

DID YOUR WIFE REALLY WEAVE IT?

by NANA E. DURRELL

My husband likes his hand-woven suit. It is not itchy. It is cool and porous. It can be worn many times without pressing. The collar sets lightly on his weary neck. There would be many more contented husbands if the wives only knew how little time it takes to weave woolen cloth, and how inexpensive a suit from such cloth really is.

Three and one half pounds of Bernat's Imported Tweed was used. The warp is a gray mixture, almost a steel gray, and a little dull by itself. But the weft is a lighter gray with flecks of tan and blue and rose. The two combined make a delightful piece of cloth, especially for a person with light hair. The yarn runs 2500 yards to the pound, and the cloth was woven with sixteen threads each way, a simple twill being used.

I wash all my cloth by hand in mild suds and cool water. It may be wrung back and forth with the wringer, but never rubbed or twisted. The dry cleaner will take the damp cloth and finish it, charging only fifty cents for a long, heavy piece that is very hard to manage at home. It always loses a little in both width and length by this process, but experience has shown that its shrinking days are over.

Scribbled down in an old note book are the answers to all the many questions that are asked about my husband's suit. The warp was seven and three fourths yards long, measured on a warping board and drawn through a piece of comb directly over the back beam and onto the sectional beam. The cloth was woven thirty-five inches wide, and when cut out of the loom it measured seven yards and four inches long. It lost four inches in length and one in width through washing and pressing. The right side was drawn across the dining table and all flaws mended with a needle.

Here is the time it took to make the cloth. Time to measure and chain and draw in the thread; twelve and a half hours. Time to weave; thirty hours. All together; forty-two and a half hours.

Three and a half pounds of Bernat's Imported Tweed were used for the fabric. The local tailor was afraid to cut into our handsome cloth, so he sent it to Chicago. For a two piece suit with medium grade lining the cost was twenty-one dollars. My husband surely likes his hand-woven suit, but I am afraid we will all be tired of it before it wears out.

