

Blouses of Mexican Influence Are Such Gay Little Flatterers!

By **CHERIE NICHOLAS**



SPRING'S in the air and far-sighted girls with an eye to week-ends are organizing their spring and summer wardrobes right now so as to be carefree when the great outdoors calls to sports and "off duty" recreation.

The big idea these days in regard to clothes is to "make your own." It is easy to sew and if you plan your costumes so that with the aid of accessories and interchangeable parts they may be made to play a many-purpose role, you'll find that a very few things can go very far. A good suit especially, plus a collection of really attractive blouses, can take you anywhere in "style."

Blouses are tremendously important this year and they dress a suit up or down according to occasion. So start sewing today. There's a whole world of innovation and fashion news you can sew into each blouse. You are limited only by your imagination, which requires practically no outlay—just planning and doing with a will.

Of course, the first step is to choose your material. Cottons are a fine bet this year. Select your cottons carefully, eyelet embroidery for one, organdy for another and a good substantial and gaily colorful printed linen for a third. Each one of these will tub perfectly and you can see by the models pictured how pretty-pretty they will look.

The next big essential in making your own blouses is to get a smart easy-to-follow pattern. The same pattern has been used for each of the three beguiling blouses pictured, which is a good idea for the girl who does her own sewing. Using versatile materials will differentiate their appearance.

Prettiness itself is stressed in the pattern of simplicity selected for this trio of blouses. Throughout the entire style program simplicity is the big idea this spring. You see this demonstrated especially in the new blouses that feature naive low-

cut necklines and quaint little puffed sleeves that definitely portray simplicity design. It adds to the lure of the blouses pictured that they are so a la Mexicana in their picturesque-ness.

The first of these blouse "lovelies" (pictured to the left) is made of a gay Mexican printed linen. It has one of the new adjustable drawstring necklines. Tied close to your throat it is simply perfect to wear right now with your spring suit. Later on the neckline can go more decollete. Worn with the popular dirndl skirt you'll love it. Wear it for sports or dress as the mood moves you.

A big play is being made on fine white sheers sweetly fashioned with myriads of frivolous little ruffles, beautified with exquisite handwork. Centered in the group is a lovely blouse of sheerest white organdy. The pert little ruffles go definitely South American in that they take on gay colored embroidery accents. This model has the fashionable deep U-neckline that can be drawn high or low for out and out flattery.

A dream of a blouse in spanking white eyelet embroidery is shown to the right. Wear it with a short skirt in the day—either a color-bright dirndl or a slim wrap-around crepe skirt. It makes good also as an evening blouse worn with a floor-length skirt. A self ruffle around the neck and "little girl" puffed sleeves are your guarantee that this charming eyelet model, so definitely speaking "simplicity design," will make you look your most winsome. A huge Mexican straw hat worn with this blouse will stress the picturesque note.

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Farm Topics

Charged Fence Wire Solves Problem

Single Barbed Strand Is Sufficient
An electric fence made of a single strand of wire is being suggested by Floyd W. Duffee, agricultural engineer at the Wisconsin college of agriculture, as one way for farmers to meet their present fencing needs.

Many farmers are unwilling to buy expensive new fencing which besides being costly due to wartime restrictions may be of inferior quality. Duffee reports that lots of fencing has been taken down on Wisconsin farms along state highways and replaced by a single strand of electrified barbed wire.

The Wisconsin engineer sees a large measure of economy in installing an electric fence for the cost is only a matter of a few cents a rod, or but a fraction of the cost of woven wire fencing. The electric fence, of course, contains only one strand, compared to three or four up to six wires in the old barbed-wire fence. In addition, the farmer would have to buy a controller, but Duffee indicates that one controller will control miles of fence.

Other engineers are also warning against the purchase at present of any more wire fencing than is necessary. It is thought that the zinc coating now used due to wartime restrictions is not enough to protect the wire from rusting for any length of time.

In citing results of tests in New York state of 840 samples of fencing material, including much woven wire and barbed wire, one engineer reported that the tests reminded observers that the life of galvanized coating depends largely on the thickness of the zinc coat. It was revealed that the zinc wears off at a regular rate, and that the thinner the coating, the sooner the steel wire is exposed.

Cranberry Picking



Cranberries grow close to the ground in low and often marshy fields. They are harvested with a sort of scoop, somewhat resembling a wheat cradle, which is swung with two hands. Below is a machine developed in Massachusetts. The fingers on the big cylinder pick off the berries, and drop them into a hopper.

Vicland Oats Yields Heavily, Matures Early

The Vicland variety of oats was developed by the plant breeders of the Wisconsin agricultural experiment station and the U.S. department of agriculture. It is a short, medium stiff-strawed yellow oat. One of its chief advantages is that it matures early, thus ripening before the hot, dry weather of July and early August. Because it matures early, it has a much higher weight per bushel. It also has a high degree of resistance to rust and smuts. Since Vicland does not grow so tall as the mid-season or late varieties and since it matures earlier, it is a much better companion crop for new seedlings of grasses and legumes.

During this period when maximum feed production is so important, the use of superior varieties, such as Vicland oats, is an excellent farm practice.

New Treatment for 'Red' Water Is Developed

Experiment station representatives have found that rust in the water can be removed by running it through a tank containing graded limestone and gravel. It must be a special kind of limestone, however, they say. Materials needed include a tank, valves, pipes and fittings. These probably will cost about \$50. If water is hard, but does not contain iron and carbon dioxide, the method is not applicable.

Poplin Plaid Suit



Town-wear cottons are quite the rage this season. Not only are they made up stunningly, but women are taking great care to see that the washables are of the everfast type that tubs perfectly. There's style distinction in the tailoring of this chic costume, with special emphasis on the nicely detailed bracelet sleeves and the buttons. Note the extreme tilt of the smart little chapeau. It brings you the latest news as to how we will be wearing our little berets and pill-boxes and weanailors this spring and summer—tilted way to one side!

Florals Are Motif of New Border Prints

When it comes to the new border prints only seeing is believing how really beautiful they are. We have in mind the piques and crepes and old-fashioned long cloth weaves that are usually white or a pastel monotone with enormous spaced florals perhaps only one, two or three to the yard. The full-blown rose is a favorite motif and they look exactly as if they had been hand-painted on the fabric background. They won't fade away, ease your mind about that, for the creators of everfast materials have kept thoughtfully before them that modern washables must be both sun-proof and suds-proof to satisfy the demands of the fabric-wise women of today. You will be wanting a dress of the everfast border-print gingham which has the "something different" look about it which every woman covets. In these gingham stripes and checks are woven all of a piece with a wide border banding separating the new patterns.

Matching Hat and Purse Sets in Black Velveteen

Quilted black velveteen purses may be matched to black velveteen or feathered hats. And big rectangles of black broadcloth with mock tortoise shell trim prove just the ingredient that will make your black and brown accessories blend together into an ensemble. If you want to be original, consider a small melon muff of velveteen for gala wear, or a big important looking style with a front of ermine tails. More unusual than these are the new round feather muffs, which are completely covered by soft, smooth, beige and brown duck feathers.



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ON THE HOME FRONT with RUTH WYETH SPEARS

SCALLOPS are in fashion. Big scallops, little scallops, pointed or round scallops; deep or shallow, convex or concave; also cut-out curves and scrolls—they are used for cornices over windows in bedroom, bath, kitchen, dining room, dinette and living room. They are used also to frame or to partly frame cupboards of many different types ranging from gay kitchen cupboards to a dignified break-front for the living room.

You can have all the scallops you want even in these times. They may be cut out of any thin wood or, if that is not available, composition board may be used. It is easy to cut simple scallop designs by hand with a coping saw.

Moses Would Take Long Chance on His Prediction

An old Negro, Moses by name, had been a great weather predictor during his period of slavery and was fairly successful. After he was given his freedom he decided to make an almanac and got his old master to do the writing for him.

He began, of course, with January and made his weather predictions up to August 10, when he predicted a fall of snow.

At this his master said: "Moses, you darn fool, you know it won't snow in August."

Old Moses replied: "Yes, I know it ain't apt to snow in August, but just think, if it was to, what a great prophet I would be."



NOTE: Mrs. Spears has made a pattern with 10 basic scallop and scroll designs with illustrated directions for combining them in many different ways for windows and cupboards of all sizes. Other suggestions for using scallops for home decoration are also included. Ask for pattern No. 307 and enclose 15 cents. Address:

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