



## VELVET LOOKS ALL SEWN UP!

Fannie Brown Eaton\*

Velvet is a luxurious woven fabric for super feminine clothes. Suits may be softened with ruffles, peplums, full gathered skirts and blouson bodices or tailored with shape-giving crisp linings in prints and solid colors. Short jackets, wrapped skirts and pants make a versatile outfit.

For pants, skirts, jumpers and coattresses, use an underlining of medium weight with a soft or crisp finish to support the major design lines and add body to the fabric.

Panne velvets are body-clinging and usually do not require underlinings or linings.

Braids, fringes and ribbons make interesting trims.

### Fabrics

Some major types of velvets are:

*Bagheera.* Fine, crush resistant, uncut pile with a rough surface used for sportswear, dresses, suits and evening wear.

*Chiffon velvet.* Lightweight, soft, silk velvet with cut pile. More closely woven than transparent velvet. Used for dresses, suits and evening wear.

*Lyons velvet.* Stiff, erect, thick piled velvet, made of silk pile and cotton or rayon back. When made of 100 percent synthetic fibers, the fabric is called Lyons-type velvet.

*Panne velvet.* Silk or synthetic velvet with a finish in which the pile is flattened and laid in one direction. Lustrous and lightweight. (Do not confuse with the knitted panne velvet.)

Look for yardage requirements under "with nap" on the pattern. If not given, add  $\frac{3}{8}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  yard for cutting one way and matching designs. Pile direction effects the color. To decide desired effect, brush your hand lightly over the surface. Deeper colors feel rough; the lighter colors feel soft and smooth.

Interfacings may be soft or crisp, depending on the desired effect. Use light or medium weights. Choose underlining fabrics that compliment the velvet and do not change its natural characteristics. Choose linings of medium weight crepes, taffetas or satin. Pre-shrink underlinings, seam tapes and zippers.

### Cutting Preparation

Some velvets crawl and curl when cutting and handling. Place an old sheet on the cutting surface to prevent fabric from sliding. Carefully pin the pattern to the velvet. Stay-stitch immediately to stabilize the fabric.

### Machine Preparation

Adjust machine to a loose thread tension. Set stitch regulator for 12 to 15 stitches per inch. Decrease the pressure on presser foot. Use a size 11 needle for fine velvet and a size 14 needle for medium weight velvets. Use thread that corresponds with the fiber in the fabric. Use round hole plate on an automatic machine or a gummed tape over an oval hole. This prevents an imbedded stitch line, which detracts from the pile and surface depth. Fewer stitches and loose tension permits each long stitch to travel over the height of the pile and enter the surface less often. Less pressure on the presser foot helps prevent shifting of fabric layers when stitching. It also prevents crushing the pile.

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### Seams

Carefully baste seams to keep them from shifting when stitched. Slipstitch seams to backing to keep them flat and prevent rolling. Seams that fray badly may be finished with a zigzag stitch or bound with a sheer bias strip.

### Closings

Covered or decorative buttons and button loops

may be used. Use invisible or centered zippers. The final step in centered zipper application may be done by hand.

### Pressings

Use a velvet board or turkish towel and steam the fabric. Do not touch the fabric with an iron.