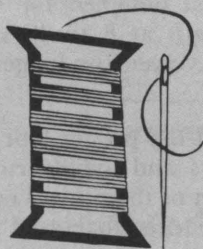


# FACT SHEET

L-1002



## VELVET LOOKS ALL SEWN UP!

Beverly Rhoades\*

For a plush, fashionable look any time of the year, choose velvet, the oldest of the woven pile fabrics. Since 2,000 B.C., dresses, gowns, and separates made of this luxurious fabric, have added elegance and femininity to wardrobes.

Choose simple styles with as few seams as possible. The beautiful draping qualities of velvet make it particularly suitable for soft, flowing styles. For a more structured or tailored look, medium weight underlining will give the fabric body which is needed to support design lines.

Consider using velvet for accessories or adding a special accent touch as collars or cuffs to garments of other fabrics.

### Types of Velvets

Although originally all silk, today's velvet is usually all or part synthetic. With vast improvements in weaving, knitting, and finishing techniques, velvet has become a fabric for all seasons in weights for every type of garment.

Lightweight velvets are suitable for dresses, separates, or evening wear, especially for warmer seasons. Types of sheer velvet include *Bagheera*, a fine, uncut pile with crush resistant, rough surface; and *Transparent velvet*, a soft, draping, cut pile fabric of fine silk or rayon yarns. *Chiffon velvet* has similar characteristics but is more closely woven.

*Lyons velvet* is a heavier fabric with stiff, thick pile of silk yarn and rayon or cotton back. When 100 percent synthetic yarns are used, it is called *Lyons-type velvet*. This velvet is suitable for coats, separates, dresses or gowns, especially for cooler seasons.

Other types of velvet include *Cisele* and *Faconne* with a patterned or sculptured surface and *Nacre* with pile yarns and backing of different colors. *Panne* which may be knitted or woven has a flattened pile for a satiny finish. Crushed effects may also be achieved by flocking. Velvet made with delustered yarns has a matte finish. Cotton-velvet, a blend of cotton and rayon, is hand washable.

Special finishes can make velvets crushless, water repellent, and spot resistant.

### Inner Fabrics

Choose inner fabrics that complement the velvet and do not change the natural appearance. Underlinings will give body and stability if needed. Lining fabrics, compatible with the weight of the velvet, may serve as facings to eliminate bulk. Lightweight interfacings will give body to stress areas, yet allow the fabric to remain soft.

### Yardage Requirements

Look for yardage requirements for velvet under "with nap" on the pattern envelope. If not given,

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add  $\frac{3}{8}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  yard to amount given. Preshrink all washable fabrics and notions.

**NEW Sizing** Extra fabric needed to match plaids, stripes, one-way designs. Use nap yardage and nap layout for satin or one-way design. Not suitable for obvious diagonal fabrics.

Standard Body Measurements	Bust	31 1/2	32 1/2	34	36	Ins.
	Waist	23	24	25 1/2	27	"
	Hip - 9" below waist	33 1/2	34 1/2	36	38	"
	Back—neck to waist	15 3/4	16	16 1/4	16 1/2	"

Fabric required	Sizes	8	10	12	14	
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**View 1 or 2 Dress**

35" or 36" with nap ✓  $3\frac{3}{8}$   $3\frac{7}{8}$  ✓  $3\frac{3}{8}$  4 Yds.

35" or 36" without nap  $3\frac{3}{8}$   $3\frac{1}{2}$   $3\frac{3}{4}$   $3\frac{3}{4}$  "

44" or 45" with nap  $2\frac{7}{8}$  3  $3\frac{1}{4}$   $3\frac{1}{4}$  "

44" or 45" without nap  $2\frac{7}{8}$  3 3 3 "

54" — " "  $2\frac{1}{4}$   $2\frac{1}{4}$   $2\frac{1}{4}$   $2\frac{1}{2}$  "

**V. 1 Flat-woven braid trim 1" wide**  $2\frac{3}{4}$   $2\frac{3}{4}$   $2\frac{7}{8}$   $2\frac{7}{8}$  "

**View 2 Contrasting detachable collar and cuffs**

35" or 36" without nap  $\frac{7}{8}$   $\frac{7}{8}$  1 1 Yd.

44" or 45" with or without nap ✓  $\frac{3}{4}$   $\frac{7}{8}$  ✓  $\frac{7}{8}$   $\frac{7}{8}$  "

**View 3 Dress**

35" or 36" without nap  $3\frac{1}{8}$   $3\frac{1}{4}$   $3\frac{1}{4}$   $3\frac{3}{8}$  Yds.

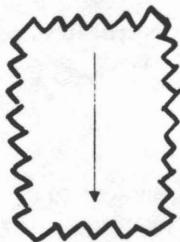
44" or 45" " "  $2\frac{3}{8}$   $2\frac{1}{2}$   $2\frac{5}{8}$   $2\frac{5}{8}$  "

54" — " " 2 2  $2\frac{1}{8}$   $2\frac{1}{4}$  "

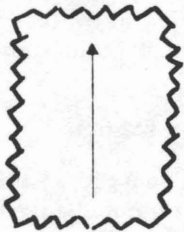
**Cutting**

Cut all pattern pieces in the same direction. To determine the direction, brush hand lightly over the pile. The surface feels smooth in the direction of the pile. For a rich, deep color, cut velvet with nap going up the body. For a frosted effect, nice for pastels, cut nap going down.

Direction of Pile



Frosted look



Deep, rich look

To cut, lay fabric on a smooth surface with pile folded in. Use *only a lengthwise fold*. Carefully pin pattern on fabric using fine pins or needles in the seam allowance.

To avoid marring pile surface, use chalk or tailor's tacks with fine thread to transfer pattern markings.

**Machine Preparation**

For a perfect stitch, make test seams with two layers of fabric, pile to pile. Use a size 11 needle with fine thread such as silk (size A), polyester, or polyester covered cotton designed for lightweight fabrics. Set stitch length at 8 to 12 stitches per inch. The heavier the velvet, the longer the stitch needed.

Decrease pressure on the presser foot to prevent shifting of fabric layers and avoid crushing pile. Stitch with the direction of the pile. Looser thread tension may help to produce a balanced stitch. Use small round hole throat plate to prevent an imbedded stitchline.

**Seams**

To check fit, baste seams with fine thread. Make alterations before machine stitching since stitches may leave marks when removed.

Machine stitch over basting rather than pins. Tissue paper placed under sheer velvets may aid stitching. Seams may be finished by pinking, overcasting, zig zagging, or binding with sheer strips. (Seams in washable and knitted panne velvet should be bound.) Grade or layer inside seams to reduce bulk. Since top stitching is not effective with velvet, (except on panne or flocked) pockets, bands, trims, and collars may look best applied by hand.

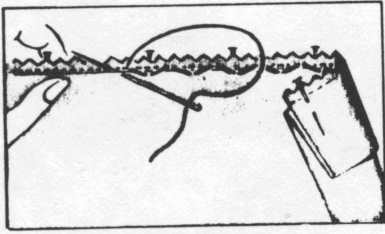
**Closings**

Bound buttonholes (with bias strips), loops, or frogs, make attractive closures. Buttons may be covered or purchased for a special decorative accent. Invisible or conventional zippers may be used. Choose flexible, lightweight zippers for sheer velvets. Apply conventional zippers by hand in the final step.

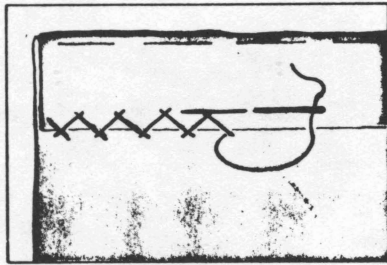
**Finishes**

Raw edges of facings and hems may be finished with seam binding, bound with sheer strips such as soft net, or overcast. Apply hem by hand using fine thread. Use an inside hemming stitch or a catch stitch as shown.

Do not pull thread tight. Fusibles are *not* appropriate for velvet.



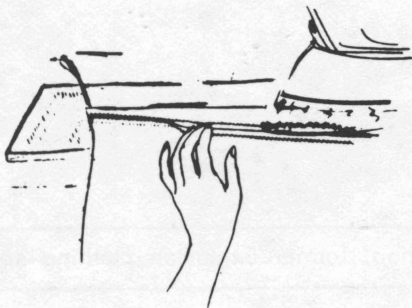
Inside Hemming



Catch Stitch

### Pressing

Except for panne and crushed flocked, velvet requires special pressing techniques. Press velvet on a velvet board, a piece of canvas through which blunt needles project upright, or on a thick turkish towel to avoid crushing pile. Place fabric *pile side down* and hold iron over seam, not touching fabric, while steam penetrates the fabric. Never place velvet directly on an ironing board. For blends, the fiber requiring the lowest temperature determines iron setting.



To press an entire velvet garment, hang it in a steam filled bathroom away from the water for 30 minutes. Pile may be carefully brushed up with soft brush while damp. Allow to dry thoroughly before wearing.

### Care

Most velvets should be dry cleaned by a reputable, quality cleaner. Between cleanings, dust and lint may be removed with a soft brush. For washable velvets, follow label directions carefully. Use *correct water temperature* and wash by hand. Padded hangers are recommended to preserve shape of garments.



These values should be determined by a representative quality cleaner. Between cleaning and washing, the garment should be cleaned by a representative quality cleaner. Between cleaning and washing, the garment should be cleaned by a representative quality cleaner. Between cleaning and washing, the garment should be cleaned by a representative quality cleaner.

Item	Value	Item	Value
1	1.00	11	1.00
2	1.00	12	1.00
3	1.00	13	1.00
4	1.00	14	1.00
5	1.00	15	1.00
6	1.00	16	1.00
7	1.00	17	1.00
8	1.00	18	1.00
9	1.00	19	1.00
10	1.00	20	1.00



**Cutting**

To cut the pattern, first lay it flat on a smooth surface. Then, using sharp scissors, cut along the lines of the pattern. Be sure to follow the grain of the fabric. The pattern pieces should be cut out carefully, following the lines of the pattern.

For a perfect fit, the pattern should be cut out carefully. The pattern should be cut out carefully, following the lines of the pattern. The pattern should be cut out carefully, following the lines of the pattern.



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To check fit, have a woman stand with her arms raised. Make alterations before machine stitching since machine stitching may make alterations.

Machine stitching should be done carefully. The machine should be set up correctly. The machine should be set up correctly. The machine should be set up correctly.

Pressing should be done carefully. The garment should be pressed with an iron. The garment should be pressed with an iron. The garment should be pressed with an iron.

The original manuscript was prepared by Fannie Brown Eaton, former Extension clothing specialist.

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