

REMODELING

By WILLIE N. HUNTER,
Specialist in Clothing.

I. RESTYLING:

When an old garment has good material and can be made into a new garment at little or no cash outlay and with very little time expended it pays to remodel. It does not pay when the material is badly worn, or cut into very small pieces, or of such a shape that they cannot be used without combining with new material which will run the cost up to such an extent that it over balances the value of the original goods.

It takes very little time and expenditure of money to restyle last season's dresses, and this type of remodeling pays. Good dressing is a good investment, and if one desires to look well in her clothing and to keep it up to date, it is very necessary to make the little changes each season like lengthening skirt, changing waist line, adding a new collar and cuffs and other changes that will make it conform to the season's styles.

A. Suggestions for lengthening and remodeling skirt:

1. Let out hem, face if necessary.
2. Add yoke at top.
3. Flounce at bottom.
4. Let in rather broad belt.
5. False yoke under peplum at waist.
6. New yoke in waist of dress.
7. Raglan or epaulet sleeve.
8. Tunic or drop skirt.

If skirt is too tight at waist or hip:

1. Rip side seams, until skirt hangs at ease. Insert a band of self material. Shape the end of band so that it appears a part of decoration of skirt.
2. If skirt is a four or six gored skirt, rip each seam and insert small gusset.

B. If waist is too tight:

1. Split open in front, add vest.
2. Rip under arm seam, insert piece.

When back and under arm of dress are badly worn:

1. New top, self or contrasting material.
 2. Deep shaped yoke.
 3. Raglan or dolman sleeves.
- Silk and wool, satin and silk, satin and velvet, solid colors with figured material are all good combinations this season.

C. Neck lines—To build up:

1. False yoke—wear some of the pretty large collars.
2. Fill in with self material, wear large bow.
3. Vests of contrasting material.
4. Scarfs, throw ties.

D. Sleeves:

1. Sleeves of contrasting color may be added to an old frock. They may be bell, bishop, puff, raglan, dolman.
2. Cuffs or puffs, narrow or deep may be added.
3. Pieces may be inserted which will enlarge a sleeve, yet look like a decoration.
4. The little caps and bands over shoulders which give width to the figure will also cover up worn places.

E. Accessories:

Many times new accessories such as collars, cuffs, a belt, scarf, are all that last year's dress needs to bring it up to date. Collars are excellent this season, both large and small. Materials are satin, silk, corduroy, velvet, pique, gingham, white or colors are used.

These are only a few suggestions for restyling last season's clothes. "Necessity is the mother of invention" and when one starts to work on this problem ideas will present themselves. Study fashion magazines. Window shop for ideas.

II. MAKING OVER:

Garment should be carefully ripped, cleaned and pressed. When ripping be careful not to cut or stretch material. Sharp pointed scissors or a razor blade are good helps in ripping. Often the bottom thread of stitching may be pulled out. Remove all clipped threads.

If one expects a nice, finished garment from an old one the material must be carefully freshened and cleaned. There are various ways for doing this.

Cleaning May be Done By

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Brushing | 4. Dry cleaning |
| 2. Sponging | 5. Washing |
| 3. Removing spots | 6. Pressing |

1. If the material is not spotted or soiled a good brushing and airing is sufficient.
2. Sponging will sometimes freshen material. This is done by sponging the material all over with a cloth wrung out of clear water, getting it thoroughly moist, then pressing on wrong side. Often this will give cloth a new appearance. With some material it is best to put a cloth between material and iron.

3. Removing spots:

a. Grease spots may be removed by:

- (1) Fuller's earth, talcum or magnesia. This is most successful if applied immediately after the garment is spotted. Place material with spot flat on table, sprinkle on Fuller's earth, let stand several hours or overnight, then brush off.

(2) Cleaning solvents.

Benzine, gasoline, energine, mufti. Place a soft towel under spot; moisten a small portion of soft cloth with cleaning solvent; rub from outside in until spot disappears.

b. Perspiration stains:

A splendid perspiration preparation for home use may be made and kept on hand as follows: 1 pint of water, 2 ounces of acetic acid (available at drug stores) 26% solution, 1 tablespoon salt; use in manner stated below.

Wet a circle around stained portion with gas or spot remover but not the perspiration stain, then apply liquid for this stain. Allow to dry thoroughly, then rub the entire surface with spot remover or the gas bath.

Write for bulletin No. 861, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. It is entitled, "Removal of Stains and Spots from Clothing."

c. Water spots:

Some silks and wools are spotted by water. A satisfactory method for removing such a spot is to dampen the entire surface and press it while still damp. Either sponge the material carefully with clean water or shake it in steam from a briskly boiling kettle until thoroughly damp, then press it.

d. Spots from sugar or syrup. Water will dissolve sugar. Moisten carefully with water, using a cloth underneath. Rub gently with soft cloth until spot disappears.

e. Orange, lemon or grapefruit.

If water is applied to the spot immediately it will dilute the acid so that the spot will come out.

4. Dry Cleaning:

Some materials require dry cleaning. This can be done very successfully at home, but great care must be taken as there is danger from the use of gasoline. Always use cleaning solvents out-of-doors and never anywhere near a fire. Use the high test gasoline. Many service stations sell a cleaning solvent. Usually 5 gallons may be bought for \$1.00.

Take enough clean gasoline or naphtha to entirely cover the article to be cleaned; add a tablespoon of Putman Dry Cleaner for each quart of gasoline used. Mix gasoline and dry cleaning soap thoroughly before putting in article to be cleaned. Wash the article thoroughly in this mixture, then rinse in two portions of gasoline. Be sure that this part of the process is thoroughly done. Do not add any dry cleaning soap to gasoline used for rinsing. Shake out and hang in the open where the gas will evaporate quickly. A clear day is best for dry cleaning.

It is economy to clean a number of garments at same time, as the gas that will clean one will clean several.

5. Washing:

Many silks and light weight woolens clean beautifully by simple washing. Use lukewarm water and milk soap as Ivory or Lux. Rinse in several tepid waters. After rinsing, squeeze (not wring). Roll silk dresses in towels, leave for several hours, shake out, press with iron not too hot. If wool material is stretchy, dry on flat surface, pull into shape. (It is advisable to measure before washing if desired that material not shrink, then pull back to desired length or width).

6. Pressing:

- a. *Wool*—Cover with thick, damp cloth, press with heavy iron until cloth is dry. "Shine" is caused by wearing off of the nap or grease. A tablespoon of ammonia to a quart of water is good for sponging shiny material before pressing. Nap may be brushed up with a stiff brush.
- b. *Silk*—Press on wrong side with moderately hot iron. Use tissue paper between iron and very delicate silk.

III. DYEING:

Many times the material is badly faded, especially is this true with silks. Dyeing is a good remedy for this. Clean material thoroughly. Follow directions on package of dye. The success of the dyeing depends on accuracy in following directions.

The designs of dresses today are a boon for using up left-over materials. The coat suits, the short jackets, the blouses, the tunic dresses, the yoke dresses are excellent styles to use when two materials have to be combined to get a new dress from old material. Study fashion magazines and you will be sure to find some splendid ideas to help with your remodeling problems.