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# Oregon Agricultural College Extension Service

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## BOYS' AND GIRLS' INDUSTRIAL CLUBS

Oregon Agricultural College, United States Department of Agriculture, and  
State Department of Education, cooperating

*Extension Bulletin 169 Corvallis, Oregon December, 1916*

## SEWING CLUB LESSON NO. 2

Circular No. 5.

### SEWING APRON.

The lesson this time is to be a sewing apron. Every one should wear an apron of some kind when sewing, for two reasons; to protect the dress, and to keep the work from becoming soiled. When one is wearing a worsted dress, it naturally becomes somewhat soiled, and when light colored material is being worked on, it may also become soiled, if it comes in contact with the dress.

Did you ever stop to think how many different kinds of aprons there are, and how many different uses there are for them?

Not only women and girls wear them, but also men in some occupations wear them. We have kitchen, nurses, artists', butchers', bakers', shoemakers', carpenters', and brick layers' aprons. In some countries, aprons are worn to indicate social position and are often made of silk and fine linen. Look in your geographies and geographical readers and see how many of the women in the pictures are wearing aprons.

*Materials.* You may use dimity, barred muslin, flaxon, batiste, lawn, or India linen. Be sure, however, to choose a piece of fine quality, because loosely woven material does not keep its shape, will wear out more quickly, and is more difficult to sew.

*Measurements.* Before you buy your material, you should find out exactly how much material you are going to need. In order to do this you must take the following measurements:

**WAIST.** Measure around the waist at the belt line. Make this a close measure, but do not draw the tape line too snugly. You will use this measurement when making your belt.

**LENGTH.** While the tape line is still pinned around the waist, take a second tape line and measure from this line at center front to the knees. This is for the length of the apron. Be sure, however, to allow one inch more for seam and hem

when you buy your material. If your apron is not  $\frac{3}{4}$  yard long, buy  $\frac{3}{4}$  yard of material in order to give length for the ties.

*Width.* Sit down, then measure across your knees for the width of your apron. Be sure to let this measurement extend far enough over the knees so that the apron will cover your lap.

*Pattern.* From these measurements you are to make your own pattern. You will need a clean and smooth piece of wrapping paper, a yard stick, and a lead pencil.

Place the paper on a table with the long side parallel with the edge of the table. Mark the corner nearest your left hand "A". Measure toward your right hand along the edge of the paper from point "A", the length of your apron. Call this point "B". Measure up from "B" toward "A" four inches. Call this point "C". Measure out from "C" one half the width of your apron, plus 2". Call this point "D". From "A" measure out one half the width of the apron. Call this point "E". From "A" also measure down toward "B" one inch. Call this point "F". Join "B" and "D", "D" and "E", "E" and "F" with straight lines. If you wish the bottom of the apron to be curved, join "B" and "D" with a curved line instead of a straight line. This pattern is for one half of your apron, but you will have to allow enough for the hem and seams.

*Placing Patterns.* You need to know a few things about cloth before you cut out your apron. The lengthwise threads of all cloth are called warp threads; the crosswise or weaving threads are called filling or woof. The warp threads are always stronger than the weaving threads because there is more strain on them while the cloth is being woven. Since the warp threads are a little heavier than the woof, they shrink more when the cloth is washed, so it is necessary to have the warp threads of every piece of a garment run in the same direction unless the cloth is simply used as a decoration.

*Selvage.* If you examine any piece of cloth carefully you will see that along the edges the material is more closely woven. This gives strength to the edge, but it also causes the edge to shrink more when the material is washed, so it is best always to cut off the selvage before making up garment. You can always tell the lengthwise of any material by the selvage.

*Cutting Apron.* For the apron, fold the material lengthwise, since your pattern is only for one half of the apron. Fold it so that one side is just wide enough for the pattern, plus the hem.

By doing this, you will have all of the material that is to be left over in one piece.

Place the pattern with the straight edge exactly on the fold of the material. Pin it in place. Allow  $\frac{1}{4}$ " for a seam at the top, and  $\frac{1}{4}$ " for a hem along the sides and bottom. Remember that your pattern does not allow for seams.

*Cutting Belt.* Cut a lengthwise strip of the material  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " wide and the length of your waist measure, less 3".

*Cutting Ties.* Two pieces 2" wide and 27" long.

*Method of Making.* Hem the bottom and sides of the apron, and sides and ends of the ties according to the directions in the Sewing Bulletin, on page 7, paragraph 3. Make the hem on the apron, and on the sides of the ties  $\frac{1}{8}$ " to 3-16" wide. The narrower hem is more attractive and dainty on such fine material. Have the hem on the ends of the ties  $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide.

**GATHERING AND STROKING.** Beginning at center of top edge  $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the edge, gather to the hems on each side of the apron, following the directions for running found on page 5 in the next to the last paragraph in the Sewing Bulletin. Make the stitches  $\frac{1}{8}$ " long, and very even. Do not fasten the thread, simply take off the needle and make a knot in the end of the thread. One-eighth inch below this row of gathering, put in another row, using the same sized stitches and having them directly below the others, thus: .....

When both rows of gathering are in, take the two threads on one side of the apron and draw up the material on the thread as closely as possible.

Hold the gathered portion firmly between the thumb and forefinger of the left hand. With the thumb and forefinger of the right hand, pull a single thickness of the material below the gathering threads over the left forefinger, a little at a time until all the material has been stroked. Do the same on the other half of the apron.

**TO PUT ON BAND.** Find the center of one edge of the band by folding the two ends together. Crease, open and mark by a small pin. Measure out from this pin toward the ends of the band  $\frac{1}{2}$  the width of the apron, less 2". Mark this point on each side of the band with a pin. Mark the center of the top of the apron with a pin also.

Lay the band on the table, place the apron right side up on top of the band with the raw edge of the band even with the raw edge of the apron, having the center of the belt and center of the band together. Pin them together at this cen-

tral point, then pin the edge of the hem to the point on the band marked by the pin. Draw up the gathering thread until the apron just fits the band. Distribute the gathers evenly, and then baste the apron to the belt.

Sew the two together using the combination stitch. (See Sewing Bulletin, page 5, last paragraph). Make this seam  $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide.

Crease the band across the apron so that the raw edges of the seam lie flat on the band. Continue creasing the band the same distance from the edge out to the ends. If your seam is the right width, this fold should be exactly  $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Next, crease a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " fold across both ends, and last of all, crease a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " fold along the top of the belt.

Fold down the upper edge of the belt so that both edges exactly meet, and the seam joining the belt and apron is covered.

Hook the fold at the end over the fold at the side, so that no raw edges will appear.

Have the ties hemmed and pleated at the unfinished end, so that they will exactly fit into the ends of the belt. Be careful to have the right side of the ties toward the right side of the apron.

Baste the ties in place; then baste across the belt, taking care to keep the edges even and the seam covered. Hem the strings in place first on the wrong side and then on the right side. Overhand the edges of the belt together beyond the apron and hem the belt down over the apron.

If you wish, you may trim your apron with lace, either tatted, crocheted, or purchased. Should you do so, however, you will need to sew it on before putting the band on. Lace is always overhanded on. If you tat or crochet the lace, use number 60 or 70 crochet cotton and do not have the finished lace more than  $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide.

Another pretty trimming for aprons is a row of feather stitching around the apron above the hem. This is illustrated on page 6 of the Sewing Bulletin, lines 11 to 12.

#### DIAGRAM OF APRON PATTERN.

When you have completed the apron, fill in the report card and mail it to the State Club Leader, then begin working on Lesson No. 3 while instructions for Lesson No. 4 are being sent to you.

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