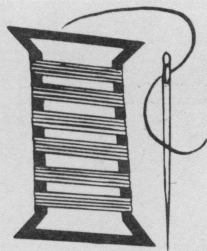


FACT SHEET

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CORDUROY LOOKS ALL SEWN UP!

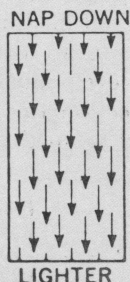
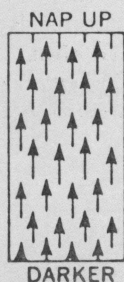
Beverly Rhoades*

Corduroy is a popular pile fabric widely used to create today's fashions. It is attractive and durable and offers a variety of rich colors. Corduroy is available in the traditional wide and narrow wales, sculptured with rich texturized patterns and as a luxurious suede-like ribless fabric. All of these variations comes in printed designs. The newest varieties may not resemble corduroy at first glance.

Simple designs are most appropriate for corduroy. Check fabric suggestions on the pattern envelope to make sure a pile fabric is suitable.

Fabric

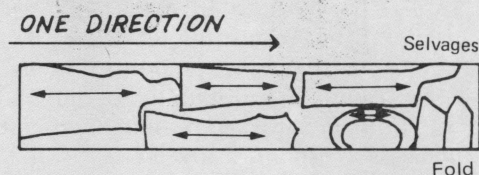
Look for yardage requirements under "with nap" on the pattern envelope. If not given, add $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ yard for cutting pieces one direction and matching designs. The pile direction affects the color. Brush your hand lightly over the surface. When the pile runs up (feels rough), the color looks deep and rich. When the pile runs down (feels smooth), the color looks soft and muted. Choose the effect desired and create the entire garment in one pile direction. Pre-shrink all fabrics, zipper and washable trim.



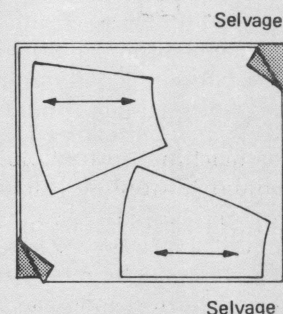
Cutting Preparation

Lay the pattern pieces on the wrong side of the fabric. The top of each piece should point in the

same direction. Match ribs in wide wale corduroy as stripes. Use *only a lengthwise fold* when cutting two pieces at a time.



If the pattern piece is too wide for width of fabric when folded, measure the length of fabric needed to cut one thickness and cut the fabric crosswise at this point. Turn one layer around so that the bottom becomes the top, matching pile to pile. The nap on both pieces will then run the same direction allowing two layers to be cut at the same time. Using sharp shears, cut with the grain of the fabric.



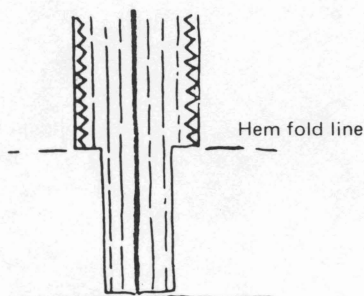
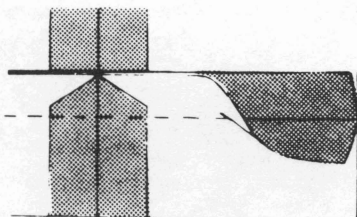
Machine Preparation

Use a balanced tension on the machine. Set stitch regulator for 8 to 10 stitches per inch. Reduce pressure on the presser foot to prevent crushing the pile and to help prevent the fabric layers from shifting during stitching. Use a size 11 or 14 needle. Thread your machine with matching mercerized cotton, cotton covered polyester or polyester thread. Frequent cleaning under the throatplate will brush away collecting lint which could impair stitching.

*Extension clothing specialist, The Texas A&M University System.

Seams

Hand or pin baste seams to prevent slippage. Stitch in the direction of the pile when possible. Lift long pile caught in seams with a needle. Grade all enclosed seams. Trim so that the widest side of the seam allowance lays against the right side of the finished garment. To eliminate bulk in heavier piles, sheer the pile from the seam allowance, slash and press open darts, trim excess fabric diagonally at intersecting seams, cut away from overlapping seams inside hem allowance and use lighter weight fabric for facings.

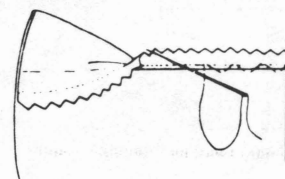


Closings

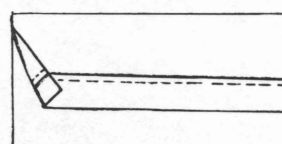
Tailored or machine buttonholes may be used. Cut lips for bound buttonholes in narrow wale or ribless corduroy on the bias. Avoid bound buttonholes in wide wale varieties. Zippers applied by hand in the last step may be more attractive. Vinyl trims, buttons and button loops add interest.

Hems

On tightly woven corduroy, machine stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the edge and pink. Fold garment down at hem stitching line and hand hem with an inside hemming stitch.



If fabric ravel, apply seam tape or seam binding. Catch the tape to the garment to control raveling of raw edge underneath.



Pressing

Press seams and darts as you sew. To press, lay fabric face down on needle board, heavy terry towel or on a piece of self fabric face up on the ironing board. Press with a gentle up and down motion using a steam iron. Use a lightly dampened press cloth when using a dry iron. When pressing seams open, use only the tip of the iron to prevent imprint of the seam allowance on the top side of the garment.

Care

Laundry by hand or by machine. Use warm suds and no chlorine bleach. Turn garments inside out to prevent lint from clinging to the pile. Wash with similar colored garments. A fabric softener added to the last rinse cycle fluffs up the pile. Line or tumble dry. If line dried, do not wring or twist. Tumble dry at medium heat setting. Remove while slightly damp to prevent wrinkling. Pull seams taut to prevent puckering. When dry, brush pile in one direction to fluff. Corduroy garments may also be dry cleaned.

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