

# New Clothes From Old

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# New Clothes From Old

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**"I will buy carefully,  
I will take care of what I have,  
I will waste nothing."**

Many dresses, coats, or suits are stored away in closets or trunks because they are out of style or slightly worn in places. Now is the time to reclaim this clothing, and every bit of it should be used if it is needed. Nothing should be allowed to waste. It is patriotic, it is thrifty to wear out the old clothes.

Making over is one of the age-old methods of reclaiming garments. This may be done by two methods:

1. Making over completely.
2. Renewing or remodeling with only slight changes in garments. However, to be certain making over will be worthwhile, check the garment—
  1. Is it worth making over — don't waste time and energy on something that will wear out with a few wearings.
  2. Into what type of garment can it best be made?
  3. What member of the family can use it best?
  4. Is there enough material to make the garment decided upon?
  5. Will new material have to be used — if so, will it pay?
  6. Can the time be spent more profitably otherwise?
  7. Will the made-over garment be worn?

## A Complete Made-over

### BEFORE MAKING OVER THE GARMENT

If the garment is to be made over, rip it apart carefully. The safest way is to pull bits of the stitching first on one side and then on the other, or a one-sided razor blade may be used. If a child's garment is to be made from an adult's, save time by cutting apart the seams. Remove all threads and brush thoroughly to remove lint. In many cases it may be wise to clean before ripping.

## CLEANING

First remove spots and then have it dry cleaned thoroughly or wash in mild soapsuds. Often, worn-looking material can be freshened by careful washing. When pressing take care not to stretch it out of shape. Press on the wrong side using a pressing cloth. (See pressing pamphlet.)

## THE PATTERN AND CUTTING

Have the garment ripped apart before selecting the pattern. Choose one that will best fit into the size, shape, and number of pieces of the old garment. Patterns with greater number of pieces often can be used to better advantage than those in few sections. Piecings are often avoided in this way. Avoid all worn places, but if these pieces must be used, darn or patch carefully. (The Family Mending, Okla. Ext. Circ. 379.) Piece under the arm, under the collar, under lapels, inside pleats, facings, and other places that will not show. Other piecings can be so used as to form a decoration or be made part of the design. Lay the pattern true with the up and down and the crosswise grains.

When piecings must come in places that show and they can't be made a part of the design, hide the seam with the "stab" stitch. This is a stitch taken alternately backward and forward over the seam picking up barely a thread on each side of the seam. This draws the seam edges together and completely hides it. The seam must be pressed absolutely flat before beginning the stitch. (See Family Mending, Extension Circ. 379.)

Coats or suits worn too shabby or faded on the right side may be turned and made up exactly as they were originally. This means the buttonholes will need to be darned together carefully and neatly and the new ones made on the other side. In order to strengthen the places where the old buttonholes are darned, it may be necessary to reinforce the material. Also, don't turn the facings — this gives more body to the button side. Sew the buttons over the darned buttonholes.

## MATERIALS

The wrong side of a garment is often fresher and more attractive than the worn right side.

Combinations of different materials may give pleasing effects. Use figured and plain materials together, but never combine two different figures. Too sheer fabrics are not suitable to be used with wool.

Material of a garment too faded to use as it is, and yet not worn badly, may be dyed. Follow exactly the directions that come with the package. All dyes will not give satisfactory results on all materials; know the kind of fabric before buying the dye.

Use fabric suitable for children in making over adult's clothing for them — some not suitable are heavy silks or rayons, dark prints, and satins.

#### **TO KEEP IT FROM LOOKING MADE OVER**

Plan carefully as this made-over garment should be taking the place of a new one and when completed should be one the owner will be proud to wear. Keep on the lookout for ideas in the magazines and fashion books. Have the fabric and pattern suited to each other and to the person (as, tailored designs for heavy woolens and rayons).

Always use contrasting material elsewhere on the garment besides where it is needed to make it appear as though it were planned that way — as a collar, cuffs, vestee, or a tie. Don't choose a type of new material that makes the old look shabby.

Fit the garment carefully and sew neatly and straight. Use the same finishes as for a new garment; padding in sleeves is necessary for the current styles.

Press each seam as it is stitched.

Press carefully and often.

New buttons and accessories give it new life.

*Do a Good Job.*

## Some Suggestions for Made-Overs

Be sure the garment to be made over is large enough and has sufficient material to make the new clothing that is planned. Here are some suggestions:

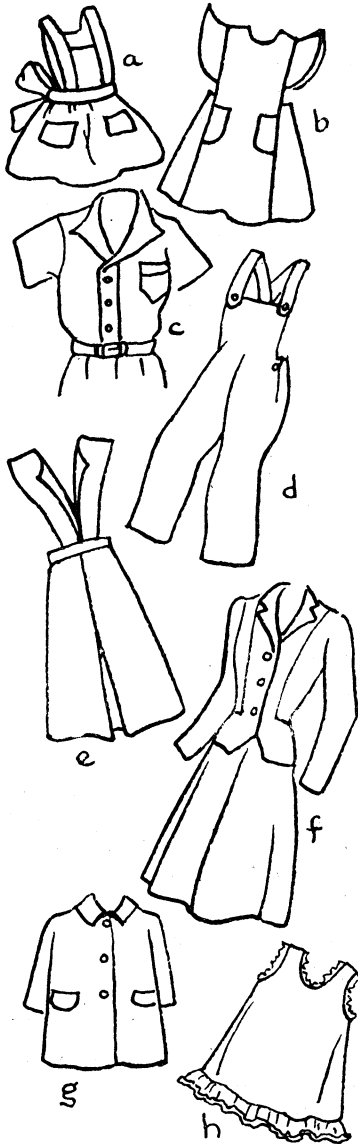


Fig. 1.—Suggestions for Making Over

1. Man's shirt — boys' shirt, little girl's pinafore, little girl's or grown-up's apron, child's sunsuit, child's slip and panties, child's overalls, vestee or dickey, or a woman's or girl's blouse. Fig. 1, a, b, c, d, h.
2. Man's suit — boy's, girl's, or woman's suit, woman's or girl's tailored dress, jumper, or separate jacket. Fig. 1 — e and f.
3. Woman's suit — woman's dress, jumper or skirt, child's suit, coat or dress. Fig. 1 — e and g.
4. Woman's skirt — little girl's coat or dress, little boy's slacks or overalls, girl's jumper, jerkin, or girl's skirt. Fig. 1 — g.
5. Woman's dress — jumper dress, blouse, child's dress, woman's dress with new material added, separate skirt, slip for wear under redingote dress. Fig. 1 — e.
6. Coats — restyled coat, short coat, coats for little boys or girls, jackets and jerkins. Fig. 1 — g.
7. Flannel bathrobes — short coat, girl's coat, skirt, or child's bathrobe.
8. Woman's slip — woman's petticoat or slip for little girl.
9. Worn overalls — children's overalls or two pairs used to make one good pair for adult. Fig. 1 — d.

## Changing Only Part of the Garment

Slight changes may be all that are needed to give the clothing a new look. If this is true ripping apart may not be wholly necessary.

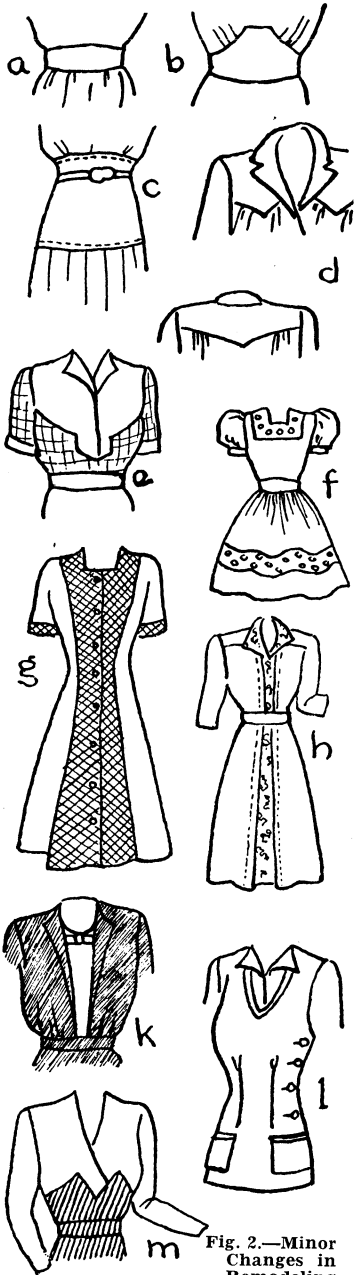


Fig. 2.—Minor Changes in Remodeling.

1. Shorten the skirt — shorten flared skirts at the bottom if no so much flare is desired and at the top if all the fullness is wanted. Recut to fit waistline.
2. Lengthen the skirts by (a) setting in belts or (b) by yokes on skirt. Fig 2— a, b, c. (a) The hem may be let out and the skirt faced. A fitted facing cut exactly to fit the shape and grain of the bottom of the skirt is most satisfactory if enough material is available; otherwise use a bias. For a straight skirt use a straight facing. (d) A small hem stitched several times to form a decoration is another method. (e) Lengthen by extension stitching along piecing, or (b) bands of contrasting material elsewhere on the dress to make it appear less made over. Fig. 2 - f.
3. Too short waists may be relieved by set-in belts or yokes either at the waistline or at the shoulder line. (Fig. 2 — a, b, c, and d.)
4. Long sleeves worn through may be (a) cut off and short sleeves made, or (b) the long ones removed entirely and new contrasting material used, tying it in with a bit of the new material used elsewhere.
5. Dresses worn out under the arms can be renewed by (a)

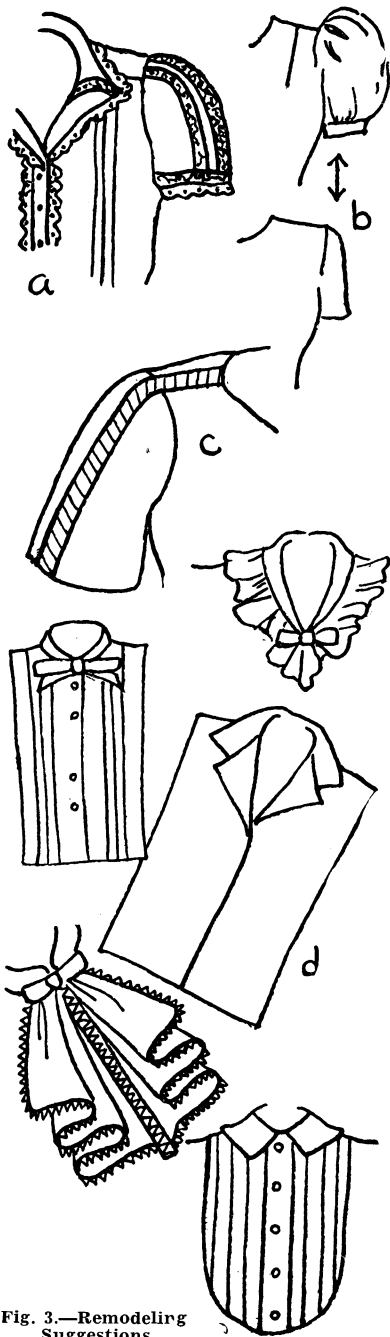


Fig. 3.—Remodeling Suggestions.

contrasting yokes and sleeves or by a yoke alone. (Fig. 2 - e and m.) (b) A jumper dress is also a good solution for this type of wear. Fig. 1.

6. Sleeves that are too tight: (a) If sheer cotton blouse, lace insertion can be put lengthwise on the top of the sleeve. If no lace elsewhere some could be added to collar or down front (Fig. 3 — a); (b) contrasting strips could be used on other garments, Fig. 3 — c; or (c) set in piece at underarm seam.
7. Dresses too tight through the bust: (a) open down the front and wear a vestee — Fig. 2 — k; (b) use contrasting front, Fig. 2 — g; or (c) put in piece under the arm.
8. Dress too tight through hips: (a) make into a redingote and use contrasting slip (Fig. 2 - h); (b) a panel of contrasting material could be used, (Fig. 2 - g); or (c) the seams can be let out and spread apart using contrasting material stitched under the seam, as a black wool dress using black velvet insets. Add a velvet bow at the neckline or velvet bindings at neck and wrist.
9. Neckline change: (a) a new collar, a vestee, a scarf, or a jabot offer great possibilities, (b) recut neckline; (c) collar could be removed and neckline recut. Fig. 3 - d.

10. A skirt that is too full — (a) if flared, taper sections gradually until skirt has desired flare; (b) dirndl skirts can be recut and restyled.
11. Top of sleeve restyled — are the sleeves darted, puffed, or very full? Rip them out and recut them along plainer, simpler lines according to the present mode — Fig. 3 - 6. Don't forget the shoulder pads — no sleeve can look its best without its correct type of pad.
12. A jacket with too narrow shoulder for the modern wide shoulder line or with worn sleeves can be made into a jerkin or sleeveless jacket. Fig 2 - 1.
13. Add a bright jacket, vest, or bolero to liven up that dress that has faded or is worn across shoulders or under arms.
14. For the skirt worn thin in the back — turn the back to the front and recut. Place a reinforcement across the back to take the strain off the skirt and help keep it in shape.
15. Retint faded underwear and hose to keep them fresh and new looking.

**“Use it up  
Wear it out  
Make it do  
Or do without.”**