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Remodeling Tips

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Remodeling Tips

by Joan Kelleher

REMEMBER the game "I'm going to New York, and with me I'm going to take—"? Now that you're in college you say, "I'm going home for Christmas, and I'm going to do—." You have probably already thought of at least a dozen things and repeat them faithfully every night before you go to sleep.

But just in case your list has only reached the half-dozen mark, here are a few additions for you.

If you want to cut off your too-short winter coat, you might use the leftover material to make a belt for the back of your coat. Face the back of the belt with leftover lining and attach with buttons. Make the belt about 2½ inches wide. This prevents a chopped off look in a medium flare or swing back coat.

To lengthen a straight coat take the facing from the front of the coat and add it to the hem. Many rows of stitching from this seam to the new hemline will give the addition a finished, tailored look. You can re-face the coat with a gay wool plaid or contrasting plain wool.

To add inches to a plain colored wool skirt, use a plaid strip at the hemline. A fringed stole of the same plaid, and tiny plaid-covered buttons at the waistline give you an interesting new outfit.

Dresses to Blouses

Look again at your rayon or silk dresses that are too short. Many of them will make perfect dress-up blouses. Simply cut the dress off to the desired length. If the dress buttons to the waist, cut through the waistband, and face with left over skirt material. Sew up the placket and you have a new blouse. If the dress does not button to the waist, you can leave the placket in, and have a fitted blouse.

Belt collections can improve any wardrobe. One you can make during vacation might be of stenciled leopard skin. Stitch the leopard skin to belt backing and add a silver, gold, or self-covered buckle. Can't you imagine it with your black dress or skirt and sweater?

And while you're doing so much sewing, why not make a handy sewing kit to go back to school with you? A round metal candy box can be repainted, or the paint removed, leaving a shiny finish. A pin-cushion using coffee grounds for stuffing will keep your pins shiny. Add odd-but-useful buttons, needles and the colors of thread you most often need. And don't forget your thimble.

