



University of Idaho
College of Agriculture

Cooperative Extension Service
Agricultural Experiment Station

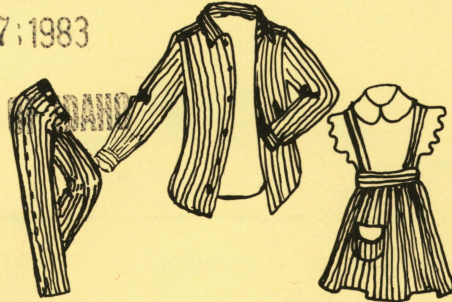
Current Information Series No. 582

April 1981

JUN 17 1983

CORDUROY

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Textiles and Clothing Specialist



Corduroy was first developed in 18th century England. The fabric originated as a coarse, heavy cloth made of flax and cotton. Since it was made for serviceability, it became identified with the working class. This imitation velvet became known as "poor man's velvet" and later as corduroy.

Today corduroy is just as serviceable, but it has the extra plus of fashion. It is still made of cotton; however, polyester or nylon may be added for increased durability. When blended with synthetic fibers, corduroy becomes a durable press fabric. Water repellant finishes make it even more versatile.

Types of Corduroy

Finewale — 18 or more ribs to the inch

Pinwale — 15, 16 and 17 ribs to the inch

Midwale — 13 to 14 ribs to the inch

Thickset — 10, 11 and 12 ribs to the inch

Widewale — 5 to 8 ribs to the inch

Cordless — does not have rows of ribs

Novelty — woven to produce a textured or sculptured effect. One of the most popular is thick and thin, alternating wide and narrow wales.

Having year-round uses, corduroy is very practical. Finewale and pinwale are ideal for spring. Uses for other kinds range from surfer trunks to children's, men's and women's wear. Corduroy is definitely an ideal fabric for sportswear.

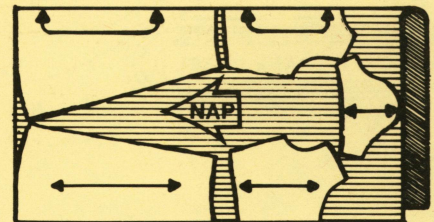
Corduroy also has a large variety of uses in home decoration such as slip covers, draperies, curtains, upholstery and pillows. Printed designs consist of plaids, stripes and flowers.

Fabric and Pattern

An extra set of filling yarns makes the pile. The back is a twill or plain weave. After weaving, a special machine is used to cut the pile. Then the fabric is washed and brushed for a soft, high pile.

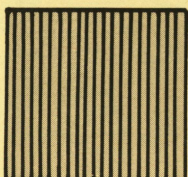
Corduroy is one of the sturdiest fabrics made because the pile takes all the wear. This quality plus its low cost make it one of the most economical for all-family use.

Since corduroy is a pile fabric, you need extra yardage for a "with nap" layout. If this is not given on the pattern, add three-eighths to three-fourths of a yard (34 to 68 cm) to yardage requirements. Extra fabric allows pattern pieces to all run the same direction.

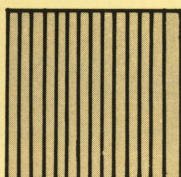


If the fabric pieces do not all run in the same direction, you'll get a change of colors. A dark, rich color will occur where the pile runs up and a lighter, frostier color where it runs down. (It doesn't matter if the pile runs up or down, but for longer wear, it should run down.)

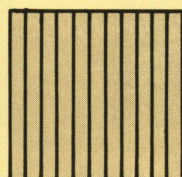
Brushing your hand over the surface will indicate the direction the pile is running. The smooth feel is the down direction of the pile; the rough feel is against the pile or the up direction.



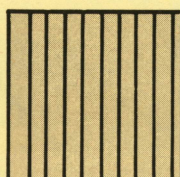
Finewale



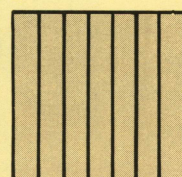
Pinwale



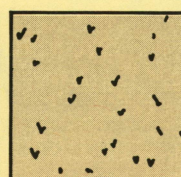
Midwale



Thickset



Widewale



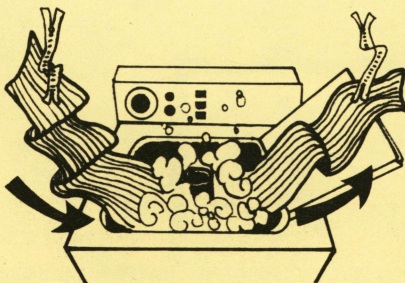
Cordless



Novelty

To straighten corduroy, snip the selvage and tear. You cannot pull a thread. With thick-and-thin or wide wale corduroy, the pattern should be matched just as in striped fabric.

Your interfacing selection should be guided by the corduroy's weight.

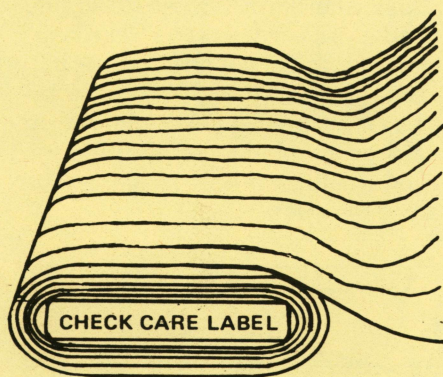


Preshrink interfacing, zipper and other applicable notions as well as the fabric.

The pattern you select should have few seams and be a very simple design. This will enhance the fabric's texture.

Corduroy Care

- Usually corduroy is washable, but take the extra precaution of checking the care label.



- Do not allow a garment to become heavily soiled, or you may be unable to clean it thoroughly.

- Wash garments inside out to prevent lint from adhering to the pile.

- The wash temperature will depend on color as well as the degree of soil. Rinse. Never wring or twist. When in the machine, use a short cycle. Wash and dry small loads for minimum wrinkling. Use a permanent press cycle on both the washer and the dryer for cotton/polyester blends. Machine drying restores fluffiness and helps eliminate the need for ironing.

- Remove garments from the dryer while still slightly damp to maintain fluff and prevent wrinkling.

- When dry, fluff the pile by brushing in one direction.

- If ironing is necessary, steam. Hold the iron slightly above the nap.

- Add a fabric softener to the final rinse to help fluff the pile and to make any touch-up ironing easier.

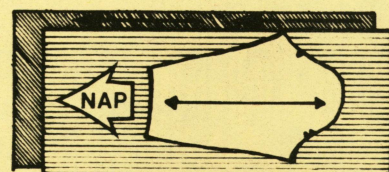
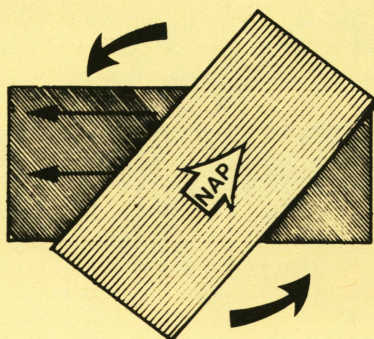
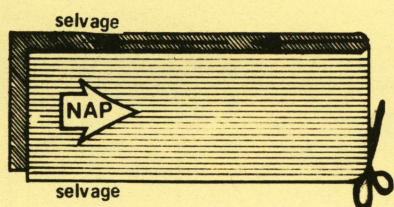
- If the garment becomes wrinkled, hang it in the bathroom with a room full of steam for about an hour. Then let the garment dry.

Cutting and Marking

When fabric is cut on the fold, use only a lengthwise fold. A crosswise fold will result in the nap running

down on one side and up on the other. If the pattern layout calls for a crosswise fold, cut and turn the

upper layer around so all the nap is running in the same direction.

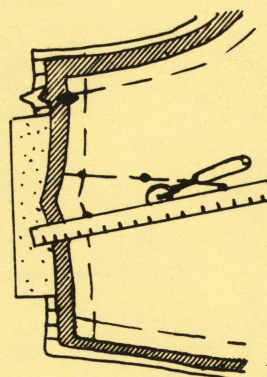
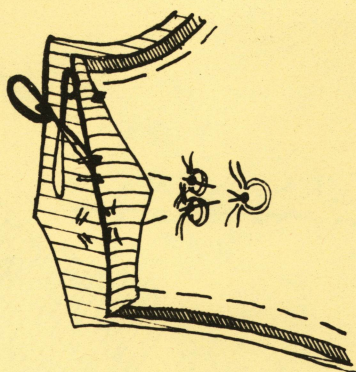
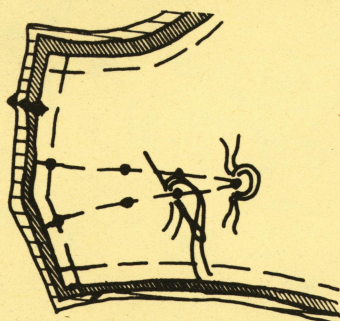


When cutting fusible interfacing, be sure to follow directions. Some manufacturers recommend cutting on the crosswise instead of the lengthwise grain. This is important because of the give in the crosswise direction. This is in opposition to corduroy which has no give in the cross-

wise direction. As a result, bubbling will occur when cut on the lengthwise grain.

For cutting, use sharp, 7-inch or longer shears because of the fabric's weight. Cut notches slightly larger since they may fray.

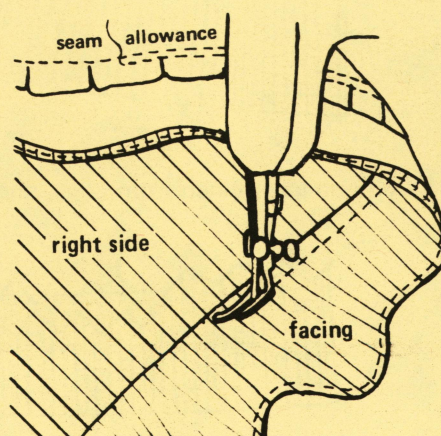
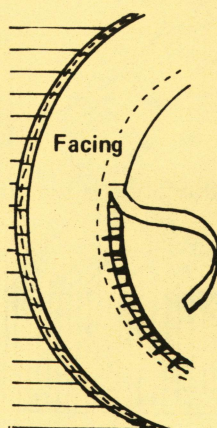
The type of corduroy you're using may determine the best marking method. Use tailor's tacks and pins for heavy fabric. On lighter weight corduroys where carbon markings are visible, you may be able to use a tracing wheel and carbon.



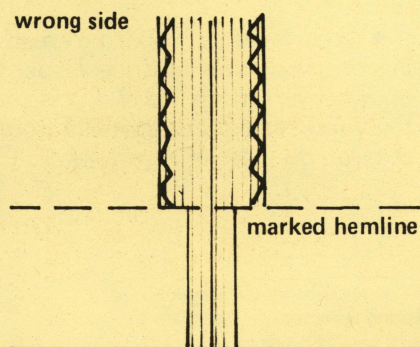
Corduroy Construction Techniques

- Since fabric shifts easily, hand basting is usually necessary.
- Use a slightly longer machine stitch (10 stitches per inch).
- Decrease pressure on presser foot.
- Whenever possible, stitch in the direction of the nap.
- Reduce bulk as much as possible in the following areas:

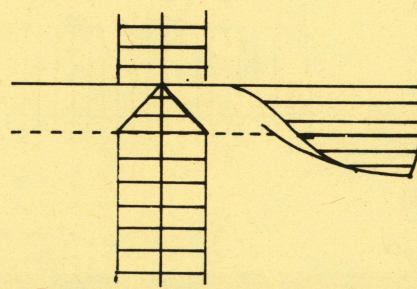
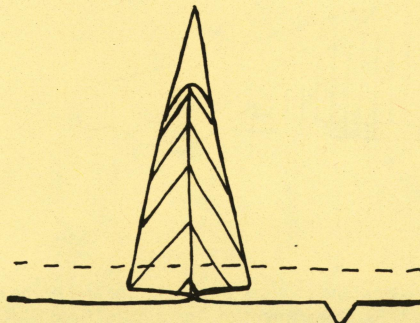
- Grade and clip facing seam allowances (understitching is very important on corduroy). On very thick corduroy, use a nonpile fabric for the facing.



- Trim excess fabric from seams inside the hem allowance.

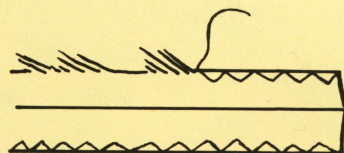


- Slash and press darts open. Cut seam ends at an angle before crossing with another seam.

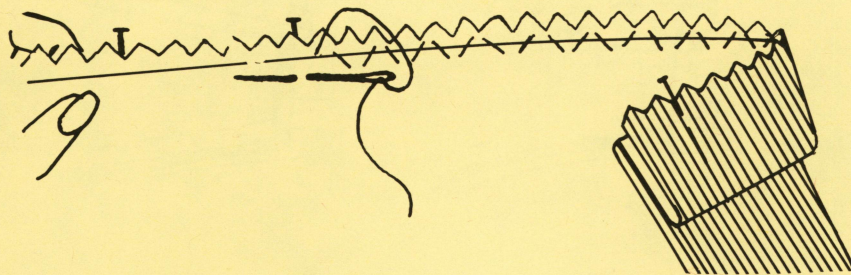


- Not usually underlined.

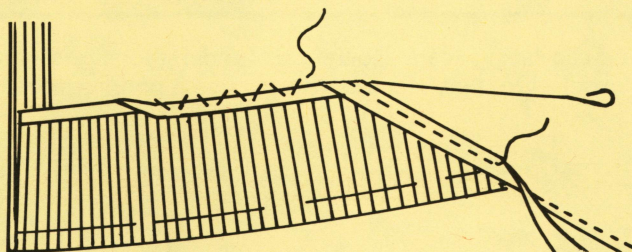
- Seams usually need finishing to stop the extra set of loop yarns from shedding. Finish with zigzag, multiple zigzag or overedge stitch.



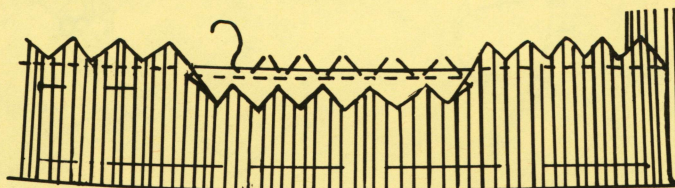
- A tailor's hem is a good method for corduroy. Regardless of the choice, though, a hem finish is necessary.



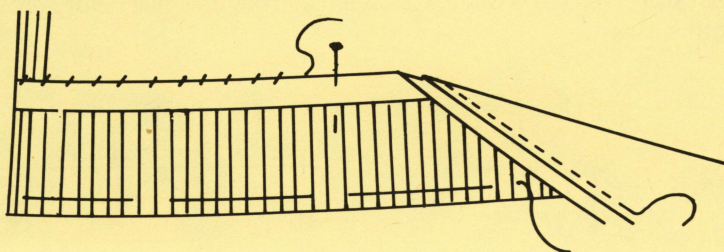
- Encase edge with seam tape if the fabric frays.



- Stitch one-fourth inch from edge, and pink if the fabric is tightly woven.

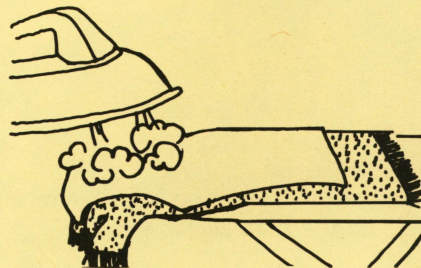


- Use seam tape if the fabric ravel.



- Zippers can be installed by your favorite method. However, on bulky corduroys, the final step looks best when done by hand.

- Any type of buttonhole can be made in corduroy. If bound buttonholes are selected, be sure to cut lips on the bias.



- To prevent the nap from crushing, press corduroy on a needleboard or a heavy turkish towel. Press on the wrong side. Let the steam from the iron do most of the pressing.

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