From Bathroom to Ballroom- Terry Cloth

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Terry Cloth

by Ruth Anderson
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TERRY CLOTH is stepping forward this year to pace the fashions in clothes and interior decoration for homemakers and coeds alike.

This year more than ever before, terry cloth is leaving its bathroom uses behind in the glow of its lounging and decorative possibilities.

Featured are the "make-its"—the simple-to-make and easy-to-wear beach and lounging togs. Patterned for those women without a sewing machine near at hand, these togs require only the barest sewing essentials such as scissors, needle, thread, ruler, pencil and pins—plus lots of ingenuity.

Heading the list is a new beach bag lined with durable and colorful oil-cloth. The terry cloth provides the color to match the bag to your costume; the oil-cloth, water repellency.

Make a "toss-on"

The "toss-on" is the bag's partner—again made in terry cloth. The "toss-on" takes about an hour to make, and you'll wear it days on end this summer over your swim suit for canoeing, sailing, going to and from the beach or just lounging in the sun. It's also a perfect outfit to wear while washing the car—cause it's washable, too.

For a "toss-on," measure from your shoulder down to a little past bathing suit length. Add to this 6 inches for a belt and buy the material.

First thing is to cut off this 6 inches allowed for the belt. Fold this piece in half lengthwise (right sides together) and sew the raw edges tightly together. Turn inside out. Fringe the ends and sew three rows of stitching the entire length of the belt to reinforce it.

Fold the remaining material in half so you have a big square of material. Make a slit on the fold for your head. Bind off this raw neck edge and the raw bottom edges with binding tape of a matching color. Since it is easy to hide stitches on the rough weave of terry cloth, you can stitch this tape securely down on the wrong side without fear of it showing.

Now try it on, gathering it in at the waist with the belt. The trick to wearing a "toss-on" is in acquiring the knack of making it individual. You may want to tack down unpressed pleats at the waistline or cut it open down the front so you can wear it loose. Spaced loops for the belt or a tiny stand-up collar at the neck may add an individual touch. Whatever you do, a "toss-on" is one of those summer items you will wonder how you ever got along without.

In other fashion wear, terry cloth is found made up in sun dresses which, when smartly trimmed, are surprisingly dressy. It is competing with the new gaily trimmed denims in this line.

Even formal wear for your spring prom is coming forth with floating, ankle-length gowns of terry cloth. Featured in a Des Moines store, one formal gown was made of pale pink and white striped terry cloth with a full gored skirt and slightly shirred bodice.

Again this season, the washable terry cloth sport blouse is a perfect matchmaker for shorts and pedal pushers. These tireless terries are perfect for tennis or for the beach. A short and skirt combination appliquéd with identical poodles is guaranteed to keep your opponent's eye off the tennis ball. A sack, pull-over, slouch blouse, straight-cut to the cuff of your shorts, is a good style for beach wear, the back yard or general comfort.

Launder with ease

The ease of laundering terry cloth cannot be overlooked by the busy woman of today. No pressing either. A neckline style can be found to fit any person, because such a variety of them are being shown this year—turtle neckline, V-neck, scoop, long and narrow boat neckline, collared and the classic round neckline.

On the decorative side, lounging accessories for terrace, living room and bedroom use are coming out terry cloth covered. Pillows in new petal shapes, triangles and circles are covered with the bright washable covers.

Living rooms and recreation rooms over the country are welcoming the summer-slanted terry cloth hues for warm-weather slip covers for davenports and chairs. Also, homemakers and coeds are using simple, tailored terry cloth bed spreads and dresser scarves in their bedrooms.

Terry cloth is truly a leading fabric this year. Combining the new colors and designs with the simple-to-make patterns for its use, terry cloth is swiftly penetrating all parts of 1953 summer living.

Miriam Hassan, H. Ec. Fr., models the easy-to-wear "toss-on" made in Terry Cloth. This garment, which can be made without using a sewing machine, is the perfect cover-up over your bathing suit when going to and from the beach or when sailing.

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