

SHUTTLE CRAFTER DESIGN

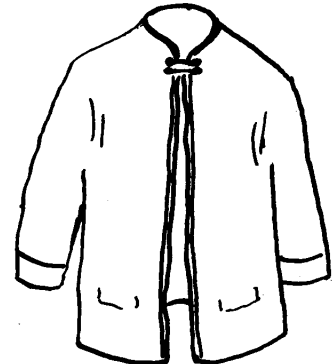
CAR COATS

By Natalie White

After completing a tweed suit yardage, a few yards of tweed warp were left on the loom, but not enough for another suit, a coat, or even a sport jacket with set in sleeves. A short jacket with kimono sleeves seemed to suggest itself. "Vogue" pattern No. 8186 or "Simplicity" pattern No. 1451 (they are practically the same) using two and a third yards of twenty-eight inch wide material, met the requirements.



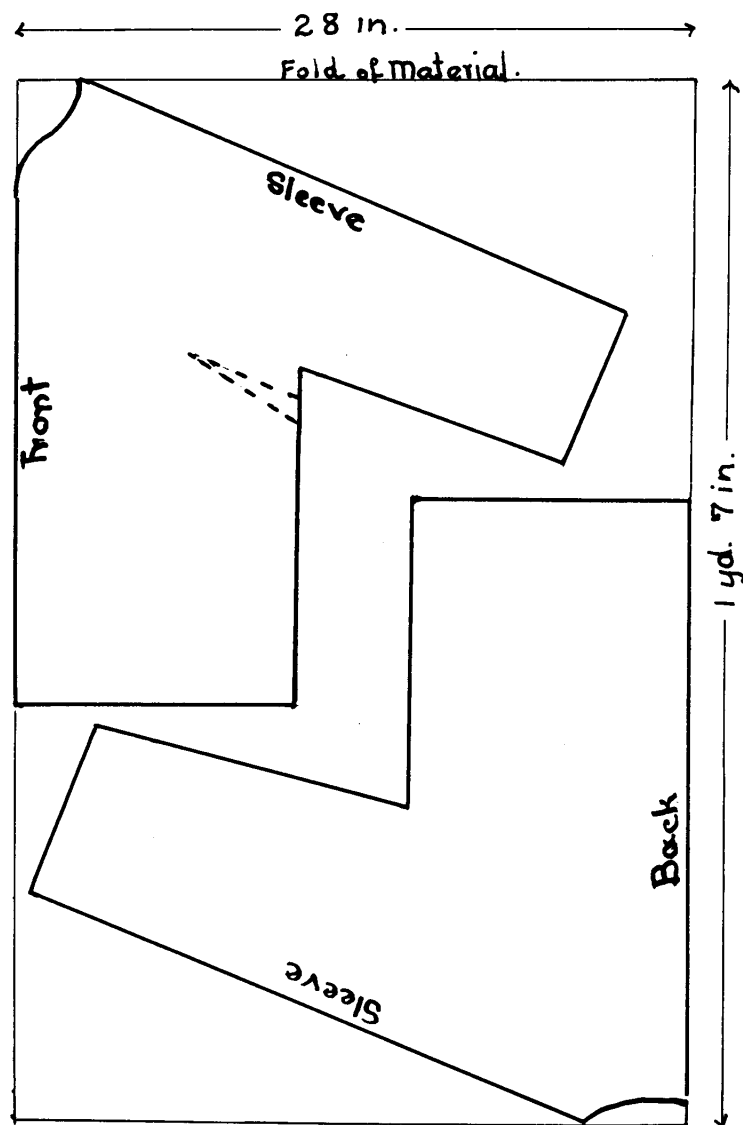
*Car Coat woven, designed and worn by
Natalie White, Pacific Palisades, Calif*



The material was woven and made up, and the simple jacket became one of the most useful wraps imaginable. It is worn casually with sport skirts or with sport dresses when a light wrap is needed, and, carried in the car, it is easily slipped on if the day turns cool.

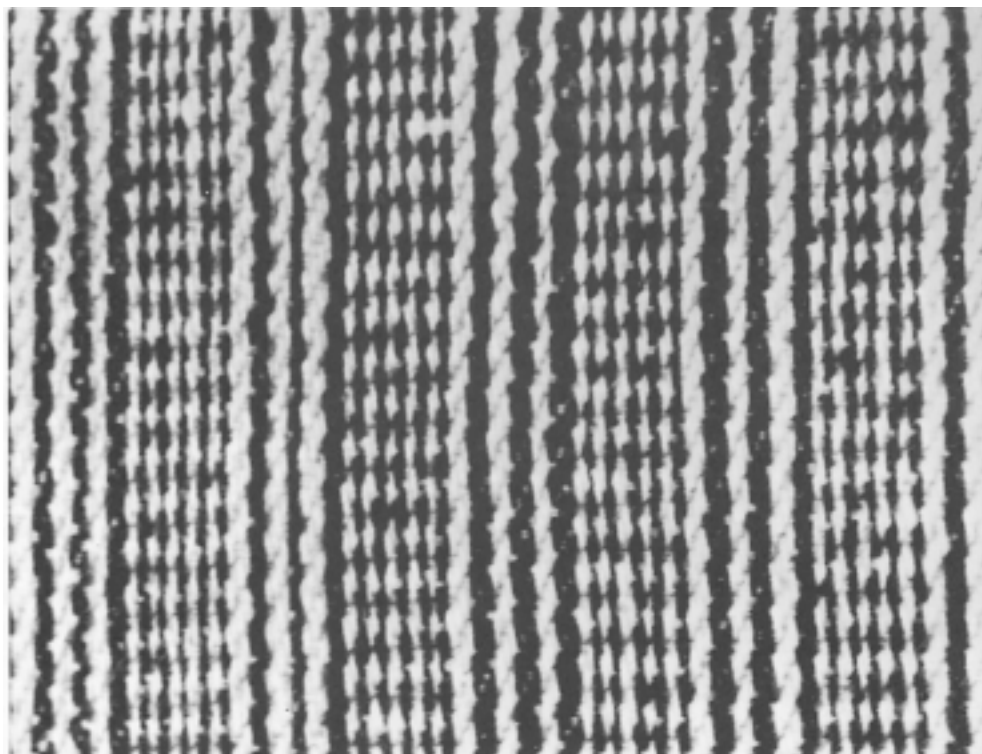
The jacket was such a success that material was woven for eight "Christmas gift" jackets, a pattern included with each length. To give variety to the eight jacket lengths all woven on the same warp, the loom was set up to an eight-harness straight twill, with warp of a medium weight tweed, a medium-light value of grey-green in color. (The Handeaving Yarn Company tweed is the correct weight for this, or the Lily Homespun Suiting Yarn.) The tie-ups and

weft color were varied in the different coats (see Shuttle Craft Bulletin for April 1955, included in the MONOGRAPH series) to suit the coloring and personality of the person who was to receive the material. For example, a lovely, rich red was used in a broad diagonal twill for a blond who enjoys wearing red but is at the same time rather conservative. For an outdoor type red-head, a dark green was used with a tie-up which gave the effect of a rough texture. Some of the jackets, when made up, had collars, some had round necks. One was made with revers and one was bound with strips of tweed woven in a harmonizing color.



For some time I have had one such failure on hand, too pleasant to be thrown out, but too soft in texture for tailoring—and what weaver doesn't have such a length tucked away in a drawer or box. I offer here this particular failure as a fabric which would make an excellent Car Coat, and perhaps stimulate other weavers to bring that misjudged yardage to light and see if it could not be used in the same way.

The fabric shown here is of a homespun type tweed yarn, planned for a sport coat and warped for a Glen Plaid in the following draft. The two colors were natural white and a rich, red brown. Yes, the yarn was a bargain. It proved to be too loosely spun of very short-fibered, soft merino wool which does not make the best tweed in any case. The warp on the loom was so delicate that when adequately tensioned for shedding, even a passing breeze would seem to snap warp ends. And it was so sticky that separating the 2-2 twill sheds was almost impossible. A little experimenting showed that these problems were solved when harnesses were raised singly, to make one-up-three-down sheds, but that a sleazy, impractical, unattractive fabric resulted. So we re-sleyed the warp from 24 ends per inch to 30 ends per inch to give greater warp emphasis. The weaving was then done with a double strand of all white weft with single harnesses raised in the order: 1, 2, 3, 4, repeated. The fabric was beaten to about fifteen shots per inch. This arrangement made the weaving possible, and a handsome fabric with a strong warp emphasis on one side, weft emphasis on the other, resulted. But the material was altogether incorrect—downright impossible—for its intended use, so it has remained out of sight for several years. Now it comes to light, and with a real added interest. This happens often to projects which we label as failures at the time of completion. I hope your luck is as good.



Now, here is a planned suggestion for this fabric. It makes an excellent car robe or afghan if planned for that purpose. I suggest a forty inch wide warp, beamed half and half in two colors. Arrange the two colors in the threading to make stripes down either side, and thread the Glen Plaid arrangement in the center. Or for a wider blanket, place the border stripes at one side and weave two lengths. The center joining is almost invisible—concealed in the warp stripes. Weave as above, Although this might be used as a project for “rescuing” some dubious yarn, it could advantageously be planned and woven of good yarn. The 3-1 twill gives a soft fabric which has a pleasant wrap-around quality.