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A Course for Homemakers

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Something Old for Which to Be Thankful

By MARIAN BIGELOW

"The Fashion wears out more apparel than the man."—Shakespeare.

It is true today, as it was in Shakespeare's time, but the art of making over old clothes was not known then, while today she who has old clothes which have been worn out only by Fashion has much for which to be thankful. Perhaps you think old clothes are a strange thing for which to be thankful. Well, what about that last year's suit with the full box jacket? The material is as "good as new," but the style is hopelessly out of date. Rip the skirt and jacket, clean and press them. There are any number of ways you can make it into a dress which your friends will think came straight from Fifth avenue, if you want a tailored dress for street wear, cut the jacket into a tight fitting waist, with a high choker collar and long, tight sleeves. Join it to the plain straight skirt of the suit and use a wide suede belt of a contrasting or harmonizing color to hide the seam. A smart finishing touch is a row of tiny buttons of the same color as the belt straight down the front from the tip of the high collar to the bottom of the hem.

If you want a more elaborate frock, make a plain, straight dress by cutting the jacket into a waist and joining it to the skirt. Trim it. There are myriads of beautiful, bright colored bandings and braids on the market at reasonable prices and can be used on dresses in all kinds of ways. The skirt may be slit up the front and a placket of wide banding inserted, leaving narrower banding at the neck and on the sleeves. A four inch banding may be inserted on each side front, letting the banding slip three strips of the material at the waistline, giving the effect of a belt. You can put wide banding around the bottom of the skirt and narrow banding just above the waist, making the skirt look much more slender than it is. Or if you do not possess any fur, you can get clever imitations, which are used in the big shops more than the real fur.

By the way, imitation leopard is being shown a great deal and is surely something different.

But suits are not the only thing to be mended over. Black satin is as good as ever this season, and who hasn't a black satin dress which never will wear out? After all, Dame Fashion is extremely kind this year to the woman with a limited income, for she designed last year's afternoo dresses, with their long, full skirts, their pleated panels and full drapiers, just to be made over into the clever little tunics so popular this year. And then last year's crepessatin, which was made with the crepe side out, can be righted and made up with the satin side out for this year's wear. The style this year for a variety of materials combined in one costume, such as crepe bandings, bright color bandings, and the fur trimmings, which cover seams and pleatings so nicely, all unite to make it a joy to fashion new clothes from old ones.

A straight tunic gown can be made from the skirt of a long, full satin or crepe dress. Use the length of the skirt for the length of the tunic, cutting it as long as the skirt will allow, which will probably make it come about to the knees. Since Fashion says to put all the trimmings at the bottom of the costume, it is easy to finish the tunic into a dress. If there are wide enough pieces of the material left, you may make either one or two circular pieces, attach them directly to the bottom of the tunic, using a narrow braid or banding to cover the seams, or you may attach them to a slip and allow the tunic to remain loose. If you have plenty of material left, but it is in narrow pieces, use rows of little ruffles to make a wide hem, or put a strip of material over that last year's crepesatin, which was made with the crepe side out, can be righted and made up with the satin side out for this year's wear. The style this year for a variety of materials combined in one costume, such as crepe bandings, bright color bandings, and the fur trimmings, which cover seams and pleatings so nicely, all unite to make it a joy to fashion new clothes from old ones.

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A class in Handicraft, under the supervision of Mary Owsley, in the New State High School building on the Ames campus is giving special notice not only here in the college, but throughout the state. This class is for anyone in the state, no prerequisites being necessary. The only entrance requirement is that the enrollee be seventeen years of age.

In this class the people get the fundamental principles of design and theory of color as a working basis. After they have acquired this basic knowledge, studio problems are taken up. This class may make anything they wish. Some of the things from which they may choose are: Designing and painting wooden boxes in tempera; serving trays in oil; in narrow pieces, use rows of little ruffles to make a wide hem, or put a strip of material over

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