

IT'S MORE THAN A DRESS!

McCall's Palmer/Pletsch #4007

Pati's friend Joanne Burdick, a Certified Kitchen and Bath Designer, invited several of us to brunch last week. She was wearing this adorable outfit. Only later we found out that she made it from our pattern 4007 (see Pati's dress on page 15). Joanne had the beige fabric, but not enough. That is why half of the front and the tie is in a black fabric. This proves that necessity is the mother of invention, often getting the best results from challenges or mistakes! Good job Joanne!



REAL LIFE

fabrics and colors

Neal Coogler, from San Jose, CA, had Ethel do her colors while in Portland this summer attending a Palmer/Pletsch fit workshop. Here she is with her color wheel.

We went shopping at the Fabric Depot and found these wonderful fabrics for a new wardrobe.



Neal cut one of the fabrics from her altered pattern 4007.

That pattern is going to be a hit. Many women in our workshops used it and each one looked different. Jean Baxter from the Sacramento area, machine embroidered on the neck band. It was stunning. Neal has the dress pinned together for a fit check. We were impressed how nicely the rayon crepe georgette draped. It has good weight, keeping it from clinging to the body. Pati liked it so much she made it in the same fabric—different print, however.



REAL LIFE

pin-fit

Linda Moore Sanders is a gynecologist in Portland, OR. While attending our fit workshop this summer, she decided to make this evening outfit. The fabrics from The Fabric Depot were wonderful coordinates of a plain and an embroidered cotton. Here she has pinned together the pieces cut from her altered princess pattern. Always pin seams wrong sides together so you can easily "tweak" them to fit PERFECTLY on your body. Fine tuning is always necessary if you want fit perfection in any fabric. Who says busy women can't find time to sew!



REAL LIFE

from a student

Fern MacDonald from Victoria B.C. attended our fit workshop this summer and wore a suit she had made.

Here is what she has to say about her outfit:



Hi Pati,

Here is the info you wanted on the blue skirt and jacket. I used pattern 4034 view A. for the jacket and 3341 for the skirt. Both are McCall's patterns.

The jacket was made with no changes to the pattern other than adding the midi braid to the sleeves. The skirt was pegged in a little and a vent was added to the back seam.

The fabric is a poly cotton with about 4% lycra. The embroidery is from the Husqvarna library; all I did was disable the stop and stitched it out in one colour—seven times across the front and five times across the back. All stabilizers are Sulky products. After deciding on the placement for the embroideries, I ironed on Totally Stable to the wrong side of the skirt, then hooped up two layers of Soft and Sheer cut-a-way. These were hooped in opposite directions to get as much stability as possible. I then sprayed the hooped cut a way with 505 adhesive spray and placed the fabric with the Totally Stable down on it. This way the lycra in the fabric will not cause hoop burn. Once the hoop is attached to the machine, a layer of Solvy Water Soluble was added to the top. Sulky bright white rayon thread was used to match the midi braid. The braid is 1/4 inch wide and sewn on with the edge stitching foot. Three rows were used, placed 1/2 inch apart on the sleeves of jacket and 7/8 inch apart on the skirt.

I used iron-on interfacing on the jacket, the facings, and the vent on the skirt. Brass buttons placed on the jacket completed the nautical theme.

Thanks again for the good times we had while taking the pant fitting workshop. I am cutting out another pair tonight in a pale yellow wool.

I'm looking forward to wearing them soon. Comfortable, stylish and a perfect fit it does not get better than that.

I hope to be back next year.

Sincerely

Fern Hlott MacDonald.

Your comments and suggestions and personal experiences with fashion, fitting and sewing are welcome. Send an e-mail to PatiPalmer@aol.com or eharms@msn.com.

We would love to hear from you!

about the editors/authors and designer...

Ethel Harms, co-editor and author of *Fashion For Your Figure*, is an Image and Fashion consultant who has worked with Palmer/Pletsch teachers from all over the world to define their best image. Certified as an Image Consultant in 1981 following a 21-year modeling career, Ethel is well known as a makeup artist for fashion and commercial work, an expert on illusion dressing, as well as a guest speaker for beauty and image programs. Ethel was the makeup artist and stylist for the *Looking Good* book published by Palmer/Pletsch, and contributed to the makeup and image chapters of *Beauty, More than Skin Deep*.

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Pati Palmer, co-editor and author of *Fashion For Your Figure*, is president of Palmer/Pletsch, a leading sewing book publishing company. She is the publisher of 30 books and videos on sewing, home decorating and wardrobe planning, and the author of six, including *Fit for Real People*. She designed for Vogue Patterns from 1975-1980 and then for The McCall Pattern Company since 1980. Pati is McCall's "Fit Expert," traveling to New York with design ideas and following up by writing detailed instruction sheets. Her 1980, 8-hour blazer pattern sold one million copies in its first year and was featured in *Family Circle Magazine* and in an exhibit on fashion history at F.I.T. in New York. Pati traveled teaching sewing and fashion 26 weeks a year for 15 years. Today people from all over the world attend her workshops at the Palmer/Pletsch International School of Sewing in Portland, Oregon.

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Linda Wisner, Designer and Art Director of *Fashion For Your Figure*, is Design Director for Palmer/Pletsch and the person responsible for the look of all Palmer/Pletsch books and printed materials. Her background is in graphic, interior and urban design, but fashion and sewing have always been part of her life, from sewing for her Barbie doll in the early '60s to working for a fashion designer in '69 and as the Design Director for Stretch & Sew in the late '70s. As owner of her own award-winning design studio and advertising agency, Linda began working with Palmer/Pletsch in 1980. She also co-authored the *Instant Interiors* booklets with partner Gail Brown, co-authored and designed the award-winning *Creative Serging for the Home* with Lynette Ranney Black, and has worked with many other clients in the home sewing industry.

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