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BOYS' AND GIRLS' INDUSTRIAL CLUBS

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SEWING CLUB LESSON NO. 2--Div. 2

Circular No. 5.

COVERALL APRON.

When you come home from school in the evening and want to get supper for your mother, it is very convenient to have a big coverall apron to slip on to protect your dress.

Pattern. Choose a simple pattern; one that has very few pieces and that will require little fitting. If you are growing fast, you should also take that fact into consideration and choose a style that is loose fitting so that there will be plenty of room for you to grow in.

Apron patterns are sold according to age, as are dress and nightgown patterns, but to make sure that you have the right size, have somebody measure you from the shoulder seam to the hem of your dress for the length, and around the bust for bust measure.

Materials. Gingham, percale, and chambray are the best materials for this type of an apron. You may use light or dark colors, although the light colored materials remain attractive longer than the darker colors, as they do not become so faded. Some people think that dark colors stay clean longer than light colors, but they only appear to do so because the soiled spots do not show so quickly.

Cutting. Place all pieces of your pattern on the material before cutting any of it, so that you can see how to cut the apron most economically. Be careful to have perforations indicating the length of the pattern, on the lengthwise of the material.

Basting and Fitting. Baste the seams so that you can try on the apron, to make sure that it is not too large and that it is well proportioned.

Seams. Stitch the seams up on the wrong side and overcast the edges neatly to keep them from fraying, or you may make French seams.

Finishing. The neck and armseyes may be faced back with bias strips, or they may be finished with rickrack or stickerei braid. Finish the back of the apron with an inch wide hem on the righthand side, and $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide hem on the right hand side. If a strap is put on, it should be fastened in at one side in the under arm seam. Finish the bottom of the apron with a 2" hem.

Buttons and Buttonholes. A medium-sized flat bone or pear button is best to use. See the Sewing Bulletin, page 11, paragraphs 5-6 for instructions on making buttonholes and sewing on buttons.

When your apron is finished, take a 4" square of material like your apron if you have a piece left, or of some other cotton material if you have no such material, and turn in a $\frac{1}{4}$ " fold to the wrong side on opposite sides, then fold the piece so that the folded edges come exactly together with the raw edges inside. Baste together. Overhand the edges, and overcast the two narrow ends.

In this strip, make two buttonholes evenly spaced from the ends and from the folded edge. Tack this strip of buttonholes on the enclosed blank; fill in all the spaces on the blank, and send it in to the Assistant Club Leader for scoring. It will be returned to you as soon as possible, with helpful suggestions on your work.

When you have finished this lesson, fill in the report card and mail it together with the buttonhole exhibit, 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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LINEN.

In the days of our great grandmothers, linen was used extensively for underwear, sheets, and pillow cases, as well as for table cloths, napkins, and handkerchiefs, and much of it was prepared, spun into yarn and woven into cloth in the home.

Today, although some flax is grown in this country, most of our linen comes from Russia, Ireland and Belgium. Although Russia produces about half of the world's supply, it is not as good as that grown in Ireland and Belgium.

When grown for fiber, flax is planted thickly so that it will grow tall without many branches, but when it is grown for its seed it is planted farther apart to permit branching and the production of more seeds. When grown for the fiber it should be pulled before the seeds are fully ripe. Flax is always pulled by hand instead of being cut like grain or hay, in order to obtain the whole length of the fiber. The flax harvester walks down the field, grasps a handful of the plants and carefully pulls them up, roots and all. He knocks part of the soil from the roots by hitting the roots against his foot, then carefully lays the plants across his free arm and repeats the process. He takes care not to break the stems as that would waste some of the fiber.

After the flax has been pulled the seeds must be removed. This is called rippling and is accomplished by pulling the stalk across a wooden frame having iron teeth like a comb. The next process is called retting. This is really the rotting away of the woody fiber surrounding the fiber desired. For this process the flax is tied in bundles and either placed in pools of water or laid on the grass where it is acted on by the dew, rain or sunshine. The latter way is the better although it takes the longest. This process requires a great deal of care because too much retting injures the fiber and too little makes it difficult to remove the woody part.

When the retting is completed, the flax is dried. It is then ready for breaking. This consists of breaking the outer woody part which surrounds the fiber, by pounding. It is then ready for cleaning and combing, which is accomplished by drawing the flax over a board containing fine teeth. This process also

separates the short from the long fibers. The long fibers are called the line and the short, the tow. The line is used for the finer qualities of fabrics. It is now spread out and spun into yarn for weaving.

Linen is more difficult to weave than cotton cloth because it must be kept moist to be best. For this reason it was woven by hand for a long time after cotton goods were woven by machinery.

Today the linen fabrics produced on the looms which weave in wonderful patterns are the most beautiful materials manufactured.

Linen yarn is used for various kinds of fine and heavy thread as well as for cloth. Linen thread is used in the manufacture of shoes, saddlery, and other leather goods, so there is a large trade in this product. Linen thread is also used for fine laces and the flax yarn is made into cord, twine, and rope.

Some of the most widely used linen fabrics are butcher's linen, cambric, crash, damask, huckaback, sheeting, linen lawn, and handkerchief linen.