



A-LINE SKIRT and easy-to-wear neckline feature this dress with trim of white vinyl by Telen. McCall Quick and Easy pattern 3133.



GAY GINGHAM with an appliqued posy on the pocket makes a novelty skirt. Simplicity Jiffy pattern 5123.

You Never Had It So Easy

Easy does it describes one important trend in home sewing today.

Pattern makers, while offering many couture fashions for the making, also include some styles that will go together with little time and effort.

Often easy to finish with just a few hours' work, these can turn into outstanding garments if a beautiful fabric is used.

The Simplicity Pattern Co. long has featured Jiffy fashions, which are designed for fast, easy sewing and usually contain no more than four main pattern pieces.

The novelty, drawstring skirt shown here is a case in point. Made with only two pieces, a skirt front and back and a pocket, it can be sewn either long or short, and the one-size pattern fits waist sizes 23 to 30.

It should be made of a fabric that is the same on front or back or has an interesting back, because the casing for the drawstring turns to the outside and is stitched with a machine zig-zag or embroidered.

From the McCall Pattern Co. come two sets of patterns for the seamstress for whom time is a problem.

The newest are the "Make It Tonight Knits."

Six completely new, super-simple patterns have been designed for the busy homemaker with a tight, demanding schedule, and for the home seamstress with basic know-how it's possible to make them in an evening and wear the new outfit the next day.

There are no zippers, buttons, darts, facings, interfacings or linings involved in these patterns for knits.

And they eliminate all the tedious hand-finishing of fashion sewing. All sewing on these knits is done by machine, with top stitching the gimmick that makes it all possible.

Hems, sleeves, collars and pockets all have finished edges top-stitched, and the method is not only functional but decorative. Sometimes a contrasting thread is used. Knit fabrics make linings unnecessary, and skirt and pant waistbands are elasticized, eliminating time-consuming zippers and buttons.

Steam-pressing is an important part of making these new patterns. An edge is stitched, then folded under and pressed, then top-stitched, then pressed again. This produces a flat, professional look to all finished edges.

A home sewer should choose an un-bonded knit fabric for these patterns. Double knits are ideal, because they have body and a moderate amount of stretch. Striped, patterned or textured knits are all appropriate and can be used effectively in combination with a solid for these new fashion designs.

Make It Tonight knits are designed with two stitching lines to reduce pattern adjustment to a minimum. One is five-eighths of an inch from the edge, the other a full inch. These two lines allow for the difference in knit stretch and make fitting easy.

You sew the shoulder seam first, then put the sleeves in open and flat, pin the side seams and sleeve seams and try the garment on to decide which stitching line to use.

The pattern selection includes one and two-piece dresses, suits, coats, coat and dress costumes, pantsuits and a pant-vest combination. There's also a child's pattern that includes a dress, long shift and tunic-shorts outfit.

McCalls also has 17 "Quick and Easy" patterns that have four main pattern pieces, no waistline seams, elastic casings and ban linings, interfacings and buttonholes.

THE SCHOOLGIRL'S FAVORITE look in jumpers is featured in this top-stitched knit. McCall Make It Tonight -- Knits pattern 3084.



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Your Individuality Shows In the Trims You Choose

If you sew, it's easy to create your own individual look -- with all the trimmings.

There may be nothing exclusive about the pattern you choose, but the way you use trims -- either sparingly or in great abundance -- can make an individual difference.

Whether in the form of rick rack, ball fringe, peasant bands, braid, eyelet ruffles, or dainty lace, cotton trims are the big fashion accessory for the '70s. And many of them now come with permanent press finishes that eliminate tedious ironing.

For your summer sewing projects, use trims in imaginative new ways. If you're making a peasant skirt, for instance, choose a colorful patchwork -- printed cotton. Then use jumbo-size rick rack to border off each patch in the print.

Stitch vertical lines of rick rack onto the fabric first, and then sew on all the horizontals. Complete the look with a peasant blouse of cotton broadcloth or batiste, edged in matching rick rack.

A combination of rick rack and braid can give added charm to country-girl dresses of flower-sprigged cotton calico. Choose trimmings to pick up colors in the print.

For a distinctive hemline border, center a row of giant rick rack hem-

tween two rows of flat braid. Reverse the arrangement of rick rack and braid for a border outlining the neck and waist of the dress.

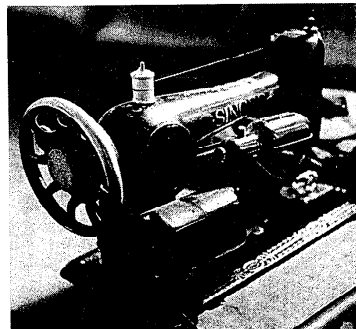
Or for a more frilly treatment, try a combination of Venice lace and butterfly ruffling. If you use unbleached cotton muslin or natural-colored homespun for your country-girl dress, give it a folk-y flair with embroidered peasant braid.

For best results in applying trims, be sure to use cotton mercerized thread in the same color as the trim. Always handle trims loosely and use a light thread tension on your machine to avoid puckering.

You'll also find it's easier to work from a full length of trim rather than from pre-cut pieces when sewing. For a professional look, mark the exact location for the trim on your dress.

If it's to be a border of trim, measure it off with a ruler and mark your fabric with dots or dashes where the trim is to go. Then cover the marks with trim and stitch.

To figure trim yardage when it's not shown on a pattern, determine the location of the trim and then measure either the pattern or the garment. Add an extra half yard or more of trim to allow for joining, curves, or corners.



SEWING MACHINE have come a long way since this old-timer ruled the world of home dressmaking. This machine's modern-day descendants will straight stitch or do the versatile zig-zag and have easy-change fashion discs to make buttonholes or any of 69 decorator patterns. The most advanced models even thread their own bobbins, and feature the latest development in sewing machines -- a flexible stitch that is perfect for working on knit materials.

SEW IT YOURSELF

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