

A TOUCH OF CLASS

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WHAT IS TAILORING

Tailoring a suit is close to being a labour of love, requiring many hours of patience, accuracy and precise handwork. Gradually, a beautiful molded shape begins to emerge and a jacket is born.

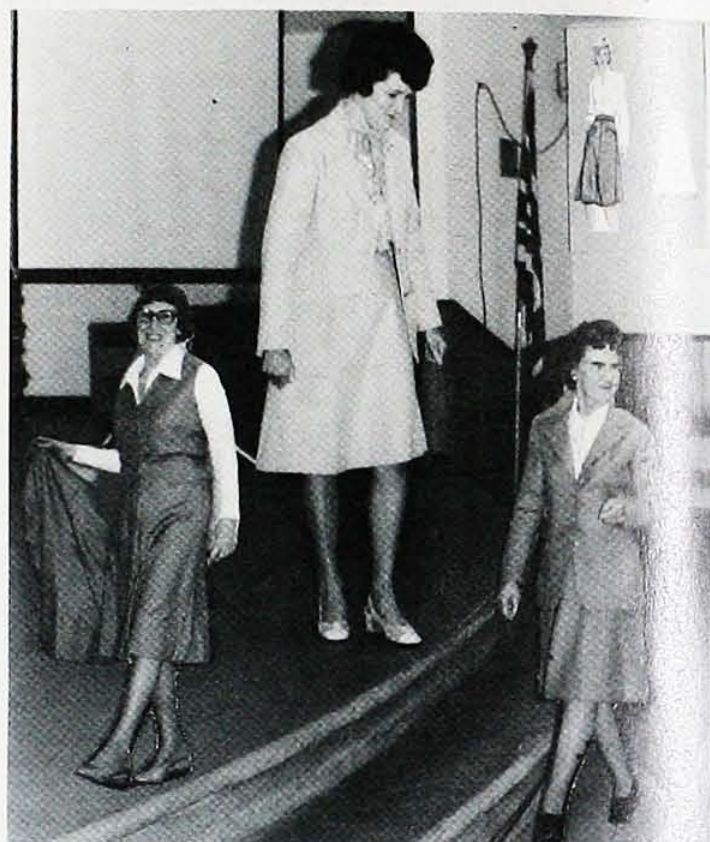
CHOICE OF FABRIC

There are two types of pure wool fabrics — woollens and worsteds. The average woollen has a fuzzy, napped surface with a somewhat soft texture. Worsteds, on the other hand, have a compact, smooth and hard surface, for example wool gabardine. It is recommended to use pure WOOLLEN fabrics for this course rather than worsteds, because they can be constructed and shaped more easily with the tailoring techniques used. Moreover, course participants obtain a more professional looking garment without the frustration of working with a difficult worsted fabric. This constant striving to maintain excellent standards of workmanship results in a jacket that does not have that "homemade" or "overworked" look.



One of the finishing details in making a tailored jacket is to insert the lining completely by hand. Mrs. Pinder (r) is pinning the lining into the hand-tailored jacket of Mrs. Lockie of Bogartown W.I. (They participated in the Tailoring course for York/Ontario Counties this spring.)

2. Allow the skirt to hang for 24 hours to set the grain.
3. Determine the finished skirt length keeping in mind suitability to the wearer, height of shoe heel, proportion to the style and length of the jacket, and current fashion styles.
4. Do not attempt to MARK the hem yourself. To be sure it is parallel to the floor, measure the hem from the floor using a yardstick or skirt marker.
5. Trim the hem to an even width. Place heavy paper or self-fabric between the hem and the garment while pressing to prevent the hem ridge from showing through.
6. Complete the hem using the tailor's hem method. Extreme caution is needed to prevent picking up more than one thread at a time and pulling the stitches too tightly.
7. Do not overpress hem once it is stitched in place.



FELLOWSHIP

This can be summed up quite nicely in the words of one of the course participants, "I think I especially liked the rapport between women of different ages, backgrounds, likes and dislikes. I learned something from most of them and quite a lot about myself."



A SKIRT — THE FINISHING TOUCH

Because much time and money has been invested in the jacket, the skirt (or pants) must undergo the same care and precision in construction. If it is sewn and hemmed in a careless manner, the effect can completely destroy the total appearance of the suit. What are some pointers to remember?

1. A wool skirt should always be lined. Lining does not increase bulk but maintains shape and prevents bagging.