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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

(Release on receipt)

SUBJECT: "Presenting the Apron"--information from the Bureau of Human
Nutrition and Home Economics, U.S. Department of Agriculture

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A lot of us are making aprons, this Christmas. We're using scraps and remnants we saved from our year's sewing. And we're trying to find designs that will call forth "oohs and ahs" when the package is opened, Christmas morning.

Clothing specialists of the U.S. Department of Agriculture advise as to look beyond the first impressions the apron will make when the package is opened. Choose durable, color-fast material. But look beyond the gay print...the bright color...the perky style. Make an apron that's attractive because it's useful and comfortable..and your present will be enjoyed long after the Christmas wrappings are removed.

Let me hasten to say that a useful apron can be very pretty as well. You've only to see the attractive aprons designed by the clothing specialists to agree to that. And in just a minute, I'll tell you where you can find pictures and descriptions of the aprons these experts have designed.

But let's talk--for just a moment--about how an apron should fit to be comfortable. You've noticed--I'm sure--that an apron hanging loosely is always in the way. On the other hand---a more fitted apron may not allow you to reach or bend. A well-designed apron has fullness and shape in the right places.

Often you find the basis of a good apron fit in the shoulder straps. It's annoying to have straps slide down your shoulders and over your arms. They have a way of doing this when your hands are covered with flour or wet with dish water. In the well-designed apron...the shoulder straps stay put. They are cut to fit well over the shoulders. They are braced at the back.

Though they have nothing to do with the fit...pockets are an important item in an apron. The clothing specialists put large roomy pockets--really useful pockets--on the aprons they have designed. And they place the pockets at hand level.

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This means the pockets are low enough on the apron to be out of the way of door knobs and drawer handles. And they are not so likely to catch on things and get snagged.

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In making gift aprons---you have another concern--and that's how easy the aprons are to make. If the apron is simply styled, with few pieces and not much detail work...it will take much less time to make than if the design is more complicated.

In their apron designs...the clothing specialists have taken another matter into consideration. That's ease of ironing. The aprons they design are easily ironed. They will fold flat too. That means they are easily put away in the dresser drawer. That's good news for the woman who receives one of these Christmas presents. And it's an advantage to you in wrapping it up to give to her.

The clothing specialists have designed several models...the skirt apron... jumper apron...the pinafore...the bias apron...the mop apron...basket apron...and the apron with a square bib.

These designs are pictured and described in a bulletin called "Dresses and Aprons for Work in the Home". You may get a copy with a list of the commercial patterns, by writing the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. The bulletin and the list are free.

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