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H C RAMSOWER, Director, Columbus

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# Stitches, Seams, and Garment Finishes

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# Stitches, Seams, and Garment Finishes

This bulletin is written to supplement the outlines and demonstrations used in the clothing projects for women, and to furnish definite instructions regarding simple sewing processes for junior clothing club leaders.

Directions are not given for making any particular garments, but for processes that may be applied in making various garments. It is difficult to formulate definite rules for the finishing of all garments. In using the following directions, the style and purpose of the garment, as well as the quality of material to be used, will need to be considered.

## Hand Sewing

### Basting Stitch

This is a long stitch used as a guide or to hold materials together. This is usually a temporary stitch and should be removed after the permanent stitches are in. There are two kinds, even and uneven.

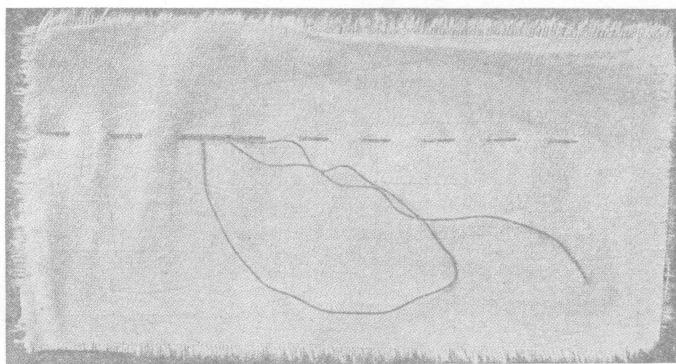


Fig. 1.—Even basting stitch, needle inserted

**EVEN BASTING STITCH.**—Knot the thread. Hold the work between the thumb and finger of the left hand. Work from right to left, making stitches that are the same length on both sides. Fasten the ends of thread with two small backstitches below each other (Fig. 1).

*Use.*—Where firmness is desired, as for seams.

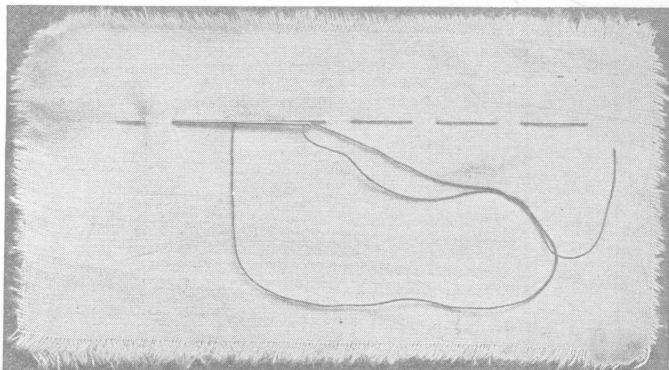


Fig. 2.—Uneven basting stitch

**UNEVEN BASTING STITCH.**—Place work on a table. Brace little finger of right hand on the table, point needle toward the left and take a short stitch forward. Work from right to left, making stitches short on the under side and long on the upper side. Knot the thread and fasten the same as above.

*Use.*—As a guide for stitching (Fig. 2).

### Overhanding Stitch

Overhanding stitch is a shallow stitch which holds finished edges together. Work from right to left. Hold the material between the thumb and first finger, with the edges to be overhanded

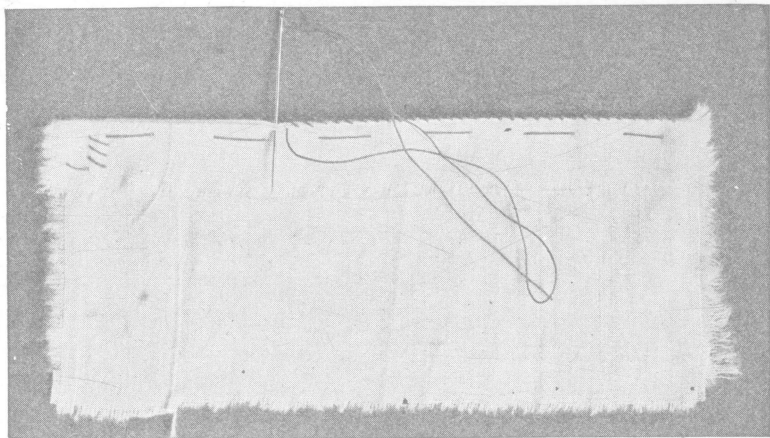


Fig. 3.—Overhanding

along the upper part of the left forefinger. Point the needle directly toward the body, perpendicular to the seam. Do not start with a knot. Leave  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch of thread and make the first two stitches in the same hole, sewing over the end of the thread. Stitches should be shallow, the same distance apart, and not tight enough to pucker material (Fig. 3).

*Use.*—To join finished edges (selvage or folded), as ends of hems in towels.

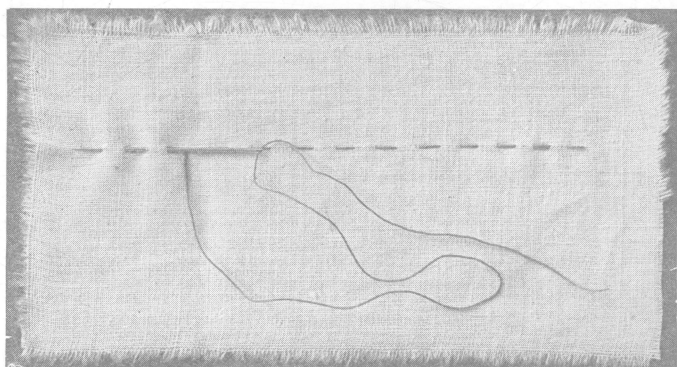


Fig. 4.—The running stitch

### Running Stitch

The running stitch is a small, even stitch. Work from right to left. Start with a knot or backstitch. Hold material between thumb and forefinger of left hand. With thimble against end of needle, hold needle firmly near point, with right forefinger at back of cloth and needle, and thumb in front of needle. Hold cloth between the two hands tightly, with about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch space between them. The stitch is taken with a weaving motion of the right hand. (Fig. 4.)

*Use.*—To join seams, to gather, shirr, and tuck.

### Overcasting Stitch

Work from right to left. Conceal the knot between the edges of the cloth, or on the underside of the seam. Hold the work along the left forefinger, point the needle toward the left shoulder, bringing it through from under to upper side. Stitches should be regu-

lar in size, usually twice as far apart as they are deep (see Fig. 5), and not tight enough to pucker material.

*Use.*—To prevent raveling, as on raw edge of plain seam.

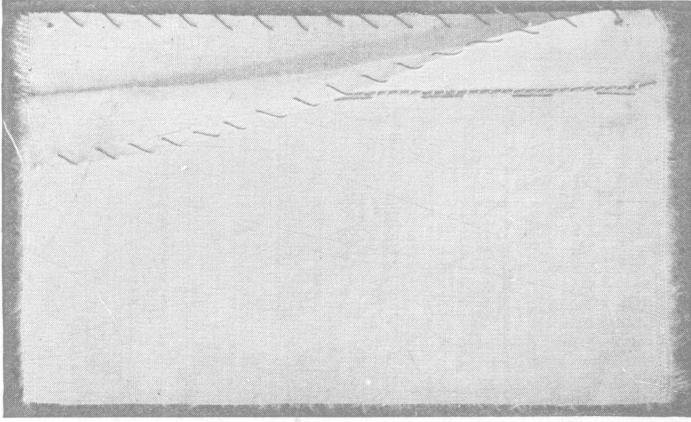


Fig. 5.—Plain seam, edges overcast

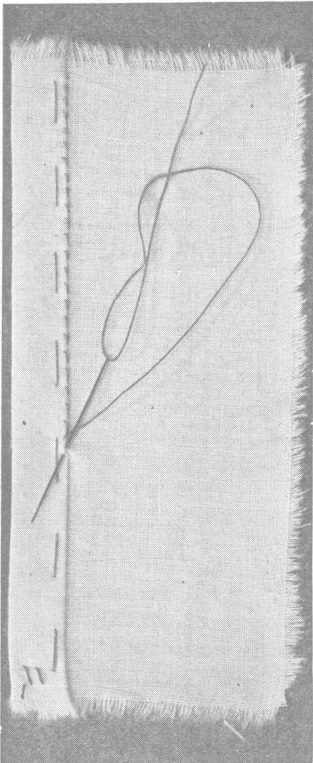


Fig. 6.—Hemming stitch

### Hemming Stitch

The hemming stitch is a small slanting stitch. Hold the work over the cushion of the left forefinger, the folded edge of the hem toward the palm of the hand. Fasten the thread with a double stitch and insert the needle, taking up a thread or two of the material on a line with the edge of the hem. Bring the needle out through the folded edge of the hem, pointing toward the left shoulder. Take slanting stitches equal distances apart (Fig. 6).

*Use.*—To hold hems or facings in position.

## Machine Sewing

A standard sewing machine is a valuable piece of household equipment. The ability to get from it results comparable to hand sewing can be developed by practice and a knowledge of good standards. Nice machine stitching involves a careful adjustment of the tension to the length of the stitch, size of machine needle and thread. The adjustment of the tension is different on different makes of machines (see machine book). The length of stitch and size of needle and thread are both determined by the fineness or coarseness of material used. Stitching should be regular, straight, and close to the edge on hems and facings.

LOOSE TENSION GATHERING.—Loosen tension so that bobbin thread is loose enough to pull easily. This kind of gathering is very easily adjusted and does not slip. A short stitch gives finer fullness. Two lines of stitching  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch apart, and the first on the seam line, make the fullness adjustment easier.

## Decorative Stitches

### Blanket Stitch

The blanket stitch is used for finishing edges. Fasten the thread with a knot between the folds of the hem and bring the needle out on the edge of the fold. Hold the material along the forefinger of the left hand with the edge to be finished toward you.

Work from left to right with the stitches about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch apart. Stick the needle through the material as far back from the edge as the stitch is to be deep. This may be the width of a narrow hem to be held in place. Point the needle toward you and throw the thread from the last stitch under the point of the needle and draw the stitch up. The needle passes through a loop of thread each time it is drawn out of the material so that, when the stitch is finished, the thread lies along the edge of the material.

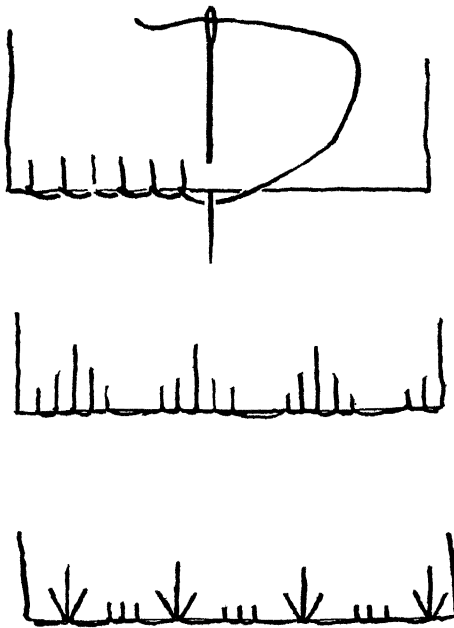


Fig 7—Blanket stitch

By varying the length of the stitch and by grouping the stitches, attractive results may be gained (Fig. 7).

### Featherstitching

Featherstitching is made up of variations of the blanket stitch on alternating sides of a central line. These stitches may be varied by making groups of two or three, either straight or slanting

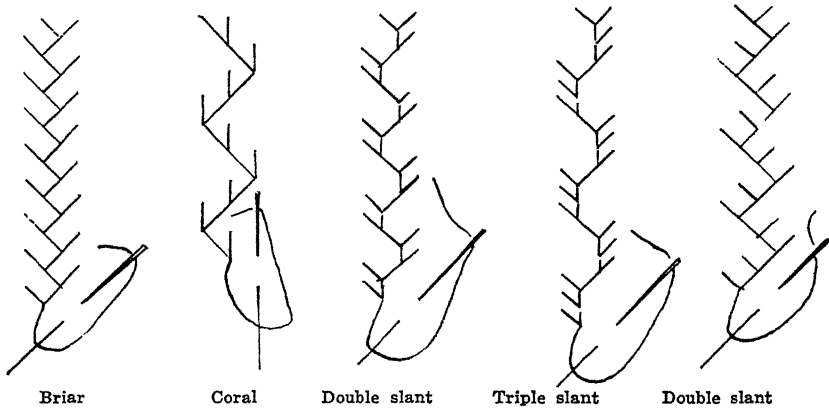


FIG. 8.—VARIATIONS OF FEATHERSTITCH

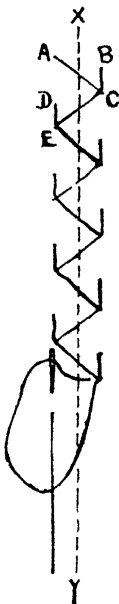


Fig. 9.—Single straight featherstitch

stitches, on both sides of the center line (see Fig. 8). The stitch is made toward the worker.

**SINGLE STRAIGHT FEATHERSTITCH.**—XY is an imaginary line and the center around which the stitches are grouped. Bring the needle out at A, securing thread with a knot or backstitch. Hold the thread down with left thumb and put needle in at B and out at C, forming a blanket stitch. Throw the thread to the left and take the stitch DE. The distance from A to B is usually twice the length of the stitch taken (see Fig. 9).

The needle is always put in the material straight across or slightly below the end of the last stitch taken. Fasten thread with a short stitch to hold last blanket stitch in place.



SINGLE SLANTING FEATHERSTITCH.—AX is the center of the design. Bring the needle out at A, put it in at B, and out again at A. Then, holding the thread down with the left thumb, put the needle in at C and bring it out at D, joining a blanket stitch. Repeat on opposite side (see Fig. 10).

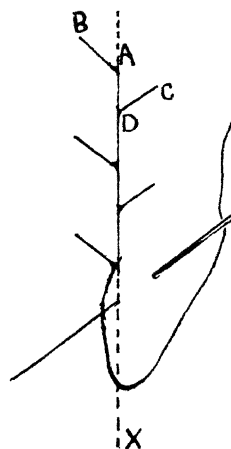


Fig. 10.—Single slant featherstitch

### Outline Stitch



Fig. 11.—Outline stitch

This stitch is made away from the worker. Fasten thread with a knot, or take three or four running stitches along the line to be outlined and bring needle out at end. With thread to right of line put the needle in twice the length of the desired stitch in advance, and bring it out half way back and to the left of the line.

For the second stitch, the needle is put in the same distance in advance and brought out on the left beside the end of the first stitch (see Fig. 11).

The stitches must be uniform in length; the length depends on the size of the thread used.

### Cross Stitch

This stitch forms a series of crosses, and is one of the simplest forms of embroidery. If the material used has a coarse weave with the same number of threads to the inch both ways, the threads of the material will serve as a guide. On finely woven materials, baste cross-stitch canvas on the material to work over, or stamp the design on the material.

Begin at the top and work toward you. Bring the needle out at the lower left-hand corner of a square (Fig. 12). Insert the needle in upper right hand corner at B and bring it out in the upper left hand corner at C. This makes a slanting stitch on top and a horizontal one on the wrong side.

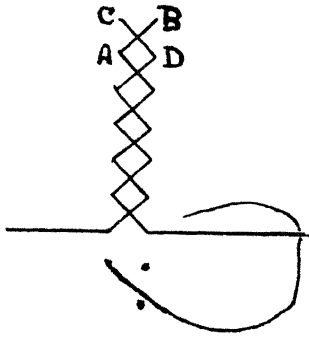


Fig. 12.—Cross stitch

Insert the needle in the lower right hand corner at D, and bring it out in the lower left hand corner of the square below. This makes a slanting stitch on top of the first one, completing one cross stitch, and bringing the thread out ready for the next stitch. Repeat until end of row is reached, then turn material and go back on the next row.

If there is a long line of crosses to be made it may be quicker to make all the stitches going in the same direction first, then come back and cross them all at the same time. Be sure the crosses meet at the corners.

When working on canvas, draw the threads tightly, so that when the canvas is removed the thread will not be loose. When the design is completed, soften the canvas by rubbing it between the hands, or dampen slightly, and remove the threads one at a time.



Fig. 13.  
Chain stitch

### Chain Stitch

This stitch is made toward the worker. Fasten thread with a knot, or three or four running stitches which bring the needle to the right side of material at end of line to be chain stitched. Hold thread down with left thumb, and put needle back in beside the hole through which it just came and out the length of stitch desired in advance and over the thread which is held down in the form of a loop (Fig. 13).

Continue length desired and fasten the last loop with a short stitch to the wrong side where the thread is fastened with two or three backstitches.

## Hemstitching

**SINGLE HEMSTITCHING.**— Measure twice the width of the finished hem plus a  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch turn from the raw edge. At this point draw out three or four threads. The number of threads to be drawn out depends on the quality of the material and the width of the hemstitching desired.

Crease the hem to the wrong side and baste close to the first drawn thread.

Hold the bulk of the material away from you. With the wrong side up, begin at the right hand end of the hem. Fasten the thread with a back-stitch. Pointing the needle toward the left shoulder, take up a group of three or four threads and draw the thread around it.

Place the needle back of the same group of threads, insert it in the edge of the hem to the left of the group, and draw thread through (Fig. 14).

Continue in this manner, drawing the thread tight to separate the groups.

**DOUBLE HEMSTITCHING.**— For double hemstitching repeat the stitch on the opposite side of the drawn threads (Fig. 15).

**DIAGONAL HEMSTITCHING.**— For diagonal hemstitching repeat the stitch on the opposite side of the drawn threads, taking up half of one group of threads and half of the next group to form the new group (Fig. 16).

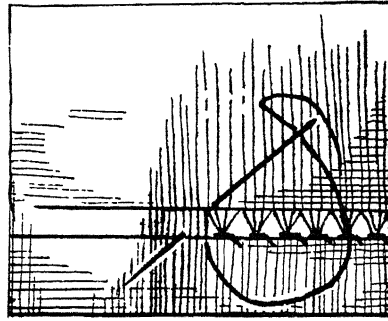


Fig. 14.—Single hemstitching

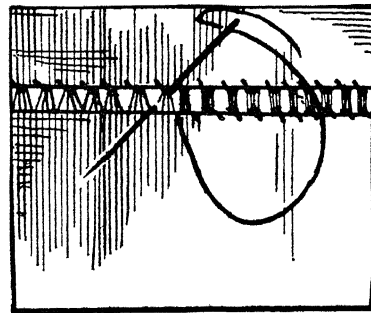


Fig. 15.—Double hemstitching

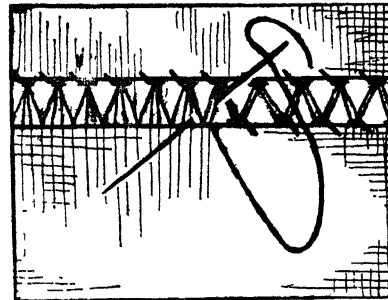


Fig. 16.—Diagonal hemstitching

### Decorative Running Stitch

Several rows of running stitches of varying lengths and different colors make attractive decorations (Fig. 17). This means of decoration is not used on thin materials as the long stitches on the wrong side show through.

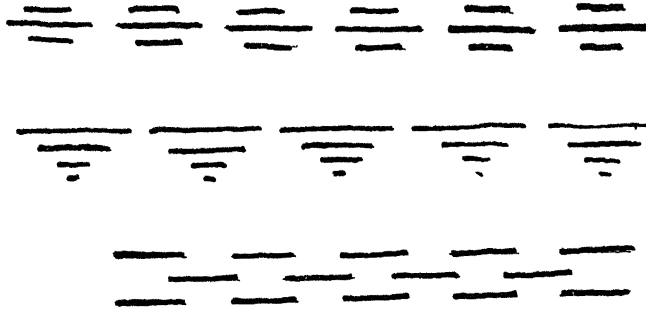


Fig. 17.—Decorative running stitches

### Machine Couching

Fill the bobbin of the machine with the color and weight embroidery floss desired. The heavy floss gives the best effect. Do not thread the bobbin tension. Thread the machine above with ordinary thread to match. Lengthen the stitch and if necessary adjust upper tension. Stitch design in with wrong side of garment up.

### French Knots

Bring the needle up from the underside of material. With the left hand hold the thread firmly between the thumb and first finger about an inch from the cloth with the needle pointing toward the left shoulder. Wind this thread around the needle several times, depending on the size of the knot desired, and still holding the thread securely with the left hand, place the point of the needle back in the cloth near where it came out, draw the needle through to the wrong side of material, and fasten thread (see Fig. 18).

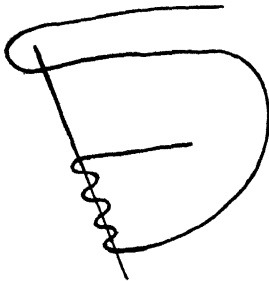


Fig. 18.—French knots

If very coarse thread is used, a good French knot may be made by winding the thread around the needle only once.

## Seams

### Plain Seam

Place right sides of material together, pin or baste to hold in place. Stitch on the seam line. Seam allowance depends on the quality of the material. Trim edges of seam and overcast if necessary. A second stitching on the edge may be used in place of overcasting. Selvage edges may be used where practical. If the selvage is finished with heavy threads, snip these diagonally to prevent the seam from puckering.

*Use.*—This seam is used to join widths of a straight skirt, or to set in sleeves.

### French Seam

Make plain seam on the right side. Trim the seam as close to the stitching as the character of the goods will allow. Firmly woven material may be cut just outside the stitching. Crease the seam open from the garment side, and fold with right sides together; crease along the line of machine stitching. Stitch about  $\frac{1}{8}$

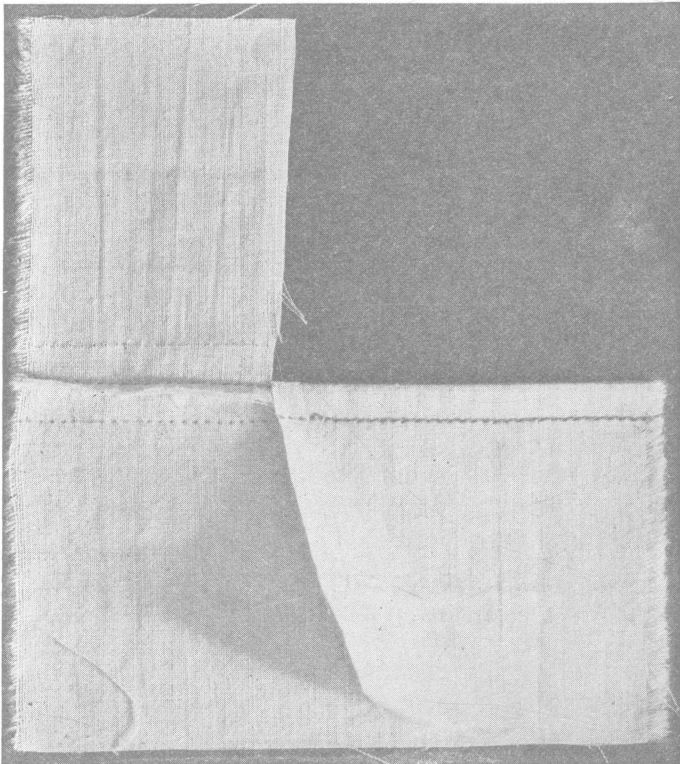


Fig. 19.—French seam

inch from the edge. Be sure to enclose the raw edges (Fig. 19).

*Use.*—This seam is used on light-weight materials, underwear, nightgowns, petticoats, and lingerie dresses.

### Flat-Felled Seam

Make a plain seam on the right side about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch wide. Open garment and press with hot iron, or crease against line of stitching. Cut under edge of seam to less than width desired for finished

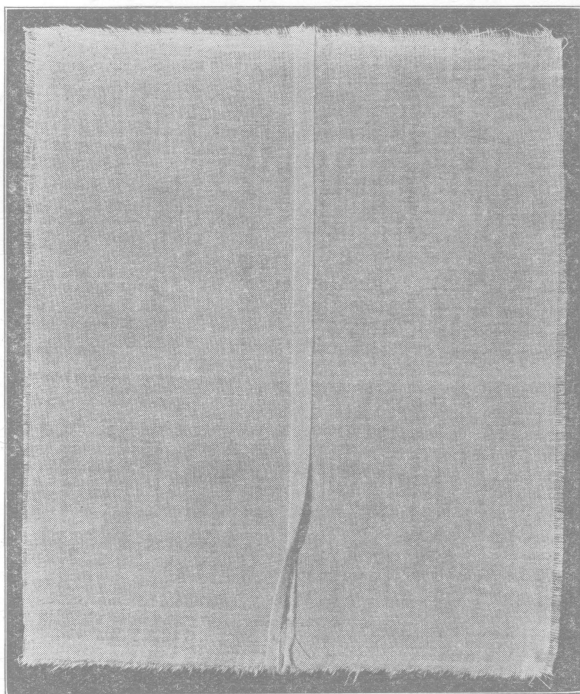


Fig. 20.—Flat-felled seam

seam. Crease turn to wrong side of wider seam and fold over narrow side of seam. Stitch flat to garment. There will be two lines of stitching on the right side (Fig. 20).

*Use.*—On some tailored garments, also underwear where a flat finish is desirable, as in children's drawers and bloomers.

### Hemmed Seam

TO JOIN TWO STRAIGHT EDGES.—Baste plain seam on wrong side about  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch wide. Cut underside to  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch seam. Fold the wider edge with two turns down over narrow edge, and stitch near

lower folded edge through four thicknesses. Only one stitching is necessary.

*Use.*—Where a bulky seam is not objectionable.

**TO JOIN ONE STRAIGHT EDGE AND ONE GATHERED EDGE.**—The same construction may be used with gathered edge and plain edge by slipping gathered edge back from plain edge  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch. Stitch on seam line and proceed as above. This seam requires two lines of stitching.

*Use.*—Where gathered skirt is joined to plain waist, or a ruffle is joined to a straight edge.

## Edge and Corner Finishes

### Plain Hem

Trim raw edge evenly, crease a  $\frac{1}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch turn to the wrong side. Measure, fold, and baste the second turn of the hem in place. If the edge is curved, hold any extra fullness at the top of the hem in small plaits. These plaits should be at right angles to the edge of the hem, and should turn away from the center front and center back of the garment. Finish with machine stitching, or hem by hand. If machine stitching is used it should come within a thread of the top of the hem.

**PLAIN HEM WITH LACE EDGE JOINED BY MACHINE.**—Crease two turns of hem the desired width. Open creased edge and place straight edge of lace a thread above second crease of hem, right sides together. Stitch on machine. Crease hem in position and stitch.

### French Hem

**WITH BEADING AND LACE OVERHANDED TO EDGE.**—Crease a narrow hem to the right side. With the wrong side toward worker fold the hem against wrong side and crease the cloth to make it even with the first fold of the hem. Place the right side of the beading or lace against the right side of the material. Overhand the edges of the hem and lace together.

*Use.*—As a finish for undergarments, and children's clothing.

### Napery Hem

With wrong side of material toward worker, crease a narrow hem to the wrong side, fold hem back against right side and overhand edges.

*Use.*—To finish edges of tablecloths, lunch cloths, and napkins.

## Rolled Hem

With wrong side of cloth toward worker, begin at upper corner and roll edge tightly between thumb and forefinger of the left hand. Overcast, inserting needle under the roll. Keep about 2 inches rolled ahead of the sewing. A tiny, neat roll requires practice.

TO GATHER A ROLLED HEM.—Overcast the rolled edge. The overcasting stitch should be as deep as the width of the roll. Draw up the thread as the work proceeds, rolling and overcasting an inch or two at a time.

TO JOIN LACE TO A ROLLED EDGE.—Place the lace and the rolled edge of garment with wrong sides of both toward the worker between the thumb and first finger of the left hand. Let the straight edge of the lace meet the rolled edge of garment. Place the needle under the roll, bring it out on the edge of the roll, and take up the edge of lace in the same stitch. This keeps the roll in place and joins the lace at the same time. Stitches should not show on the right side.

*Use.*—Where a dainty edge finish is desired, infants' and children's clothing, undergarments and lingerie dresses.

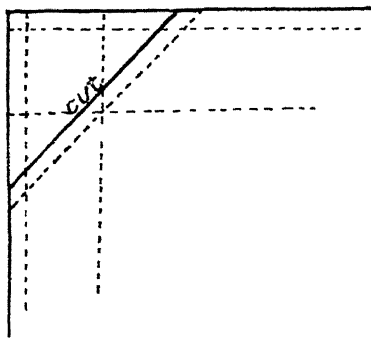


Fig. 21.—Showing line on which to cut for a mitered corner

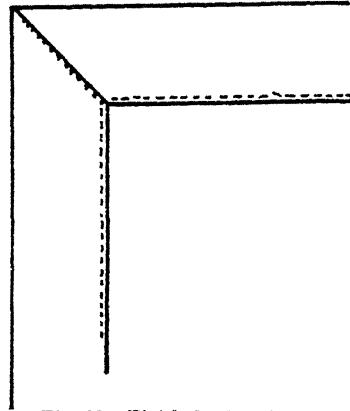


Fig. 22.—Finished mitered corner, wrong side

## Mitered Corners

When hems or facings are used to finish a corner it is sometimes necessary to remove the extra folds of the material in order to have a flat finish or to make the stitching continuous.

Fold hems the desired width on both sides of the corner to be mitered. With the work on the table, hold hems in place. Lift the inside point of the corner and match inside edges of hems. Crease



diagonally to the corner and cut outside this crease a seam's width (Fig. 21). Turn wrong side out and stitch edges together on the diagonal crease.

Press seam open and turn right side out; or open the hem and crease a turn to the wrong side on one-half of the diagonal. Fold hem in position and baste. Hem the diagonal fold by hand so that stitches do not show on the right side (Fig.22). Stitch hem on machine or hem by hand as desired.

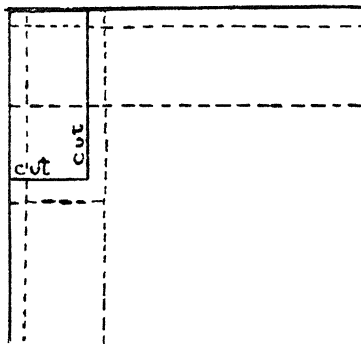


Fig. 23.—Showing line on which to cut for cut-out corner

### Cut-out Corners

This is another means of removing bulk from corners that have hems or facings on both sides. Fold hems on both sides of the corners and crease. Cut an oblong piece from the under fold, leaving a seam's width along the crease (Fig. 23). Turn hems back into position, stitch or hem by hand, and overhand the ends of hems (Fig. 24).

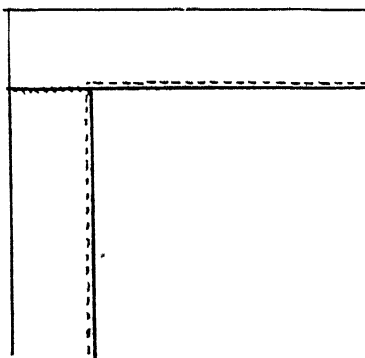


Fig. 24.—Finished corner, wrong side

## To Cut and Join Bias

### To Cut Bias

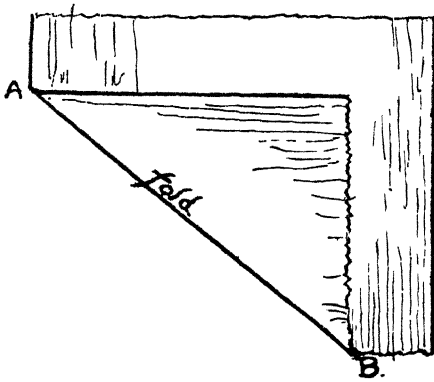


Fig. 25.—Material folded to form true bias.

To cut true bias, fold the material so that the warp threads lie parallel to the woof threads. Crease the material and cut on the crease (see Fig. 25). Measure from the cut edge the desired width of bias strips, mark and cut.

### To Join Bias Strips

Place the two pieces to be joined right sides together, forming a right angle. Match design and thread of material. Join with a plain seam (see Fig. 26). Press seam open and cut off protruding corners. When bias strips are joined correctly the edges are on a straight line and the strip is the same width throughout.

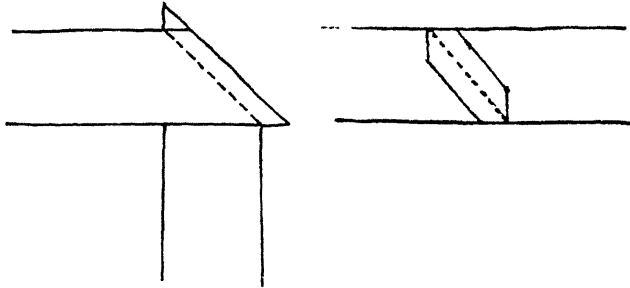


Fig. 26.—Method of joining bias strips

**TO JOIN BIAS BEFORE CUTTING.**—This is not a practical thing to do unless several yards of bias are required. Place the straight edges of the material together for a plain seam. Let the ends slip by each other the width of bias strip desired. Seam, then cut bias strip like a spiral. This saves time when a great deal of bias is to be cut and joined.

## Facings

### Straight Facing

Cut strip for facing on straight of material. Place to right or wrong side and stitch a seam's width from edge. Turn facing to opposite side, crease turn, and baste flat to garment. Stitch on machine or hem by hand. Miter corners if necessary (page 16).

*Use.*—On straight edges of undergarments, dresses, towels, and curtains, as a finish or decoration.

### Bias Facing

Cut facing on a true bias (page 18). Apply as straight facing. To insure a flat finish on curved edges, the facing should not be wider than  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch.

*Use.*—On curved or straight edges of undergarments, dresses, household articles, etc., as a finish or decoration.

**BIAS FOLD USED AS FACING.**—Turn the edge to be faced  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch either to the right or the wrong side. Baste bias, fold flat to cover the raw edge and stitch both edges of the fold flat to the garment.

*Use.*—As edge finish on undergarments, house dresses, aprons, etc.

### Shaped Facing

Place edge to be faced on the material to be used for facing, matching the thread and design. Cut facing the same shape as edge to be faced. The opposite edge of the facing may be cut the desired width in any suitable design. Place facing to the right or wrong side. Stitch width of seam from the edge. Snip seam at corners of square facing or around a round facing to insure a flat finish.

Turn facing to opposite side and crease on line of stitching. Crease a  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch turn on opposite edge and baste and stitch facing flat on garment. Facings iron more smoothly and are stronger if stitched on both edges.

*Use.*—As a finish or decoration on shaped edges such as necklines, lower edges of sleeves, curved lower edges of skirts, and on household articles.

## Bindings

### Bias Bindings

**DRESSMAKERS' OR ROLLED BINDING.**—Cut bias strip twice the width of finished binding plus two seam allowances. Place right side of binding against right side of garment, baste seam and stitch.

Crease binding against line of stitching, fold to the wrong side of garment the desired width of binding. Turn in raw edge and hem by hand. If machine finish is desired, fold wrong side of binding slightly wider than right side, baste in position and stitch from the right side close to the inside edge of the binding but not on it.

A binding of thin or loosely woven material is applied more easily if the bias is doubled to measure twice the width of the finished binding plus one seam before it is cut. Apply the folded binding from the right side, turn to the wrong side, and hem the folded edge to the seam line, or stitch from the right side.

*Use.*—As a finish and decoration on outer garments.

**FLAT BINDING.**—Cut bias strip twice the width of finished binding plus two seam allowances. Place right side of binding against wrong side of garment, baste seam and stitch. Fold binding the desired width to right side of garment, turn in raw edge, and stitch in position on edge of binding.

*Use.*—As an edge finish on undergarments, aprons, and house dresses.

**COMMERCIAL BIAS FOLD USED AS BINDING.**—Fold bias through center, slip over edge, baste and stitch on edge of binding.

**APPLYING BINDING WITH BINDER ATTACHMENT.**—Remove presser foot and attach binder. Material for binding must be cut on a true bias and exactly the right width for the attachment. The width varies with different makes of machines.

*Adjustment.*—Loosen set screw and adjust to bring stitching near edge of binding (or near center of fold).

*Use.*—Edge finish, set-on fold, bound buttonholes for children's garments, house dresses, etc.

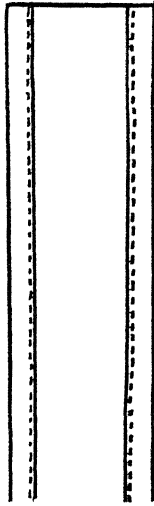


Fig. 27.—Strip, edges bound

**BOUND BUTTONHOLES.**—Cut strip of material equal in width to space between buttonholes. Bind both edges with bias bands (Fig. 27). Cut strip crosswise in pieces  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch wider than buttons to be used (Fig. 28).

Form the buttonholes by placing bound edges together in pairs (Fig. 29), and join by stitching along raw edge. Stitch buttonhole strip to garment and bind both edges (Fig. 30).

Besides being more quickly made and very strong, these buttonholes are decorative on certain garments.

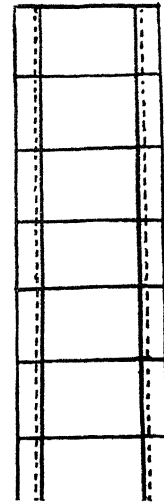


Fig. 28.—Strip marked for cutting



Fig. 29. Pairs joined

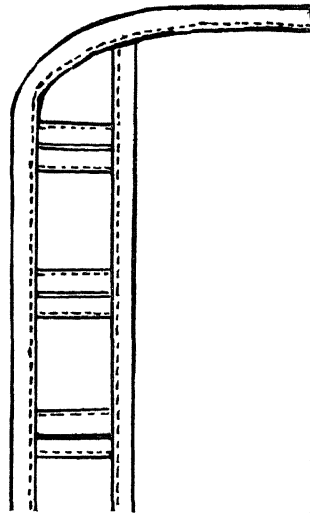


Fig. 30.—Finished buttonhole

### Straight Bindings

**BINDING USED AS A BELT.**—Cut belt on lengthwise thread of material twice the width of finished belt plus two seams, and the length of waist measure plus placket lap plus two seams. With pins mark the center front and position of placket extension. Pin right side of belt against wrong side of garment with center fronts

and placket laps meeting. Adjust fullness, baste, holding garment uppermost, and stitch. Crease seam allowances on ends and opposite side of belt, fold binding to right side of garment and stitch.

*Use.*—On undergarments (as bloomers or drawers), and on aprons.

**STRAIGHT BINDING OR STAY TAPE.**—Cut binding on the straight of the material, or use stay tape and apply as for bias binding. If stay tape is used, fold it lengthwise with lower edge a thread wider than upper edge, and crease with a hot iron. Place the raw edge of the material in the crease of the folded tape, with the wider side down and on the wrong side of the material, in order that the stitching will include both edges of the tape. Baste and stitch from the right side.

**EMBROIDERY FLAT-FELLED ON PLAIN EDGE.**—Cut off the unfinished edge of the embroidery, allowing  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch beyond the design. Place the right side of the edging on the right side of the garment, with the finished edge of the embroidery turned away from the raw edge of the garment. The raw edge of the garment should be  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch inside the cut edge of the embroidery. Stitch on the inside edge of the design (Fig. 31).

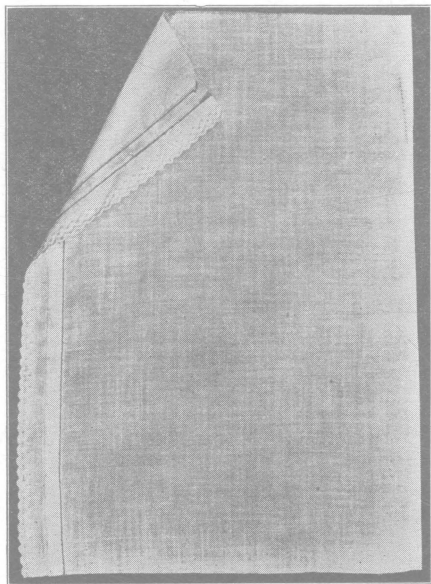


Fig. 31.—Embroidery flat felled to edge.

Turn edging into position and crease on the line of stitching.

Fold the cut edge of the embroidery  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch to the wrong side, baste, and stitch flat to the garment.

When stickerei braid is used, proceed as when using embroidery, except that there is no raw edge to cut or turn under.

**EMBROIDERY FLAT-FELLED ON GATHERED EDGE.**—Place two rows of gathers the width of a seam apart and adjust fullness. Place wrong side of embroidery against wrong side of material. This

brings the fell to the right side. The two lines of stitching of seam should fall on the two rows of gathers. The method is the same as that used for embroidery flat-felled on plain edge.

## Plackets

### Continuous Binding Placket

Cut the placket slit the required length. Cut the binding on the lengthwise thread of the material twice the length of the placket and two times the width plus two seams. Place the right side of the binding against the wrong side of the garment. With the garment up, baste and stitch to the end of the gash, turn gar-

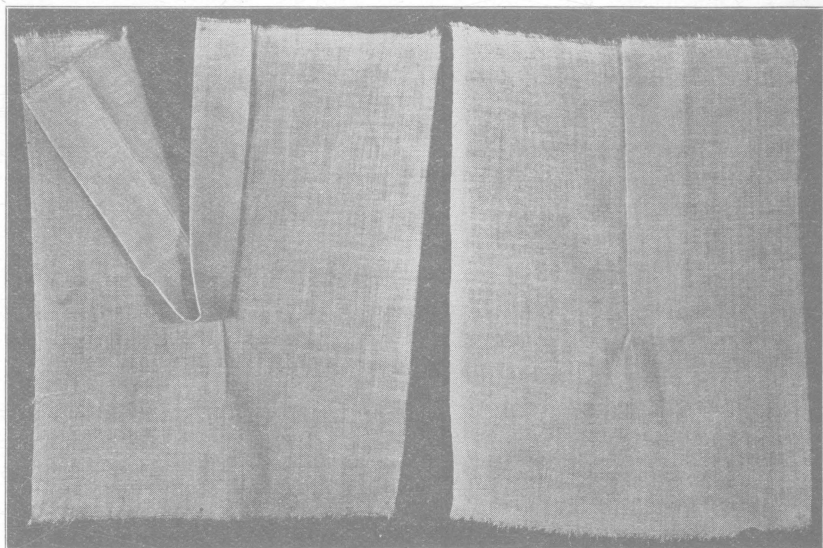


Fig. 32.—Continuous binding placket

ment, and stitch the other side of the placket in one continuous line. Fold the binding to the right side of the garment, baste and stitch. Fold the placket in position and stitch to the end of the binding diagonally on the wrong side (Fig. 32).

*Use.*—Lingerie dresses and undershirts.

### Bound Faced Placket

See the continuous binding placket for cutting. Place the right side of the binding against the right side of the garment. Baste and stitch the same as for the continuous binding placket. Crease the binding firmly through the center the entire length. Crease

the binding firmly crosswise at the end of the opening. On the upper side of the placket cut away the binding a seam's width from the crosswise and lengthwise creases and on the outside of the creases. Fold this end of the binding back against the garment, baste and stitch the length of the placket, and across the end. This stitching shows on the right side of the garment. Finish the under-side of the placket as for a continuous binding placket (Fig. 33).

*Use.*—This placket is stronger than the continuous binding placket and so is to be used on undergarments and children's clothing.

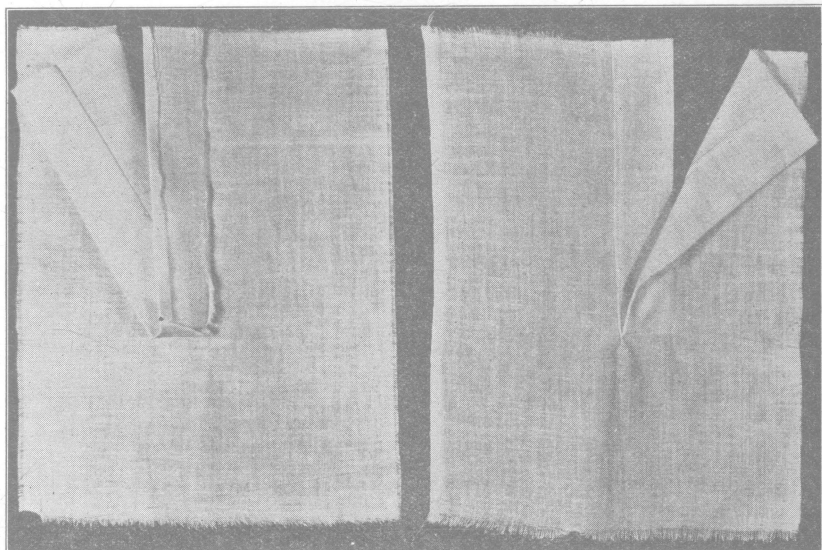


Fig. 33.—Bound faced placket

### Double Hemmed Placket

Cut placket opening in center back of garment. At end of opening snip  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in each direction of the crosswise thread. Fold hems to the wrong side of garment on both sides and stitch.

Hem on right side of placket must be wider than on left side. Lap wide hem over narrow hem until edge of narrow hem is in line with the stitching of the wide hem. Finish end of placket with two rows of stitching, including ends of hems.

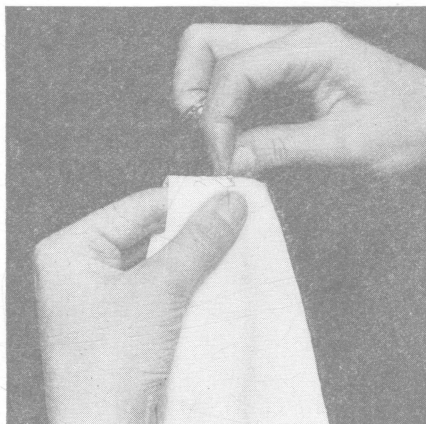
*Use.*—Where placket is not in seam line, and where it is possible to remove the fullness from top of garment. Children's garments and undergarments.



# Buttons and Buttonholes, and Other Fastenings

## Making Buttonholes

**TO CUT.**—Cut the buttonhole in the direction of the strain and long enough for the button to slip through easily.

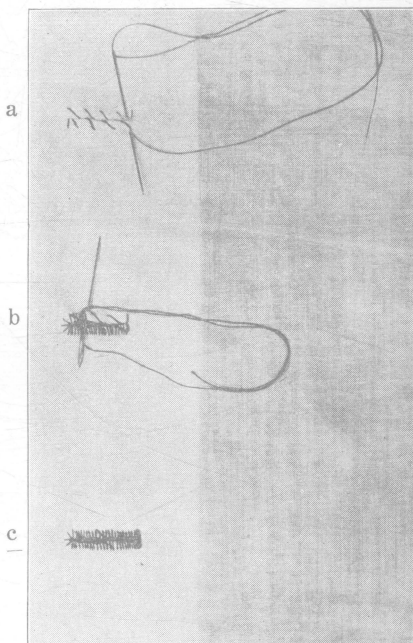


**Fig. 34.**—Position for working buttonholes up from the edge of the slit. This places the purl on the raw edge of the cloth. Place another stitch close to the first and continue across the lower side of the buttonhole.

**FAN FINISH FOR END OF BUTTONHOLE.**—This method of finishing the end of a buttonhole gives extra strength. Continue the buttonhole stitches, radiating them to form a fan at the end of the buttonhole; from three to five stitches will be required to make the complete turn. The center stitch should be continuous with the buttonhole slit. (Fig. 35, b).

Continue the buttonhole stitch along the opposite side and finish the inner end in the same fashion as described above, or with a bar.

**TO WORK.**—Hold the slit over first finger of left hand with the edge of the garment toward the left, and insert the needle at the lower right hand end (Fig. 34). If the material ravel easily make from three to five overcasting stitches on each side of the buttonhole (Fig. 35, a). With the needle in this position, pass the double strand of the thread from the eye of the needle around the point from right to left. Pull the needle through the cloth and straight

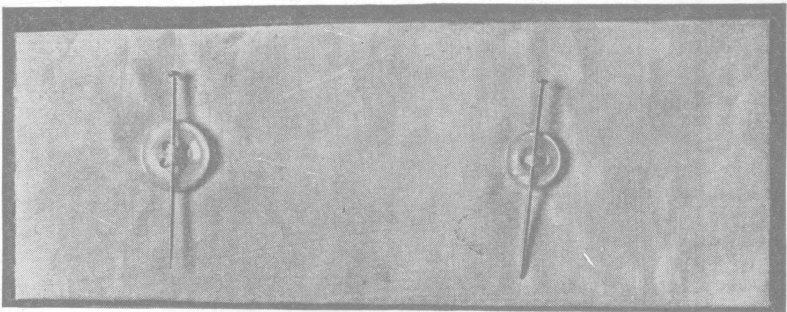


**Fig. 35.**—Making a buttonhole  
a. Overcasting  
b. Process of construction  
c. Finished buttonhole

*Bar finish.*—The bar is used as a finish, not to strengthen the buttonhole. Place two or three straight stitches on top of each other and as long as the width of the buttonhole. Blanket stitch these threads together, with the purl of the blanket stitch toward the buttonhole. To make the blanket stitch place the needle under the threads forming the foundation for the bar. Place the thread from the last stitch under the needle and draw up the stitch, placing the purl of the blanket stitch toward the buttonhole. Cover the bar with blanket stitches (Fig. 35, c). It may be caught to the garment in the center or left loose. Fasten the thread by taking several running stitches back under the buttonhole stitches.

### Buttons

**MARKING POSITION FOR BUTTONS.**—Pin lap in position. Place pins in the underlap through the buttonholes to mark positions for buttons. If there is to be a strain or pull on the opening, place the button at the end of the buttonhole nearest the edge of the lap. If there is to be no strain place the button in center of buttonhole.



A.—4-hole  
B.—2-hole  
Fig. 36.—Showing the sewing of a button, pin in position

**SEWING ON THE BUTTONS.**—Use a double thread. Conceal the knot under the button. Draw the needle through the button. Place a pin across the top of the button, and take the stitches over the pin; this lengthens the stitches (Fig. 36). The stitches should be parallel with the buttonhole slit if a two-holed button is used. The threads should form a cross if a four-holed button is used.

Sew the button in place securely. Remove the pin, which will loosen the stitches. Bring the needle out between the button and cloth, close to the center of the button. Wind the thread tightly around the stitches three or four times, to form a neck for the button, thus allowing room for the thickness of the buttonhole. Fasten the thread under the button.

## Hooks and Eyes

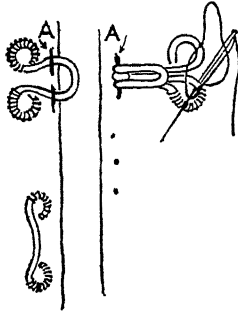


Fig. 37—"A" shows method of tacking at edge of garment

Place the hooks on the right side of the opening and the eyes on the left, each far enough back to prevent them from showing when the garment is fastened. Sew around circular ends of both hooks and eyes with over-and-over stitches. Tack across ends of hooks and sides of eyes (Fig. 37) to hold them firmly in place. The blanket stitch may be used, but requires more time.

## Snap Fasteners

Sew with several over-and-over stitches taken in each hole on the edge of the fastener. Snaps are used where a flat fastening is desired. They are not as satisfactory as hooks where there is a strain.

*Use.*—Hooks and eyes or snaps are used where invisible fastenings are desired. For garments which require frequent laundering, buttons and buttonholes are preferable.

## Darning

### Darning Woven Material

Use a fine needle and thread of a suitable color and fineness. Ravelings of material to be darned, fine cotton thread or split silk may be used. Sewing silk is made by twisting three strands of silk, these strands when untwisted are very soft and inconspicuous in a darn.

Bring edges of tear together. Darn from the right or wrong side with running stitches in line with either the warp or woof threads (Fig. 38). This depends on the direction of the tear. The stitches should be alternately over and under the edges of the tear in order to make them secure.

The darning should extend the same distance on both sides and at each end of the tear.

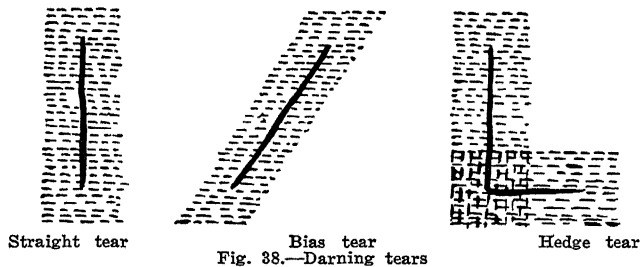


Fig. 38.—Darning tears

Any of the darns shown in figure will be stronger if a piece of material is placed under the tear and the darn is made from the right side. The stay piece may be the same material as the garment being darned, or light weight material such as net, chiffon, or lawn.

*Use.*—On cotton, linen, silk, or wool material.

#### Darning Stockings or Other Knit Garments

The thread used for darning should be as near the same weight and color as that from which the garment is knit. Wool yarn should be used for wool garments, cotton yarn for cotton garments, mercerized cotton for lisle garments, and silk or mercerized cotton for silk garments.

Work from the right or wrong side with material held firmly over the fingers of the left hand or over a round piece of cardboard or darning. Until one is skillful, it is best to outline the shape the darn is to be when finished with a white basting thread.

Put in the lengthwise threads first, using the running stitch. At the end of each row, leave short loops of thread. These are taken up when the stocking is stretched after the darn is complete.

When the lengthwise threads are in, turn the darn and put in the crosswise threads in the same way. Weave the

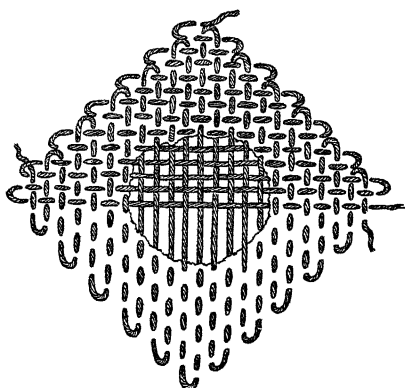


Fig 39—Woven darn

two sets of threads so that they interlace (Fig. 39). The threads should be spaced according to the weight of the stockings being mended.

The round or diamond shaped darns are stronger than square darns because the edges of these darns are not on single threads. A square darn is less conspicuous.

*Use.*—Stockings or other knit garments.

## Mending

### Hemmed Patch

Cut patch from material like that in the article being mended, with the threads and design of material matching. The shape of the patch is usually square or oblong, and should be large enough to include the hole and the worn parts around it.

Find the center of the place to be patched by creasing lengthwise on the warp thread and crosswise on the woof thread. Crease the patch in the same way. Crease a  $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch or a  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch turn to right side of patch, and place right side of patch against wrong side of material to be mended with creased lines matching. Turn corners neatly, baste patch in position.

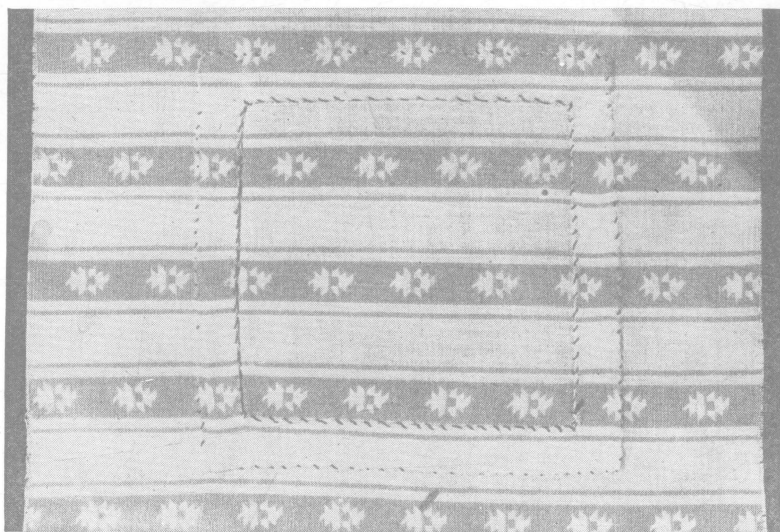


Fig. 40.—Hemmed patch, right side of patch

With right side of garment up cut the hole the shape of the patch. Cut seam allowance diagonally at each corner and turn to wrong side. Baste edge of material to patch.

On the right side, hem the garment to the patch, concealing the stitches as much as possible. On the wrong side hem the patch to the garment. Take up only a thread of the garment with each stitch so that stitches will show as little as possible from the right side (Fig. 40). This patch can be stitched by machine on bed linens, etc., but is less noticeable when done by hand.

*Use.*—Where strength is required and where a conspicuous patch is not objectionable, as on underclothing, aprons, and household linens.

## Overhanded Patch

The patch is prepared in the same way as for a hemmed patch. That is, the patterns must be matched, warp and woof threads matched, and center of the patch over the center of the worn spot or hole. Crease  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch turn to the wrong side of the patch. Place the wrong side of the patch to the right side of the garment with centers matching. Baste in place. Crease the garment back

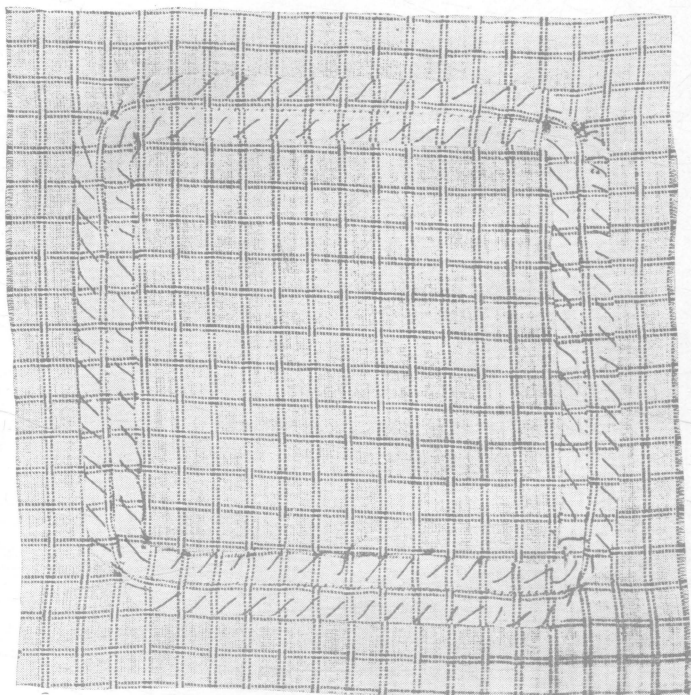


Fig. 41.—Overhanded patch, wrong side of patch

along the edge of the patch and overhand the patch to the garment, using tiny stitches. Turn square corners.

When the four sides have been overhanded, with wrong side of the garment up, cut worn part of garment away, leaving  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch seam allowance around the edge of the patch. Press the seam open, clip the corners so that the seams will lie flat, and overcast the raw edges if the material frays easily (Fig. 41).

*Use.*—On outer garments made of cotton, silk, and wool materials. This patch is not as strong as the hemmed patch, but if it is well done it shows less.

## Type and Use of Snap Fasteners

Type of Snap Fastener	Size	Use
Ball and socket type	5—0	For chiffon, lace, veiling, tulle, etc.
Ball and socket type	4—0	For organdie, voile, etc.
Ball and socket type	3—0	For lawn, silk, etc.
Ball and socket type	2—0	For heavier wash materials, linen, cambric, etc.
Ball and socket type	0	For light weight and wash skirts, house dresses, undergarments, etc.
Ball and socket type	1	For medium weight wool.
Ball and socket type	2	For heavy weight wool.
Ball and socket type	3	For very heavy materials, felt, leather, etc.
Press button type	00	For lace, net and delicate fabrics.
Press button type	0	For lace, net and delicate fabrics.
Press button type	1	Silk, and summer fabrics.
Press button type	2	Light wool.
Press button type	3	Heavy goods.

Ball and socket type.—Those built on the principle of a ball and socket, reinforced with a wire spring.

Press button type.—Are much weaker. They are built practically the same but without the wire spring reinforcement.

## Table Suggesting Use for Different Sized Hooks and Eyes

Size	Use
00—0	For laces and chiffons.
0—1	For collars, etc.—light weight materials.
2—3	For silks and light weight wool, use on dresses, waists, linings, girdles, etc.
4	For heavier materials, skirt bands, etc.

There are many types of hooks and eyes. Choose the correct size for the purpose and the weight of material.

## Types of Hand Sewing Needles

Type	Size	Description	Use
Sharps	00—12	Medium length	Ordinary hand sewing
Between	00—12	Shorter than sharps	Ordinary hand sewing
Millinery	1—10	Extra long	Millinery, basting
Crewel	1—12	Slender, large eye, medium length	Embroidery
Chenille	18—28	Very large eye	Embroidery
Tapestry	18—28	Large eye, blunt end	Embroidery
Darners	1—10	Large eye	Darning

Table Suggesting the Number of Thread and Needle of a  
Corresponding Size

Cotton Thread Number	Linen Thread Number	Silk Thread	Needles (Sharps & Betweens)
8— 24	25— 60	..... ..	1— 3
24— 36	60— 80	E	4
36— 40	80—100	D	5
40— 60	100—120	C	6
60— 80	120—150	B	7
80— 90	150—170	A	8
90—100	170—180	0	9
100—120	180—200	00	10
120—200	200—250	000	11—12