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.



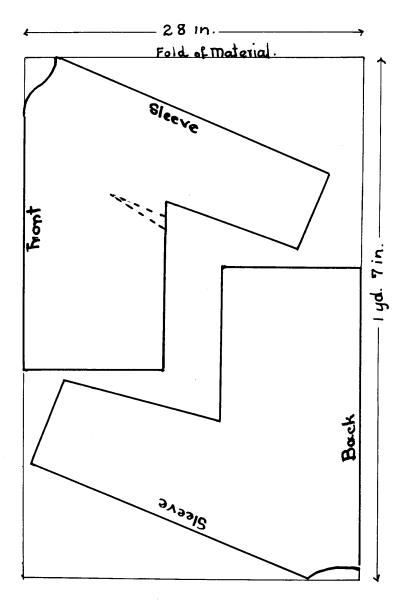
Car Coat woven, designed and worn by Natalie White, Pacific Palisades, Calif



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 eightharness 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 reveres and one was bound with strips of tweed woven in a harmonizing color.



The following would be used if a new warp were to be put on for weaving just one jacket length:

Finished material—28 inches wide; 2 yards 14 inches long. Warp —One pound medium weight tweed yarn Weft

—One pound same weight tweed yarn, different color

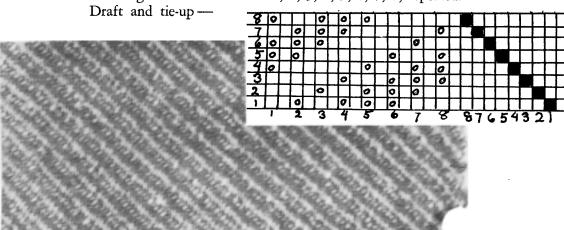
Warp Set —24 ends per inch

—12 dents per inch, two ends per dent Reed

Width -32 inches, 768 warp ends

Woven material —30 inches wide; 23/4 yards long

Weaving order —Treadle: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, repeated.



By Harriet Tidball

One lesson we all learn by hard experience—or often we continue hopeful and make the same error over and over—is the "bargain yarn" lesson. Some bargain yarns are quite suitable and satisfactory, while others are simply a waste of money. One type of bargain yarn to avoid is woolen or tweed, since only the highest quality tweed yarn will make a satisfactory warp.

But there are always ways to recover and save something from a project planned through mistaken judgment, and these situations provide one of the weaver's most interesting challenges. Miss White's Car Coat was an answer to an error in calculating warp length—too much beamed for the planned project, too little for two major projects. And her solution in the Car Coat provides a project which can nicely serve various other emergencies created by poor judgment. The coat is a loose, casual one which does not put the stringent perfection demands on the fabric of a tailored suit, coat, or jacket. Therefore it makes a way to use to advantage those tweed or worsted "failures"—the fabrics which turned out too loosely woven, too soft, too elastic, or with warp and weft unbalanced due to incorrect warp set or incorrect yarn selection.

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.