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Swiss Jersey Fabrics,

A tour through a modern knitwear factory

What is, in reality, a «jersey fabric»? Many a woman must ask herself this question as she dons one of those charming jersey ensembles which, because of their durability and *chic*, occupy a prominent place in her wardrobe.

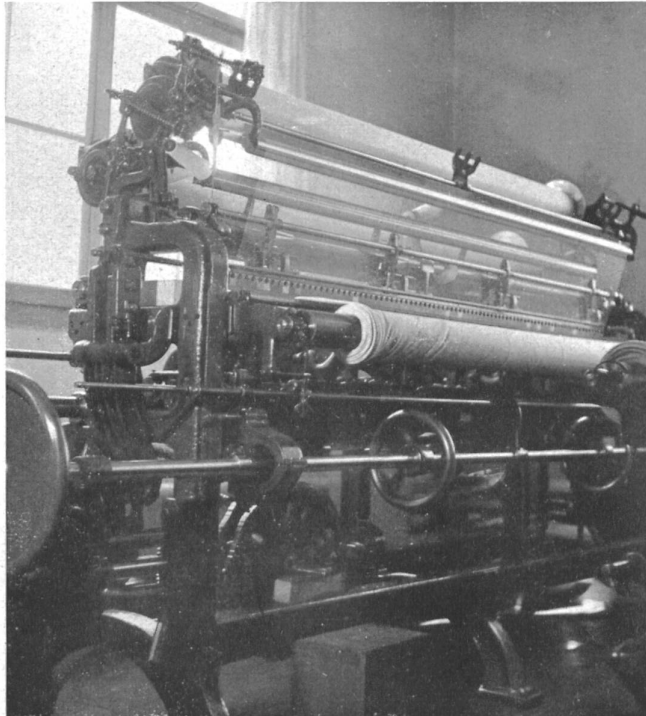
The term «jersey fabric» is applied to all knitted materials, whether used for dresses, suits or lingerie. These fabrics today greatly resemble woven materials, and have almost nothing in common now with their predecessor — hand-knitting. Like all chain-stitch fabrics, they are porous, hence elastic, crease-proof and easily laundered. Further, the particular composition of the stitches prevents stretching or loss of shape.

Let us survey briefly the processes the raw materials must undergo before being transformed first into piece goods and lastly into garments. It is astonishing, sometimes, to think how such durable, practical, elegant and well-cut garments can be made at such reasonable prices. Evidently, such results necessitate rational working methods, perfected machinery, a qualified staff, in short, perfect organization. Our reporter's photographs showing the **Vollmoeller** knitwear factory at Uster near Zurich, are particularly illustrative of the high degree of organization this manufacture requires.

The firm was founded in 1924 and is actually conducted by a youthful team of executives. It is the only factory in Switzerland whose schedule includes every stage of manufacture from the yarn to the ready-to-wear model, excepting dyeing and shrinking processes.

The factory itself is situated in a charming garden, and as a whole appears more like a private residence than a modern works with a staff of 230 employees. The work-rooms occupy the spacious storeys of the building, all equipped with modern ventilation and heating systems. There is also a kitchen for the workers who cannot return home for the midday meal; every member of the staff can cook what food he likes, or join up with a group of his fellow workers.

A glance in the designers' department, a sanctuary of fashion, shows us a gay red and white striped chintz reflecting innumerable mirrors. The room hums like a hive, and yet the whole atmosphere is permeated with clarity, cheerfulness, light and air, giving the impression that here a youthful, energetic and broad-minded spirit reigns abroad. On seeing all this, one can understand the essential note—one might almost say an

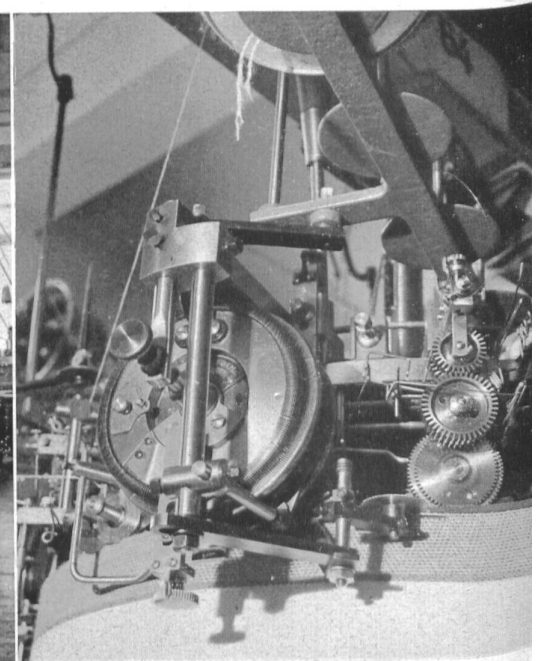
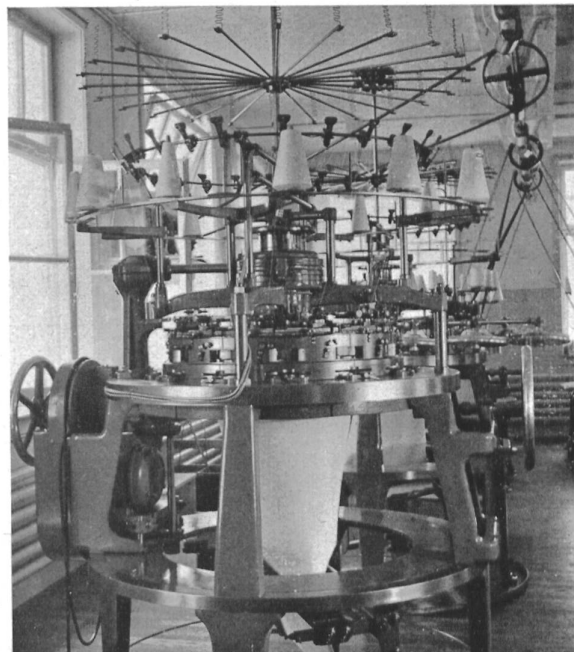


① High production modern warp machine.

② High-speed chain loom producing locknit charmeuse.

③ Circular loom for jersey fabrics of various designs.

④ Knitting device of circular loom for production of circular-knit jersey fabric.



a distinctive quality product

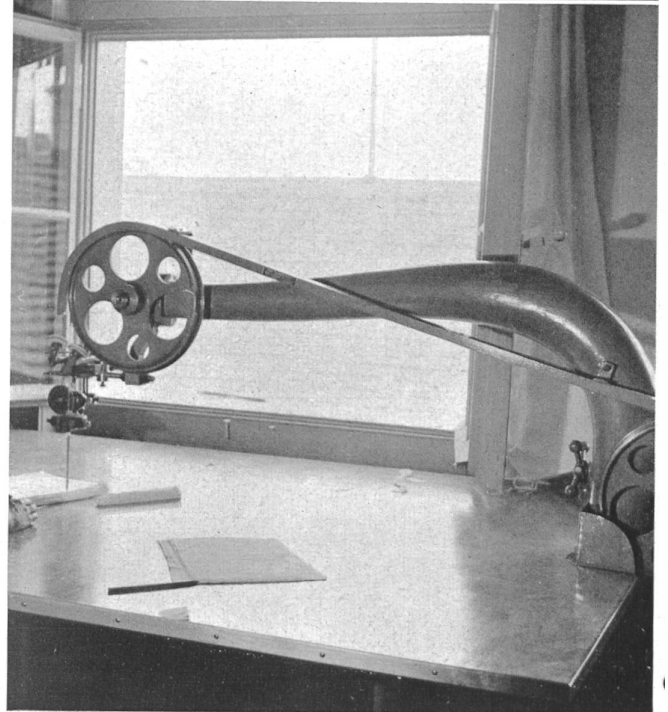
« American » note—which characterizes the collection of ensembles and dresses turned out here, that quality of freshness and youth which strike one in each of the 120 models created twice yearly (and double that in peacetime) by this firm.

Look more closely at the various stages of manufacture. Three different types of machines are employed: the chain-stitch loom, the circular loom and the circular knitting machine. Before being placed on the machines, the yarns supplied by the spinners are first rewound to eliminate all possible faults in the thread. This is a process essential to the quality of the final product. The chain-stitch loom produces piece goods, charmeuse for dainty lingerie and jersey fabrics for dress-making, while the circular and interlock looms produce cylindrical pieces of various widths. The latter are usually employed for current styles of ladies' and men's underwear or garments for sports wear, such as the « Comby-Set », for instance. These different kinds of fabrics are then sent to the dyers where they are treated by special processing and finished. On their return to the factory, the materials are delivered to the cutters' department, where they are cut by hand, the electric cutting machine being used only for simple styled garments.

The sewing and making up department makes one fully realise what an enormous amount of manual and brain work, thought and talent are required for the finishing of each of these garments which one so casually puts on each morning. Rows of machines, hundreds of tireless hands at work: every work-girl and every machine has a set task. One of the machines hems, another sews on the paddings, a third makes buttonholes, a fourth sews on buttons and yet a fifth sews at a rate of 4000 stitches per minute... Then the embroidery machine starts creating one of the many designs at breath-taking speed. Innumerable precise manipulations, all carefully controlled, are required until the finished article can be sent, in perfect condition, to the ironing room and finally to the packaging department.

This synchronization of processing is particularly remarkable in the room where « Comby-Sets » are made. The work-girls' fingers ply almost as quickly as the machines; the garments, which are cut in series, take shape at a breath-taking rate, flying from hand to hand, from machine to machine until, after a final touch, a new jersey model is ready to fulfil its daily task.

G. M. Fester



5 View of the cutting department. Here, every piece is cut by hand.

6 Mass production: manufacture begins at one end of the table and is finished by the time the article reaches the other end.

7 This electric machine cuts several thicknesses of material simultaneously.

8 The finished models are given a final examination: none are allowed to leave the department without being carefully scrutinized by the controllers' critical eye.



Jacob Laib & Cie, Amriswil.

Robe «YALA» pour jeune fille, en jersey ;
heureuse combinaison du genre sport et
d'une broderie en relief.

A youthful «YALA» model in jersey ; a
happy combination of the tailored style
with a motif embroidered in relief.

Vestido «YALA» para joven, de jersey ;
combinación feliz del género deportivo
con bordado de realce.

Photo Lutz

Handschin & Ronus S. A., Liestal.

① Deux-pièces noir
en tissu tricoté « HANRO ».

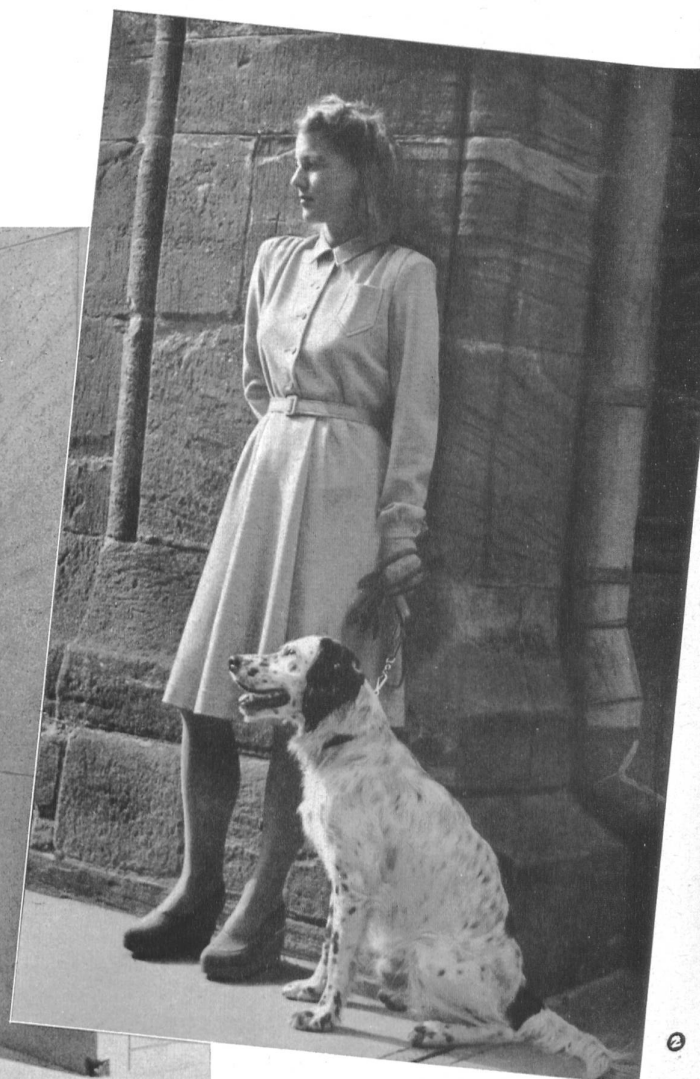
A black two-piece
in knitted « HANRO » fabric.

Traje negro de dos prendas, en tela
de punto « HANRO ».

② Robe caractéristique « HANRO ».

A typical « HANRO » model.

Vestido característico « HANRO ».



Swiss Knitting Co., Knechtli & Cie,
Zollikofen/Berne.

Tricot et jersey « SWISSNIT ».
« SWISSNIT » knitwear and jerseys.
Prenda de punto y jersey « SWISSNIT ».

Photo Bettina Muller.



Yvel S. A., Zurich.

① Deux-pièces, genre sport, en jersey.
Ensembles for sports wear in jersey
fabric.

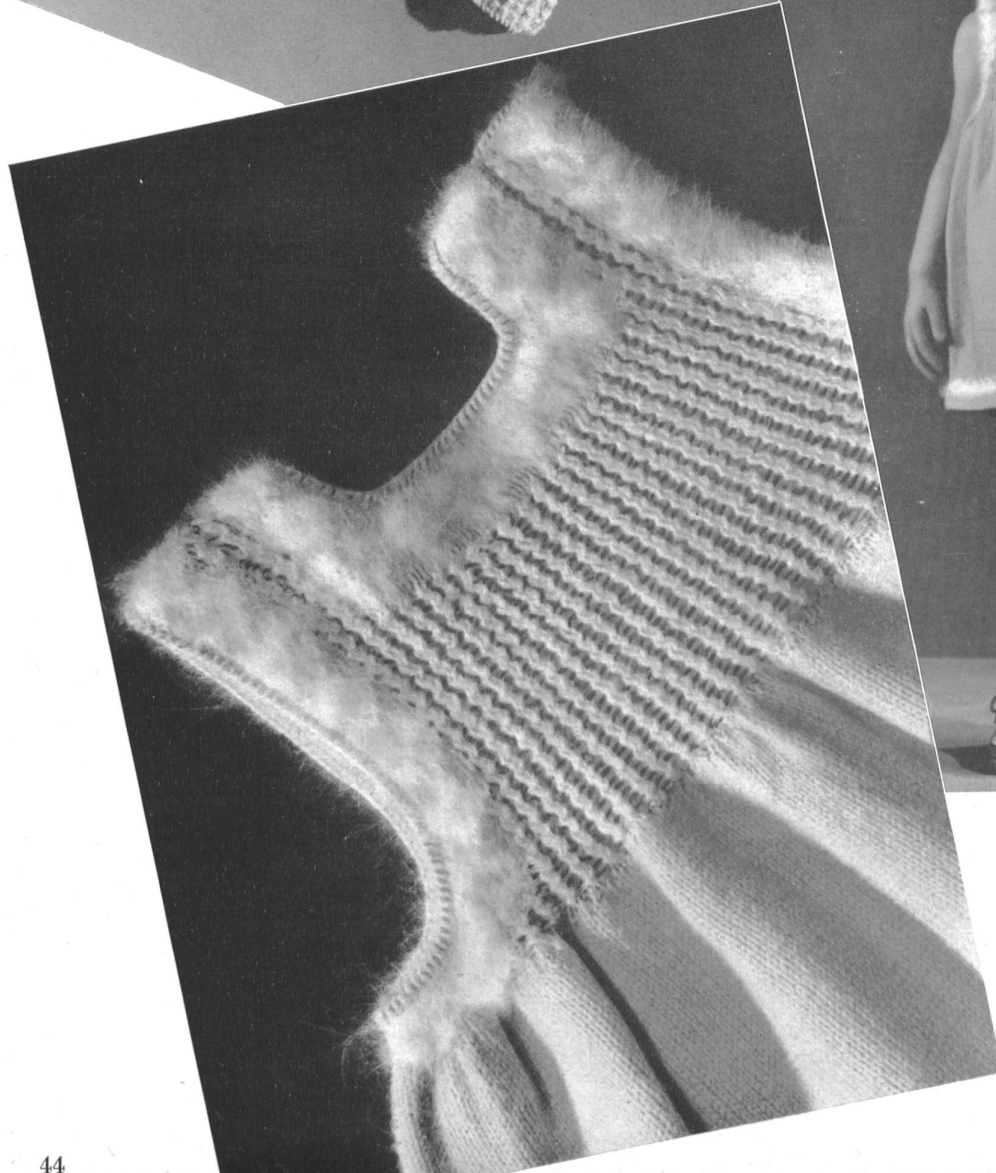
Traje deportivo de dos prendas, de
jersey.

② Deux-pièces pour l'après-midi,
en laine, orné d'une délicate broderie.

A two-piece for afternoon wear: a
wool fabric with delightful embroidery.

Traje de dos prendas para la tarde,
de lana, adornado con un precioso
bordado.





Geiser S. A., Huttwil.

Vêtements tricotés pour enfants.

Knitted children's clothing.

Ropa de punto para niños.

Photos Droz.



Hochuli & Cie, Safenwil.

Elégante chemise de nuit en jersey ultra-fin.
An elegant nightgown in extra fine jersey fabric.
Elegante camisa de noche, de jersey sumamente fino.



Ruegger & Cie, Zofingue.

Liseuse en laine mélangée ou en fil « Helanca » ; ce dernier — un filé apprêté, en rayonne — possède maintes propriétés de la laine et connaît de ce fait une vogue grandissante.

Bed-jacket in mixture wool and « Helanca » thread. The latter — a dressed rayon yarn — has many of the properties of pure wool and is becoming increasingly popular.

Chaquetita de cama, en lana mezclada o en hilo « Helanca » ; este hilo — un hilado aprestado, de rayón — posee varias propiedades de la lana, y por ello adquiere boga creciente.



A. Naegeli S. A., Berlingen et Winterthour.

Parure « OPALINE-FIXCOLOR » en jersey rayonne résistant à la cuisson et à la lumière ; une intéressante broderie et une fine ruche de tulle en font une adorable nouveauté.

An « OPALINE-FIXCOLOR » lingerie set in rayon jersey fabric ; laundry and light resistant. A charming novelty with its really new embroidery and fine ruch of tulle.

Juego de prendas « OPALINE-FIXCOLOR », de jersey rayón, resistente a la colada y a la luz. Un bordado curioso y un fino adorno de tul plegado, hacen de él una linda novedad.

Photo Studio Bienvu.



Ryff & Cie S.A., Berne.

Sous-vêtements fins tricotés pour dames
et enfants.

Ladies' and children's knitted underwear.

Finas prendas interiores de punto para
señoras y niños.

Photo Dorvyne.



G. Rohner, Urnisch.

« Amila-Intervet », une laine de remplacement idéale pour les jours froids. Le tissu est gratté à l'intérieur et dispense, grâce à sa souplesse, un agréable bien-être et une douce chaleur. Manipulé correctement, « AMILA-INTERVELVET » est aussi durable que n'importe quel lainage.

« Amila-Intervet », the ideal wool substitute for chilly days. The fabric is raised on the inner side, and its soft suppleness gives a feeling of cosy well-being and warmth. If well treated, « AMILA-INTERVELVET » is as durable as any woollen material.

« Amila-Intervet », lana ideal sucedánea para los días fríos. El tejido está raspado interiormente y proporciona, merced a su flexibilidad, un bienestar agradable y calor suave. Manipulado correctamente, « AMILA-INTERVELVET » dura tanto como cualquier tejido de lana.

Photo de Jongh.

His & Cie S. A., Murgenthal.

- ① Liseuse tricotée en laine mélangée, irrétrécissable, traitée au « Mitin » et ainsi garantie des mites ; fermeture à boutons. Modèle « HISCO ».

Knitted bed-jacket in mixture wool, unshrinkable ; « Mitin »-treated and therefore mothproof. Practical buttoned style. A « HISCO » model.

Chaquetita de cama, de punto, en lana mezclada, inarrugable, preservada de las polillas por el « Mitin ». Cierre práctico de botones. Modelo « HISCO ».

- ② Ravissante chemise de nuit en tissu rayonne imprimé, vaporeux et d'un beau tombé, teinte mode, avec boléro assorti. Modèle « HISCO ».

A charming printed rayon night-gown in fashionable shades with bolero to match. A « HISCO » model. Lindísima camisa de noche de rayón estampado, vaporoso, en color de moda, de hermosa caída, con bolero adecuado. Modelo « HISCO ».

Photos Lutz.

