

The Beautiful Revolutionaries

They're causing a revolution in the home sewing scene, those amazing new knit fabrics.

Introduced a few years ago in the convenient 60-inch widths, seamstresses immediately took them to heart in their vibrant, solid hues with a variety of interesting textures.

As the seasons rolled on, more and more knits came out in stripes, plaids, all manner of prints. Now the women who want the easy-sew, easy-fit, easy-care delights of knits also can find just about any color, texture and print type she desires.

"Some of our customers," said Mrs. Sherry Thomet of Livonia's Stretch and Sew store, where every bolt on the shelves is a knit, "are having garage sales to get rid of their woven fabric clothes so they can convert entirely."

Knits used to present a problem — the tendency to "pill" when given hard wear. That seems to be mainly overcome in the newer fabrics. And Mrs. Thomet said they have another virtue that makes them great for children's clothes — long wearability.

"We have a nylon for slacks that just won't wear out," she said.

Sewing the knits takes some getting used to and maybe even some unlearning. A new way of stretching the fabric to give flexibility to the seams and hems may be used, or sometimes a zig-zag stitch is favored.

Some of the newest machines have stitches with built-in stretch, designed just for knits. But the fabrics can be handled on all types of machines.

Pattern companies have worked out special patterns to take advantage of the particular properties of knits. And women, even using older patterns, are finding that the set-in sleeve and collar that used to be a problem takes its place in the new fabrics without fuss.

No doubt about it, the knit revolution is here to stay.



SPRING FRESH and designed to make in a knit fabric is this princess dress that's Simplicity pattern 9774. It can be made with short puffed sleeves too.



CUT IS EVERYTHING in this shapely dress made from Simplicity Designer pattern 9912. The stretch knits help achieve a smooth fit.

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