Look Pert in Pellon

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PELLON, the combination wool and camel's hair fabric that actually "breathes" cool summer air, is commanding a spotlight among new materials.

Garment labels stating all the crease-proof, drip-dry, non-woven qualities of Pellon have made exciting news for costume designers, for Dior and his colleagues and for you.

Non-woven, or bonded, as the material is described, means that you will find no grain line because there are no threads. With no up or down, no right or wrong side, the fabric is a webbed mat composed of fibers mixed at random.

Cemented Fibers

A fabric possessing this unique make-up requires an unusual manufacturing process: a combination of chemicals, heat and pressure to cement short loose fibers together. The final Pellon is a soft, pliable material with a blotting paper appearance. It falls in smooth flowing lines and is a fabric you need not bother pressing because it doesn't wrinkle. Even Pellon that has been tied in knots will magically flatten without creases. A swish in detergent suds is all the attention Pellon needs.

Pellon was designed as an interfacing fabric. It was first used for petticoats as a taffeta substitute. The special talent of Pellon to seemingly become a part of the material with which it is combined, makes it ideal for interfacing collars and lapels to perfection. This quality is welcomed by men's suit manufacturers and homemakers who want the custom-tailored appearance in their jackets.

No "Give"

Unlike other interfacing, Pellon has no "give" and cannot shrink. When you work with it, you can cut and sew to fit instead of relying on easing and pressing for shape. You can arrange the pattern pieces to cover every inch of the no-grain fabric, making economical use of the material. After cutting out the pieces, assembling is easy. Pellon lies flat and does not pucker when you sew it. Pins make basting unnecessary, and you can forget about seam finishing because Pellon can't ravel or fray.

Developed in Holland before World War II, Pellon has been constantly improved since 1951 when United States manufacturers acquired rights to work with the material. New processes have made production relatively inexpensive, and Pellon is now made in six weights.

Some of the internationally known dress designers were the first to work with Pellon. They used it in many of their most expensive creations. It was the secret of Dior's molded tulip design that mystified the world.

The latest strapless swim suits are Pellon supported, with Pellon doing "naturally" what boning and crinoline have been "persuaded" to do.

Nylon net is used over Pellon to protect it from rubbing by other fabrics, and to give it extra body. Deep tones of colored net with Pellon in white or delicate pastels give glamorous effects in some Pellon creations.

A Pellon petticoat will flare gracefully throughout its life and won't become limp after cleaning like crinolines and taffetas; instead, Pellon seems to thrive on laundering. Washing experiments using both hand and machine washing methods showed that Pellon weathered laundering without change.

After sewing with Pellon for only a couple hours and discovering draperies, dressing table skirts and interfacings with that ever-fresh look, you may promise Pellon a permanent place in your fabric future.