



McCall's
M4657

McCall's
M4785

SPRING SORBET SUITS

Marta and I both have a new pastel spring sorbet wardrobe. Marta's is McCall's M4657. The tissue has alteration lines marked on it which Marta used for high round and round back, full bust, and broad back. Her suit fits beautifully.

Marta says "My fabric is a lilac wool crepe. It is a perfect suit, I love it!! I used Perfect Fuse Tailor on the front and Perfect Fuse light on the rest of the pieces except for the sleeves. The flower is embroidered on nylon organza and is from Linda McGhee Floral Dimensions 2 by Cactus Punch. The trousers were sewn for our new DVD Pant Sewing!!!"





McCall's
M4785

Pant
McCall's
M4657

I made our new suit, McCall's M4785, a short jacket with princess seams, front darts, 2-button closure, and two-piece long sleeves. The bias collar adds a soft feminine touch. My fabric is a beautiful wool/Lycra from Josephine's Dry Goods in Portland, Oregon.

I am a size 12 on top and 18 on the bottom, so had to work very hard to make sure my pants fit well and hung straight from the fullest part of the derriere. I decided not to use the pleated pant that comes with the pattern. I wanted a fitted pant so used the one with another of our suits, McCall's M4657. I did make the leg width wider. I lined the pants even though I would not have had to because of the weight of the fabric and the loftiness from the stretch factor, but I wanted to make them more opaque. The lining is Ambiance rayon and doesn't stretch, but feels fabulous. I didn't attach it around the zipper so the lining won't tear when the wool stretches.

The collar in the wool would have been too heavy made double layer as per the pattern, so it is single layer. It is bound with bias silk charmeuse.

Marla Kazell, who is in charge of our Couture Sewing Vacation and is herself the essence of couture, made the jacket to go with my pants. I am realistic. In a little over a month, Marta and I made 3 new DVD's, wrote the scripts, sewed for them, edited, and prepared for our Puyallup Expo presentations. So, what does a busy person do? Hire help. Marla is my par excellence couture dressmaker to the rescue. If you live near Portland, you too can hire her. E-mail me for her contact info.



Accessories

Bling, Bling. Shine is in! I used pearl and crystal buttons and yes, it makes the suit dressy, but also very IN this spring. Sooooo, my friend CLEO, loaned me her crystal necklace and earrings. If I pull my hair back, I can use the crystal hair clip. Note the shoes, 2-tone, pointed but with room for the toes before they narrow. Wow, could this be a wedding suit for an "older" woman?



HINT:
an important pressing tip: The collar is most interesting if pressed into a fold like you see on my suit rather than just a "wavy" bias collar.

SEWING
WITH

Pati & Marta PLUS FIT & FASHION TIPS



McCall's
M4785

What other fabrics for this suit? Well, if you do the cardigan without the bias collar, try a silk suiting, wool flannel, denim, or a heavy knit. If you want the collar use wool crepe or 4-ply silk and underline the front and back of the jacket with Perfect Fuse Light.

Marta made the cardigan version of McCall's 4785 in a silk suiting. She used the alteration lines on the pattern to do her full bust alteration which created a horizontal bust dart. After doing that she transferred the dart to the shoulder. It is a great line. She then added triple zig zag (triple when it goes back and forth three times, not three little steps) over the dart from the shoulder and waist. We saw this as a treatment on designer suits when we shopped for ideas at Saks in New York. If you are using the collar the dart can be hidden under the collar and not even show.



SEWING
WITH

Pati & Marta

PLUS FIT & FASHION TIPS

McCall's
M4651

This green suit is from McCall's pattern M4651, the same as Marta's lilac suit on page 13. The jacket has princess seams with bust and back alteration lines printed on the tissue. The set-in collar camouflages a high round back. There is a loop and button closure and two-piece long slightly flared sleeves. Of course if you are like Marta and don't like longer flared sleeves, then just narrow and shorten them!

The fabric is a tightly woven, very lightweight menswear wool suiting. It is not the easiest fabric to sew. You need to fuse PerfectFuse Light (see page 24) to all pieces but the sleeves and use "taut" sewing. The pants are slim fitting with an invisible zipper in the back and lined. The suit is very very lightweight.

Accessories

I made a silk organza flower in a surprise gold color. To make such a flower, use a 12" by 6" piece of organza. Fold long ends to the middle. Fold in half lengthwise. Hand-baste along the edge with one fold and two raw edges inside. Gather up and knot. Roll up and stitch all layers of gathered edges together. This will now look like a flower bud. Fold back the layers to form petals. Pin to your garment. Add stones, bugle beads or anything you want if you want to add bling bling!

Accessories

I like these gunmetal metallic slipper shoes with the green. I chose a matching tank top.



SEWING WITH *Pati*

During our November 2004 Pant Sewing Vacation, Rachel Carlson from Eureka, CA, and I found a fabulous wool and cashmere tweed at the Fabric Depot in Portland, where our sewing vacations are held. Rachel had made a boiled wool jacket from Butterick 3573. It was the perfect base for our new fabric, so I bought the pattern also. I decided to make mine longer to cover my hips and she short with a rib waistband and neckline. Both of us decided on a separating zipper.

In the end, while pin fitting the fabric, we found our instincts all wrong. She ended up with no ribbing at all. I ended up with the short ribbed jacket. The longer jacket made me look like a box. So here we are in our finished jackets.

My pants are from McCall's M3740. I liked the flat front View A with the back invisible zipper with the short jacket. The pants fit well, so I didn't worry about my size 18 bottom with my size 12 top. Plus, the eye is drawn to the tweed—a good reason for keeping it on the top!!



Butterick
3573

Pant—
McCall's
M3740



Fabric!

The wool and cashmere tweed fabric is still available at Fabric Depot in Portland, Oregon. Order from them by calling 800-392-3376.



Rachel Carlson

Ribbing!

Also at the Fabric Depot I found a wonderful packaged heavy-weight ribbing called Lyle's Coat and Cuff Band, 50% polyester and 50% cotton, 6" x 54". It is heavy and comes in a length that was enough for a waistband and collar for my new shorter jacket. You can order from them at 800-392-3376 or on their web site at www.fabricdepot.com.

Rachel's

JOURNEY TO THE FINAL DESIGN DECISION



"I pinned the ribbing to collar and waist and tried the jacket on." says Rachel. "With the gathered effect of the ribbing, the bulk of the fabric created a generous spare tire above my waist, turning me

Unflattering ribbing

into a little Michelin Man. This was the impetus to rethink the line of the jacket.

Back to the drawing board-and the pattern stash, where I found a collar that would extend the vertical line of the now short, boxy jacket. The dark separating zipper would also emphasize the vertical line. I tried on the jacket with the new collar and no ribbing. The design fell into place.

The assembled jacket is warm and soft and very comfortable. I envisioned it with a straight skirt, again continuing the vertical line with the front slit. A longer skirt would work, also, perhaps with boots. And of course the jacket is a perfect mate to pants-trousers, cords, or jeans."



THE EASIEST JACKET TO SEW THAT ALMOST ANYONE CAN WEAR

McCall's
M4842

McCall's M4842 is a very fun wardrobing pattern. The jacket is totally machine sewn. It can be made in 45 minutes after fitting and cutting. What is amazing is that you sew the pockets to the front, the side seams, the shoulders, hem the jacket, then topstitch the facings, then sew on the collar and finally sew in the sleeves and hem them. When you are done, you are REALLY DONE! So I made THREE in 2 days out of 3 totally different fabrics!

The **CAMEL SUIT** fabric is Pago Santa Cruz, 83% Poly 13% Rayon 4% Linen, and is 60" wide and \$11.99/ yard. It's also available in White, Ivory, Black, Bluebell, Royal, Midnight, Brick, Camel, Taupe, Sable (rust), and Berry. You can order it from www.fabricdepot.com.

Accessories

Do you have '70s and '80s jewelry? I pulled out this necklace. It feels right to wear necklaces again for the first time in over 30 years. Tap into your stash, or have fun shopping. Also, I tried a taupe tank top, an aqua one, and finally this ecru top which was just plain fresher. Note the luggage colored shoe, more interesting than matching the pant fabric.

What a fabulous fabric for teaching. After wearing it for 4 days teaching at a major sewing expo, I said, "I am making another teaching suit out of this fabric." Those in the audience thought it was silk. It sews like a charm, drapes beautifully, and is wash 'n wear. I didn't iron it once after the last sewing press that I gave it. Talk about easy-care!

I used PerfectFuse Light (see pg. 24) on the collar and front facing.

Waistband Hint:

I used Perfect Waistbands which is a non-roll interfacing. It is very lightweight and 1" wide. This is handy as when we use 1" seam allowances at the waist for pants, you can just match up the top of the interfacing with the top of your pant when pinning the waistband to the pant. First, sew the interfacing to the seam allowance on the wrong side of the waistband. For more information about Perfect Waistbands visit www.palmerpletsch.com



Pants
McCall's
M4370

The pants are McCall's M4370 View C trouser and from the same Pago fabric. I bought this fabric after seeing what a great fit one of my students got with this fabric. It just draped to fit her body perfectly. It has enough weight to fall to the floor and not cling to the body. So I went out into the Fabric Depot and bought 5 yards. I love it when a fabric is practical yet elegant.

McCall's
M4842



There are some fabulous quilter's cottons that are very high in quality. Why not use them for clothing?? I worried that the jacket might be too clingy without a lining, but with this **PRINT COTTON** it is just like a shirt!!

I used PerfectFuse Sheer (see page 24) interfacing on the collar and front facing. It is crisp and won't show through or bubble on cottons as long as you preshrink the cotton.

The **KNIT TOP** is also from M4842.

I used Perfect Fuse Light on the neck band as it works well on knits. This top is also totally machine sewn. I topstitched the hem with my new cover stitch machine. This machine makes two rows of stitching on one side and loops on the other side. Either side can be used on top

MORE VERSIONS OF THE EASIEST JACKET TO SEW

This **HOT PINK JACKET** from the same McCall's M4842 pattern is made from silk suiting. I used PerfectFuse Light (see page 24) as the interfacing in the collar and facing.

I love the punch of the eye-popping brights!

I put the pink with the new "black", a dark brown. I tried off white, but the dark was better on me. I must have tried on five options. Brown and pink compliment each other very well. The necklace is from transparent beads in the golds and browns. The brown belt over the brown top adds waist definition even if I don't have one! Bangles are hot again, so I dug a few out of my accessory stash.

McCall's
M4842



McCall's
M4842

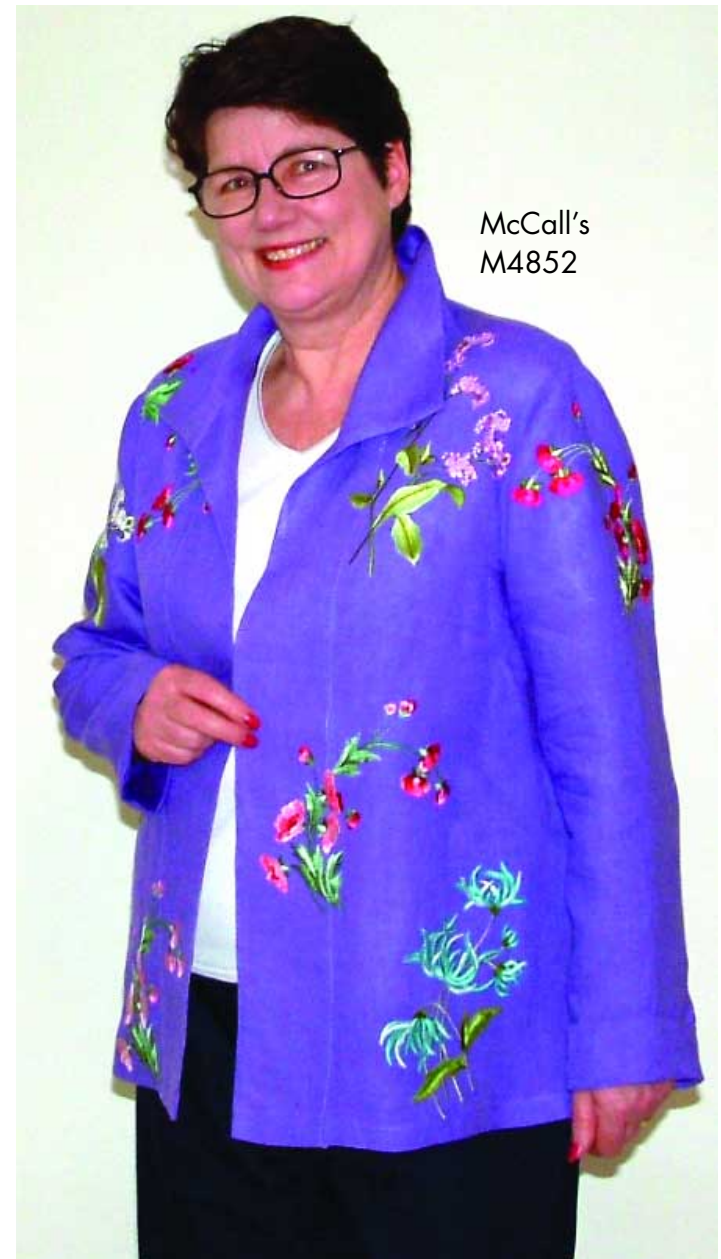


MARTA EMBROIDERS THE “EASIEST JACKET EVER”



Marta made up the McCall's M4842 in purple linen, embroidered with flowers from Viking design card 119, Flowers and Frames 2 by Martha Pullen.

"I used Perfect Sew as the stabilizer. I drew the pattern pieces on the fabric, did the embroidery, changing colors when I used the same flower. I washed the fabric and made the jacket," says Marta.



McCall's
M4852

Embellishments

SEWING WITH *Marta*

This white linen shirt, McCall's M4518, is embroidered with Watercolor florals by Bernina. Marta used two different cross-stitch designs from the collection. In this case she used Perfect Sew but just put it across one end of the fabric as the embroideries are across the bottom. "The fabric did shrink when I saturated it with Perfect Sew, so it the whole thing shrank when I washed the Perfect Sew out in the washing machine," says Marta.



McCall's
M4518

For more information on Perfect Sew visit www.palmerpletsch.com

Embellishments

A SPLASH OF EMBROIDERY ON A COTTON-CHECK SHIRT

This Italian cotton was a little pricey but it was 60" wide!! And McCall's M4079 took only 1½ yards!! The fabric is a brown, blue on white check, so Marta chose to do a brown embroidery just on the front right shoulder. She usually does the right side so her shoulder strap on her handbag and car do not abuse the embroidery. She also embroidered the left front at the bottom, right back and yoke and collar. Of course She used Perfect Sew, but this design and fabric needed more so she used a tear away as well. The design is from Viking, Flower Romance card 15 design #32.



McCall's
M4079



Idea from Ready-to-Wear:

I found a fabulously-sewn shirt at my favorite RTW haunt in Portland, the Mercantile. They carry high end clothes. This Ted Baker shirt was beautifully made. Plus he used ribbon inside the neck as well as topstitched onto the sleeves.

They only had a size 4 (more like a 10 pattern), and it fit me in the shoulders, but not through the middle, so I had to return it. But it was a neat inspiration.



Embellishments

SEWING WITH *Marta*

A PATTERN FOR POLAR FLEECE

This McCall's M3792 jacket pattern was designed for Polar Fleece, but creative Marta, always thinking outside the box, used a navy sheer with chain stitching all over it.

"This pattern is designed for Polar Fleece, but it's a good style for other fabrics as well. I cut it out so it just meets at the center front, i.e. I cut the front and the facing so it does not overlap with buttons; other than that the pattern is the same. I also have it cut out in wool flannel to embroider," says Marta



McCall's
M3792



PerfectFuse Sheer is perfect for the sheer fabric. PerfectFuse can be ordered online at www.palmerpletsch.com.

