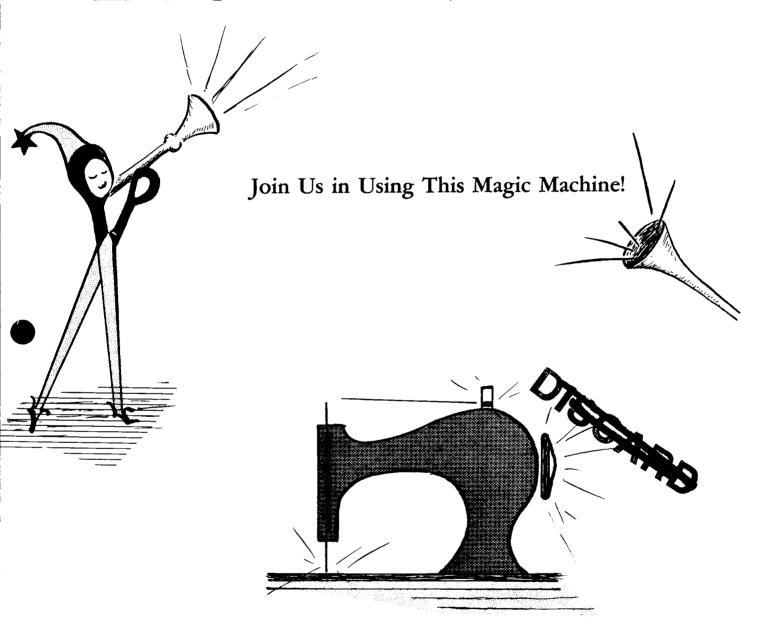
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# LET'S LEARN TO SEW



Federal Cooperative Extension Service Oregon State College Corvallis, Oregon 4-H Clothing Project Club Series L-83

## LET'S LEARN TO SEW

Prepared by
Hildegarde Streufert, Extension Clothing Specialist
Oregon State College

This book has been written to help you learn to enjoy using your Mother's Magic Sewing Machine. It will introduce you to many friends who will help you sew the things we hope you will be happy to use.

Ask your mother and leader to help you to read the directions and understand the pictures as you work on each project.

#### What will you make this year?

You will complete two projects --

If you are a first year member, you will make --

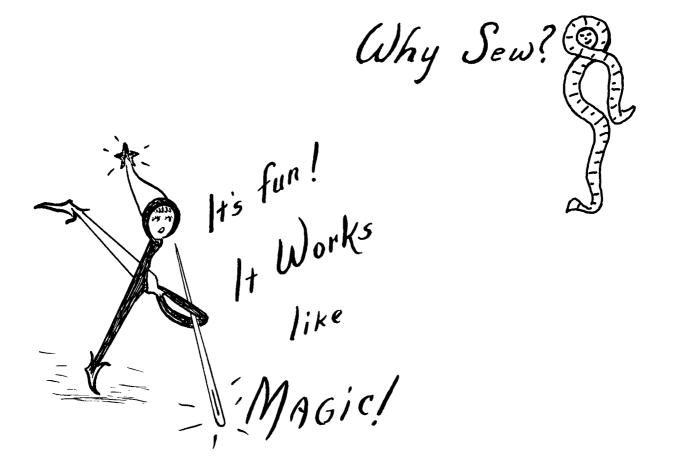
- 1. Barbeque Placemats
- 2. Shears and Scissors Case

If you are a second year member, you may choose any two of these four projects --

- 1. Barbeque Placemats
- 2. Shears and Scissors Case
- 3. Petticoat Holder
- 4. Bobby Socks Holder

#### What will you do as a 4-H Club Member?

- 1. Attend all the meetings.
- 2. Complete your projects so you can enjoy them.
- 3. Tell what projects you have done and how much you enjoyed using them in your record book.
- 4. Show others your "tricks" by giving a demonstration at one of your club meetings.
- 5. Invite your friends and neighbors to see what you have made.



A magician might have a hat from which he can pull rabbits and scarves, but you will have a sewing box and sewing machine with which you will be able to do more tricks than he could ever dream up.

For what can be more fun than to choose a piece of bright and beautiful plain-colored material, or one with a perky little design--cut it into a pattern and sew it into something which can be worn by you or someone in your family? Or -- you might also make something which can be used in your home -- like barbeque placemats or closet accessories, like petticoat holders, shoe bags, or many other items.

If you learn to sew, you also will discover that it really "WORKS LIKE MAGIC"!

Wouldn't you like to learn some of these tricks?

#### DURING YOUR FIRST YEAR OF 4-H CLOTHING-



#### YOU WILL LEARN THESE TRICKS --

Page 5-10	Trick I	To choose the magic tools for your sewing.	
Page 11-12	Trick II	To organize a basket or box to magically keep your tools handy and safe.	6
Page 13	Trick III	To enjoy having a "Headful of Tricks-of-the-Trade."	
		. How to keep projects clean	

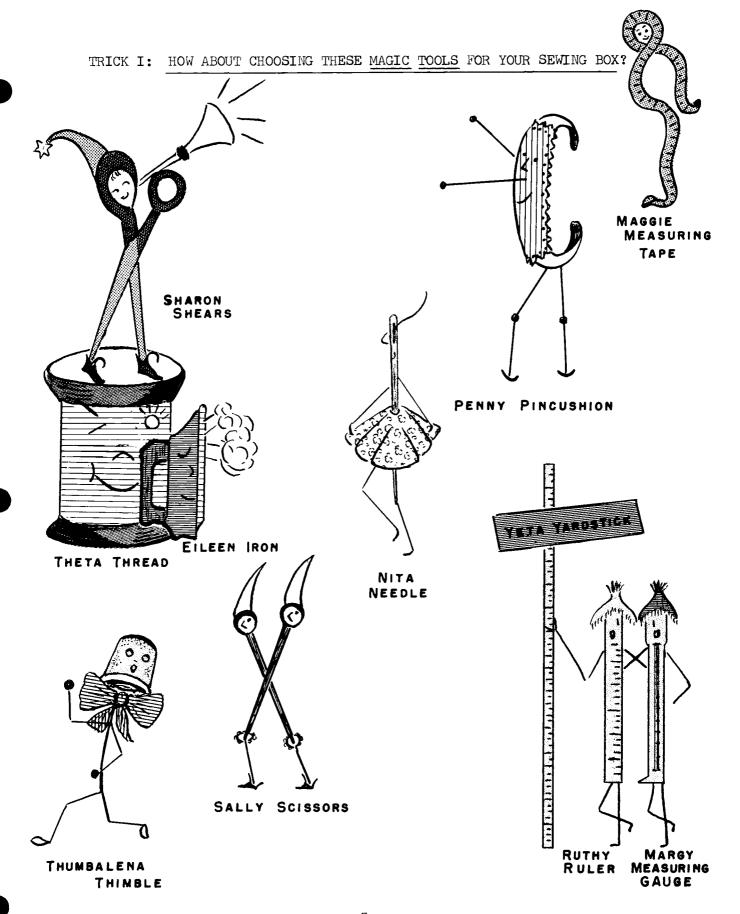
Page 14-18 Trick IV To use Mother's Magic Sewing Machine.

. How to keep projects from wrinkling

Page 18-48 Trick V To sew "Like Magic."

## YOU WILL DEVELOP YOUR "MAGIC SKILL" THROUGH MAKING SIMPLE PROJECTS --

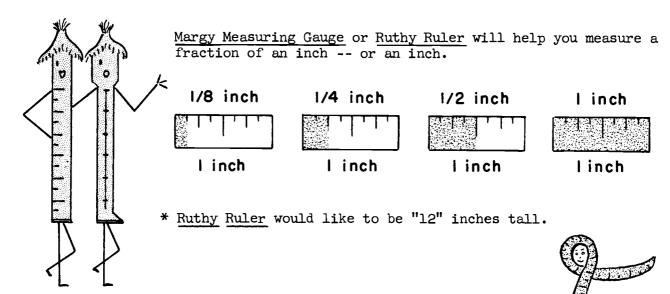
	Project	Magic Skill
Page 18	1. Barbeque Placemats	Choose and match colors. Use a seam gauge. Make a 1/4-inch seam. Top-stitch one piece of fabric on another.
Page 25	2. Shears and Scissors Case	Measure and cut accurately. Stitch a straight line. Use the stitch regulator.
Page 33	3. Petticoat Holder )	Make a hem. Stitch a curved seam.
Page 44	4. Bobby Socks Holder)	Use a cloth guide. Use grosgrain ribbon for trim.



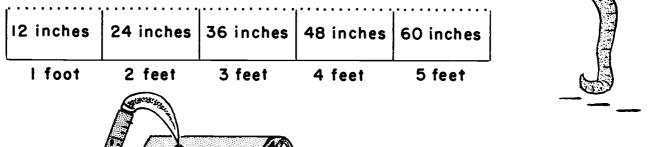
#### Measuring Tools:

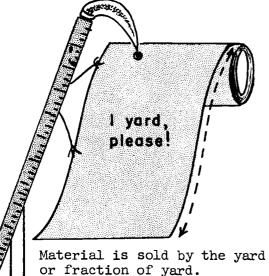
Margy Measuring Gauge and Maggy Measuring Tape are sewing aids which are marked like Ruthy Ruler or Yeta Yardstick.

You will use them often for finding the placement of buttonholes, correct width of seams, and the correct size of things you are sewing.

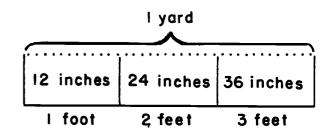


Maggy Measuring Tape will help you measure inches or feet.





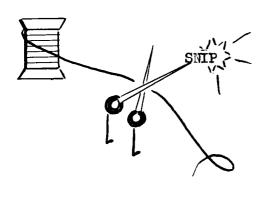
Yeta Yardstick will measure inches or feet or yards for you.



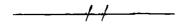
#### Cutting Tools:

#### Small Sally Scissors --

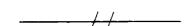
likes to .....



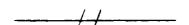
You would use these for clipping thread, or cutting narrow things like ribbon, elastic, etc.



Scissors have two handles the same size.



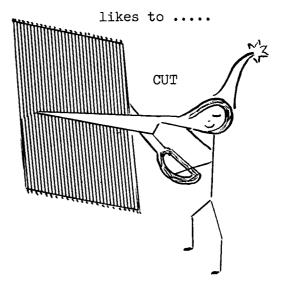
A pair of small scissors about 4 inches in length is easy to handle.



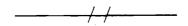
When you cut with scissors, put your thumb through one handle, and your finger through the other.



#### Sharp Sharon Shears --



You would use these for cutting a pattern out of material.



Shears have one large handle and one small one.



A pair of shears with a 7-inch blade is a good size for you.



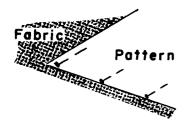
When you cut with shears, place your thumb through the small handle, and two or three fingers through the large handle.



#### Sewing Tools:

Penny Pincushion and her Pins
Nita Needle
Thumbalena Thimble
Theta Thread

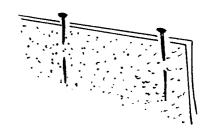




Pins are used to hold the pattern and material together while you cut out a pattern ...

... or ...

To help you hold the pieces of material together when you are getting ready to sew.



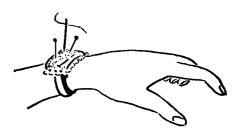
If you borrow some from your mother you will be a smart little girl if you notice whether they <u>slip</u> into your material easily. Avoid using pins that are too large or have a blunt point. They are likely to tear the material.

If you buy new pins, ask the saleslady for brass pins. These are strong pins, but fine in size.

When you sew -- remember to wear Penny Pincushion.

If you are <u>right-handed</u>, wear Penny Pincushion near your wrist on your left arm.

If you are <u>left-handed</u>, wear it on your right arm while you are sewing.



#### NEVER hold PINS in your mouth

Always keep an eye on Nita Needle!

She is small, slippery, and sharp. If she slips away, she may hurt someone. So let Penny Pincushion take good care of her, too. Then she will always be easy to find, and ready to sew for you.

Since she will become your good friend, be very fussy about which kind you choose to buy.

- 1. Look at Nita Needle's size:
  - ... Is she a nice length for you to handle?
- 2. Look at Nita Needle's Eye:
  - ... Is her eye long and slender, so that you can thread her easily?





This Thumbalena Thimble is "smaller than your thumb."

She would like to rest on your <u>middle</u> finger to protect it from needle pricks when you are guiding Nita Needle through your material.

Buy the size that fits your finger comfortably.

Theta Thread comes in many colors and various sizes.

The color of thread is just like the color of your hair. Look at your hair when you brush it. It is a much darker color than when you look at only one hair which has fallen out during brushing. Thread is just like hair. When you have many threads wrapped on a spool it also has more color and looks darker than when you just use a single thread.

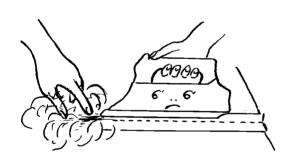
Therefore, when you buy thread, choose a color which either --

- 1. Matches your material exactly ... or ...
- 2. Is slightly darker than your material. It will look lighter when you sew.

Use Number 50 mercerized thread for most cottons.



#### TRICKS FOR NEATNESS

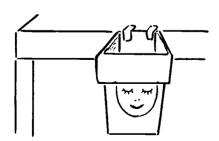


Never hold your fingers under Eileen's point. The steam will burn your finger. Eileen Iron is also anxious to help you.

She knows that her pressing will help you become a neat seamstress, and make sewing much easier for you.

When you watched mother or sister iron or press, you most likely noticed how carefully they handle an iron. You will need some help to learn to use Eileen Iron gently and safely, so she will neither spoil your project or hurt you.

Patty Paper Bag says she wants to help you be neat, too, around your sewing table and machine.



She will gladly hold and hide all of your cut threads and fabric snippings if you just fasten her to the side of your sewing machine table or cabinet.

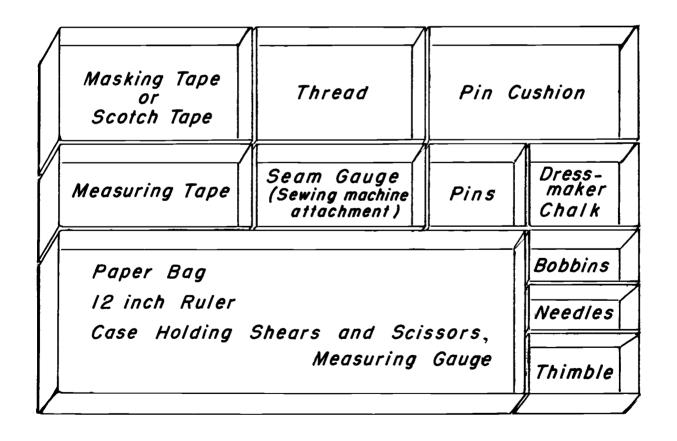
Patty Paper Bag comes in many sizes -- from the grocery stores, drug stores, and many other stores. You choose the size you would like, and don't ever forget her as one of your neatest sewing friends.

### TRICK II. LEARN HOW TO ORGANIZE A BASKET OR BOX TO MAGICALLY KEEP YOUR TOOLS HANDY AND SAFE!

"Always take good care of your tools, and they will always be your good friends in helping you enjoy hours of sewing."

All of your sewing tools are like a happy family -- each has a job to do in order to make a bit of clothing for you. But they are different than your family in that they can never exchange jobs as you and your sister or brother do. Sally Scissors knows only how to "snip." She did not grow up enough to cut material like Sharon Shears. And Nita Needle is the only one who knows how to sew for you -- all of the others help her but they cannot slip in and out of material, drawing thread through as Nita does.

Since each tool has its own magic duty, you will want to be careful that not one is left hiding on a chair, or under the newspaper, or in your pocket when you finish your sewing. If they are misplaced, they will not be around when you want them to help you. Besides, some tools like Nita Needle are not safe when they are not working or when they are gone from their box, for they may suddenly prick or cut someone. So, let's find and arrange a container for them which you might call their home.

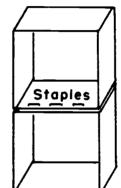


If you plan to use a box, this is fine, because you can store it in your dresser drawer or even in the box in which you have the material for your project. Just be sure it is clean and strong enough to hold all the tools. It must also be long enough to hold your longest tool, and deep enough to hide the tallest one. (Sometimes Penny Pincushion becomes the tallest when she holds long pins and needles.)

When you find a box which will hold all your new little sewing friends, ask Mother to help you divide it to keep them neat and orderly.

But -- before you ask her, your first job is to collect tiny paper boxes (like earring boxes or little match boxes) which are just large enough to hold one or two items. Example: A small earring box would be a good size to hold thread.

- . Separate the box tops from the boxes.
- Arrange the boxes so they fit into your larger box.
- . Then have Mother help you staple or paste the sides of the open boxes together and into the large box.



\* Since Susan Shears and Sally Scissors have sharp points, you will be making a case for them to protect these points. This case should fit into the longest part of your box. See page 27 for the size of the case.

If you would rather have a container which could be easily carried from room to room, you might like to buy a fishing tackle box like your brother uses for his supplies. If you choose one with dividers in it, it will help you organize your sewing tools very nicely.

Other girls have used little doll suitcases, or a small cosmetic case like grown-ups use when traveling. Either of these are very nice, because they are usually pretty in color, and will open up wide so you can see all your sewing tools at one time. They also have a latch to fasten the cover, and a handle which makes them easy to carry.

#### TRICK III. LEARN TO ENJOY HAVING A "HEADFUL OF TRICKS OF THE TRADE."

Every workman, in every trade Has shortcuts and secrets in things he has made. Let's see what helpful hints you'll choose To add to your skill, from your head to your shoes.

The first important hint to know
Is -- "Join the Clean Clan Club" whenever you sew!
Hands freshly washed and nails clean, too.
Will help keep your projects all looking like new.
Clean clothes "a must" while handling cloth,
For fear some of the dust and grime will rub off.
Last of all -- your table must gleam
To protect your nice garments from soil unseen.
So -- Clean Hands, Clean Clothes, Clean Table, too,
Is one important trick in this trade for you.

The Clean Clan Clubs can boastful be
Of their unsoiled projects, delightful to see.
But here's another hint for you -To keep you from wrinkling your fabric so new.
Your lap's too small and too far away
To work on your project by night or by day.
Your table clean would love to hold
The parts of your fabric, while you pin in that fold.
So, -- Trick Number 2, in this sewing trade
Is -- Work on a Table to get your projects made.

Here's one last, special clue for you And something easy we would like you to do. Look at yourself -- as you start to sew. How do you sit? And look at your feet below!







To build your interest more and more

Your back should be straight, with both feet on the floor.

For you won't get tired so quickly then

And you'll be glad to stitch again and again.

Remember these "tricks" each time you sew. Then you'll look like a picture from head to toe.

#### TRICK IV. TO USE MOTHER'S MAGIC SEWING MACHINE

What could be more exciting than to learn to use a machine which has "magic power." Of course, I know when you are grown up you are going to learn to drive the family car (which you've heard Dad say has all sorts of magic power). But did you know that Mother's sewing machine has "magic power," too? The nicest thing is that you do not have to wait until you are grown up to use it. Even though you are only 9 or 10 years old, you are ready to learn the secrets of that magic sewing machine right now. You will no longer just stand by watching Mother or Sister sew. Instead, after you have learned some of the secrets which make it purr, you and your magic sewing tools can make many exciting things for yourself, your family and friends.

So come -- let's get acquainted with this wonderful machine!

#### A. Posture

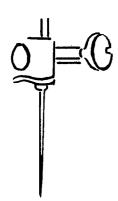
Is your chair the right height for you?

- . Can you see the needle easily as it moves up and down?
- . Are you able to reach behind the needle?
- . Can you rest your arms on the table?
- . Do your feet touch the floor?

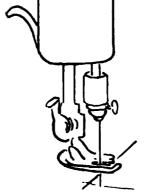
If you cannot see the needle or rest your arms on the table, you will need a taller chair or something to sit on to raise you up a bit. If your feet do not touch the floor (after you are sitting in the position to see the needle) you will have to find a sturdy box, large enough to rest both of your feet on it, as well as the foot control from the machine, if your sewing machine has one.

#### B. Getting to know parts of the machine

Now look at your sewing machine and find the parts which look similar to these pictures. Every machine has them, though some designs may look just a little different. Your leader will show you how each part works.



Needle: Has a long groove in it to guide the thread.



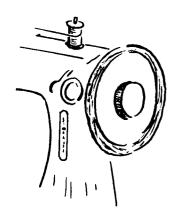
Presser Foot Lever: The handle which moves the presser foot up and down.



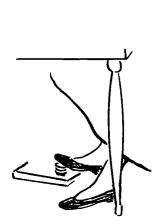
Presser Foot: Holds the material so the needle can sew through it.



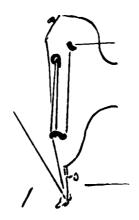
<u>Cloth Guide</u>: attachment for the machine. Helps to stitch straight seams.



Balance Wheel: moves the needle in and out of your material.



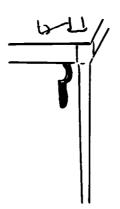
Foot Control:



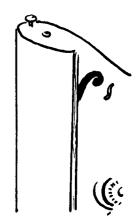
Thread Guides: hold the thread in place as it is being unwound from the spool during stitching.



Bobbin Winder: winds the thread from the spool onto the bobbin (spool which holds thread in lower machine).



Knee Lever:



Take-up Lever: pulls the thread from the spool as it moves up and down with the needle.



Stitch Regulator: makes stitches small or large. Also adjusts the machine to move your material forward or backward.



Treadle:

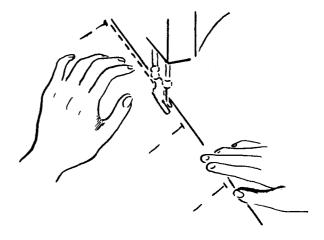
Your sewing machine will have one of these controls which you will use to turn on the "magic power."

#### C. Let's learn to use the sewing machine!

- 1. How to start and stop it -- how to speed it up and slow it down.
  - (a) With your machine unthreaded and the presser foot raised, it is ready for you to start.
    - Place your right hand on the balance wheel. (It will help you to start the machine in motion.)
    - . Keep your left hand a distance from the needle.
    - . Place your foot or knee on the control or treadle.



- (b) See how slowly you can make the needle go up and down. If the machine runs too fast for you, you can press your right hand against the balance wheel to slow it down.
- (c) Practice until your foot or knee can control the speed evenly from fast to slow, without using your right hand on the balance wheel.
- 2. How to stitch correctly.
  - (a) Slip a piece of material under the presser foot. (Your leader will have a piece for you.)
  - (b) Lower the needle into the material by rolling your right hand on the balance wheel until the needle goes down as far as possible.
  - (c) Lower the presser foot onto the material.
  - (d) Let the machine run without touching the material. You will notice that the material will slip and slide in many directions.
  - (e) To guide the material, hold your left hand on it with your fingers curved as if you were holding a ball in your hand. If you hold it gently, you can guide the material as it slips under your fingers without interrupting its movement as it is being sewn. Try it! I'm sure you will soon discover you will have to learn the trick of sewing straight.



Do not run off the EDGE of material. (f Your right hand will also help you to guide the material.
As soon as the machine is in motion, take your right hand off the balance wheel.

Slow down your speed when you near the end of your material so that you can stop when you reach the edge. Roll the balance wheel to raise the needle -- then lift the presser foot to remove the material.

- (g) Slip the material under the presser foot again to practice starting and stopping, as well as guiding the material through the machine. This time also watch the take-up lever as it moves up and down with the needle. It should be up as far as it will go when you start and stop the machine, otherwise it will unthread your needle.
- 3. How to use the stitch regulator.

If your sewing machine has the magic lever which makes it sew backward, try to use it now. Move the stitch regulator lever up as far as it will go. As you start the machine you will see it moving backward. In order to stitch forward again, push the lever back down as far as it will go. As you will learn in your projects, you will always have to sew very slowly and carefully when you sew backward in order to do it nicely.

Another reason this lever is on your machine is to make the stitches larger or smaller for you, whichever is best for the material with which you are working.

Directions for sewing your projects will tell you how many stitches per inch you will use. Some of your machines have numbers next to the lever to tell you the number of stitches per inch. If your machine does not have such numbers, Margy Measuring Gauge will tell you if you just put her next to a row of machine stitching and count how many stitches were sewn in that inch.

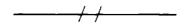
4. Practice stitching along a marked line without thread, going backward and forward with both small and large stitches. Mark some straight and curved lines on your piece of material. Roll the balance wheel to lower the needle at the end of one of the lines. Lower the presser foot and start the machine. Slowly stitch the entire line, guiding your material so the needle follows the line as much as possible.

When you can control the speed of the machine and stitch straight, you have learned some important secrets of Mother's Magic Sewing Machine. Soon you will be ready to start on your first project.

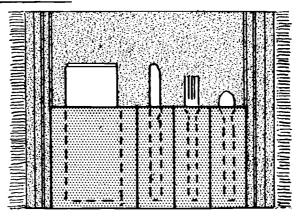
#### 5. How to thread the machine.

But we can't sew without thread so we better learn this special trick, too. Your leader threads the machine so easily, ask her to do it very slowly for you so you can learn it from her. Watch closely as she hooks the thread onto every finger of each thread guide until she finally reaches the needle. She will also show you where the bobbin hides (remember this is the flat spool in the lower part of the machine) and how you will get its thread to the top of the machine.

Your leader will tell and show you many things about threading the machine. Be sure you have her check yours before you try to sew. If you want the machine to "Work like Magic" you will have to have it threaded correctly.



Project I. Barbeque Place Mats



#### For what will these be used?

- 1. When rolled and tied they are an easy carry-all for your napkin and silverware for a barbeque meal.
- 2. When open, they will be your placemat.

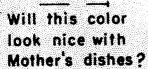
#### What will you learn in this project?

- 1. To choose and match pretty colors.
- 2. To use Nita Needle with Theta Thread in simple basting to hold two pieces of material together before you stitch with the sewing machine.
- 3. To stitch a seam.

- 4. To top-stitch (stitching one piece of material on top of another).
- 5. To stitch straight by following a line in the design of the material.
- 6. To backstitch to fasten the ends of your stitching thread.

#### What will you do first?

1. You will need to go shopping with your mother to buy the towels, washcloths, shoestrings, and thread.





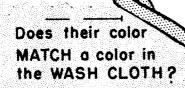
4 Finger Towels (terry cloth). Plain in color.

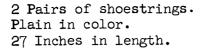


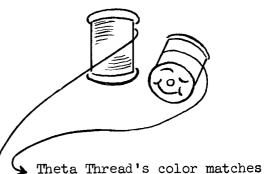


Does one color MATCH your towel?

2 Washcloths, striped or checked. (Design will be your guide in stitching.)







your towels (1 spool).
Theta Thread's friend matches the shoestrings.

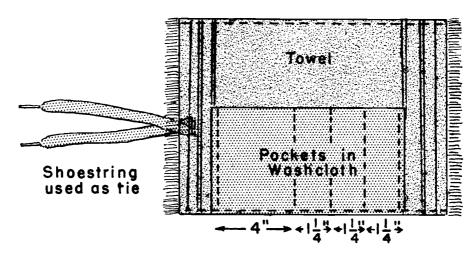
2. You will also need to use tools from your sewing box to help you:

Sharon Shears
Ruthy Ruler
Penny Pincushion
and Her Pins

Nita Needle Thumbalena Thimble Sally Scissors Patty Paper Bag Now you are ready to start your magic trick of changing towels, washcloths, and sheestrings into Barbeque Placemats! If you follow the pictures and directions carefully, you will find the secret to your magic.

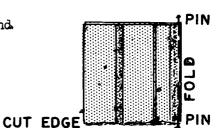
#### Here's how we'll start!

A. Take another good peek at what your placemat will look like when you are finished. (In order to clearly show how you will stitch the washcloth to the towel, a plain washcloth is used in the illustrations, instead of a checked or striped one like you will be using in your project.)



#### B. Let's start with the washcloth!

- 1. Fold each washcloth in half with the stripes running up and down.
- 2. Pin open edges together with 3 or 4 pins.
- 3. With Sharry Shears' help, cut through the fold of the washcloth to cut it in half. (Your leader will show you how to handle Sharry Shears so that you can take long and even cutting strokes.)
- 4. Fold each half washcloth again to find the center. Mark the center with a pin at the cut edge and on the hem edge.

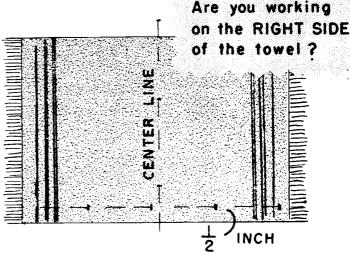


CUT

#### C. We must get the towels ready, too!

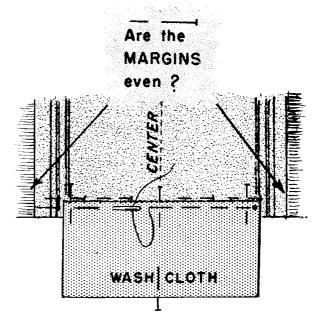
- 1. To find the center of the towels, fold each in half--crosswise and right side out. (If you do not recognize the right side of the towel, ask your leader to help you.)
- 2. Mark the center of each with pins, as you did with the washcloth. But, since this is bigger than a washcloth, you will need at least three pins on the fold to mark the center line.

3. Insert a row of pins on the right side of the towel, one-half inch from the lower hem of the towel.



#### D. Sewing the washcloth and towel together --

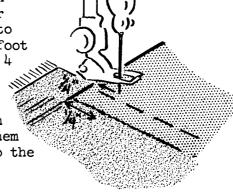
1. Find the place for the washcloth on the towel by matching the center of the washcloth with the center of the towel.

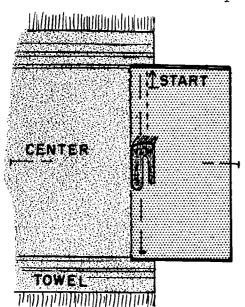


2. Bring cut edge of washcloth up to the row of pins.

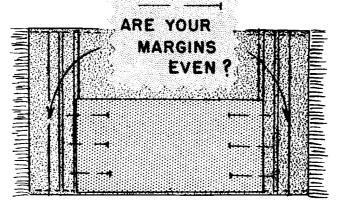
3. Pin the washcloth in place as shown in illustration. Sew a hand-basting stitch along the hem of the towel, to hold the washcloth in place when stitching it with the sewing machine.

- 4. Adjust the stitch regulator so it will stitch 12 stitches per inch.
- 5. Stitch the washcloth to the towel. You will be making a 1/4 inch seam.
  - a. Move the lever adjusting the stitch regulator to sew backward. If your sewing machine cannot be adjusted to go in reverse, raise your presser foot slightly above the fabric and take 4 or 5 stitches. This will knot the thread and fasten it.
  - b. Lower the needle into the washcloth at a point 1/4 inch from the side hem and cut edge. Keep both threads to the back of the presser foot.





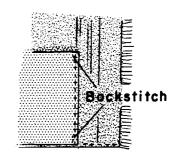
- c. Lower the presser foot. Use it as a guide to stitch the 1/4 inch seam.
- d. Turn the fly wheel by hand until the needle reaches the edge of the washcloth.
- e. Then adjust the lever so the machine will sew forward again.
- f. Stitch (using electricity) until you reach the other side of the washcloth.
- g. Readjust the lever for backstitching, and hand turn the flywheel as you did on the other side of the seam.
- E. Sewing pockets into the washcloth.
  - 1. Fold the washcloth up onto the towel, hiding the seam which you just finished.



2. Pin the washcloth in place.

3. Stitch the side edges into place.

If the hem on the washcloth is heavy, ask your leader to show you how to stitch just inside the hem to avoid bulk.



4. Pockets for napkin, knife, spoon, and fork are made by stitching the washcloth to the towel as on page 21.

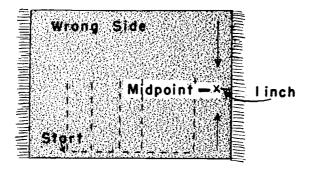
Use Margy Measuring Gauge to measure these pockets. The large one will be approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  inches in width. The smaller ones each 1-1/4 inches.

Since you are using the stripes in your washcloth as a guide in stitching, your pockets may not be this exact size. However, try to keep them as near to these measurements as possible.

5. When you have decided which stripe you will use, begin by back-stitching at the lower seam and stitch up to the top of the wash-cloth.

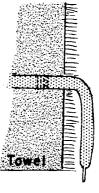
One -- Two -- Three rows of stitching -- and your pockets are finished. (That is, after Sally Scissors has clipped off all the long threads.)

F. Attaching the tie (shoestring) to the towel.



1. Fold the shoestring in half. Pin the midpoint of the string to the towel at the point marked in the picture.

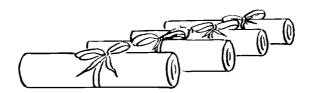
- Fasten the string with very small stitches, by sewing back and forth across the width.
- 3. Clip threads close to stitching line.



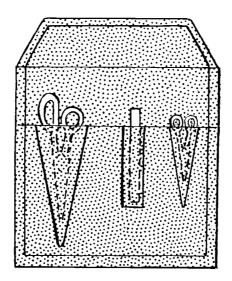
#### G. Finding your MAGIC POWER SUCCESSFUL!

- 1. Insert a napkin, knife, fork, and spoon into the pockets.
- 2. Fold the upper edge down to enclose the silverware.
- 3. Roll up the towel from the right to the left.
- 4. Wrap the shoestring around it and tie it into a pretty bow.

PRESTO!!!!!!!!! Your simple towel, washcloth, and shoestring have changed into BARBEQUE PLACEMATS!



Project II. Case for Sharry Shears, Sally Scissors, and Margy Measuring Gauge.



#### For what will this be used?

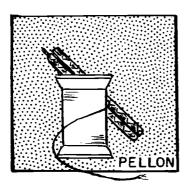
- 1. To protect the sharp points of Sally Scissors and Sharry Shears from becoming blunt by hitting other sewing tools in the box.
- 2. To protect you from bruising your fingers when you reach for something in the sewing box.
- 3. To keep all three -- Sally Scissors, Sharry Shears, and Margy Measuring Gauge -- in a handy, easily found place.

#### What will you learn in this project?

- 1. To recognize and buy pellon or felt.
- 2. To choose a colorful pair of shoestrings.
- 3. To measure accurately by reading markings on Ruthy Ruler or Yeta Yardstick or Margy Measuring Gauge.
- 4. To cut a paper pattern from measurements.
- 5. To use tailor's chalk.
- 6. To cut material accurately.
- 7. To stitch a hem without basting.
- 8. To stitch on a marked line.
- 9. To adjust size of stitch to weight of material.

#### What will you do first?

1. You will need to get some material for your case.



- l pillow of Tailor's Chalk -- or --
- l Tailor's Pencil
- 1/4 yard of suit weight Pellon
- l pair 27" multi-colored shoestrings
- 1 spool of thread to match your pellon or
   felt.
- 2. You will also be happy to have a few tools from your sewing box join you in this project.

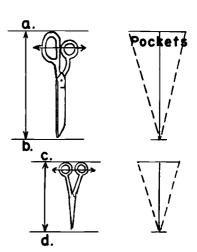
Ruthy Ruler (12-inch)
Penny Pincushion (and Her Pins)

Sally Scissors Sharon Shears

As well as your friends Eileen Iron and Patty Paper Bag.

#### How will you make the case?

- A. Make a paper pattern for the pockets for Sharry Shears, Sally Scissors.
  - 1. Measure the length of Sharon Shears as shown (between points a-b); and of Sally Scissors (between c-d).
  - 2. Measure their width across their handles and add 1/2 inch. (This extra space is needed for them to slip into the pockets.)
  - 3. Make patterns by drawing triangles as in the illustration.

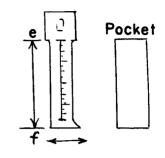


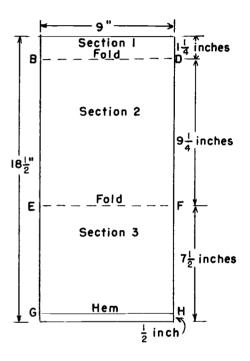
### B. Also make a pattern for a pocket for Margy Measuring Gauge.

- 1. Measure the length of Margy Measuring Gauge as shown in illustration, between points e and f.
- 2. Measure the width of the bottom of the gauge.
- 3. Draw a rectangle like illustration to make her pocket pattern.

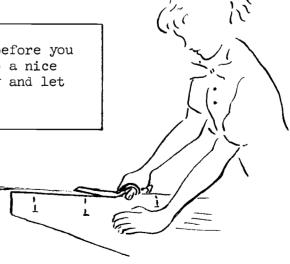
#### C. Marking the fabric for the case.

- 1. Follow the illustration to measure the pattern for your case. Yeta Yardstick or Maggy Measuring Tape will measure the size of the case and the placement of the folds and hem for you.
- 2. Hold Yeta Yardstick between the marks you made for size. In order to draw a straight and fine line you will have to hold Yeta very firmly. Use tailor's chalk in cake or pencil form to mark the lines. Label these lines "fold."
- 3. Use Sharon Shears to cut case out of the pellon or felt. Since either fabric is heavy, you must cut especially slowly and carefully. You will cut the best edge if you open the shears wide and take long, even strokes.





Practice on some scraps of material before you cut your case. Sharon Shears will do a nice job for you if you hold her correctly and let her cut your fabric on the table.



4. Measure 3/4 inches from sides. Mark points A and C at upper edge of Section #1.

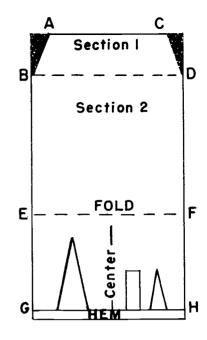
Join A and B; C and D with a straight line.

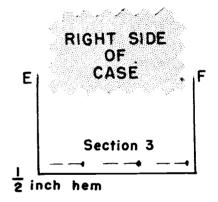
- 5. Cut along A-B and C-D with long, even strokes. (Removing these triangles makes the flap on your case more interesting.)
- 6. Lay the pocket patterns on Section 3 of the case. The two smaller pocket patterns are centered in one-half of Section 3, and the large one is in the other half.
- 7. Pin the patterns to the pellon, and firmly mark the outlines on the pellon. The markings, if dark, will show through to the outside and will serve as a guide to stitching. Keep markings fine and accurate.
  - \* If you are using felt, the markings are put on the right side of the case.
- 8. Turn the fabric over (right side of case) and mark the placement of the hem line G-H in Section 3. Use pins on the outside of the fabric as you did when making the Barbeque Placemats in Project I.

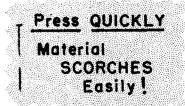
#### D. We are ready to sew!

- 1. Making a hem.
  - a. Fold G-H to make a hem in the case. Keep the pins on the outside of the fabric when you fold it.
  - b. Press the fold along the pins.

    Eileen Iron will need to give you steam to press even a slight crease into pellon. Both pellon and felt will scorch easily. Ask your leader to show you how to press.

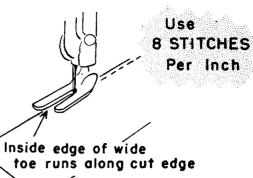






c. Since the crease will not be sharp, pin the fold in addition to pressing it, in order to hold it in place during stitching.

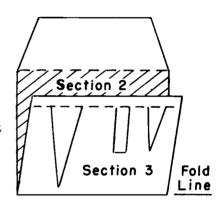
d. Place your material under the presser foot, with the cut edge touching the inside edge of the presser foot toe. See illustration.



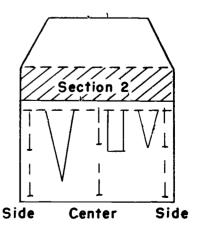
If you guide your material so the cut edge continues to touch the inside edge of the presser foot, you will learn to stitch very straight and on the edge of material.

- e. Remember to backstitch and clip threads as you learned to do in Project #1.
- 2. Stitching the pockets.

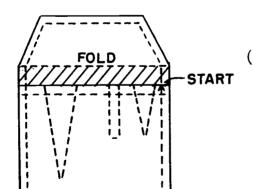
a. Fold Section #3 up to Section #2 on the fold line. (The fold line marked with chalk, as well as the hem you just stitched, and pocket markings will be folded to the inside.)



b. Pin the Section #3 and Section
#2 together.



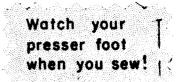
- c. You are now ready to machine stitch the case together.
  - (1) Lower the needle at the hemline of Sharon Shears' pocket first.
  - (2) Lower presser foot lever.
  - (3) Backstitch till needle pierces folded edge.
  - (4) Adjust stitch regulator to its forward motion.
  - (5) Stitch. Follow the line you have marked, stitching on it as much as possible. Apply little pressure onto the knee lever or foot pedal so machine will not move so fast for you.
  - (6) When you reach the point of the triangle, lower the needle into the point of material, raise the presser foot, turn the material around, so you can stitch up the next line. Lower the presser foot again before you stitch again.
  - (7) Stitch to the fold of the hem. Backstitch until you reach the stitching line of the hem.
  - (8) Have Sally Scissors near by so she can clip the long threads for you.
- d. Repeat the same steps for stitching the pockets for Maggy Measuring Gauge and Sally Scissors.
- e. The two side seams must still be stitched together. You will do this on the outside of the case, thus adding trim through your stitching.

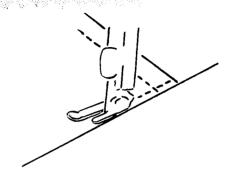


(1) Start where fold of hem of Section #3 and side of Section #2 meet next to Sally Scissors' pocket. Use the presser foot toe to guide your width of stitching.



- (2) Place the pellon into the machine, so that the cut edges are even with the outside of the narrow toe. If you watch this edge and the outside of the toe -- NOT YOUR NEEDLE -- all the way around the outside of your case, you will have a nice, even stitching line which holds your case together.
- (3) When you reach each corner remember to turn your wheel by hand so the needle goes into the material at the exact point. Stop. Turn corner as on page 30.





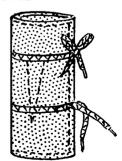
Do not try to use the electricity when reaching or turning corners until you know how to use the machine as easily and as accurately as your mother or leader.

- (4) After you have stitched around the entire case, sew over the first stitches you made in the hem. Clip the threads. (Are you remembering to let Patty Paper Bag hold your clipped threads?)
- B Start End D
- f. To change Section I into a flap which will hold your tools in their pockets, one more row of stitching is necessary.
  - (1) Turn the flap down on the fold line B-D with chalk marking to inside.
  - (2) Press fold lightly and pin it into position.
  - (3) Machine stitch the fold on the flap, backstitching up to the stitching line and then moving forward.

#### Where to use the shoestrings?

The pair of shoestrings you chose will be sewn to the case to keep Sharry Shears, Sally Scissors and Margy Measuring Tape tucked inside.

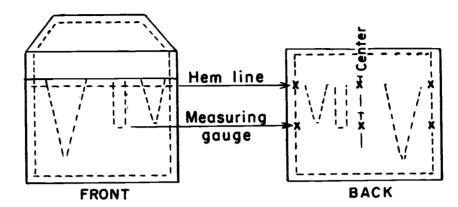
Find mid-point of shoestring by folding it in half. Mark it with a pin.



2. Use Ruthy Ruler to find the center line of the back of the case.

Mark it with pins at the top and bottom of Margy Measuring Gauge's pocket.

You could also find and mark the center line by folding the case in half and placing pins on the fold.

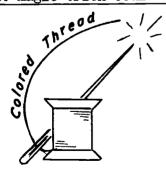


- 3. Mark placement for attaching shoestrings, by using the hemline in the front of case and the end of the measuring gauge pocket as a guide.
- 4. Match center of strings with center back of case. Pin into place. Then pin the strings to all "x" markings on the back of the case.
- 5. Attach the string by stitching back and forth on the seam line.
- 6. Clip your threads closely, remove pins from center back, and you have completed another project.

#### Making another case for Mother or friends

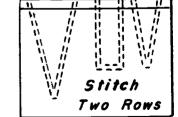
You have a pattern and have learned how simple it is to make this handy case. Why not make a few more for gifts?

What magic trick could make this case colorful and maybe more fun to sew?



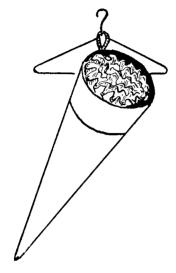
Now that you have learned to measure and use your sewing machine accurately, Theta Thread would like to give you a hint about her friends which she knows you would

enjoy. Instead of using thread which matches the case, she would like you to choose one of her many thread friends who is bright in color for your stitching. If you are really able to stitch straight, stitch each pocket twice -- each row 1/8 inch apart. This change is your "magic trick" in making this case a very special one.



#### Project III. Closet Accessories

#### Petticoat Holder



#### Bobby Socks Holder



--- OR ---

#### For what will these be used?

#### A. Petticoat Holder

- 1. Will keep the ruffles of your petticoat fluffy for you between wearings.
- 2. Will be a space saver in storing your petticoat in your closet.
- 3. Could be an unusual, but much appreciated gift to a friend.

#### B. Bobby Socks Holder

- 1. Will hold your soiled socks before they are laundered.
- 2. Could also be used for other small articles of soiled clothing.
- 3. Would make a nice gift to Mother for her hosiery.

#### What will you learn in these projects?

- 1. To choose a cheerful, cleverly printed cotton material.
- 2. To match a color of plain grosgrain ribbon with printed material.
- 3. To sew with two colors of thread.
- 4. To work with a smooth material.

- 5. To use a cloth guide in making straight and curved seams.
- 6. To trim a seam for smooth turning.
- 7. To turn and press a slightly curved hem.

#### How do you begin?

- A. Notice the colors in your bedroom (walls, bedspread, draperies or curtains, floor, rugs).
  - 1. Which do you like best?
  - 2. Which has been used most?
  - 3. Which would you like to use more?
  - 4. Which would be pretty in your closet?
- B. Decide which color is your favorite, and which other colors you like with it.
- C. Plan a shopping trip with your mother or older sister to choose the design and color of material which would make especially nice closet accessories for you.
  - 1. Since part of this project is stitched to pellon, be sure that you also notice if the colors in the material you choose will look nice with plain colored pellon. Brighter colors would be better than pastels or gray colors.
  - 2. If you are still having difficulty in stitching evenly along an edge, you would be happier with your projects if you bought a printed material instead of a plain one. Plain material is not very kind in hiding uneven or crooked stitches.

Flowered designs, polka dots, or all over cotton prints would look cheerful in your closet.

Go to the drapery department as well as dress fabric department when you go shopping. Many of the drapery designs and colors are a gay and clear print. Do not plan to use plaids, checks, or stripes. They are difficult to use in curved seams and hems like you will be making in these projects.

If your Mother has remnants of material left over from previous sewing, she might have some for you which you would enjoy using. If so, only buy the few extra items which you will need for the projects.

### How much material and what supplies will you need?

	Petticoat Holder	Be	obby <b>S</b> ocks Holder	
?	2/3 yd.	Pellon		
	$\frac{8 \text{ in}}{}$	Cotton material (Total: 8" + 16" = 24")	16 in.	
	1/3 yd.	Grosgrain ribbon (1/2 inch width)	1-1/3  yd.	
	2 spools	Thread (White, match ribbon, match material)	1 spool	
		Cloth Guide or Masking Tape (This guide is a sewing mach attachment shown on page 15)		

## Which tools from your sewing box will change these materials into closet accessories?

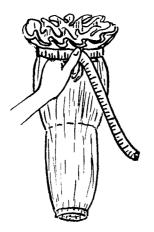
You will again use almost all of those you have tucked in your sewing box.

1.	Sharon Shears	will cut out your projects for you.
2.	Yeta Yardstick or Maggy Measuring Tape	will mark the size of the pattern, and the center lines of pattern pieces.
3.	Penny Pincushion	will be busy holding all her pins for you so you can reach them easily.
4.	Theta Thread and her friends	will be happy to help the sewing machine stitch your pretty material together.
5•	Sally Scissors	has become a very good "thread clipper" after clipping so many threads to complete your other projects.
6.	Margy Measuring Gauge	will be careful to measure the curved hem accurately.

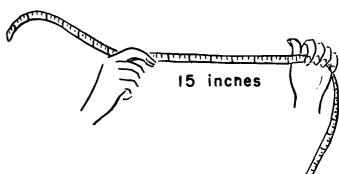
- 7. <u>Eileen Iron</u> and <u>Patty Paper Bag</u> .... are most anxious to keep you the neat seamstress you were when you first learned to sew.
- 8. Thumbalena Thimble ..... will help push Nita Needle through some heavy seams which you will be basting.

#### Let's start with the "Petticoat Holder"!

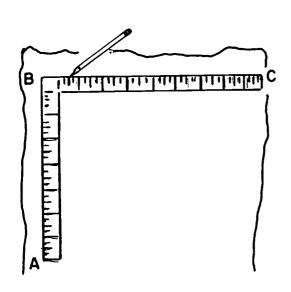
- A. To find the size of your pattern --
  - 1. Measure the length of one of your petticoats.
  - 2. Wrap Maggy Measuring Tape around the fullest part of the ruffles or hem to measure the size needed to hold your petticoat. Pull it only tight enough to hold ruffles in place -- not to crush them.



3. Jot down the number of Maggy Measuring Tape's inches which are needed to wrap around the ruffles.

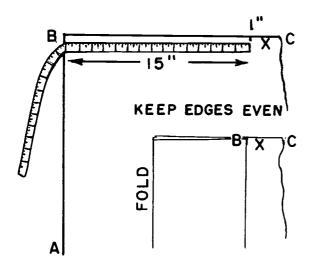


B. To design and cut your pattern, study the following pictures, but use your own measurements instead of those used in the diagram. They are only used as an example.

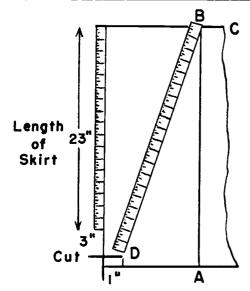


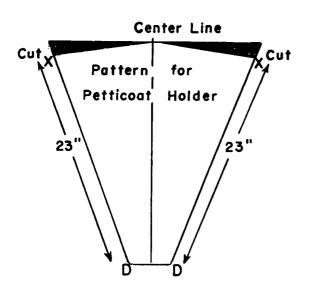
Find a <u>large</u> piece of paper from which to cut your pattern for the petticoat holder. It must be as long as your petticoat.

- Draw a pencil line on the paper next to Yeta Yardstick to straighten top and sides of the paper.
- 2. Trim the paper carefully along these two penciled lines. (Ask Mother for an old pair of shears to cut this paper. Do not use Sharry Shears for paper. It will make her edges dull and she will not cut fabric as well.)



- 3. Now you can make use of the number of inches you jotted down which are necessary to go around the ruffles in your skirt. Use Maggy Measuring Tape to mark this length along the upper edge of the paper, measuring from B to C.
- 4. Mark an "x" 1 inch beyond the end of Maggy Measuring Tape.
- 5. Fold the paper in half, bringing the A-B edge to the "x" marking.
- C. Drawing the pattern for your holder.

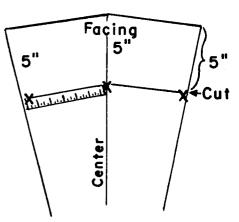




- Measure the length along the folded edge. Either Maggy Measuring Tape or Yeta Yardstick will be able to do this for you. Mark it with an "x".
- 2. Add 3 inches in length. Mark it with an "x". This extra length should allow enough room for your skirt ruffles to be tucked inside.
- 3. Place a mark l inch from the folded edge. Connect the "x" and this mark with a straight line --"D".
- 4. With Yeta Yardstick's help draw a straight line from "D" to "B" at the upper corner.
- 5. Cut out the pattern and label it as "Pattern for Petticoat Holder." Mark the center line on your pattern.
- 6. Measure 23 inches from D to B. Mark it with "x".
- 7. Use Ruthy Ruler to help draw a straight line between "x" and the center line.
- 8. Cut this corner off like the picture shows you.

- D. Drawing the facing pattern for your holder.

  (This will be made out of the pretty printed material you chose for your bedroom.)
  - 1. On another sheet of paper, trace around the upper half of the pattern of your petticoat holder.
  - 2. Measure 5" from top edge and mark it with an "x" at the sides and in the center.
  - 3. Draw a line between the "x's," using Ruthy Ruler to guide you.
  - 4. Cut along this line and around the sides and top of the pattern.

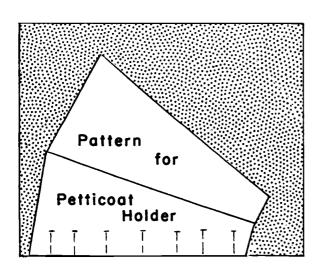


## E. We are now ready to cut your material.

1. Spread out the piece of pellon for your holder on a table.

Did you clean and / clear the table?

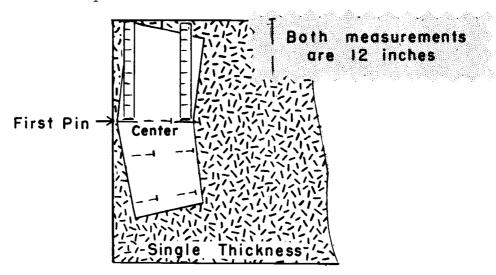
2. Lay the pattern for your petticoat holder on the pellon. By placing it on one edge, you will be saving material, which you can use in another project.





- 3. Pin the pattern to the material. Use only as many pins as you need to keep the pattern flat while you cut.
- 4. Using Sharon Shears, cut the pattern out carefully with long and even strokes. If you remember how to hold Sharon Shears correctly, you will find her easy to handle.

- 5. Eileen Iron is also eager to work for you. Let her press the fold line out of the cotton printed material.
- 6. Spread the material on the table like you did the pellon. You will only be using a small amount for the Petticoat Holder and will want the rest for your Bobby Socks Holder, so be especially careful to use as little as possible.



7. Measure from the center of the pattern to the edge of the material at two different spots like the diagram shows. These measurements must be equal in size.

If one side of the facing is 12 inches from the edge, the other side must be 12 inches, too. (If one would measure 16-1/2 inches and the other would be 12 inches, the pattern would have to be shifted around till they were both even.)

8. Pin the center line first as soon as the pattern is evenly placed.

Then pin the entire pattern down to the material like one half of the illustration shows.

9. Cut the facing out of the material.

Is Patty Paper Bag having fun catching the snippings?

How have you put your extra material away? Is it neatly folded or is it crushed in your box?

## F. A few little items to do before you begin to sew.

1. Grosgrain ribbon shrinks very badly when it gets wet. You will be washing your Petticoat or Bobby Socks Holder after you have used them awhile -- so we better shrink the ribbon before you sew it on.

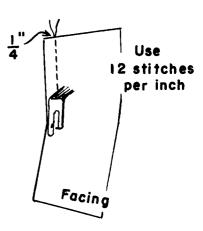
# To shrink the ribbon --

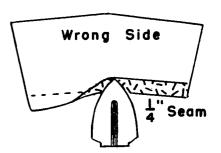
- . Dip it in warm water till it is entirely wet.
- . Remove it from water.
- . Pat it with a towel to take most of the water out.
- . Smooth the ribbon with your fingers.
- . Hang it over a towel rack to dry.
- . If it needs pressing, remember to use the steam from Eileen Iron.
- 2. Using two colors of thread. You will be using another color of thread besides white when you sew on the ribbon loop. Wind a thin layer of this color on a bobbin so that you will have it ready when you reach that step.

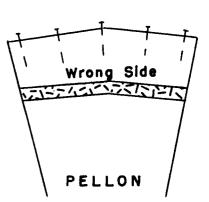
# G. Let's make your project!

- 1. Your first job is to sew your pretty fabric on your pellon.
  - a. Using the toe of the presser foot on the sewing machine as a guide, sew a row of stitching 1/4 inch from the lower edge of the facing. It is not necessary to backstitch. The thread does not have to be fastened because this stitching is only used as a guide.
  - b. Fold this edge to the wrong side of the fabric, keeping the row of stitching right on the fold. Press the fold with your fingers, then have Eileen Iron press it nicely for you.
  - c. Pin the facing to the pellon at the upper edge of the holder (pins about every 4"). Stitch a 1/4" seam along pinned edge. Again use the toe of your presser foot as your guide.

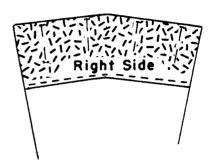
If your sewing machine will not stitch over pins without breaking the needle, you will need to baste (hand sew) the edges together before stitching.





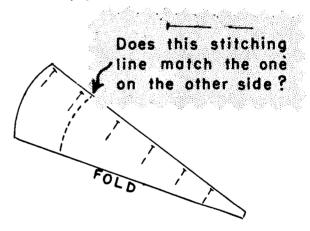


- d. Stitch a 1/4-inch seam from one side to the other.
- e. Press the seam open.
- f. Fold the facing down over the pellon. Your seam will now be in the inside of the fold. Press the facing again to help it lie perfectly smooth on the pellon.
- g. Pin the facing in place.
- h. If your printed material is dark colored, you would be a smart girl to change the top spool of thread to the color which matches the ribbon. The bobbin can still use white thread because it will be seen on the pellon.



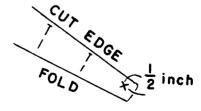
- i. Edge stitch the hem to the pellon, using the inside toe of the presser foot as a guide. See page 29. (Aren't you glad you turned and pressed it earlier?)
- 2. To sew the seam in your petticoat holder, you must -
  - a. Pin the cut edges together.

    Be especially accurate in pinning the facings together. They should be even on each side of the seam when you pin and after you have stitched the seam together. (Your holder will have many more pins than this diagram shows.) Be sure the pin heads do not stick out beyond the cut edge.

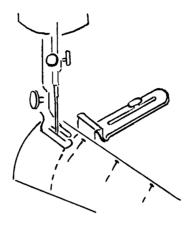


If you prefer to stitch next to basting threads rather than stitch over pins, now's the time to baste the seam. Your stitched seam will be 1/2 inch wide. Sew your basting stitches in about 1/4 inch from the edge. Your leader will show you what to do.

b. Place a chalk "x" mark 1/2 inch from the corner. This will show you where to turn when you stitch the seam.



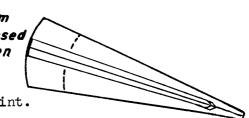
c. Place the open end of the petticoat holder under the presser foot so that the cut edges of the seam will lean against the cloth guide or fall on the half-inch mark on the masking tape.



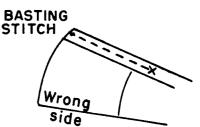
- d. Lower the presser foot and begin stitching. (Of course, you'll remember to backstitch first???)
- e. You will sew straight if you watch that the cut edges lightly touch the seam guide when the material moves along. (If your machine stitches over pins, you will not have to keep an eye on them. You can remove them after you are finished stitching the seam.)
- f. When you near the point of the holder, look for the chalk "x" mark so that you will stop stitching at the correct spot. When you reach it, lower the needle into the mark, raise the presser foot, turn the material, till the cut edges rest against the cloth guide, or on the 1/2-inch mark again. Then lower the presser foot and finish the seam. Backstitch.
- g. To have a nice, flat seam on the outside, there are two things you should do before you turn the holder right side out.
  - (1) Trim the corner and the short seam in the lower part of the holder like the picture shows you.
  - (2) Have Eileen Iron press the seam open as best she can. If your leader has a pressing roll for you to use, slip it into the holder, and press.

If she does not have this equipment, then try to press the seam open on the ironing board with the point of the pressed iron. Arrange the holder on the ironing board with the seam lying in the center of the holder.

Press from open end almost to the point.



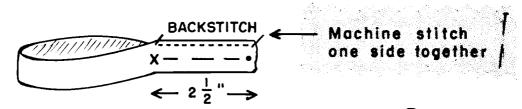
- h. Before you turn the holder right side out, fasten the loop used for hanging the holder to the coat hanger.
  - (1) Baste the two sides of the seam in the facing together.
  - (2) Cut a 10-inch length from your piece of grosgrain ribbon. (You did shrink it earlier, didn't you?)



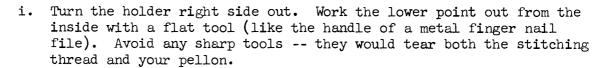
(3) Baste the ends of the ribbon together for a 2-1/2 inch distance.

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You will need to change the color of your spool and bobbin thread.



- (4) Slip the ribbon over the seam on the holder.
- (5) Pin and baste the ribbon in place.
- (6) Remove the pins and sew the ribbon to the seam with the sewing machine.

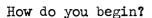


j. You may have to press the facing from the outside again to give it its final finished -- "brand new look"!

## Project IV. Bobby Socks Holder

#### What will you need for this project?

- 1. Patterns from your leader.
  - (a) One whole circle.
  - (b) One half circle (larger than the other).
- 2. Printed cotton material.
- 3. Grosgrain ribbon.
- 4. Thread to match material.
  Thread to match grosgrain ribbon.
- 5. Magic Tools from your sewing box listed on page 35.
- 6. Cloth guide for your sewing machine.



# A. Copy the pattern from your leader.

This time you are going to work with two beautiful circles. Carefully trace around the patterns which your leader will have for you. The more perfect your circles are, the more puffy your Bobby Socks Holder will be.

You should have two patterns from her: one whole circle, and one half-circle.

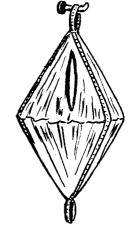
(1) Fold the whole circle in half to see if it is even all the way around.



If it isn't, check it with her pattern to see where you made a mistake.

- (2) This circle will be used for the bottom of the holder. Label it as "bottom".
- (3) The half circle will be the top of the holder. Label it as "top".
- (4) Also fold it in half to see that it is even around the curved edge.





# B. Cut the pattern out of material

1. Fold the material in half. To keep the open edges even (selvages), pin them together.

If this changed the place for the fold, iron the material to take out the line of the old fold and put in a new one.

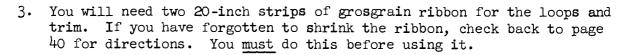
2. Fold the whole circle in half and place it on the fold of the material.

Place the <u>half circle on</u> the <u>open edge</u> of the fabric.

Pin both patterns to the material.

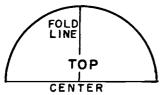
To be sure that you have pinned your patterns

correctly, ask your leader to check them before you cut them from the material.

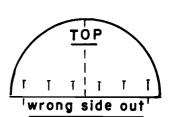


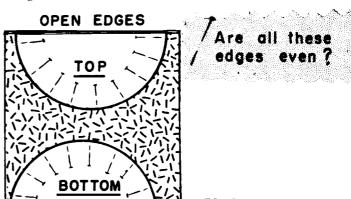
#### C. Time to sew!

1. Remove the pattern for the top of the holder from the material. You will need to sew a seam along a part of the straight edge to make a nice opening for your bobby socks to slip into the holder.



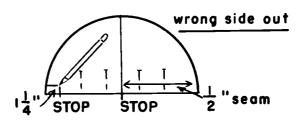
- 2. Fold the half circle in half again -- one piece at a time -- and press a sharp crease into the fold.
- 3. You are now ready to think about making a seam.
  - (a) Attach the cloth guide to the sewing machine 1/2 inch from the needle.
  - (b) With material wrong side out, pin the straight edges together.





- (c) Adjust the stitch regulator to 12 stitches per inch.
- (d) Mark the "stop signs" with tailor's chalk. Then stitch between these markings and the edge of the material.

It is very important that you backstitch at each stop marking!

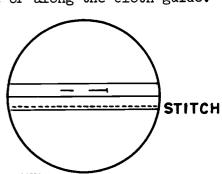


- (e) To stitch a nice straight seam, remember to keep your eye on the 1/2 inch marking on the masking tape or along the cloth guide.
- (f) Press the entire seam open.

Be careful in pressing the part which was not stitched. To prevent it from slipping, pin it in place until you have touched the fold with the iron.

holder. Wasn't that easy?

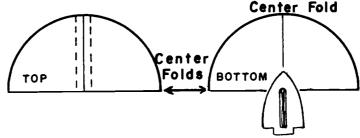
(g) Edgestitch the seam to the holder.
You have now finished the opening to your



#### 4. It's pressing time!

Fold each circle, top and bottom, in half and press in the center line with Eileen Iron. These fold lines will be your guides in attaching the ribbon trim.

(a) Press the top of the holder so the crease goes opposite to the seam line.



- (b) Fold another center line in the bottom of the holder. This will be in opposite direction to the first fold. Press only at the intersection.
- (c) Also, press the grosgrain ribbon if you haven't already done so.

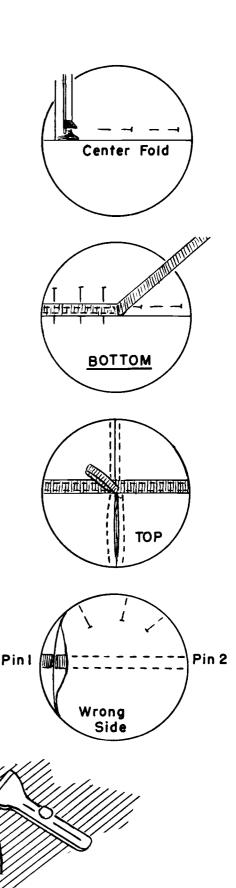
- 5. You will be stitching the ribbon onto the circles over these center folds. To help you get it on straight, use Margy Measuring Gauge to measure 1/4 inch from the center fold. Mark it with your tailor's chalk or pins.
- flat on the table. Beginning at the outer edge, place the ribbon next to the pin line, and pin it in place. (Baste ribbon to holder if you wish.)

Top-stitch the grosgrain ribbon from outer edge of the circle to the center. Stitch across the ribbon and return to outer edge.

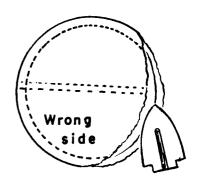
By repeating this same method of attaching ribbon on the other half of the circle, a loop will be formed in the middle.

Attach the ribbon in the same way on the circle for the top of the holder. It will cross the seamline.

- 7. Pin the outer edges of the two circles together, with wrong sides out. Begin by pinning the grosgrain ribbons directly on top of one another at each side of the circle. Then add more pins in each half.
- 8. Adjust cloth guide on sewing machine 1/4 inch from needle, and placed at an angle, rather than straight. This makes it easier to stitch around the curves.
- 9. Stitch 1/4 inch seam.



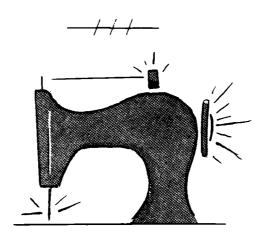
- 10. Press half the seam towards the center of the holder by using only the point of the iron in the seamline. Continue around the entire seam.
- 11. Turn holder right side out. Place one hand in the holder and run your finger around the curved seam. This will shape it, so that you can press it into a flat, neat circle.



12. After it is nicely pressed, pick it up by the top loop and bottom loop and pull it gently in opposite directions.



Isn't this fun? Just like magic you changed two flat circles into a puffy holder!



Aren't you glad you joined your 4-H Club to learn to use "Mother's Magic Sewing Machine"?

We hope you will continue to use it over and over again, so that you will not forget any of the "tricks" you have learned. Then you, too, will be able to --

"SEW ---- JUST LIKE MAGIC!"

FEDERAL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE , OREGON STATE COLLEGE , CORVALLIS

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