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For Victory Mend and Save

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Walker, Anna D., "For Victory Mend and Save" (1942). *Cooperative Extension Circulars: 1917-1950*. Paper 392.
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FOR VICTORY
Mend **AND SAVE**

CLOTHES
Are Strategic Materials
Many Must Outlast
the War



Illustrated

SOUTH DAKOTA EXTENSION SERVICE
SOUTH DAKOTA STATE COLLEGE ♦ BROOKINGS, S. DAK.

"I Will Waste Nothing"

The consumers pledge for Victory includes the following, "I will take good care of the things I have—I will waste nothing."

Immediate and effective repair of garments for all of the family is an important step toward fulfilling this pledge.

Textiles are strategic war materials. Every hour of labor and every yard of material saved through proper care releases manpower and money so important to the war effort. Some types of clothing in the wardrobe cannot be replaced until the war is over. To extend the life of all clothing is the patriotic duty of all of us.

It is well to keep in mind that an effective mend, whether it be a darn or a patch, reproduces the original as nearly as possible. We look with pride on a mend which is so beautifully done that it does not show and so restores a garment to its place in the wardrobe.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Many of the hints and sketches in this publication are through the courtesy of the Bureau of Home Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Extension Service, South Dakota State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, Brookings, S. D.
Published and distributed under Acts of Congress, May 8 and June 30, 1914, by the Agricultural Extension Service of the South Dakota State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, Brookings, John V. Hepler, Director. U. S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.

Mend and Save for Victory

Compiled by Anna D. Walker, *clothing specialist*

This circular will discuss some specific mending methods which may be found helpful in extending the life of the family's clothing.

A Mending Basket Is Handy

Fine needles, different sizes and colors of thread, darning cotton, scraps for patching, bits of net, tape, press-on patches to mend some materials, and buttons, hooks, eyes and snaps should all find their place in the mending basket.

Rules for Patching

The secret of a successful patch may be found in the following rules:

1. Cut the patch on the "straight" of the material. Be sure that crosswise and lengthwise threads are in line with those of the material.
2. If the material has a pattern, match each detail perfectly to make the mend inconspicuous.
3. If the garment to be mended is old and faded, try to get a matching patch from a hem or some spot where a piece of old material can be spared.
4. Always shrink new patch material to be used to mend a wash garment.
3. Repeat the weave of the fabric as closely as possible.
4. Use a fine needle and short thread. Long thread pulled back and forth across a tear or hole tends to pull and stretch a darn out of shape.
5. Work for flatness. See that the tension on the yarn is neither too tight nor too loose.
6. Run stitches unevenly into the cloth around the edge of the darn so that the line where the darn starts is as invisible as possible.
7. Be sure that all raw edges of the hole or tear are on the underside of the darn.
8. Darn on the right side of the material so as to see that the darn is blending in well with the material.
9. Press the finished darn. Steam press on the wrong side. Brush darns on wool to lift nap.

Rules for Darms

Except for very small holes and worn spots, darms are seldom used on any material except wool or materials with a wool-like texture.

Successful darms depend upon the following:

1. Use thread that blends with the material. Yarns pulled from a scrap of the same cloth or from straight seams where they may be spared are best. Always use lengthwise threads for darning lengthwise, and crosswise yarns for crosswise darning.
2. If self yarn is not available, dull matching sewing thread that blends with the fabric is next best.

The Mend Should Fit the Break

If there is a question as to whether a darn or a patch should be used consider:

1. The shape of the place to be mended. Snags often call for a different type of mend than a straight tear.
2. Does the material have a nap, or is it smooth? Is it light or heavy weight? Is it washable or must it be dry cleaned? Does it fray?
3. Is the hole large? Some mends are more successfully done on a small scale, others on large.
4. Where is the hole? The sturdiness of the mend depends upon whether the spot will be subject to strain or not.

Trouser Re-Treads

Men's trousers have a way of wearing thin at the knee and a few inches above the knee. The habit of crossing one leg

over the other and sitting with one foot on the opposite knee perhaps accounts for considerable of this wear.

To add strength to the material at this point and thus prevent the cloth from breaking, follow these directions:

1. Cut a piece of material such as rayon taffeta, or sateen about a foot long and eight inches wide or long enough and wide enough to cover the worn place.
2. Baste under the material of the worn section and stitch in place with tailor's diagonal basting in rows about an inch apart. Fig. 1. Pick up just a thread of the trouser material in each stitch. If the material in the trouser is

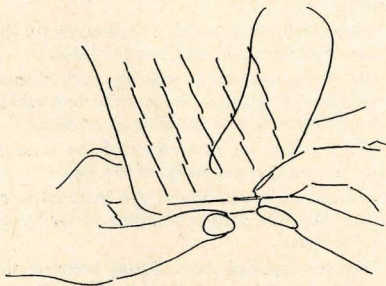


Figure 1

striped, adjust the machine stitch and tension to a length and tightness which is as inconspicuous as possible and stitch with thread to match the stripe. Stitch exactly on top of the stripe.

Knee Holes

To mend a hole in the knee, if the length of the trouser permits, pull a thread and cut at the worn place and simply raise the leg the amount of a seam matching carefully. This is often

less conspicuous than a large patch. It may be necessary to leave off the cuff, but cuffless trousers are in style these days.

First Aid for Trouser Cuffs

To prevent wear on the back of trouser cuffs where they rub the shoe, insert a strip of press-on mending tape on the inside between the thickness of material which makes the cuff. The strip should be placed just on the crease.

Re-Weave Patch

An excellent method to use in repairing a hole in a good wool garment will be found in the re-weave patch. This patch is used where a hole or group of holes are too hard to darn. It is more easily done in coarsely woven materials, but can also be done in finer materials with the use of a reading glass.

To make this darn:

1. Mark with four pins a square or rectangle the size of the patch you wish to make. See Fig. 2.
2. Clip one yarn from pin to pin and pull out.
3. Cut a matching patch, one inch larger all around. Ravel threads on the patch on all sides until the patch is the exact fit. Fig. 3.
4. Push a small crochet hook through where the yarns were pulled out of the garment and pull the ravelled yarn of the patch through to the inside. Fig. 4. When all the yarns are pulled through, press flat. If necessary, hem by hand on the wrong side along the lines where the threads were pulled through.

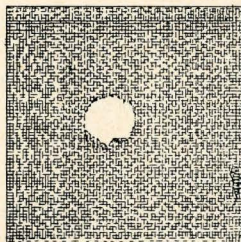


Figure 2

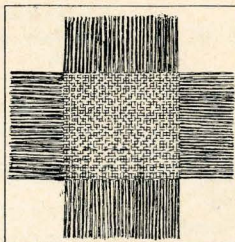


Figure 3

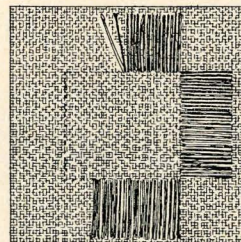


Figure 4

Stayed-in Patch

Darned-in patches, sometimes called stayed-in patches, may be used where a plain darn or patch might not look right. It is quite inconspicuous on thick wool.

To make this patch:

1. Trim the hole so that it is either a square or a rectangle.
2. Cut the patch so that it fits the hole exactly and also matches the pattern and grain of the cloth.
3. Baste the patch to a piece of net or rayon material large enough to extend past the hole at least $\frac{1}{2}$ inch on all sides. Fit the hole down over the patch and baste. This will hold the patch in place while the work is being done and reinforce it.
4. Use dull matching thread and darn each of the four sides of the patch, letting the darns overlap at the corners. Fig. 5.

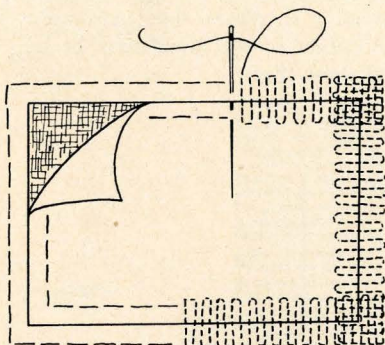


Figure 5

For Corduroys and Velveteens

For dresses and coats of pile materials, a stayed-in darned patch is satisfactory. In this case, work the darn from the wrong side of the material instead of the right. Then brush well on the right side to lift the nap when the patch is finished.

Inset Patch for Silks and Rayons

Most silks and rayons which are to be dry cleaned are best mended with an inset patch. To make this patch:

1. Trim damaged place to form a square or rectangle.
2. Clip the corners, turn the edges under evenly and exactly with the grain of the material all around. Press, do not crease with fingernail because soft material might stretch.
3. Place the patch in place so that threads and design match. Pin in place.

To finish this patch, the first way is as follows:

1. Check the exact size patch that fits the hole. Then turn and press. Trim all extra fabric and leave a small seam allowance. If material frays readily, leave more seam.
2. Check again to make sure the patch fits the hole exactly.
3. From the wrong side, overhand the patch into the hole with tiny stitches, caught through the two folded edges. Fig. 6. When finished, press flat and press seams open.
4. Overcast raw edges to keep from fraying.

The second method of finishing an inset patch. After matching the patch to the hole, proceed as follows:

1. Baste the patch to the garment with small stitches in contrasting thread. Stitch on the very edge of the fold.
2. Turn the garment inside out and on the line of basting stitches, stitch by machine, thus seaming the patch in.

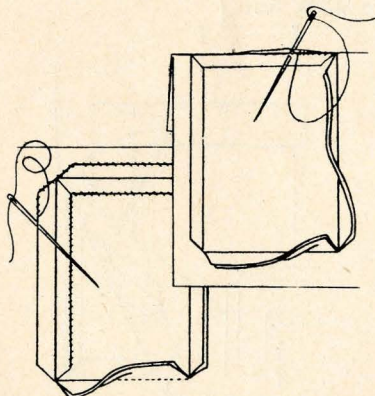


Figure 6

Care should be taken to baste the patch exactly to fit or it will pucker or look drawn.

Inset Patch for Light Weight Wools

Follow directions as for machine stitched inset patch. Then hide the seam line as follows:

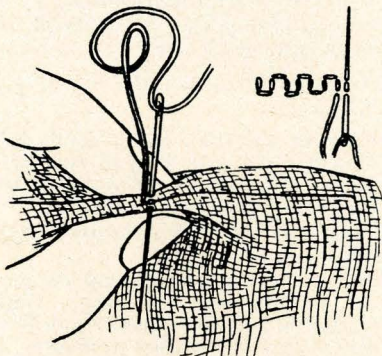


Figure 7

On the right side, pinch the seam line between the thumb and forefinger. Then stitch back and forth over the seam, pulling the threads up closer. Fig. 7. When steam pressed, this patch is very inconspicuous.

Three Cornered Tears

The best mend for a three cornered tear depends upon the material and the size of the tear.

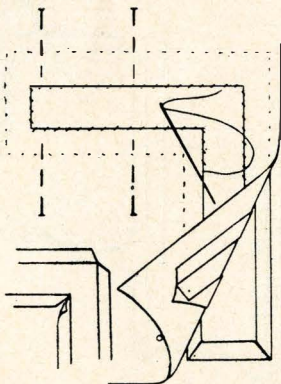


Figure 8

For all materials except wool, patch as you would a straight tear, trimming to form a square or a rectangle. Then make a hemmed patch. For larger three cornered tears, a hemmed right angle patch may be used. Fig. 8. This patch may also be used on smaller three cornered tears where patching material is scarce. Except for its shape, this patch is made the same as a plain hemmed patch. For neat corners, clip them as shown in Fig. 8.

Wool: Perhaps a three cornered hand darn is the most satisfactory mend for a three cornered wool break. Darn with matching threads. Darn as though each side were a straight tear. At the corner, the two straight darns will lap over each other. Fig. 9. This gives extra strength where it is needed. Like a straight darn, this one may be worked over net or over a piece of matching cloth laid on the underside for strength. Work with special care where the darns meet at the corner or the mend may be bulky and show there.

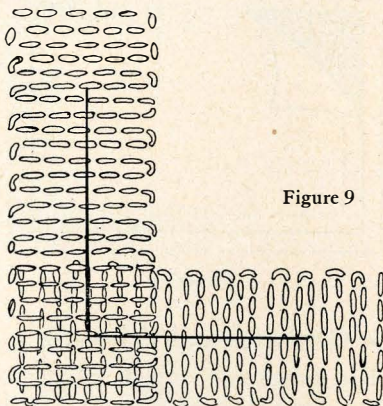


Figure 9

Machine Stitched Patches

A good sturdy patch and one that is quickly done, but is more noticeable, is the machine stitched patch. It is well suited to garments such as overalls, work

shirts, and childrens play clothes. It can be used on any sturdy wash material.

1. Cut the torn spot to make a circular hole.
2. Lay a matched piece of fabric under the hole. Baste it securely in place.
3. Stitch by machine on the right side. Stitch back and forth over the cut edge until it is firm and secure with no rough edges.
4. Trim away any extra material on the underside so the patch will not be bulky.

Mends for Knits

It is important to mend breaks in knits while they still are small because in knit materials, snags or breaks stretch. Matching yarn is the first consideration. A pocket or some part of the garment which is not actually needed may be ravelled, or a matching skein may be bought.

If the knit is plain, the stitch may be copied with a knit stitch. This is the most desirable mend as it will stretch as the rest of the garment.

To make a knit stitch mend, proceed as follows:

1. Cut the material vertically a little above and below the center of the hole. Make two horizontal cuts, one above and one below the hole, Fig. 10.
2. Ravel the knit to the ends of the cuts. Thread each loose end and run it back through the fabric on the underside. Fig. 10.

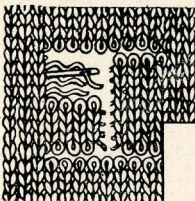


Figure 10

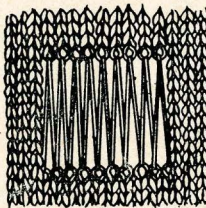


Figure 11

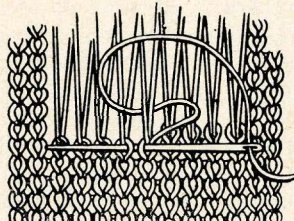


Figure 12

3. With matching thread, zig zag across the hole lengthwise. Fig. 11.

4. Work the knit stitch as in Fig. 12.

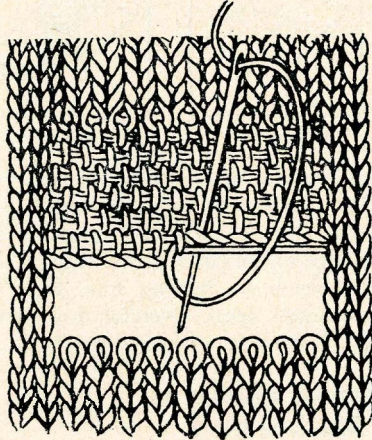


Figure 13

A hole in a knit may also be mended with a blanket stitch mend. It is an easier method, but it shows more and does not stretch.

1. First ravel out a square hole as in the knit stitch mend.
2. Then pull in a crosswise yarn and work back over it with loose blanket stitches, one for each knitting stitch.
3. Pull another yarn crosswise. Work back over it and continue until the hole is filled. Fig. 13.

Miscellaneous Mending Hints

Underarm Patch

To patch a dress which is worn under the arm, proceed as follows: Four seams meet at the underarm. Cut away the worn part in a square, each corner of

which comes on a seam line. Fig. 14. Straighten the edges of the hole. Turn dress to the wrong side. Rip seams about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Turn edges of hole back $\frac{1}{2}$ inch and press. Fig. 15. Cut patch $\frac{1}{2}$

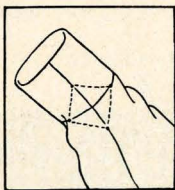


Figure 14

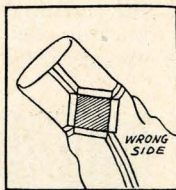


Figure 15

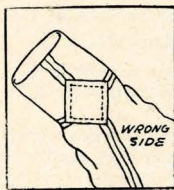


Figure 16

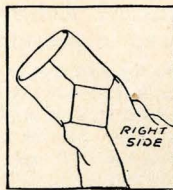


Figure 17

inch larger all around than the opening. Place patch over the hole right side down. Allow $\frac{1}{2}$ inch for seam and baste the edge of the patch to the edge of the hole. Stitch on basting line. Fig. 16. Press seams open. Overcast raw edges. Fig. 17 shows the finished patch.

Turning a Collar on A Man's Shirt

In turning a collar on a shirt, it is important to mark the center of the collar and neck band by folding them in half, matching edge to edge and point to point. Mark the center of each with a pin. On the wrong side of the collar, run a basting thread down the center. Fig. 18. On the inner side of neck band run a colored basting down the center. Fig. 19. Remove collar from top of neck band by ripping the stitches very carefully. Fig. 22. Remove all threads. Press neck band with seams still turned in. Press collar section. Slip reversed collar into the neck band matching centers perfectly. Pin from the center out, making the same seam allowance as before. **Do not stretch band or collar.** Ease wherever necessary. Baste both sides of the neck band to the collar along the

same stitching line as before. Fig. 21. Stitch by machine from the inside around the edge, using a matching machine stitch.

Commercial Mending Aids

Press on patches of knitted or woven materials in various colors treated on one side so that they may be pressed on the right side of the garment may be bought at notion counters. Stocking feet, men's shirts, women's uniforms, cotton underwear, and household linens may be successfully mended in this way. However, the weights, textures, and colors in these patches are limited. These patches stay on best when cut with the corners rounded. Follow manufacturers directions in using them.

Mending tissue of a material which melts under a hot iron may be purchased at tailor shops or notion counters to use with a scrap of material in mending woolen garments.

Mending fluids to apply to patches of material are also available on the market.

Pressing mits which may be purchased or made are handy to use when mending.

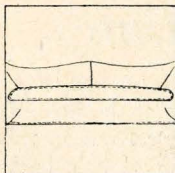


Figure 18

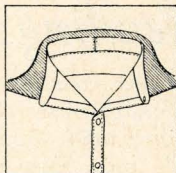


Figure 19

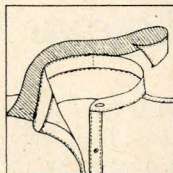


Figure 20

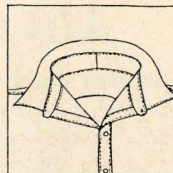


Figure 21