
Renovation
and
Remodeling
•
Dyeing

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK
IN
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ERNEST E. SCHOLL, Director

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RENOVATION, REMODELING, AND DYEING

MARTHA MEREIFIELD
Extension Clothing Specialist

The business of making and remodeling is an important one in every household. Much can be saved by working over outgrown, out-of-style, or slightly worn garments into much needed ones and those that are up to the minute in line and design. For this reason, it never pays to buy cheap and shoddy materials originally.

Any garment that is worth the time and effort to be made over surely is worth being made right. The excuse that "this is just a made-over" can never be a satisfactory one. A made-over will be worn as often and at the same places that a new one would have been worn if it could have been afforded. For that reason it should be just as well made and just as attractive, and can be.

Often it will take considerable planning and more often it is harder work to make over a garment than to make a new one, but if well done, the results will justify all the work expended and the time spent.

PLANS FOR REMODELING

- I. *Check over the garments on hand:*
 - a. Are they worth making over?
 - b. Can all old material be used or will new have to be purchased?
 - c. Is the cost of a new garment being saved?
 - d. Will the finished garment be attractive?
 - e. Is the material suitable for the design chosen?

II. Procedure:

The following steps will aid in remaking:

- a. Plan style of dress or garment.
- b. Rip all apart if garment is to be recut.
- c. Mend, if necessary. Never make up old material without mending all worn places on the part to be reused.
- d. Clean and press. If material is to be dyed, it should be done at this time.
- e. Select patterns adaptable—both in style and design. A pattern cannot be used as on new material, but one should be used to get best results.

- f. Use care in selecting materials for combining. Never buy expensive material to be made up with the old unless there is still long wear in the old.
- g. Be sure colors harmonize. Made-over garments can be made to look like new ones if care is taken in selection and making.
- h. Different accessories may be used to renew the appearance of a garment.

III. *Preparing clothing to be Made Over:*

Every garment to be altered or made over should be examined very carefully before any ripping is done and before plans for the new garment are made, to detect any weakened places, holes, faded portions, or stains.

I. *Ripping*—The garment should be ripped before washing or cleaning so that stitching, pleating, hem marks, and the like may be taken out. Save all parts or pieces until certain they will not be used again.

Special care should be taken not to stretch the material during the ripping process. The seams should not be ripped apart as there is great likelihood of tearing. Cut the thread with a razor blade or sharp scissors. Remove all threads and work the thread holes together so they do not show.

2. *Cleaning and Pressing*—A great many materials can be washed, and if so, this is the surest means of being certain the garment is thoroughly clean. The method of laundering is a most important consideration, for even washable fabrics washed with a good soap have been ruined by not knowing how. The soap should be mild and in every case, thoroughly dissolved in the water before the material is put into the suds. Make a lively suds by dissolving the soap in hot water and adding sufficient cold water to bring the temperature to lukewarm (98° F.). Lukewarm water will feel neither cold nor hot to the wrist or elbow.

Squeeze the suds through the soiled part of the material without rubbing. Do not wring the material but squeeze out as much suds as possible. If material is quite soiled, wash in a second suds to be sure that all dirt is removed. Rinse thoroughly in lukewarm water—two or more rinsings—and roll smoothly and tightly in a towel with a kneading action, to absorb the moisture quickly and evenly. Remove the articles from the towel at once. If colors show an inclination to run after being removed from the first towel, roll in another dry



Fig. 1.—Method of piecing by yokes and simulated cuffs

towel to get out more of the moisture. If colors are likely to run it is a good plan to put a thickness of towel in every fold of the material.

The entire washing, drying, and ironing process should be done as quickly as possible. Some colored materials will not seem to fade in the washing process, but the colors will run if the drying process is a long drawn out one or if the material remains rolled in a towel for several hours.

Wool material must be nearly dry and then pressed on the wrong side with a hot iron through a firmly woven dry pressing cloth. Silk material should be ironed on the wrong side when slightly damp.

3. *Placing Pattern*—Lay the pattern on the ripped, cleaned, and pressed pieces to the best of your ability, piecing if necessary. Make piecings in places where they will show the least, if possible, but if not, put piecing in as decoration—as yokes, set on bottom of sleeves, pleatings at the bottom of skirt, etc., using top stitching, which makes it look as though it were intended to be there. If possible, place the weakest part of the material where there will be the least strain.

It is seldom that a pattern will fit exactly, but it is wisest to use one. Select one that will fit in best, and at the same time be modish and attractive.

4. *Mending*—If parts have to be used that have worn places in them, providing they are not too badly worn, be sure to mend carefully; darning the wollen materials and patching the others. See “Care and Repair” for mending instructions.

5. *Making*—After all the worn parts are mended, do all the piecing necessary and press each seam as it is stitched. After the piecing is done it is best to lay the pattern on again as it may have to be recut in places. Now proceed as if making a dress of new material.

6. *Color Combinations*—If different colors are being combined, great care should be taken that these harmonize perfectly, or that the contrast is most effective. At all times keep in mind that the finished garment *must not* have that made-over look, either by the wrong choice of colors or by construction.

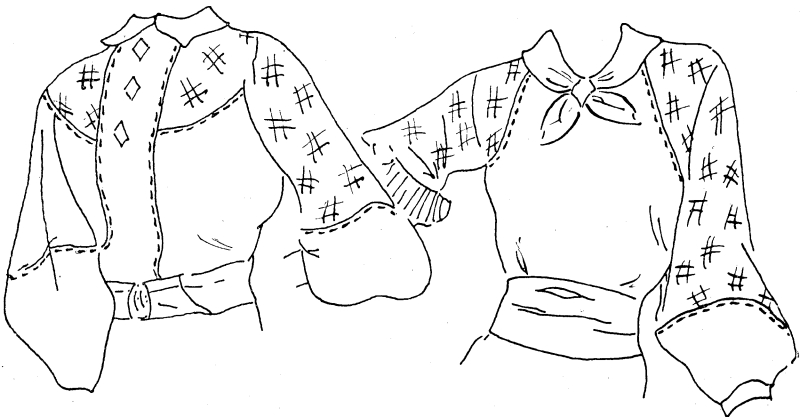


Fig. 2.—Contrasting sleeve and waist top of new or old material

7. *Selection of Combining Materials*—It is usually wisest to use all old material, if there is old available that is suitable. In this way there is no chance of the new material making the old look unattractive by contrast. However, after cleaning and pressing, the material in many an old garment looks “as good as new” and may be combined with new material quite successfully. Don’t use expensive material for the new, unless you are sure the old will wear every bit as long.

Plan carefully the kinds of material to combine, having the same quality if possible. Some suggestions are:

a. For plain silk crepes—printed silks, plaid silks, satin of same color. For exceedingly dressy garments, laces and nets may be used.

b. For woolen dresses—contrasting weaves in wool, provided they lend an attractive note; wool plaids, stripes, figures, or contrasting or harmonizing plain colors of wool fabrics; plaids, striped, or figured silks or those that contrast or harmonize. Velvets are lovely trim.

8. *Accessories*—Nothing will freshen a dress to the extent that a new collar and cuff set, or perhaps vestee, will. Crisp organdies, gingham, linens, piques and batistes all come under the washable class and will lend so much to that old dress. Plaid taffetas are attractive, if suitable. Nets, georgettes, and laces create lovely effects but are not so desirable and are not as easily cared for. Bows of silk or velvet, new belts, scarfs that add a bit of color, new buttons or buttons added are all methods of dressing up the old garments with very little effort or expense.

SUGGESTIONS FOR MADE OVERS

I. *Make Your Old Coat Into:*

1. *A Dress*—if material is not too heavy—by using
 - a. Waist yokes—Fig. 6, page 11; Fig. 9, page 13.
 - b. Skirt yokes—Fig. 5, page 11, to make dress longer if hip fullness allows skirt to be dropped.
 - (1) New if same material
 - (2) Cut from waist and other material used for waist.
 - c. Tunic dress—Fig. 7, page 12.
 - (1) With contrasting skirt
 - (2) Or same material if enough
 - d. Skirt—to be worn with separate blouses.
2. *Little Girl’s Coat.*
3. *Little Girl’s Suit*—Fig. 1, page 5.

4. *Little Boy's Suit or Coat*—if material is right texture and color.
5. *Turn Faded Coat and Cut to More Modern Lines*—if coat material is still good.
6. *Cut to Short or Finger Tip Length and Wear with Contrasting Dresses*—bright scarfs add much.

II. *Remake Your Old Dress by:*

1. Changing pattern.
2. Adding contrasting sleeves—Fig. 3, page 10.
3. Adding either skirt or waist yoke to make longer or to replace worn parts. Fig. 5, page 11; Fig. 6, page 11; Fig. 9, page 13.
4. Take out extra fullness in skirt and make into current straight line dress.
 - a. Use extra fullness for other parts of dress.
5. Add new collars and cuffs.
6. Make over either as blouse, jacket, or skirt, adding contrasting material for skirt or blouse to be worn with it.
7. Make yoke of dress of good part of sleeve, using contrasting material for new sleeves and perhaps collar.
8. Cut out worn sleeves, finish with cap or cape sleeve for summer, cut from old sleeves—Fig. 4, page 10.
9. Make waist of dress into a jumper effect and use separate blouse—Fig. 8, page 12.
10. Make into tunic dress—Fig. 7, page 12; using contrasting material for bottom of skirt—sham top.

III. *Make Your Old Suit Over as:*

1. *A dress for yourself.*
 - a. Without additions.
 - b. With yoke skirt—to lengthen.
 - c. With yoke in blouse—if necessary to piece in this manner, to lengthen or to replace worn parts.
 - d. As tunic dress.
2. *Suit for the Little Girl*—Fig. 1, page 5.
3. *Coat for the Little Girl.*

IV. *Skirt Too Short or Out of Style:*

Make into:

- a. Little girl's dress.
- b. Little girl's jacket.
- c. If plenty of fullness, cut down to more modern lines.

V. *Men's Clothing.*

1. Remake dad's shirt into a little boy's shirt or blouse.

2. And dad's trousers make up splendidly into little boy's trousers.
3. A man's coat makes over easily either as coat to go with above trousers or as a top coat.

CAUTION

1. Be sure material is worth making over.
2. Rip, clean, and press before attempting to make over.
3. Take care in combining new material with old, lest the new makes old look shoddy.
4. Do not make over children's clothes out of material too old appearing, too drab, or too large designs.
5. Always use matching thread. Off color threads often ruin the appearance of a garment.
6. Study line and design just as carefully for the "made-over" as for a new dress. This is to be worn just as often as a new one and its appearance is just as important.
7. Press as you go, keeping all seams pressed open or flat.
8. Make as well as a new dress. A "made-over," well chosen and well made often takes the place of a new garment and should be made as neatly.
9. Darn with ravelings of material, if possible, so that it dyes evenly.

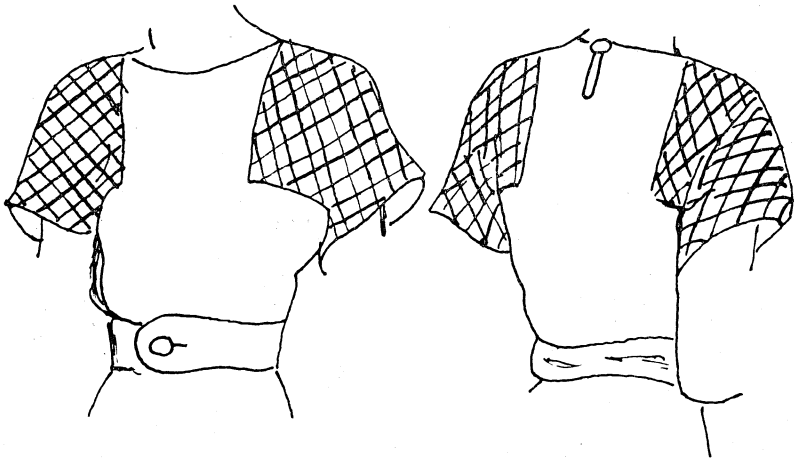


Fig. 3.—Contrasting material replaces many a worn armhole and sleeve

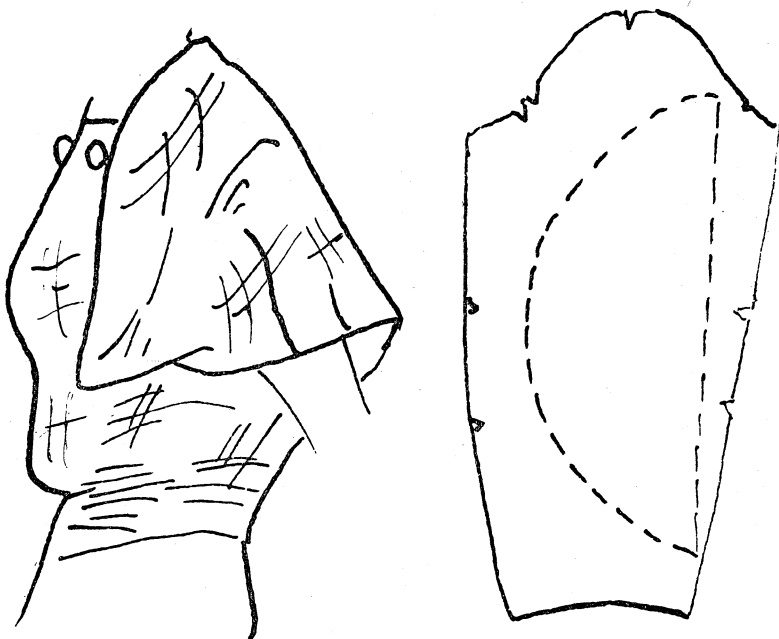


Fig. 4.—The good part of the old sleeve can be used as a cape sleeve

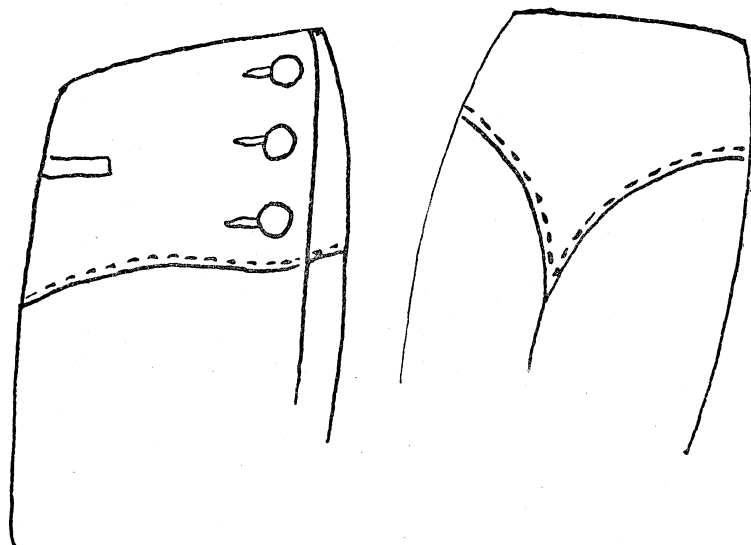


Fig. 5.—Skirt yokes are a good method of lengthening

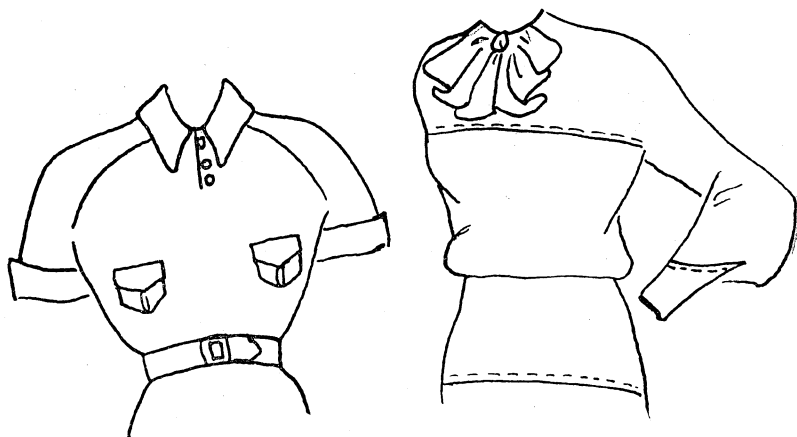


Fig. 6.—Yoke and sleeve cut in one—a good way to make over

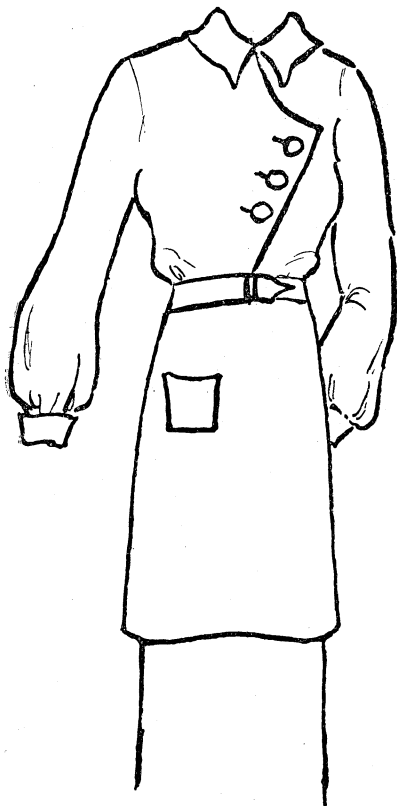


Fig. 7.—One of many tunic dress suggestions

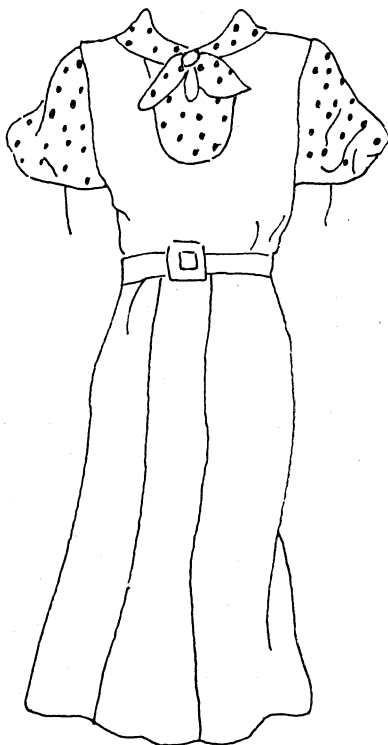


Fig. 8.—A jumper dress is a good method of working over a dress with worn out sleeves

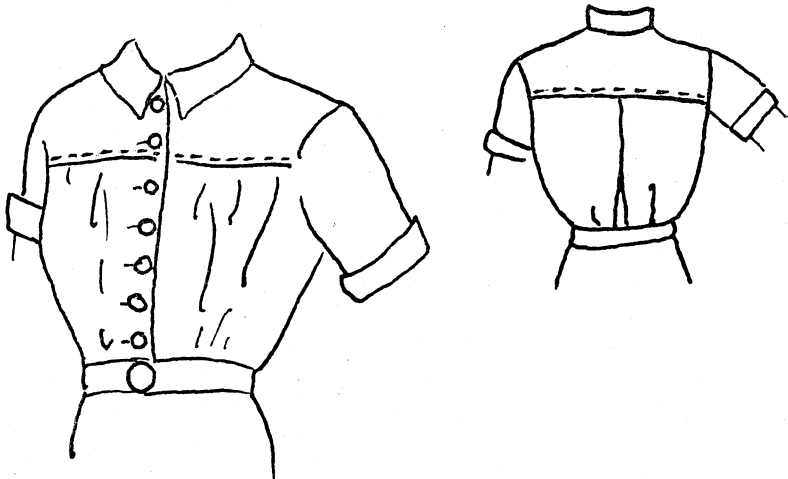


Fig. 9.—Shirtwaist dresses afford a good opportunity for piecing

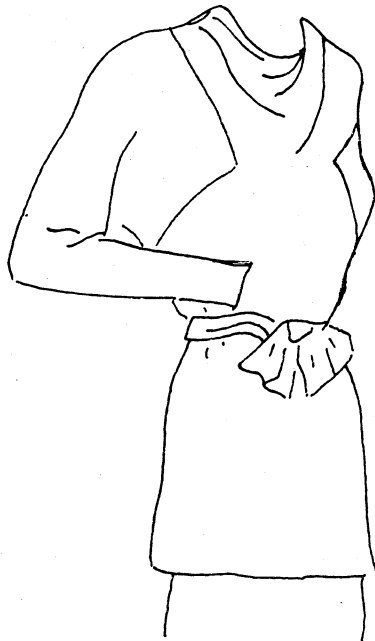


Fig. 10.—A dolman sleeve is another method of using new material for worn out sleeves—contrasting material or contrasting color may be used.

DYEING

Home dyeing is an art to be encouraged, but the lesson should be well learned and directions followed explicitly if garments are to be dyed at home. There is no reason why the results will not be satisfactory if the dyeing is done as directed.

The most common dyes sold on the market today fall generally into three classifications:

1. Those adapted to cotton and linen fibers and artificial silk (vegetable). Color set with the addition of salt.
2. Those adapted to silk and wool (animal fibers). Color set with the addition of vinegar.
3. Those suited to all fabrics—very convenient to use for mixed fabrics and for all fibers.

Equipment to be used

1. Kitchen scales
2. Large kettle or boiler for dye bath—large enough to completely cover material with liquid. Enamel, tin, copper, or brass
3. Large kettle or tub for rinsing
4. Two small sauce pans for dissolving dye and straining dye into
5. Cheesecloth for straining dissolved dye
6. Two smooth wooden sticks
7. Salt
8. Vinegar
9. Dye

Preparation

1. Weigh the garment and determine the amount of dye needed.
2. Rip apart, if necessary. Remove all buttons and decorations. Rip apart any thick places, such as pleats, hems, ruffles, cuffs, or collars.
3. Clean thoroughly. Remove spots and stains. Washing is the most satisfactory method of thorough cleansing. Rinse well, being sure all soap is removed.
4. Stripping or bleaching. Remove all color from fabric if a different color or lighter color is desired. This is usually done by using a commercial bleach; however, some home methods are quite satisfactory.
5. Wet material before immersing it in the dye bath.

Dyeing

1. The water should be soft.
2. Dissolve the right amount of dye needed.

3. Strain the dye to avoid danger of streaking.
4. Add strained dye to dye bath.
5. Test color of dye.
Take sample of material to be dyed and immerse several minutes, squeeze, and press dry. If too dark, remove some of the water and add clear water. If too light, add more dye. It is safer to test than to ruin the whole garment.
6. Immerse the wet material, having plenty of liquid to completely cover the garment so that it is not packed in tightly. Keep constantly in motion and keep under the liquid.
7. Heat to boiling point and boil length of time given on package of dye. Lift material from bath and add salt or vinegar as required and return material to bath. Boil the remainder of time according to directions.
8. The shade is deepened by continued boiling. Rinse thoroughly in warm water several times or until the rinse water is clear.
9. Squeeze gently until free from liquid—do not wring as this is likely to cause streaking. Hang in shady place.
10. Press while damp under a cloth on the wrong side.

Dyeing Cautions

1. Have garment thoroughly cleaned.
2. Spots, stains, or foreign elements, cause streaking.
3. Streaks may also be caused by:
 - a. Too little water.
 - b. Wringing garment too hard.
 - c. Drying in sunlight.
4. Do not try to dye a lighter shade over a darker.
5. Be sure garment is thoroughly free from soap.
6. Keep material in constant motion while in dye solution.
7. Remove material from bath if adding more dye.
8. Do not attempt to dye one color over another and expect to get a true color.
9. Colors may be easily dyed a darker tone of the same color, but in dyeing over other colors, the result depends on the intensity of the original, the kind of material, and the softness of the water.

Color charts may be obtained from the various dye houses, giving different color combinations, what colors to expect when dyeing one color over another, and which ones will not take other dyes satisfactorily.

