Patching and Mending

Wool Garments

Select Suitable Mend

Here are points to think about when you are deciding which darn or patch you want to use on a particular place to be mended.

Shape of the place to be mended. A bad snag naturally calls for a different type of mend than a slanting cut or a straight tear.

Fabric. Does it have a nap—or is it smooth? Is it light or heavy in weight? Is it washable—or must it be dry cleaned? Does it fray?

Size of the hole. Some mends are more successful on small holes—others on larger ones.

Where is the hole? Is it in a spot that will be strained constantly when you wear the garment? Or is it in an out of the way place? This makes a difference in how sturdy the mend must be.

This circular was prepared by Extension clothing specialists, Oregon State University.

For most current information: http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog
The Fringed Patch

This patch is suitable only for fabric which is rather coarsely woven, such as tweed. It is not practical for fabrics like gabardine.

1. Trim the hole, following a thread of the material so the opening forms either a square or a rectangle.

2. Draw a thread $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the edge of the opening on all four sides. Be careful that the drawn threads do not extend beyond this line.
3. Cut the patch 1 1/2 inches larger than the opening on all sides. Be sure the patch exactly matches the *pattern* and *grain* or *weave* of the garment. Fringe the patch 1 inch on all sides.

4. Pin the patch right side up over the opening on the outside of the garment. Be sure the lengthwise yarns of the patch exactly match the lengthwise yarns of the garments.

5. Turn the garment wrong side out. Pull fringe to wrong side with a number 7 crochet hook. Next, pull a yarn through at the other corners.
6. Begin at a corner of the patch and pull the thread through the space left by pulling out the yarn as shown in the picture.

7. Check from the right side to be sure that the patch is on straight. Then, matching the weave, continue pulling all the raveled threads through to the wrong side.

8. Steam press the patch from the wrong side. Be sure the patch is smooth and flat, not drawn. Catch down fringe on the wrong side with needle and thread. Do not pull these stitches tight or they will show on the right side.
The Knit Mend

In knit material snags or breaks stretch to form holes. Try to mend these while they still are small. The following mends will take care of most knit repair. For any type of mend, you'll need matching yarn. Either ravel out a pocket or some other part of the garment you can do without, or you may be able to buy a matching skein.

If the knit is plain, you can copy the stitch in the garment with a knit stitch. This mend hardly shows, and it will "give" as much as the rest of the garment.

1. Cut the material vertically a little above and below the center of the hole. Then make two horizontal cuts—one above the hole, one below. Ravel the knit to the ends of the cuts. Thread each loose end and run it back through the fabric on the underside.

2. Zigzag across the hole lengthwise with matching yarn.

To keep a simple break in the knitting from growing, catch each end of each loop with a needle and matching thread. Tie off securely on the wrong side.
Guides for Patches and Darns

Patches

Cut patch on grainline. Sew it on so the crosswise and lengthwise threads in the patch will match crosswise and lengthwise threads in the fabric.

Match perfectly each detail of fabric design. This helps hide the mend.

Use faded patch if garment is old and faded. Try to get a matching patch from a hem or some spot where you can space old fabric.

Use thread that blends with the fabric. Pull yarns from a scrap of the same cloth if you have saved any, or ravel them from straight-cut seams where they can be spared.

Use lengthwise yarns for darning lengthwise—crosswise yarns for crosswise darning. If you are raveling threads from the garment, you may be able to get crosswise threads from the inside of the hem—lengthwise threads from the seam allowances in the skirt and waist.

Use dull, matching sewing thread that blends with the fabric if you can’t get self-yarn. Remember that thread usually works up lighter than it appears on the spool; so it is better to buy slightly darker thread.

Repeat weave of fabric as closely as possible. Work under a strong light.

Use a short thread and fine needle. Long thread pulled back and forth across a tear or hole tends to pull and stretch a darn out of shape.

Work for flatness. If the yarns are pulled up tight, the finished darn puckers and looks drawn. Too loose a thing on the other hand, will make the darn look “puffy.”

Draw mending yarn through yarns in fabric itself. Take tiny stitches, and be especially careful not to pull them too taut when you make a turn. Run the stitches unevenly into the fabric around the edge of the darn, so you won’t be able to see a definite line where the darn starts.

Pull ends of darning yarns to inside of garment and clip them.

Darn on right side of fabric because you can see whether or not you are blending the darn into the fabric.

Press finished darn on wrong side.
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