

THE POWER SUIT

July 2005

Design Inspiration

This suit was designed for the 2005 *Inspired by Threads* Fashion Challenge. Expanding on ideas presented in an article entitled *Edgy Jackets*, I combined tweed and chiffon plus modern soft-tailoring techniques to produce a feminine version of the 80's power suit. The emphasis in this design is on subtle embellishment through the use of complimentary fabrics and unexpected dressmaker details.

Fabrics

Jacket and skirt: 100 % rayon tweed, 60 % rayon and 40 % polyester chiffon.

Embellishments

Jacket: self-fringed edges and chiffon flounces.

Skirt: self-fringed edges.

Patterns

Jacket: Vogue 7945 (modified)

Skirt: McCalls 4784.

Special Sewing Techniques

The jacket pattern was modified by drafting a shawl collar, a neckline flounce, pocket flaps and flounces, and sleeve and hem flounces. The jacket is constructed of two layers, one in tweed and one in chiffon. For extra body, conventional topstitched seams are used for the tweed layer, except on the collar which has lapped and fringed edges. French seams are used for the chiffon layer. The two layers are constructed separately until the collar and neckline flounce have been added to the tweed layer. The two layers are then joined at the neck edge, so that the chiffon layer acts as a lining for the tweed. The remaining edges of the chiffon layer are finished with narrow-hemmed circular flounces and the remaining edges of the tweed layer are topstitched to the chiffon and fringed. The skirt is constructed with lapped and fringed seams instead of conventional seams.

Exhibitions and Awards

Editors' Choice, 6th Annual Inspired by Threads Fashion Challenge, October 2005.