



# A Child's Poncho

... Shower - Shelter, Indian Style

A cape made of a square of shower-resistant cotton fabric, with hood attached, provides quick and becoming shelter for a little girl in the 5- to 10-year-old set. This fold-up and tuck-away cape is a new addition to functional garments designed by Clarice L. Scott, clothing specialist in the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

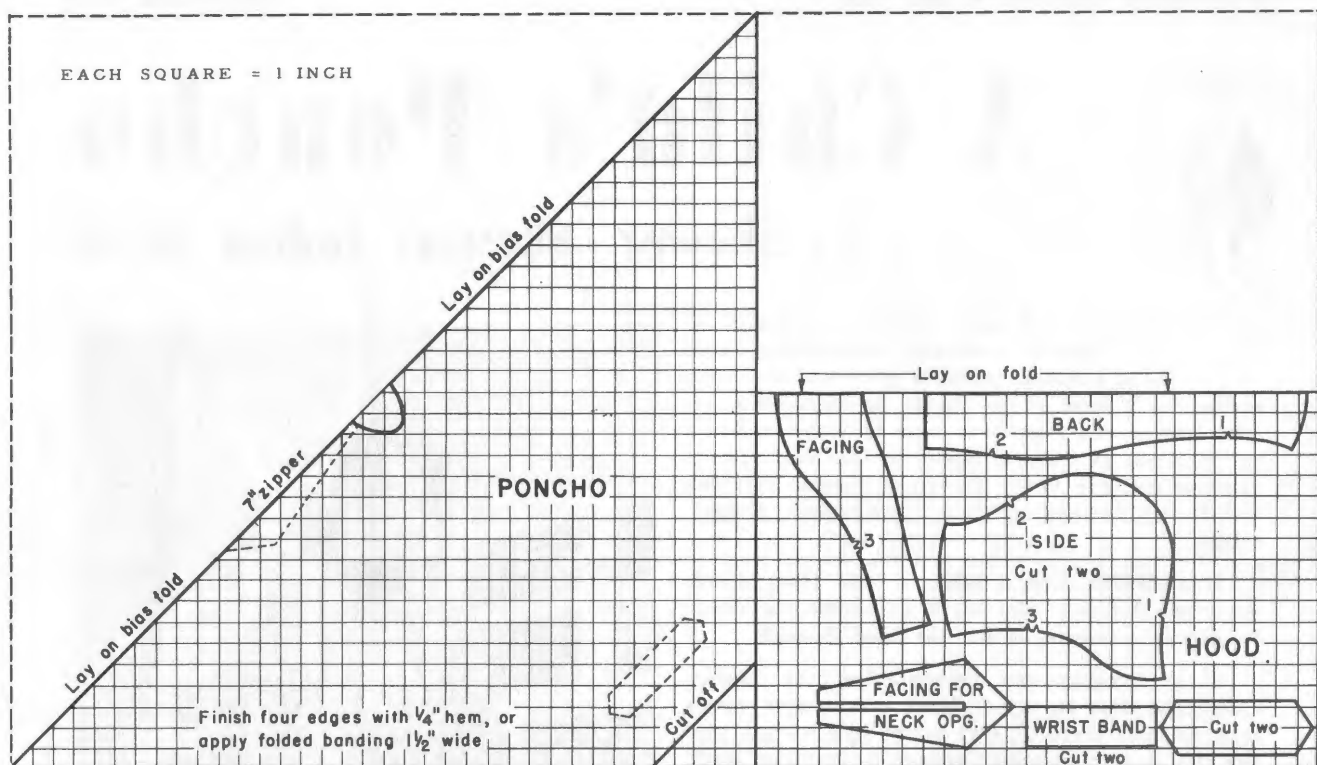
Miss Scott's design takes a cue from South American Indians, who made a poncho, or cloak, by slitting a blanket to put the head through.

Loose hanging and umbrella-like, the Indian-style cape slips on equally well over winter wraps or a summer dress. It isn't warm, and so is a particularly good protective garment for summer wear.

The poncho hood is styled to give the wearer clear vision at the sides—for greater safety in street crossing. The visor protects eyes against sprinkling rain—another safety feature.

Quick and easy for a young wearer to put on, the poncho fastens with a chest-to-chin zipper. (A sizable pull tab helps a child to manage a zipper.) The wearer can slip hands through wrist straps, if she likes, to keep the cape more securely in place.





Inexpensive and easy to make, the child's poncho can be cut from any shower-resistant cotton goods or from rainproof plastic film.

To cut a home-made paper pattern, follow the diagram shown. For a child 8 to 10 years old, provide  $1\frac{3}{4}$  yards of 40-inch material. Straighten cut edge of goods and cut a 40-inch perfect square. For a child 5 to 7 years old, provide  $1\frac{5}{8}$  yards of 36-inch material, and cut a 36-inch square. The remainder of the goods will make the hood and wrist straps. The hood is not lined. The visor is stiffened by rows of stitching,  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch apart. Fabric and a 7-inch zipper for the neck closing may be bought for about \$2.

Bright-colored fabric is best choice for this poncho, not merely for attractiveness, but also for safety. A child dressed in bright color is easier for motorists to see on a rainy day.

A forward-looking idea for safety after dark is to trim a garment like this with small strips of reflecting fabric. This fabric, which shows up brightly in the light of automobile headlights, is expensive, and thus far is available only to the garment industry. The pictured poncho, made experimentally in the Bureau's clothing research laboratories, is of clear blue cotton twill trimmed with bands of reflecting fabric of silver color.

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