A Labor Saving Sewing Cabinet
A Labor Saving Sewing Cabinet

Ermina Fisher
Marion County Extension Agent

Most homes lack convenient and adequate storage for sewing equipment and supplies. If yours is one of these, no doubt you store supplies and equipment in numerous drawers and boxes throughout the house. The cabinet displayed in this leaflet was designed to provide sufficient storage and work area to make sewing convenient and fun.

The cabinet top opens to make a cutting table 48" x 67" and 37½" high. If you are average height (5'4" to 5'5") this should be comfortable for cutting. When closed, the cabinet is 25" x 48¼" and is on casters for easy rolling.

The cutting surface has a cork top, which prevents fabric from slipping and is convenient for pinning. A removable trough that fastens to the end of the table will hold any length of material not accommodated by the table top. Two pull-out boards give a working surface for pinning, basting, and hand sewing, as well as a place to lay patterns, scissors, and pins while sewing.

You can make your sewing easier by arranging the machine, cabinet, and a sit-down ironing board in a U-shape. The machine might be at the right side, the cabinet in the middle, and ironing board at the left. If you can lay hands on a secretarial-type swivel chair, reserve it for your sewing center! Put your chair in the center of the U, and you can turn easily from sewing to pressing as needed.

Storage is provided for a small portable sewing machine. The size of portable machines varies, so this space should be changed to fit the particular machine you will use.
FRONT VIEW
DRAWERS REMOVED

DRILL ENDS TO RECEIVE DOWELS IN MATERIAL TRAY
BUTT HINGES
DROP LEAF SUPPORTS

TOPS TO BE 3/4" PLYWOOD WITH 1/2" CORKBOARD AND BANDED WITH 1/4" WOOD STRIPS

1/2" PLYWOOD BACK, FRONT & SIDES

SECTION A-A

MATERIAL TRAY 1-REQD.

1/4" PLYWOOD SIDES & BOTTOM 3/4" ENDS
LEGEND

DRAWER 1  PATCHING MATERIALS
DRAWER 2  CUTTING & SEWING EQUIPMENT
DRAWER 3  FINDINGS
DRAWER 4  GARMENTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION
DRAWER 5  NEW MATERIALS
DRAWER 6  GARMENTS TO BE MENDED
DRAWER 7  SHOULDER PADS, LININGS, BUCKRAM
DRAWER 8  MACHINE ATTACHMENTS
DRAWER 9  PRESSING EQUIPMENT
DRAWER 10  PATTERNS
DRAWER 11  SEWING MACHINE, THREAD
12 & 13  PULL-OUT BOARDS
Construction plans shown in this circular are a modification of a cabinet designed by Montana State College. Homemakers may wish to make further adjustments. For example, some women have indicated a preference for full-length drawers across the bottom in place of the sewing machine storage bin. This would allow flat storage of large materials.

The cabinet illustrated was built for use in the Marion County Extension office, and was finished in birch. Construction costs would be somewhat less with regular plywood and an enameled finish.