

ATTENTION HOMESEWERS: LOOK FOR CARE AND COMPATIBILITY

By Doris W. Thomas
Home sewing is a creative form of self-expression as well as an economic practicality for more and more women.

The frequently-used home sewing machine represents substantial savings, even when working with expensive fabrics.

Not only are the machines more versatile and easier to use than ever, but fabrics,

patterns, trimmings and notions are available in vast variety. The great developments in fabrics allows the sewer to whip up everything from lingerie to rainwear. The range of fabrics includes stretch materials, knits, bonded, fake furs, suede, vinyl and polyurethane. Manufacturers keep pace with the homesewers' desires for style, color and individuality.

A big bonus is washability and it's easy to incorporate. The homesewer, faced with almost unlimited choice, should exercise care and caution and be well-informed before making selections. Look for compatible component parts. This means choosing trim, pocketing, interfacing & lining fabrics, ribbons, binding tape, thread, zippers and other notions with an eye to how each will work with the basic fabric being used. Why sew a permanent press garment if the trim or lining has to be ironed?

Take time to shop thoughtfully for trims. Bring fabric swatches to the store for accurate matching. Try to go at a time when the store is uncrowded and saleswomen will be able to devote the time to give you personal service. If care instructions are not available with fabric or findings, it's a good idea to prevent potential problems by pretreating before sewing. For example, always preshrink zippers before sewing by soaking in warm water. Test a sample of trim for colorfast-

ness before combining it with a white or light material. Launder all materials that are to be washed before cutting the pattern even if they are marked that they have been pre-shrunk.

The popularity of knits has brought the introduction of new products: polyester or cotton-covered polyester core

threads which help eliminate seam puckering when sewing polyester doubleknits and permanent press fabrics; special ball-point sewing machine needles for easier sewing on knit fabrics; lightweight, non-woven, washable interfacing designed especially for polyester knits; washable polyester cotton-covered polyester core ribbons.

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