



Tailored Garments



4-H Member's Clothing Construction Project

*Extension Division Virginia Polytechnic Institute
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To the Parent and Leader :

“Tailored Garments” is the clothing construction project that is designed for the advanced 4-H seamstress. In this phase of the 4-H member’s experiences in clothing construction she will learn how to perfect techniques and how to perform new skills as she tailors a wool coat, suit, or ensemble.

You can contribute to the 4-H member’s enthusiasm and learning experiences by providing assistance and encouragement in the completion of this project. A 4-H parent needs to know what is being done by the member. You could attend a project and a regular 4-H meeting to see how you can help the 4-H’er by providing materials for project work, by assisting with plans for demonstrations or illustrated talks, and by encouraging her to keep up-to-date project records.

Urge your 4-H’er to participate in all activities and events associated with this project and the total 4-H program.

The Extension Clothing Specialists

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To the 4-H Member :

You have an exciting experience in store for you! You have completed the 4-H clothing construction project, "Wool Garments," and are now ready to step into tailoring a wool coat, suit, or ensemble. Many of your learning experiences will be similar to those in the past for you cannot forget the construction skills you have practiced. Your flair for fashion and proper selection and coordination of fabric and pattern are always extremely important and cannot be disregarded here.

In this 4-H clothing construction project, "Tailored Garments", you will rely chiefly on additional publications to complete your garments. Your adult 4-H project leader and Extension Agent, Home Economics, will offer much help as you work on this project. You will perfect old techniques and learn new ones as you tailor. Continue to practice modeling your garment and judging the quality of your and other club members' tailored outfits. Information concerning the quality to look for in a tailored garment also can be applied in buying ready-to-wear coats and suits. Be aware of quality to look for in making a successful clothing purchase with the money you have available.

As you progress in this project, follow the specific requirements for completion as listed under "Minimum Project Requirements." To get the most from this project you will want to do more than the "minimum" requirements. You and your adult 4-H project leader can determine the pace which is most desirable for you to complete your work. You can carry "Tailored Garments" for more than one year.

You will continue with your experiences in serving as a junior 4-H leader, in making exhibits, and in giving demonstrations and illustrated talks. Any of the techniques which you learn in this project is suitable for a demonstration or illustrated talk to a group, such as a 4-H or Home Demonstration Club meeting, an achievement day, a parents' night program, etc. If you have any questions concerning this requirement of giving at least 3 demonstrations or illustrated talks, see Circular 1043 "4-H Demonstrations and Illustrated Talks for Senior 4-H Members."

You will enjoy creating your first tailored garment.

The Extension Clothing Specialists

Tailored Garments

Minimum Project Requirements

To complete this project successfully you will do the following:

1. Make at least one tailored wool outfit (this could be a coat, suit, and/or an ensemble).
2. Model your tailored outfit before a group such as a 4-H Club Dress Revue, 4-H or Home Demonstration Club, achievement program, or parents' night program.
3. Judge and score your own garment as well as garments of other 4-H members for quality.
4. Visit a department store and rate coats and suits for quality of construction.
5. Give at least 3 demonstrations or illustrated talks to your club or another group.
6. Make a long-range plan for adding to your present wardrobe.
7. Keep accurate and up-to-date records of your achievements and progress in this project.
8. Share with others what you have learned by serving as a junior 4-H clothing leader.

TAILORED GARMENTS

Selecting Pattern and Fabric

A tailored wool garment requires the same skillful handling you have practiced in the past in order to create a becoming outfit. For your first tailored outfit, select a simple pattern with few pattern pieces. Your next step is to buy appropriate fabric for the pattern with which you will be working. For instance, if you are making a coat you will select a firm but heavier weight fabric than you would for either a suit or a dress. If you have had only a small amount of experience in sewing with wool, you probably will find a medium weight solid color or tweed wool that is not too loosely woven a good selection for a suit. You will need a slightly heavier wool for a coat, but be careful not to select anything too heavy that will be bulky and difficult to handle.

As you select the wool and pattern for your tailored garment you will want to consider your figure type and personal coloring to choose becoming lines and colors. The type and color of accessories you have on hand also will determine the outfit you plan to make. The cost of your outfit depends not only on the price of all your fabrics but also on the cost of any accessories that are necessary to complete the outfit.

When you purchase the fabric and pattern for your garment you will want to buy all your supplies. Consider if the fabric requires a backing. A backing or interlining is another layer of fabric that furnishes support to the outside fabric. A backing is used when a wool is loosely woven, light weight, and/or a light color so that the interfacing would show through to right side if not interlined. A backing is also necessary if the pattern design requires additional shape to retain lines or if additional weight for warmth is desired.

Choose a lining fabric that is compatible with the color of the outside fabric and suitable for the purpose of the garment. Refer to the publication on linings to see what fabrics are suitable for lining a tailored wool garment.

An interfacing should have as high a percentage of wool fiber with goat's hair as you can find. A wool interfacing will react the same as the wool fabric in shaping and molding; the goat's hair provides additional support.

Preparing To Sew

After you have purchased all the fabrics and notions you need you are ready to pre-shrink the outer wool fabric. Follow the "London-Shrunk" method or send the fabric to a reliable drycleaner as you have done in the past in the

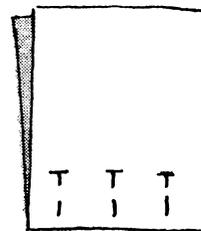
project "Wool Garments." Make a test garment as a check for fit before you cut the fabric. This test in muslin or another inexpensive fabric will not take long and will save you time later. Refer to "Wool Garments" in case you have forgotten how to make this test garment.

Cutting the Tailored Garment

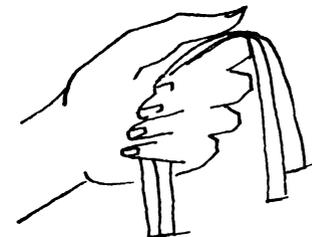
WOOL

It is more convenient and saves time if you cut all your fabric at one time. To cut the wool fabric follow directions on the guide sheet of the pattern. Check to be sure that the undercollar is placed on the basis so that it can be molded properly. The uppercollar should be bigger than the undercollar so that the collar will roll and the undercollar will not slip out to the right side. How much bigger depends on the weight and texture of the wool fabric. You can check this yourself by cutting 2 rectangular pieces of wool fabric the same size. Pin the pieces together at one short end and allow fabrics to roll over your hand. The difference between the length of the 2 fabrics at the free end is the amount by which the undercollar must be made smaller than the uppercollar. Check this on your paper pattern and make changes if necessary.

Roll over hand



Pin two pieces of same size together



Difference

LINING

When you finish cutting your wool fabric, you are ready to cut the lining. **Be sure to transfer any alterations you have made in the wool to the lining.** Cut the lining as directed on the pattern guide. Sometimes there are separate pattern pieces for the lining or at least indications of different cutting lines on the garment pattern. You will need additional room for movement in the center back of a coat or suit lining. Check to be sure the pattern allows for this. If not, cut the lining so that you have at least a total of 1" ease in a pleat at the center

back. This can be done by placing center back line about $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ " from the folded edge.

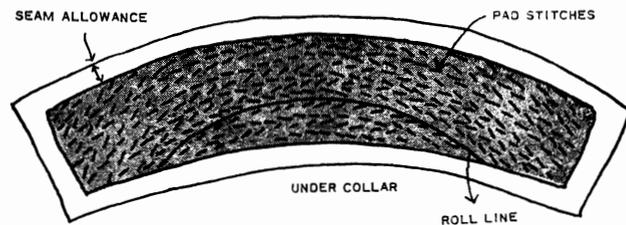
INTERFACING

Interfacing is cut using the garment pattern pieces and drawing a new cutting line on these. To determine how interfacing should be cut and attached see publication which your Extension Agent, Home Economics or adult 4-H project leader has on tailoring.

Sewing Your Tailored Garment

You will follow steps in constructing your tailored garment as you have in the past on other garments. Continue with the stay-stitching, darts, and pressing of wool. Attach the interfacing to the jacket or coat as indicated in the publication on interfacings. Tailored buttonholes can be constructed the way you have already learned.

Now you are ready to prepare the collar. Join the shoulder seams and press open flat. Remove the seam allowance and trim the corners from



the collar interfacing to eliminate bulk in the finished product. To prepare the collar for application you will have to pin the undercollar with interfacing on the garment to establish the roll line. Put the garment on and with pencil mark the line where the collar rolls at the neck-line on one half of the collar. Take collar off and transfer line to other half of collar so both sides are identical. You will place parallel rows of pad stitches about $\frac{1}{2}$ " from this roll line over the entire undercollar to the seam allowance. Your adult 4-H project leader can help you with this.

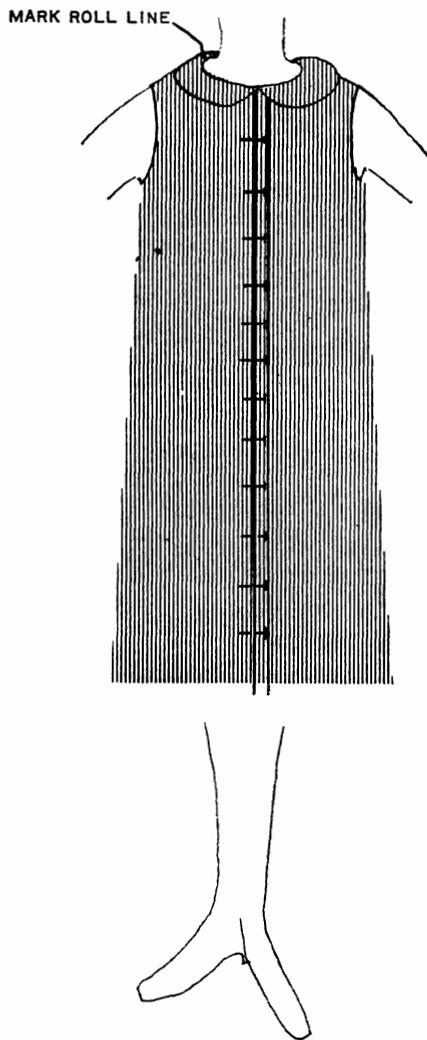
TO ATTACH THE COLLAR

- 1) Stitch undercollar to neck edge.
- 2) Press seam open flat and clip, notch, and grade seam allowances where necessary.
- 3) Prepare facings and uppercollar by joining them together.
- 4) Press neck edge seam open flat and clip, notch, and grade seam allowances.
- 5) Join facing and uppercollar to garment and undercollar stitching around outside collar edge and down front to attach front facing.
- 6) Do preliminary job of pressing over ham.
- 7) Understitch seam allowances at outside edge of collar, neck edge, and front facing edges by hand to keep in place.
- 8) Do final pressing.

Be patient in your final pressing and shaping of the collar over a tailor's ham. You are striving for a soft, rounded collar which is in proper position with both right and left sides the same. A nice looking collar will frame the face and is one of the most important points to consider in creating a professional-looking garment. Therefore, spend time shaping and pressing the collar for the correct effect. Hang your garment on a padded hanger at this stage and continue to do so from now on.

TO SET IN SLEEVES

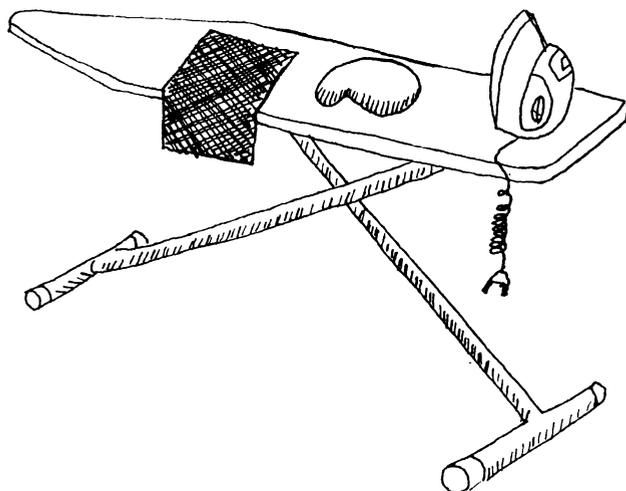
Continue your construction by setting in sleeves if pattern has these. The sleeve should be basted in position first before you do final stitching. To give additional support and lift at the shoulder line where most people normally have a dip



you probably will want to make a "lift" which you can tack in position at the shoulder. If you need more support at the upper arm to have the sleeve roll smoothly without an indentation, you can make a "bias sleeve roll" from your wool fabric and insert this. Ask your adult 4-H Project leader or Extension Agent, Home Economics to help you with these.

Finishing the Sewing on Wool

You will finish all your construction, including hems of coat and sleeves. Check to see if you need a bias strip of interfacing at the hemlines for additional shape and support of these areas. If so, interfacing can be cut so that it is about $\frac{1}{2}$ " wider than hem allowance and can be attached to wool with a loose basting stitch before hemming. A final *thorough pressing* job is in order. Hang the garment with care.



Lining Your Tailored Garment

Your wool garment is finished, except for the lining. Prepare the lining, using good construction techniques, but do not set in sleeves. Stitch the center back pleat of lining down about 3 to 4" and then allow the rest to be free. This pleat can be caught by hand tacking to hold it in position. Press lining with dry iron before inserting into garment.

The lining is placed in the garment so it appears to be resting over the wool fabric, not stitched in position. To create this impression you will want to tack the side seam allowances of the lining to the seam allowances of the garment with a loose running basting stitch begin-

ning about 3 to 4" below underarm and stopping short of hem line. The outside raw edges of the lining are turned and slip stitched by hand in place with a secure, but never binding, stitch. Check with your adult 4-H project leader or Extension Agent, Home Economics to show you how to attach the sleeve lining with ease. The hems of the lining are slip stitched to the wool hem so that as the lining falls back over the hem allowance it is still about $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1" shorter than the finished edge of the coat.

Evaluating Your Tailored Garment

Your garment is complete! Hang it up immediately for it deserves good care. We know you are proud of it and yourself. This is a garment you will wear with pride to a 4-H meeting, school, church, and perhaps National 4-H Club Congress.

You will want to evaluate your outfit and the outfits of others as they model their tailored garments before a group. Use the "4-H Dress Revue Score Card for Judging" as you have in the past. Don't forget to plan an activity during which friends and parents can see your fine products. Plan a 4-H fashion show and invite the public. The foods and nutrition project members might enjoy preparing refreshments for the event.

Complete the enclosed 4-H project record sheet so you can list your accomplishments and areas where you feel you need additional help. You have progressed greatly from the first day you began to sew. Now you can construct a great variety of garments, from school dresses, leisure wear, wool garments, to tailored garments. Take a look at your wardrobe. Make an inventory of what you have in your wardrobe at the present time. Soon you will be working at a job or continuing your education. Now is the time to plan ahead for the wardrobe you will need later. What garments do you need to add to your present wardrobe so that it will be appropriate and becoming for all occasions and for you? Through the completion of the 4-H clothing construction project you are now qualified to make any garment you need.

Your interest in clothing and clothing construction does not end with the completion of this 4-H clothing project. A lifelong interest and enthusiasm in the selection and construction of clothing articles are just beginning. With each new project you will continue to learn. You probably have plans already to begin a new garment or maybe you are thinking of a career in clothing and textiles. Best of luck to you in your future clothing work.

4-H DRESS REVUE

Score Card for Judging

Name ----- County -----

Age ----- Club -----

Number Years in Clothing Project ----- Date -----

See reverse side for suggestions to consider before scoring.

FACTORS FOR SCORING	5	4	3	JUDGES' COMMENTS
I. The Girl (25 points) A. Posture B. Poise and Gracefulness C. Grooming D. Attitude E. Modeling of outfit				
II. Outfit on the Girl (40 points) A. Fabric suitable to style B. Style and fabric suitable for occasion and girl C. Color becoming to girl D. Color combination pleasing in garment and accessories E. Accessories appropriate for outfit F. Accessories becoming to girl G. Appropriate undergarments H. Garment clean				
III. Construction as it Affects Appearance (25 points) A. Fit of garment B. Construction detail appropriate to fabric and style of garment C. Quality of construction D. Appropriate findings used E. Well pressed				
IV. Knowledge of Subject Matter (10 points) A. Shows evidence of understanding subject matter B. Construction techniques used appropriate for age and experience				

TOTAL _____ + _____ + _____ = _____

Final Rating: Blue Red White (Circle Appropriate One)

POINTS TO CONSIDER WHEN JUDGING 4-H DRESS REVUE

- I. The Girl (25 points)
 - A. Posture—Stands tall with head erect, chest and rib cage high, stomach flat and knees relaxed. Maintains a graceful and flattering position with weight balanced on both feet.
 - B. Poise—Girl appears to be at ease and wears garment to best advantage. Answers questions with confidence and is free from excess gestures.
 - C. Grooming—Clean and neat hair, well-groomed nails. Shoes clean and well polished.
 - D. Attitude—Presents outfit with pride, smile. Pleasing relation with audience. Personality revealed.
 - E. Modeling of Outfit—Walks correctly with poise, good posture, and a smile. Turns gracefully and slowly so that garment details can be seen.

- II. Outfit on the Girl (40 points)
 - A. Fabric suitable to style—Fabric texture, weight and design are appropriate for design of garment.
 - B. Style and fabric suitable for occasion and girl—Style and fabric becoming to the individual and suitable for intended purpose.
 - C. Color becoming to girl—Color becoming to the individual's personal coloring, figure and personality.
 - D. Color combination pleasing—Color combinations used in garment and accessories pleasing and becoming.
 - E. Accessories appropriate for outfit—Accessories suitable to outfit and for intended purpose.
 - F. Accessories becoming to girl—Style, color, texture of accessories, including hats, gloves, jewelry, shoes and hose, becoming to girl.
 - G. Appropriate undergarments—Undergarments appropriate for the individual and the garment.
 - H. Garment clean—Garment is clean, free from stains, body soil and is generally neat and well pressed.

- III. Construction as it Affects Appearance (25 points)
 - A. Fit as it relates to appearance—Enough ease to permit body movement but snug enough to stay in position on figure. Design lines of the garment fall becomingly on the figure.
 - B. Construction detail *appropriate* to fabric and design of garment—consider grainline, seams, darts, pleats, gathers, closures, facings, collars, sleeves, and hem.
 - C. Quality of construction—Quality of construction techniques give a pleasing and well-made appearance to garment.
 - D. Appropriate findings used—Consider buttons, thread, zipper, linings, and interfacings when needed.
 - E. Well pressed—Correct pressing method used during construction of garment.

- IV. Knowledge of Subject Matter (10 points)
 - A. Shows evidence of understanding subject matter—Girl shows evidence through conversation that she has an understanding of why she has chosen outfit and construction techniques used.
 - B. Construction techniques used appropriate for age and experience—Girl has chosen to make a garment that was not too difficult for her age and experience, yet has chosen one that presents some challenge and new learning experiences.

TAILORED GARMENTS

4-H Clothing Construction Project Record Sheet

(Give your completed record to your adult 4-H project leader)

Name ----- Age ----- Date -----

Address -----

4-H Club ----- Leader -----

Parents' Name -----

Parents' Address -----

List offices held and committees worked on in 4-H -----

Number of 4-H meetings you attended this year----- List the other 4-H events and activities, such as achievement programs, parents' night programs, contests, 4-H camps, exhibits, State 4-H Club Congress, etc. in which you participated. (Include any awards or ribbons received.)

Cut Here

When you served as a junior 4-H leader, what did you do? (such as number of 4-H'ers with whom you worked, what you taught on clothing construction, and keeping records, etc.) -----

List tailored garment(s) you have made in this project.

Garment	Approximate Cost
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As you tailored your outfit you learned new skills and construction techniques. Which of these new learning experiences did you find to be . . .

the easiest, most enjoyable?

the most difficult?

the one(s) you want to improve?

Briefly outline the demonstrations or illustrated talks you gave to complete "Tailored Garments."
List the groups to which you gave demonstrations and illustrated talks.

Tell about your modeling experience(s). (Include what you wore, before what group, your feelings, etc.)

How do you plan to continue to use what you have learned in "Tailored Garments"?

TAILORED GARMENTS

4-H Clothing Construction Project Record Sheet

(Give your completed record to your adult 4-H project leader)

Name ----- Age ----- Date -----

Address -----

4-H Club ----- Leader -----

Parents' Name -----

Parents' Address -----

List offices held and committees worked on in 4-H -----

Number of 4-H meetings you attended this year ----- List the other 4-H events and activities, such as achievement programs, parents' night programs, contests, 4-H camps, exhibits, State 4-H Club Congress, etc. in which you participated. (Include any awards or ribbons received.)

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How do you plan to continue to use what you have learned in "Tailored Garments"?