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for cozy studying

Pop On A Poncho!

By Carole Boughton, S. 4

From the western cowboy to the college coed comes one of this winter’s top fashions, the poncho. Proved protection against the blustering winds of the prairie, the poncho is perfect to snuggle in when studying drags into the wee hours of the morning.

Best of all, the poncho is so easy to make. The materials needed are: A 52-inch square of material, (a red plaid wool and orlon blend is shown in the illustration . . . or you can even use a blanket); one 2-ounce skein of an orlon and wool blend bulky yarn; and two yarn needles, one with an open eye and one regular. The total cost may range from about $4 on up, depending upon the price of the fabric.

Making the Poncho

The procedure for making the poncho is just as simple as the list of materials is short. If you are using a plaid or striped fabric, you must first decide which way you want the pattern to run on the finished poncho. Then fold the material in half, keeping in mind that the pattern must run lengthwise to this fold which will make the shoulders of the poncho.

To find the center of the neck opening, fold the material in half again by bringing the ends of the first fold together and mark the center with a pin. The average neckline is about 13 inches wide, so to find the ends measure 7½ inches along the fold in both directions from the center and mark. Then cut a slit between the two boundary markings, making sure that it is straight with the grain of the fabric. Use the sports yarn to finish the neckline by applying a blanket stitch at ⅛-inch intervals around the unfinished edge. The stitch should extend ⅛ inch down from the edge.

Cut Bulky Yarn

To fringe the bottom of the poncho, cut the bulky yarn into 10-inch pieces. Starting from one corner, hook the open-eye needle into the center of one piece and pull a 1-inch loop through from the wrong side of the fabric about ½ inch from the bottom. Detach the needle, thread the loose ends through the loop and pull tight. Repeat this at 1-inch intervals around the bottom.

So that the poncho will have more shape, most girls prefer to have side seams. To close the sides, fold the material across the shoulders as it will be when the poncho is finished and lay it flat. Mark points 9 inches in from the sides and 10 inches down from the shoulder fold. Machine stitch straight down from these points to the bottom of the poncho.

Perfect for studying on cold winter evenings, this poncho worn by Thirza Hull, H. Ec. 3, is made in red wool and orlon blended fabric. Only a 52-inch square of material and two yarn needles are needed to make this fashion.