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## Vicky Says Sew

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# VICKY SAYS SEW

by JoAnn Breckenridge

THREE times Vicky waved her magic wand. Three times she cried out, "Abracadabra!" Three pennies she tossed into Memorial Union fountain and three wishes she made on the evening star. . . but the new dress she wants for the big dance just hasn't appeared. For one whole week Vicky's been careful not to walk on the zodiac, walk under ladders, spill salt or cross the path of a black cat. . . but there's still no dress. So Vicky's discovered her own magic word — sewing machine. Pick a magic number, Vicky advises, the number of the dress or suit pattern you like best. Choose a material that will cast a spell. Then pick an expert to give you some hints on the magic ways of a needle and thread.

## *Belva Lou Ross*

What nice magician will let you in on her bag of tricks? Belva Lou Ross, home economics freshman, from Gillette Grove, Iowa, was glad to give Vicky tips to pass along to you. Belva Lou won first prize from a field of 32 county winners in the State Style Review at this year's State Fair. It's not nearly as hard to make your own clothes as it is to pull rabbits from tall silk hats, Belva Lou assured Vicky. If you've patience and perservance up your sleeve, you hold all the aces before you start.

Belva Lou's prize winning costume is a brown and white pin checked suit of miron wool. Styled with a flaring, four-gore skirt, short jacket with flirting

bustle back and cardigan neckline, the suit is perfect magic to Belva Lou's pert personality.

Take one attractive, well-made pin check suit and add to it a dash of color with an aqua scarf and a pinch of spice with a matching brown seago hat, shoes, bag and gloves, and you'll have pure witchery. Best of all is the money saved when you sew your own clothes. Belva Lou's suit alone cost \$26.00. With the accessories, the cost was \$54.54 — approximately the suit alone if purchased ready made. Now, if you're convinced that sewing is your next project, here is some of the wizardy Belva Lou uses to make her clothes.

Just as two magic potions are better than one, if the pattern isn't just what you want, Belva Lou advises combining several patterns and adding or subtracting details. She used two patterns for her suit, one for the skirt, another for the jacket, and omitted the collar.

## *Secret Desire*

"I always wanted to try a suit," Belva Lou explained, "and since this was my last active year in 4-H, I decided to do it. I didn't dream I'd win though."

Magic wands are all around to help you. Just reach out and take advantage of them. Belva Lou received sound advice from her home economics teacher.

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"Mother had taken a county extension course in which she made a doll coat to learn the basic principles," the blue-ribbon winner explained, "so she was a big help, too." She pointed out that many details were omitted from the pattern directions, but she found them in a bulletin from the Department of Agriculture. This bulletin was one of her biggest aids.

From the bulletin, Belva Lou pulled the money saving suggestion to make a muslin jacket to fit before cutting into expensive wool. It will save hours of tedious ripping and disappointment if the wool jacket goes together smoothly and fits when done.

No magic will work if you don't follow directions, the petite, blue-eyed winner emphasized. With a steam iron press each seam to professional smoothness *immediately* after stitching it.

### Fitted Shoulder Pads

Every modern woman loves the wizardry of shoulder pads in improving her figure. Make them first of tailor's sheet wadding to fit your shoulders. Belva Lou thinks it would be easier if someone else fit them for you, but with patient shifting, adding and subtracting of wadding and many, many fittings, yours will be smooth duplicates of your own shoulders. Never, never try on your garment without them, she warns.

How a magician makes a woman disappear is a big mystery to Belva Lou, but it is no mystery to her to make the sags disappear from a bias cut skirt. Her suggestion is to baste the seams and let the skirt hang for 2 weeks if time allows. Then stitch the seams with hem facing along them as extra guard against

stretching, and let it hang several more days. Now you can mark your hem and feel confident that it won't have a roller coaster hem-line after the first wearing.

To put a smooth hem in a circular skirt, Belva Lou gathers the hem with a machine stitch till it fits, then steam presses till it lies flat. Hem tape finishes the edge which is held fast with a blind stitch.

### Iowa State Fair

The magic carpet of sewing whisked Belva Lou Ross into an exciting week at the Iowa State Fair. Her dimples flash and her eyes sparkle as she relates the excitement of seeing her picture on the front page of the newspaper, of modeling her suit in summer heat of 96 degrees, of appearing in a movie, of sending wires and telegrams, of trying to call home when the telephone was dead, of her proud brother yelling, "Mom, she did it!", of the postman stopping at each farm along the road to personally show them her picture, of sitting up till 2 a.m. talking to her mother the night she got home. The magic carpet of sewing can whisk you too, into more fun and clothes than you had before.

Belva Lou was judged on snap and style, good posture, fit, general effect and color as well as sewing achievement. Judge your own self by these same standards if you want to be a winner.

After talking to Belva Lou, Vicky threw away her rabbits foot and spent her lucky silver dollar on sewing equipment. If they call her a witch at that big party — fine. In the new dress she made herself, she'll be a fascinating witch that even a Scotchman could love — for sewing is money saving magic.

## ALLURINGLY YOURS!

You will be your loveliest at Christmas time with a new and different hair style. Why not try a short bob to show off your prettiest earrings?



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