

PATÍ'S SEWING PLAN FOR FALL /WINTER 2005/2006



I do have a sewing plan! I just didn't get it all done! I have been collecting these fabrics since last summer's four-day workshops in Portland. I can visualize the outfits and now that Linda asked me to write about them, am committed! You can see the patterns, fabrics, and notions on the next pages.

I will do some sewing while sitting in on our tailoring workshop watching Marta's lectures so we can do our final edit on our new tailoring book. All the patterns are McCall's Palmer/Pletsch designs.



SEWING
WITH

Patí



Camel Pago

I love the fabric called Santa Cruz by Pago. It is a poly/rayon/linen blend that is washable, wrinkle resistant, and EASY to sew. When I shop, I pick one piece and build on it. I got enough of the camel Santa Cruz to make a jacket (M4842) and a trouser (M4459). I found the silk print for a V-neck shell (M4785) and a poly/cotton knit for the raglan top in M4842.



Purple Crepe

This wool crepe is soft and almost sheer. I'll make M4785 with the drapery circular collar and the M4842 pant with the contour waistline. I want the whole thing to be very soft, so will underline the front and back of the jacket with Perfect Fuse Light. I found a matching silk for the V-neck shell in M4785, which I will make it sleeveless, as it is fitted and I'd like it less restricting.



Cashmere Tweed

I found this beautiful wool/cashmere tweed. M4785 is a great cardigan jacket that doesn't take too much fabric. I might add the fur to the neckline but make it removable. I made sure I found a bottom weight to match before I bought the tweed. It had to blend just right and I found a beautiful wool gabardine. Don't buy tweeds without buying a coordinate too, as sometimes it is impossible.





Double-faced Wool

These two fabrics are the most amazing. One is a double-faced wool crepe, grey on one side and camel on the other. The other piece of fabric is a stretchy wool crepe that coordinates with the camel side of the double-faced wool. I plan to sew the double-faced fabric in M4975 with the hood. I will make it single layer as you can separate the wool and turn in each raw edge and topstitch. I am not sure what to do with the coordinating fabric. It will probably be a fitted pant and top from M4842.



Grey Cashmere

This is a very soft napped wool/cashmere blend. I plan to sew M4930 from it. I love this new jacket with a tab collar. For more on this pattern see our Editor's Choice, page 10.



Connie Hunnell

SEWS

Connie Hunnell made this mother-of-the-bride outfit from **Butterick 5389**. Though the photo taken outdoors gives the fabric a purple tone, it is in fact the rich chocolate shown in the close-up at the right.

Connie's Sewing Tips:

- Put a sleeve head in the sleeves to smooth out the fullness at the top of the cap. I don't have any sewn in puckers, but the sleeve tops are a bit wavy.
- Take out more beads and sequins than you think you need to. Sequins sewn into the seam are hard to get out; I had to use pliers for some. I also knotted the thread after most beads so that they stay in place.
- I would put in a longer loop at the front in case I wanted to use a bigger button. I followed the directions and had to use a smaller button than I originally planned. However, I'm happy with the button I covered.
- The pattern has a front slit in the skirt. As Marta suggested, move the slit to the back. I saw what happened when a colleague wearing a skirt with a front slit sat down. Oops!
- I used facings at the neck of the dress instead of using the lining as facing. I did use the lining to finish the armhole edges.
- I haven't yet tacked down the linings. I'm waiting until a few weeks before the wedding in case I lose or gain weight.



Jean Baxter

SEWS

McCall's
M4785



Jean Baxter, who teaches machine embroidery and Palmer/Pletsch classes at Howell's Sew and Vac near Sacramento, CA., made this wrap top using in linen with beautiful tone on tone embroidery on the band using **McCall's Palmer/Pletsch 4007**.

Jean stiffened the fabric for the band with Perfect Sew stabilizer before embroidering it, then washed out the Perfect Sew before attaching to the garment. For more information on Perfect Sew visit www.palmerpletsch.com



Janet Dapson

SEWS

This is Janet Dapson's version of our easy jacket, **McCall's Palmer/Pletsch M4842**. She made it out of a reversible tapestry style fabric, binding the edges.

Janet is a Palmer/Pletsch Certified Sewing Instructor from Richland, Michigan, near Kalamazoo. She has a sewing school, a store called Fabrications, and a web fabric selling business. You can reach her at dapsons@aol.com.



Have you made a garment you think would fit in

FASHION for
Real **PEOPLE?**

We love to see what you're doing, and, when possible, include your projects in this publication. Send Pati photos along with a description of your garment and any special sewing techniques.

Send an e-mail to patipalmer@aol.com

TIPS ON CHOOSING FUR:

- ◆ **Compliment your hair color for an elegant look.**
- ◆ **Fur coats can add visual pounds to your silhouette. The longer the hairs of the fur, the larger you will look.**

Here are two great resources:

Donna Salyers Fabulous Furs

www.fabulousfurs.com
1-800-848-4650

Sheared Beaver, Leopard, Black Fox, Black Mink, White Mink, Blonde Fox and Sable
(swatches available)

Fabric Depot Luxury Furs

www.fabricdepot.com
1-800-392-3376

Curly Persian, Chinchilla, Sable, Panther, Zebra, Silver Fox.
(1/8 yard swatches available)

fur sewing tips

MAKE A COLLAR

Add a detachable fur collar to an existing outfit—the easiest way to update your wardrobe this winter.

Another idea is to make a lined rectangle with ties on the ends and wear it in a ring around your neck over a suit or sweater. If you have a short neck, make the rectangle long so it hangs low in the front. If you have a long neck, you could make a ring that hugs your neck.

To keep your costs down, buy a fur with a crosswise rib rather than lengthwise or no rib at all. Or, if you fall in love with a fur with a lengthwise stripe or rib, you'll need to buy more yardage so the rib will run the length of your collar. Most of the furs are wide, so you'd have enough to make several collars and give them as gifts.

If the fur is thick, reduce bulk by lining the rectangle with a printed silky fabric. For ties, use grosgrain ribbon or strips of Ultrasuede® or Ultraleather®.

Cut your fur single layer from the wrong side being careful not to cut the nap. Only cut through the backing fabric.

Use a 90 or 100 needle and 8 to 10 stitches per inch. Sew in the direction of the nap. If lining the piece, hand baste the lining and the fur along the seam lines so they won't slip when machine sewing. Sew with the lining on top and use "taut" sewing. From the right side, use a darning needle or crochet hook and pull any pile loose that is caught in the seam.

Finger press if necessary. Don't use a steam iron as it will flatten the pile.



more fur sewing tips



McCall's 4975

- You may need to buy a pattern a size larger than usual as fur takes up a lot of room. Pati once sewed a fur coat for her daughter Melissa, and Melissa couldn't get her arm into the sleeve. The coat was a size too small and felt like a straight jacket.
- Eliminate unnecessary seams by cutting on the fold. Any straight seam is a candidate.
- If the pile is really deep, cut away 1/2" of pile in the seam allowance area and sew the seam with a zipper foot. Mark notches with snips, chalk, or a washable marker.
- Sew seams using a furrier's technique. Cut away seam allowances from your pattern pieces entirely. Cut the fur backing with a razor blade instead of scissors to avoid cutting through the nap. An X-acto Knife, available at art stores, works well. Hand sew butted together edges with an overcast stitch.
- If you need to press a seam open, try finger pressing first. If an iron is needed, place the fur side down onto a needle board or another piece of fur and press lightly on the seam only. Don't use steam. Slash darts open to the point and press open. You can eliminate bulk on deep pile fabrics by "shaving" the fur from the seam allowances before pressing them open.
- Use the large fur hooks for closures when possible. If the pattern requires buttonholes, use the reinforced slash method. Slash the length of the buttonhole and hand sew four strips of 1/4" twill tape to the back side along the long edges and ends. This will prevent stretching.