

# THE SHEATH SKIRT

A pleasant change from the ever popular dirndl is this proportioned, easy to make (and to wear) skirt. Both versions are twill shots, but both could employ other small repeat types of weave such as Rosepath, Birdseye, or Weavers' Fancy. The proportion of color value and spacing is featured. Note the slight hip line emphasis in both skirts, accomplished by weave or in pocket trim. The all-wool skirt is recommended, but a satisfactory skirt can be made with a cotton warp and wool weft. Such a skirt is washable.

## Skirt No. 1 — "The Windsor"

### THE DESIGN

The sheath skirt pattern woven in twill, of all-tweed weft. This skirt features a striped or decorated panel in the center front, with or without simulated pockets. \*The width of the warp is the length of the skirt.

### THE MATERIAL

#### A. Warp:

	COLOR	SIZE	YD. LB.	PUT-UP	SOURCE	
Wool 2-18s						
Paton & Baldwin's "Worsted"	No. 200 White	2-18	5000	2 oz. tu.	S/25	
or	"Weavecraft"	White	2-16	4480	1 lb. cone	S/78
or	"Clackamas"	White	2-20	5600	4 oz. tu.	S/70
or	Cotton	Natural	10/2	4200	2 oz. tu. or 1 lb. cones	S/7

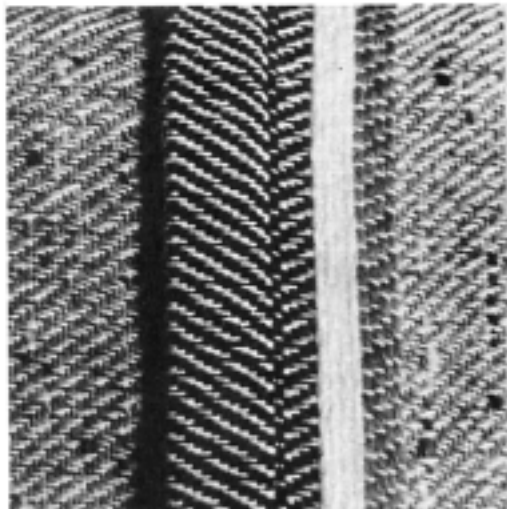
1. Amount Required—For 2 Skirts: 3078 yds. of warp.
2. Warp Sett: 36 Inches wide in reed.  
18 Ends per inch.  
4¾ Yds. long. This includes 26-inch loom waste allowance.

B. Weft:	KIND	COLOR	SIZE	YD. LB.	PUT-UP	SOURCES
	Paton & Baldwin's "Tweed" Wool	Gray No. 124	Art. 2	2720	2 oz. tu.	S/25
	Sock Wool	Black		1200	8 oz. sk.	S/80
	Angora Wool	White			Gram balls	S/100 or Meier & Frank Co. Portland, Ore.
	4-Ply Worsted	Lt. Gray			2 or 4 oz. skeins	S/70 or 100

1. Amount Required for 2 Skirts:  
2600 Yds. "Tweed"  
50 Yds. Black Sock Yarn  
20 Yds. White Angora Wool  
12 Yds. Gray 4-Ply Worsted



"The Windsor"



Fabric Detail No. 1

## THE WEAVING

A. **Threading:** Twill.

B. **Treadle:** (a) Body of Skirt—Twill 1,2; 2,3; 3,4; 4,1; throughout.

(b) Trim Stripe—12 shots twill—black

5 shots twill reversed—black

1,2,3 — 1 x white angora

2,3,4 — 1 x “ “

3,4,1 — 1 x “ “

4,1,2 — 1 x “ “

Repeat treading for angora, but use gray 4-ply worsted.

Use 2 treadles simultaneously on counter balance looms for these shots.

## HOW TO WEAVE

(a) Determine width of skirt by:

1. Measure widest part of pattern sections; then
2. Add 2 inches for shrinkage; and
3. Add 2 x the width of the stripe. This allows for a pleat under the stripe.

(b) Before weaving the front of the skirt, measure and mark pattern at center front. Center your decorative panel (2½ to 3" wide) and mark this on your pattern. Use pattern as a guide.

(c) Twill weave widest side first, adding in area (a)3 above.

(d) Weave Trim Stripe given above.

(e) Weave balance of front width. Always place a double weft shot to mark off completed areas of skirt parts.

(f) Weave 2 back widths, allowing 2 inches shrinkage in each.

(g) Weave 5 inches for belt, in plain twill.

(h) Pockets: Optional.

1. Weave 3 inches plain twill.

2. Weave Trim Stripe (plus 2 or 3 shots of tweed for cutting).

## SEWING:

(a) Cut and sew skirt as described at end of lesson. Remember \* above. Pleat under width of panel.

### Pockets

(b) Stitch around pocket pc.

(c) Cut strip into 6" lengths. Sew around material flat. Trim ⅛" inch outside.

(d) Fold r. sides together. Stitch across end and down side. Invert. Whip other end and press.

(e) Place simulated pocket 2 inches below belt bottom, one end at ½" from seam. Blind sew to skirt.

## Skirt No. 2—“Carousel”

**DESIGN THEME:** Close movement of simple lines alternating two colors, set off by occasional heavier black overshot treadlings for emphasis.

### THE MATERIAL:

**Warp:** Same kind as skirt No. 1.

**Weft:** Same kind as skirt No. 1.

### Amounts Required—For 2 skirts:

Warp: 3524 Yds. 2-18 or 2-16 Wool.

Weft: 670 Yds. (2 tu.) No. 124 gray “Tweed”.

330 Yds. (1 tu.) No. 5 brown “Tweed”—Art. 2.

1460 Yds. white wool like warp.

165 Yds. black sock yarn.

1 spool cotton sewing thread No. 40 for tabby between overshot.

### THE WEAVING:

**Warp Sett:** 7¼ Yds. long (including loom waste allowance of 26 inches).

18 Ends per inch.

27 Inches wide in reed.

Shrinkage Included: 2" per skirt length; ¾" in width.

**Threading:** Twill 1 - 2 - 3 - 4; repeat;

**Beat:** 18 shots per inch. Tweed wool can be 16 to 18.



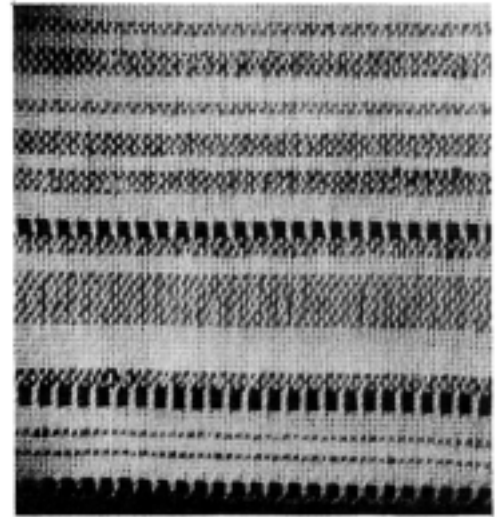
“Carousel”

## How to Proportion Your Design

1. Determine length of skirt wanted. Do not include belt.
  2. Draw this length full size on a strip of butcher paper. Draw all lines across paper to indicate length. Use a ruler.
  3. Divide length into 4 equal parts. You now have 4 areas.
  4. (a) Draw a line  $1\frac{3}{4}$ " below bottom line of upper area. Color dark between these.
  - (b) Draw 2 lines  $1\frac{3}{4}$ " apart, placed 2" down from center line. Color dark.
  - (c) Draw 2 lines  $2\frac{3}{4}$ " apart, placed 2" down from top of bottom area. Color dark.
- These 3 bold stripes are the dominant design points of the skirt. The graduated sizes of smaller lines are placed between these as follows:

**From top down:**

5. Upper Area—Medium ( $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide lines), to small ( $\frac{1}{4}$ " ), to medium.  
 Second Area—Divide into 3rds: use  $\frac{3}{8}$ " and  $\frac{5}{8}$ " and  $\frac{1}{8}$ " mixed. Use the 2 smaller sizes in the center part, the larger toward the ends.  
 Third Area—Upper part: 2 wide stripes  $1\frac{1}{4}$ ",  $\frac{3}{4}$ " spacing at top. Balance in small and medium stripes, but containing 2 sub-dominant stripes.  
 Bottom Area—2 small lines,  $\frac{1}{8}$ " and  $\frac{1}{4}$ ", on either side of a sub-dominant stripe. Shade in the stripes with pencil to indicate.
6. Add 3 inches for hem with turn under included.  
 This gives you the general layout of your skirt with the approximate sizes of lines and placement of them. Spacing can vary from this a little, but hold generally to the widths of  $\frac{1}{8}$ ",  $\frac{1}{4}$ ",  $\frac{1}{2}$ ", and  $\frac{3}{4}$ ", light or dark.
7. Draw the detail of each section full size on different pieces of paper. Use these as a guide in weaving.



**Fabric Detail No. 2**

**TREADLING:**

- A. 1. Pin a strip of muslin 3" wide to the web as you weave.
2. After weaving a short way, with a ruler carefully draw lines across, indicating exact areas and lines of the stripes.
3. Write plainly in the area: the number of shots, and the color.  
 Use this strip of cloth as a guide in weaving the other 2 lengths of the skirt to get an exact match.

**B. DETAIL OF TREADLING:**

1. Alternate stripes of gray and brown separated by white. Use tabby in these colors at all times.
2. Dominant Stripes—\*Black wool is always treadled on 1,2 harness, using the sewing thread as tabby between:

**TOP STRIPE—**

- 3 gray
- 4 black\*
- 5 white
- 1 gray
- 3 white
- 1 gray
- 5 white
- 4 black\*
- 3 gray

**MIDDLE STRIPE—**

Same as top stripe, except use 3 black instead of 4 in each place.

**SUB-DOMINANT STRIPES—**

- 3 gray
- 3 black\*
- and
- 3 black\*
- 8 gray

**BOTTOM STRIPE—**

- 7 brown
- 4 black\*
- 4 white
- 4 black\*
- 13 gray
- 4 black\*

**BELT—** $2\frac{1}{4}$ " wide on finished garment.

- 4 white
- 3 gray
- 3 brown
- 3 gray
- 2 black\*
- 4 white
- 3 brown
- 3 gray
- 2 white
- 18 gray
- 3 white

## Cutting of Skirt Material

1. Remove material from loom, dip in warm water, squeeze in towel, and dry slightly, then press until dry.
2. Select a plain sheath skirt pattern.  
Example: Advance No. 8029 Fall 1956.
3. Lay pattern on wrong side of material, stripes always at identical points on pattern.
4. Pin and with a soft pencil draw around pattern, penciling in all sewing marks.
5. Machine stitch around on pattern lines.
6. Cut  $\frac{1}{8}$ " outside machine stitching.

## Sewing

Use a sharp machine needle always. Fasten off or tie ends. Use medium stitch. Carefully match stripes by pinning and then basting before machine stitching. Follow the pattern directions for sewing skirt.

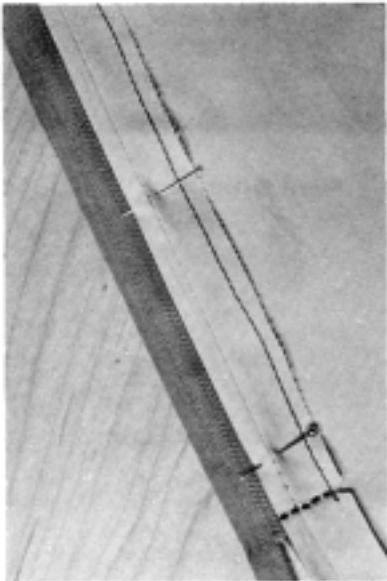


Illustration No. 1

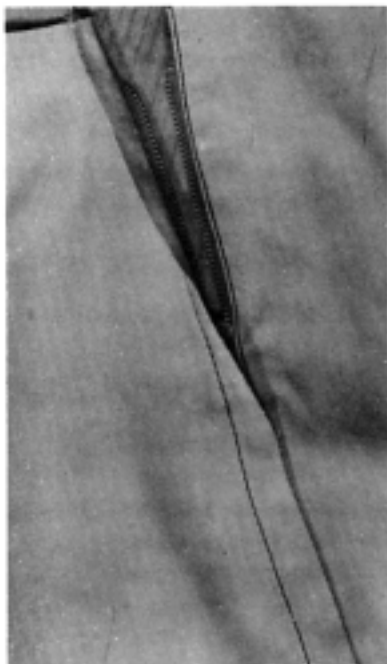


Illustration No. 2

## How to Put in a Skirt Zipper

1. Sew the left side seam of the skirt:
  - (a) End precisely at notch of pattern.
  - (b) Tack at notch securely.
2. Machine stitch on both sides of placket opening:
  - (a) Stitch  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch from edge of material.
  - (b) Avoid stretching material.
3. Machine baste skirt seam together from notch to top of skirt:
  - (a) Use longest machine stitch to baste.
  - (b) Use same width seam as below notch (full  $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch or  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch).
4. Press seam open with iron.
5. Turn left seam allowance under.
  - (a) Face wrong side of material with top edge of skirt up. Let left seam allowance protrude at left. See Illustration No. 1.
  - (b) Crease left seam allowance with iron from top of skirt to notch,  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch from seam line.
6. Mark across seam allowances at notch with thread or pencil.
7. Place zipper:
  - (a) With zipper closed and face up.
  - (b) Place bottom stop of zipper just below notch line, and under the creased edge.
    1. Zipper teeth are immediately to the left of the crease.
    2. Top of the zipper slide should be just below the seam line across top of skirt.
  - (c) Note Illustration No. 1.
8. To Sew:
  - (a) Pin and baste length of zipper tape  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch to right of teeth, slightly easing tape.
  - (b) Use a cording foot attachment if possible and
  - (c) Medium-stitch from **bottom** tip of tape to **top** edge of skirt,  $\frac{1}{16}$ -inch back from creased edge of material.
  - (d) Clip left seam allowance to seam at lower end of tape. See Illustration No. 1.
9. Turn zipper:
  - (a) Lay material flat, seam pressed open.
  - (b) Lay left edge of zipper tape back flat on the right seam allowance.
  - (c) Hand baste close to zipper teeth so
    1. The end of the basting stops exactly at zipper stop and shows on right side of skirt. This will indicate where to start Step 10.
10. Stitch left side of placket.
  - (a) Turn skirt right side out.
  - (b) Begin exactly at seam  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch below bottom stop of zipper.
  - (c) Carefully top stitch  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch out from seam, turn, and stitch to top of skirt. Use full  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch width from seam.
  - (d) Pull ends of stitching threads to wrong side of skirt and tie securely.
  - (e) See Illustration No. 2.
11. Remove all machine and hand basting stitches and press skirt closing.