

Fabric 'Paints' A Room

A small bedroom furnished with attic leftovers can take on an important look with the use of imagination, a sewing machine and yards and yards of fabric.

The fabric is used as other decorators would use a paintbrush -- to cover bed headboard, to fashion a canopy, and to cover the walls as well as the windows.

In the room shown here, the fabric is checked gingham in assorted sizes and colors, and the focal point is an eye-catching patchwork bedspread made from nine-inch squares used diagonally.

Walls are covered with quarter-inch yellow checks, and the same color in larger checks form the tie-back draperies and the elegant canopy. The same material can be used for a padded headboard and for a table cover.

The quilt utilizes pieces of assorted checks in navy, red and pink as well as yellow. To make it, you start with a lining, lay it on the bed and then pin on the patches in alternating colors.

This room, using fabric that costs less than \$1 a yard, was decorated in checks for less than \$100.

New Tricots Need Special Handling

Tricot knit fabrics are coming into their own. These are warp knits which, unlike double knits, are knitted in flat form.

They differ from the double knits in that they usually have stretch only on the crosswise direction. Tricot fabrics may be combination fabrics, such as those using Arnel triacetate and nylon.

Here's how to get the best results sewing these warp knits:

- Use cotton-covered polyester thread and a ball point needle, size 7 or 9.
- If edges tend to curl during cutting and sewing, use a spray starch to stiffen.
- Machine tension often needs adjusting. Loosen both top and bobbin; and use a long stitch, eight to 10 per inch.

- Keep pressure light on the presser foot.
- Stay-stitch curves and other off-grain edges to stabilize garment; reinforce stress points with seam tape; use lightweight interfacing at buttonholes.

Use a steam iron at appropriate setting for fiber content of the fabric (usually medium setting).

- Use a press cloth and light pressure on the iron when pressing to avoid glazing and impressions. For special care, iron on the reverse side.

When buying these new fashion fabrics for home sewing, check the bolt end or fabric identification strip for care instructions. If this information is not available, ask the sales person to find out for you. And, for fabrics manufactured after July 3, be sure to ask for a permanent label with care instructions to attach to the finished garment.

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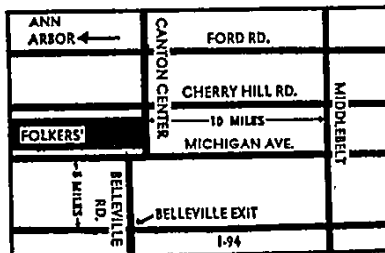
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