and	mont learner
12.	Both sides neat	d bas b	aireach)	1 HAR VI HOVE 10

I need to improve

Last But Not Least . .

Keep Your Clothing Record Book Up to Date.

Give a Method Demonstration on Illustrated Talk at a Club Meeting.

Have an Apron Parade.

Show your aprons to your parents and friends. Hold your head high, walk tall, and smile.

