



ODDMENTS



Creative Kindness

by Charlotte Edwards, Rock County 4-H

Are you looking for a new community service project? School uniforms for children in Haiti, toiletry kits and “ugly quilts” for the homeless, or dolls for children in shelters are just some of the projects that community service groups all over the country are making for those in need.

Nancy Zieman and Gail Brown have teamed up to write “Creative Kindness.” This book features projects that 4-H groups, churches and other community organizations can make and donate to those in need. If you go to Nancy’s web site www.nancysnotions.com and click on the Creative Kindness link, you can read about the various projects and the groups that have started these project along with many others. Patterns can be obtained by writing to the group or by purchasing the book.

Nancy and Gail donate a portion of their royalties to the various groups on a rotating basis, thus aiding them in their efforts. So, when planning your next community service project, check out this Web Site and/or the book. You’ll be sure to find something that suits your group.

New project kits for beginning sewers

by Courtney Barnes, Green County 4-H

There are six new sewing lessons by the Northeast District available for teaching beginners some basics about sewing! These lessons can be used to educate people in techniques, such as: various hand stitches, how to use a sewing machine, testing fabric and identifying problems.

Check out revamped 4-H Clothing Web Site

Sick of searching the web and not finding 4-H Clothing resources? Worry no more! Now you can find us on-line. Hints, projects (including the *Locker Organizer* and *Bag It* projects featured on this page), events and links can be found at the State 4-H Clothing Web Site.

Visit us at <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/onlinpro/sew/index.html> and increase your sewing knowledge!

I have completed one; the *Bag It!* project. I thought it was an excellent, simple project for teaching some hand sewing skills.

One part I did not like was the order of assembly. I thought it would be nice to use buttons for the eyes and nose, as did the makers of the pattern. I wished to stitch mine on, so I did that before stitching together the front and back. The pattern suggests this should be done in reverse. Before making a project, see if the way they suggest making the project is compatible with your sewing style.

The six projects contain lesson plans, patterns and materials checklist so you can create your own kit.

- ◆ **Bag It:** using yarn and a tapestry needle to sew basic hand stitches on pattern cards
- ◆ **Stitch It:** hand stitching a bean bag animal
- ◆ **Collage Banner:** sewing and decorating a banner
- ◆ **Holes, Holes and More Holes:** testing fabric durability
- ◆ **License to Drive:** learning to operate a sewing machine by stitching on a paper templates
- ◆ **A Puppet Party:** making a simple puppet with a sewing machine.

Quick & Simple

by Courtney Barnes, Green County 4-H

This Locker or Closet Organizer was designed by Green County, Wisconsin 4-H. It is very fun to make and only takes about 2-3 hours. This is an easy project designed for people with two or more years sewing experience but can be made by just about anyone with some sewing knowledge.

It includes some serging, because it was originally created to teach serging, but if you do not have access to a serger you can use a regular seam on your sewing machine instead.



Tips & How To's

by Brianna Stapleton, Columbia County 4-H

How to select a pattern

The first thing you need to do is look around. Page through pattern catalogs, check out the example garments in fabric stores, and observe 4-H clothing revues to see what styles you like.

When you find a pattern that appeals to you, ask yourself these questions:

- ❖ Does the pattern suit my sewing abilities?
- ❖ Would I be comfortable sewing on the necessary fabrics?
- ❖ Do I like the style of the garment and does it flatter my figure?

Another idea to keep in mind is to pick something original. Find a pattern for a garment or outfit that is creative. You could start a trend with something that nobody’s seen before!

How to select fabric

After you find a pattern that you like and that suits your sewing ability, now its time to pick out fabric. Read the back of the pattern envelope to see what fabrics it recommends. Check to see how much you’ll need to make the garment, and buy extra, just in case.

Here are some factors to keep in mind when selecting your fabric.

1. Find a fabric that suits your sewing ability. If you’re a beginner, satins or sheers aren’t the best choice.
2. See if the color complements your features.
3. Check the drape to see if the weight of the fabric is appropriate for your garment.
4. Is the fabric itchy? If so, do you plan to line the garment?
5. Check if the fabric frays easily. If it does, plan on finishing your seams
6. Check if the fabric wrinkles easily. If so, beware of how much pressing the garment will need.
7. Read the top of the bolt. How do you care for the fabric? This is information that you will need to know when being judged.



If you plan to enter your garment in a contest, read the contest guidelines and see if there are any fabric stipulations. Some contests require fabrics with a certain fiber content. This information can be found on the top of the bolt and there are some fiber tests that you can conduct at home to check the accuracy of the bolt.

Last but not least, the fabric should be something that you like and will enjoy wearing over and over again.

Make It Yourself With Wool contest

Wool garments completed after Jan. 1, 2003 are eligible for entry in the “Make It Yourself with Wool” contest, Sept. 6, Jefferson County Fair Park, Jefferson. Entries can be:

- ❖ **One-piece garment:** dress, jumper, jacket, coat or cape.
- ❖ **Two-piece garment:** coat, jacket or cape, blouse/shirt, vest or sweater *WITH* a dress, jumper, skirt, pants or shorts.
- ❖ **Ensemble:** 3 or more garments worn together at one time.

Contests must use 100 percent wool or wool blend (minimum 60 percent wool or specialty wool fiber) for each fashion fabric or yarn used. Specialty wool fibers include mohair, cashmere, alpaca, camel, llama and vicuna.

Entrants can be preteen, junior, senior and adult. Contestants must select, construct and model their own garments. In the *Made for Others* category, the intended wearer must model the garment(s).

Wisconsin Junior and Senior winners advance to National Competition in Sacramento, Calif., Jan. 22-24, 2004.

For more brochures or entry forms, please contact:

MIYWW State Director
Carol Battenberg
W5670 Finder Rd.
Johnson Creek, WI 53038
(920)699-2233
batten@tds.net





4-H Youth Development
431 Lowell Hall
610 Langdon St.
Madison, WI 53703

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 658
Madison WI



Volume 11 Issue 1

The Newsletter for 4-H Clothing Members and Leaders

Summer 2003

Sewing Expo: A Day of Hands-On Fun

Twelve teams of youth and their adult partners gathered for a day of learning and sewing at Bigsby's Sewing Center, Brookfield, on Sat., Oct. 12, 2002.

During the morning, the teams worked on making a nine-patch pillow. The sewers' interests showed in the fabrics that they had chosen for their pillows. Favorite animals, golf and winter activities showed up in the pillows.

After lunch, the teams set to work on making tote bags. Again, individual tastes showed. While most chose to use cotton fabric for their tote, one young man chose to work with black vinyl. When their sewing of projects were finished, participants enjoyed themselves by checking out Bigsby's products and shopping. All left with two completed projects and a new friend or two.



Story & pictures by
Tina Mann, Volunteer
Advisor

Contributors: Kris Ballweg, Courtney Barnes, Charlotte Edwards, Michaela Fox, Katelyn Santy, Brianna Stapleton, Alison Wroblewski
Volunteer Advisor: Tina Mann

Extension/4-H Advisor: Kathi Vos
Layout: Anne Salinas
Logo design: Gretchen Krause
Sponsor: Wisconsin 4-H Foundation

University of Wisconsin-Extension, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Wisconsin counties cooperating. UW-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8, and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Carl O'Connor, Director, Cooperative Extension, University of Wisconsin Extension, Madison, WI 53706. Copyright 2003 Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, Division of Cooperative Extension of the University of Wisconsin-Extension.

If you need this material in another format, please contact the Department of 4-H Youth Development, University of Wisconsin-Extension, 431 Lowell Hall, 610 Langdon St., Madison, WI 53703; phone 608-262-1067. Visit Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development on the Web at <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/>. This information is produced by the Department of 4-H Youth Development and is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by the Cooperative Extension or bias against those not mentioned.



What Judges Are Looking For

by Katelyn Santy, Fond du Lac County 4-H

Throughout my years clerking and entering in my county fair, I have found that there are many qualities and techniques that most judges look for when judging the construction of a garment. Of course, every judge is different and has their own opinion, but I will try to give you some hints based upon the comments of judges I have clerked for.

First of all, remember to finish your seams. Sometimes it may seem like it takes too much time or energy, depending on your method of choice, but it really does pay to have nice smooth seam finishes. The method of seam finishing to use usually depends on your fabric and what is available to you. Serging is a nice way to go, if you don't have a serger, you might try zigzag stitching on the edge on your garment. Sometimes, however, serging leaves a bump around the seam. For a smoother look you might want to try a new method, like covering your seams with Seams Great™ or creating French seams; it never hurts to try something different.

We are always told to press our garments well while we are in the construction process, but before you are judged make sure your garment is well pressed. This will give the garment a nice clean look and show that you put in the extra effort to make it look nice.

Buttons and buttonholes can be a downfall for many youth. When you are making your buttonholes, be sure that they are even and that they will fit around your buttons well. Practicing on samples of the same fabric and interfacing as your finished garment will be made of is a key which can help you to eliminate lots of problems later. Also, if the button you are putting on your garment doesn't have a shank, it is a good idea to make one out of the thread you are using. You can do this by pulling your needle up between the fabric and button and wrapping the thread around

several times. This will help you get the button in the buttonhole and give it extra stability.

When you hem your garment, whether you hand pick or topstitch, try to make sure your hem is even. If you add patch pockets, be sure they are put on straight and even, too. The front edges of jackets and necklines should match, as well. If you are precise, the judge should notice this and appreciate it.

If your garment has facings, it is best to understitch to keep the facing from rolling out. This is an added plus with judges. Most patterns will have directions for understitching. If your facing still rolls out, you should hand tack it down.

If you have a zipper closure on a skirt or a dress, for example, it is a good idea to put a hook and eye on the top. The judge may not notice, however it is a good habit to get into; the more advanced sewer you become, the more judges expect from you.

Perhaps the most important thing about being judged is that you can explain what you did to make the garment, what it is made of, how to care for it and why you chose to make it that way. Don't be intimidated by the judge, they are there to help you learn. Make sure what you are doing matches your experience level and never be afraid to try new things.

Not all judges are the same; therefore, I can't cover here everything judges may look for. However, I hope I have given you some helpful hints that you will be able to use this year at your county fair. Good luck and happy sewing!

2003 Calendar of Events

Make It Yourself with Wool
Contest, Jefferson County Fair
Park, Jefferson
Sept. 6, 2003

Newsletter Committee Meeting,
Madison
Dec. 29, 2003