Accessories

You will need:
- Sewing machine or overlock (serger) machine, or both
- Accessory patterns, books, or magazine articles
- Fabrics and fabric scraps
- Shears, sewing scissors, or rotary cutter
- Silk pins or fabric weights
- Measuring tape or T-square
- Notions and trims
- Scrapbook or notebook to collect ideas for accessories
- Parent or leader to help you

You will learn:
- How to work with new fabrics
- How to extend and update your wardrobe
- New hand and machine sewing skills

Sew!
Make at least three different types of accessories. (Gloves or paired items count as one type.)
**What Are Accessories?**

Accessories are the hats, gloves, belt, or tie that complete an outfit. They help extend your wardrobe by creating different effects using the same garment. Accessories can help you look good by putting a color that is good for your skin tones next to your face. They call attention to your good features and create harmony by repeating colors found in the outfit.

Look through fashion magazines and catalogs. Which accessories do you like? Can you find some of them in a pattern catalog? Look at accessories you find in stores and at flea markets. How are they made? What types of fabrics are used? Keep a sketchbook of ideas and samples.

In this project, you will experiment with new fabrics and techniques. Use a variety of fabrics for ties and scarves. Try fringing, mitering an edge, or rolling a narrow hem by hand or serger. Combine knitting or crocheting with a woven fabric for an interesting effect, or use skills learned in a leathcraft project. These are just some of the possibilities! You may also make accessories printed on fabric cut-outs or use motifs from the cut-outs to make part or all of an accessory.

Here are some accessories you can make with fabrics. Check your fair premium listing for exhibit requirements.

- caps, hats, hoods
- bags, pouches, totes, portfolios
- scarves, hankies, dickeys
- ties, ascots
- hair accessories, sleep masks
- fabric jewelry
- covered buttons
- gloves
- belts, cummerbunds, suspenders
- jackets, vests, pullovers, camisoles
- shawls or wraps
- leggings
- detachable accessory, such as a collar or overskirt

**What Are Some Types of Accessories?**

**Shoes** should fit well and complement your outfit. To discover what’s best for you, try on a number of shoes to go with an outfit or a group of outfits. Do this in front of a full-length mirror. Also study the types of shoes that are shown with similar garments in fashion magazines.

While you probably won’t make a pair of shoes in your project, you could experiment with shoe dye or cover shoes with fabric.

**Hosiery and socks** should blend with your shoes and clothing. Abrupt color changes or patterns will draw the eye to your legs, making them look wider and shorter. Most hosiery should be hand washed. Some may be machine washed in a special hosiery bag on a gentle cycle setting. Rust-proof safety pins or plastic sock grips are useful to keep socks together in the laundry.
A *purse* no longer needs to match your shoes, but its color and style should coordinate with what you are wearing. Often a neutral bag will work with most of your wardrobe. However, you may want to make a totebag, backpack, pouch, or bag for a special outfit or event.

**Belts** pull your outfit together. A belt matched to your pants or skirt will make your legs look longer. A belt matched to the top of your outfit will make your waist look lower. Experiment by making belts with a variety of buckles and/or a looped fastener.

**Ties and scarves** bring your best colors closer to your face. Ties can be casual or formal. Scarves can change the shape of a neckline. They can also drape at the shoulder, add flair at the waist, or double as a shawl. There are many books showing how to make scarves and tie them!

**Glasses and jewelry,** such as earrings, necklaces, and pins, can draw attention to your face. Your facial shape and features will be important in your selection.

**Rings and watches** draw attention to your hands and nails. Gold-toned jewelry can be mixed with silver depending on the outfit you wear. Watch the length and size of the pieces you wear to make sure they are in scale with you and your outfit. Also, be wary of wearing too many accessories, particularly if your garment has a lot of detail.

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**Storing and Caring for Accessories**

Accessories such as scarves may be folded and stored in a drawer, but they often have to be pressed before wearing. To prevent wrinkles, you can buy a special hanger or make one by cutting holes in a paper-wrapped hanger. Scarves may also be pinned to a hanging fabric belt. Oblong scarves may be stored in a shallow drawer by rolling them around (waxpaper) cardboard tubes to prevent wrinkling. There are tie racks and tie cases, too.

Care for shoes by keeping them dry and by using shoe trees or tissue to hold their shape. Shoe bags or racks will help you keep them organized. Visit a shoe repair store to find out what services are available and what they cost.

Jewelry should be stored separately in a safe place to prevent damage. Jewelry may be stored in a drawer in boxes, in a special jewelry box, or even in a special closet organizer with plastic pockets. Jewelry that is of any value should be photographed and insured. It should also be cleaned and checked by a jeweler regularly.

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**Other Activities to Try**

- Visit a shoe repair store and a jeweler to learn what services they offer and their costs.
- Ask a shoe retailer to show you how to select the correct sizes of shoes and socks.
- Try on different hats to determine which styles look best on you.
- Visit several stores (or look through catalogs) to see what accessories are being sold. Notice how accessories are used with outfits in the pictures or displays.
What I learned in this project (new skills, new words)

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What I shared with others (presentations, helping other members, community service)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOPIC OR SKILL</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>NO. OF PEOPLE WHO WATCHED</th>
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Project story
Use this space to write about your project. What did you do? What did you enjoy doing most? Least? Tell about the types of pattern(s) and fabric(s) you selected. What did you have the most difficult time sewing? What accessories did you buy this year?

Include pictures or drawings of the accessories you made. Tell about the fiber content of the fabrics and the patterns you used. Attach sample swatches. Also, talk about the activities at your 4-H club meetings and about the scrapbook of samples and ideas you kept.

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Accessories Project Record

Name

Address

Age as of January 1

Club

Number of years in this project

Number of years in Textile Science projects

Leader’s signature

What I made for my project

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<th>FIBER CONTENT</th>
<th>COST</th>
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Total number of garments made this year

People who helped me and resources I used for this project

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Sharing What You’ve Learned
Tell how to do one of the following:
• Tie a scarf or tie
• Care for accessories
• Enlarge a pattern
• Create many outfits by wearing different accessories with the same garment
• Use batting or fiberfill to make an accessory
• Make your own accessory pattern

Or talk about:
• What you found out in your accessory survey
• What you found out at the shoe repair store or jeweler
• What happens if you wear too many accessories

Want to Know More?
Books, pamphlets, magazines, and pattern catalogs are good sources of ideas for accessories! Look for them at the public library and in stores. Some patterns for accessories are available from sewing machine companies. In Pennsylvania, 4-H resource materials are updated on PENpages. Ask about PENpages at your county extension office.

Exhibits and Fashion Revue
This project was not intended for fashion revue, but you may arrange to model accessories with a garment you have made for another 4-H project. See county, regional, and state revue rules for other guidelines. Check current fair and round-up requirements. Remember to handstitch a label with your name, age, 4-H club, and county to the accessory to prevent loss.

Taking the Project Again
You may take this project again if you select accessories and activities that help you learn new skills. Your exhibit and presentation should be different from before. You may take this project with another 4-H project, such as leathercraft, as long as the exhibits are different for each project. Members who would like to make items for storing accessories should take the Closet Connections project.

Prepared by Jan Scholl, assistant professor of agricultural and extension education.


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