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Skirt Drapery and Garment Finishings

Azalea Linfield

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Extension Circular No. 174

SKIRT DRAPERY
and
GARMENT FINISHINGS

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Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture
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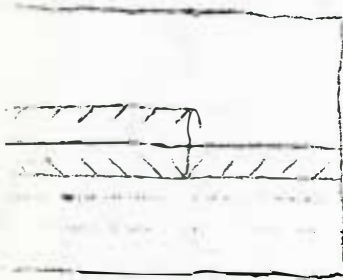
GARMENT FINISHES

"Learn the sound qualities of all useful stuffs and make everything of the best you can get.....Ruskin.

A. Seam Finishings.

a. Woolen material

- 1. Pinking - For loosely woven serge, tricotine, velvure de laine, etc. Seams which are on the straight are only slightly biased.
- 2. Binding with bias tape - Used on material which reveals easily, and when seams are on the bias.
- 3. Overcasting - Used on seams which reveal easily.
- 4. Tailored stitching - Stitching close to the seam on either side. Sometimes a double row of stitching is used about one-fourth inch apart making four visible stitchings in all.



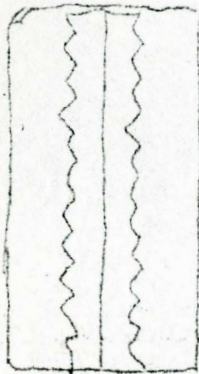
Overcasting Edges plain seam over and together



Binding edges of plain seam over & together



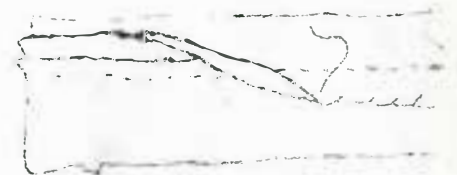
French Seam



Pinking edges of Plain seam



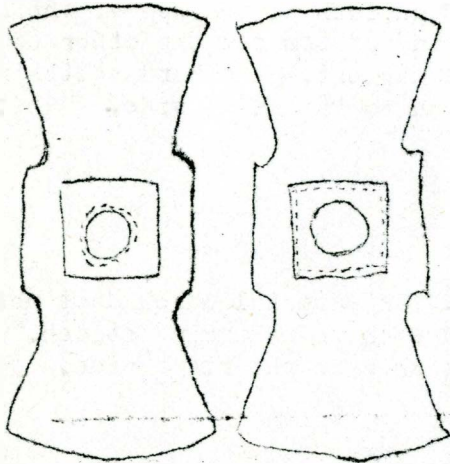
Stitching edges of plain seam



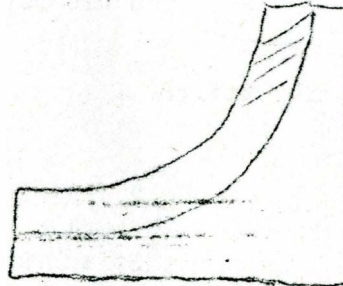
Full Seam

2. Finishings for Armhole, Neck, Surplus.

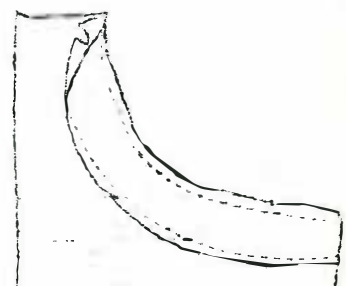
For wide facings around armholes or at the neck a fitted facing is better. In cases where a narrow facing is used, a true bias strip make the neater finish.



Shaped Facing



Right side
(Beginning)



Wrong side
(Finished)

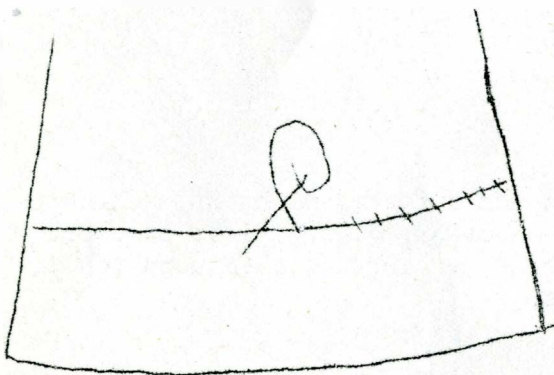
3. Hems.

The hem in a wool or silk garment and such cotton as dimity, lawn, organdy, tissue gingham, should always be put in by hand, never by machine. Machine stitching makes an ugly line when we do not want any line at all. Then too, if the garment is remodeled, the tracings of the machine stitching are almost impossible to remove. In ordinary wash dresses which are laundered a great deal, the hem may be put in by machine.

a. Silk

1. Plain hem - Make the second turning one-third inch and use hemming stitch. These stitches must be small and take them one-half inch apart. If stitches are taken too close on silk it gives the effect of machine stitching.

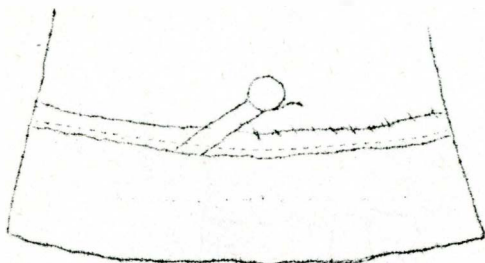
2. Pinking and hemming stitch. On a material such as taffeta the edge may be pinked and then the hemming stitch used.



Hemming Stitch

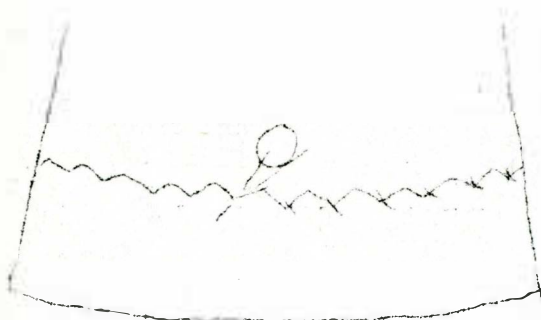
b. Wool.

On woolen garments there should never be the second turning as this will make a ridge on the pressing.



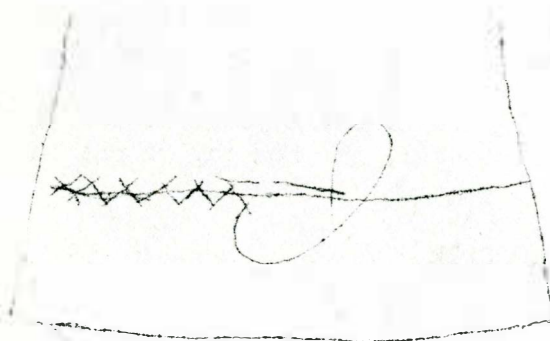
Bias tape and Hemming Stitch

1. Bias tape hem - Use the bias tape flat. Using the machine sew one edge of the bias tape within a fourth of an inch of the top of the hem. Then with the hemming stitch sew the other edge of the tape to the garment. The hand stitching should not come thru to the right side.



Pinking and Hemming Stitch

2. Pinked edge - On material which does not ravel pink the edge and use hemming stitch. Stitches must not show on the right side.



Herring Bone Stitch

3. Herringbone or Catch stitch - Leave the raw edge and use the herringbone or catch stitch. This makes a very smooth finish on the right side.

c. Cotton

The plain hem stitched with the machine is only used on cotton goods. Picot edge bias t and plain hand hemming are also used for finish cotton hems.



Plain Hem (Cotton)
(Machine)

Inserted Pockets

Silk facing

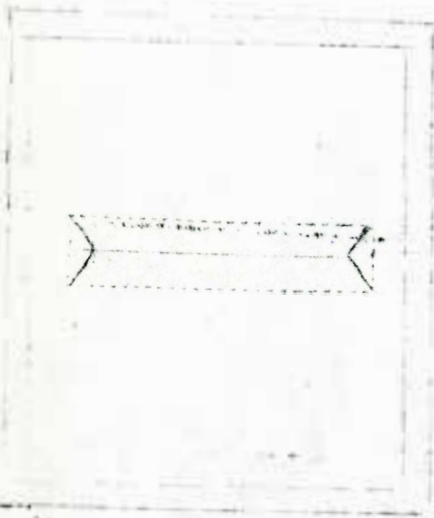
Mark with tailor's chalk the place on the garment where the pocket is desired. Put the two right sides of the material together and sew on oblong as long and so wide as the finished pocket is to be. Cut down through the center, (thru the two materials) and into each corner, being careful not to cut the stitching. Then draw the silk to. Turn the silk back so that each piece fills up half the opening. This is held in place by stitching around the edge or using tailor tacks at the ends or just catching down the ends by hand sewing. The upper piece is then turned down and stitched on the machine the shape of the pocket desired. The inside edge of the pocket may be finished by overcasting or by bias tape.

2. Wool facing.

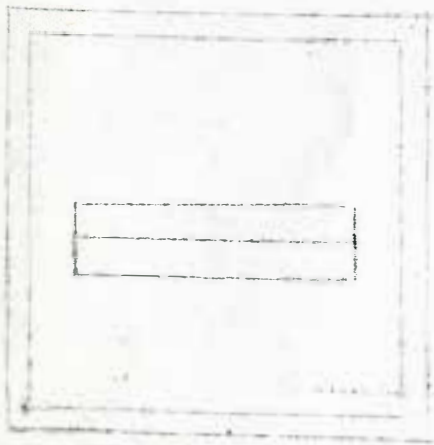
A wool piping may be used but if the whole pocket were made of wool it would be too bulky so usually a small piece of wool is used at to either end and silk or cotton pieces are added. In this way most of the pocket is made thin material but still only the woolen facing shows.



Front Side



Wrong Side (Silk)



Right side (finished)

CONTINUOUS PLACKETS

Continuous plackets are finished with straight or bias bindings. No stitching shows on the right side of the garment when this placket is used. The binding is usually cut lengthwise of the material, sometimes, however, if the finished placket is narrow, the piece may be bias. The binding for a continuous placket should be a little longer than twice the length of the placket, and the width of the piece should be twice the length of the placket, and the width of the piece should be twice the desired width of the finished placket plus two seam allowances. The usual finished width of a continuous placket in underwear is from $5/8$ to $3/4$ inch.

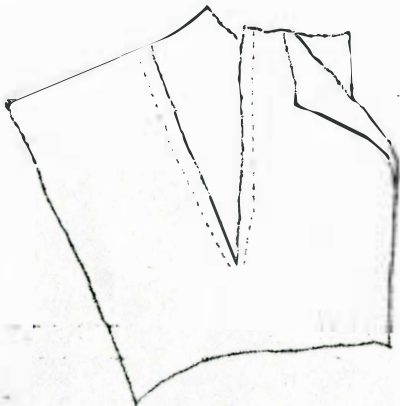


Fig. 1 - Stitching around bottom of slit for continuous placket.

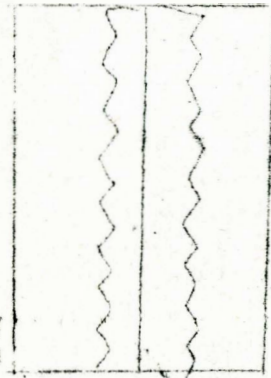


Fig. 2 - Continuous Placket.
(Wrong Side)

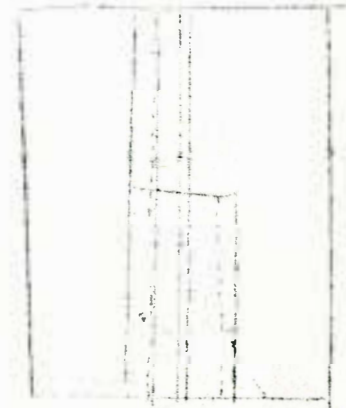
Cut a slit in the garment 10 inches long. Place the right side of the binding on the right side of the garment with the edge of the cut and binding even. Baste to within one inch of the end of the placket, then stitch by hand lowering the edge of the garment gradually to a line of stitching so that at the end of the placket a very small amount of the garment is caught in the seam. Continue the hand stitching one inch from the bottom on the side. Baste to top of placket, stitch with the machine where basted, but not over the hand stitching.

Remove bastings - crease the seam flat on the binding; also crease the binding crosswise at the bottom of the placket. Fold over the outer edge of the binding and pin the folded edge directly on the stitching, matching carefully the crease at the bottom. Baste and hem by hand; when a band is placed on the garment, the left or underside of the placket is usually extended into the opening and the right or upper side of the placket is folded back under the garment.

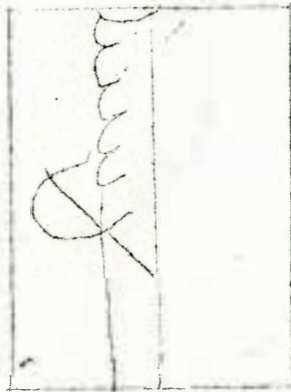
FINISHINGS SUITABLE FOR SILK GARMENTS



1. Pinked - Make a plain seam and notch the edges with a scissors. Suitable finish for taffeta, satin.



2. Bound - Bind with silk binding tape. This tape is on the straight - Good finish for flimsy or easily raveled material such as messaline, jerseys.



Hold the two raw edges and overcast together making the stitches about 1/4 inch deep and 1/4 inch apart.

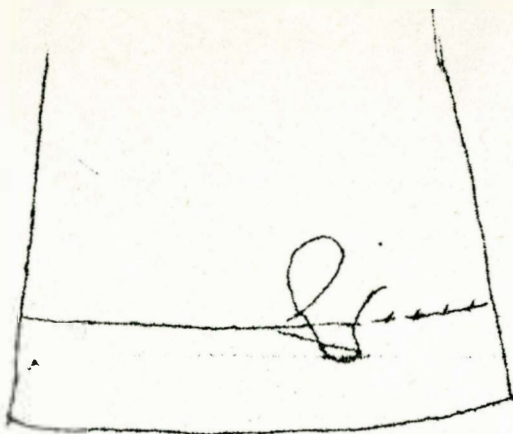
Right side unfinished



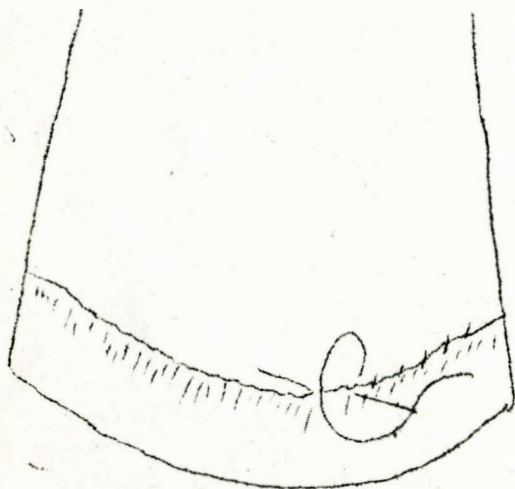
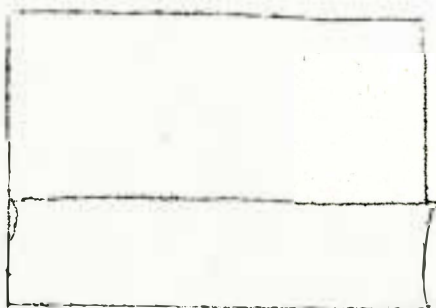
French Seam.

4. French - Place the two wrong sides of the material together; make a narrow seam; turn the material, stitch again. Used with foulards, messaline and georgette crepes and the softer cotton crepes.

B. HEMS



Hemming Stitch

Circular Hem
(Gathered then hemmed to skirt)Placing two right sides
together.Placing paper pattern
Stitch with machine around pattern.

1. Plain - Turn back the raw edge 1/4 inch and hem using the hemming stitch. Make the stitches as small as possible and at least 1/2 inch apart.

2. Circular - For the hems on circular flounces or circular skirts, turn back the edge 1/4 inch and run gathering string. Pull up the string so that the hem fits the upper curve smoothly. Then hem to the skirt using the hemming stitch. The extra fullness should not be plaited in as this is apt to make it too thick in places and it may be noticeable on the right side.

3. Scallop - A scalloped hem is often used at the bottom of a taffeta skirt. The width of the hem is cut on. Place the two right sides of the material together. Cut a width of paper scallops the width of the skirt - In this way you will be sure that the scallops come out even. Pin on and stitch around the edge of the scallops.

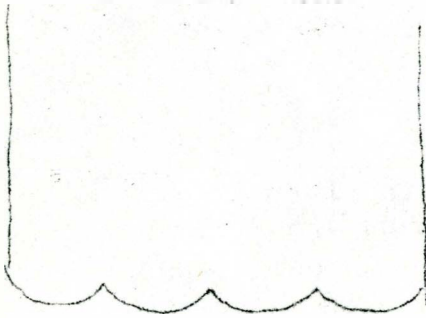
Remove paper and turn edges, cutting up to the point of the scallop but do not cut the stitching.



Turn out scallops

Turn the material so that wrong sides are together. Press - Turn the raw edge inward 1/2 inch and stitch to skirt using zigzag stitch.

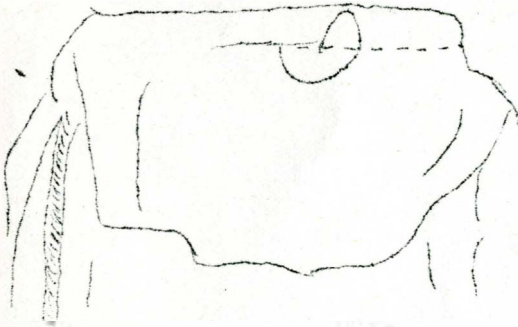
When this type of finishing is used the skirt or dress must be made from the waistline.



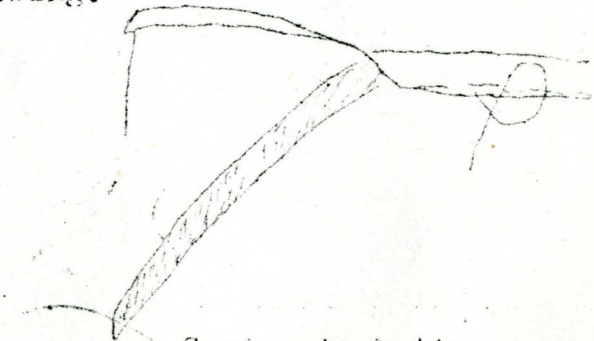
Right side - Finished



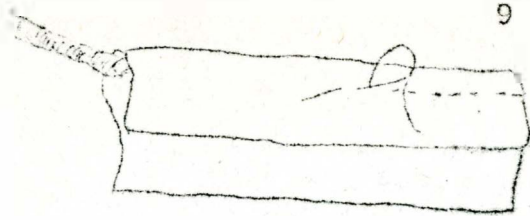
4. Cording - A heavy cording is sometimes used in finishing the bottom of party dresses and capes. This is prettiest in taffeta dresses and velvet capes - Three or four rows are usually used - First with long basting stitches mark the spacing for the cording - Allowance must be made in the length of the garment for the amount to be taken up by cords -- 1/4 inch cord will take up 1/2 inch of material. Put the cord in the center of the marking line on the wrong side, work from the right side - stitch with small running stitches as close to the cord as possible. When you have nearly circled the skirt cut it so that it just meets and finish sewing.



Sewing in the cord

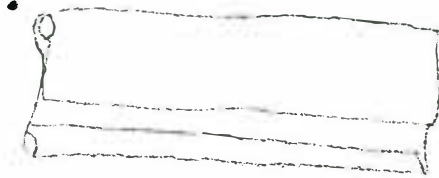


Sewing in bottom cord



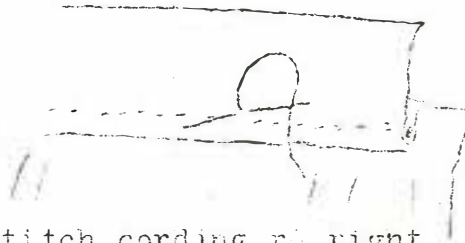
Sewing in cord

If the cording is to be used to finish the sleeve or the neck cut the bias $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches wide. Stitch the cording so that one edge of the bias extends beyond the other.



Turn raw edge and press

Press the long edge that was left back $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.



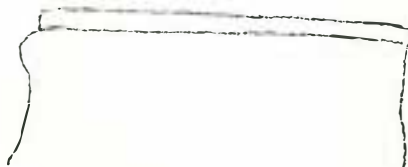
Stitch cording to right side of material.

Place the short edge of the bias along the raw edge of the neck or sleeve line and on the right side of the material. Stitch to the garment with running stitches just above the cording.



Turn cording over and hem down loose edge

Turn the cording to the wrong side of the garment and with as small stitches as possible hem down the loose edge.



Cording Material

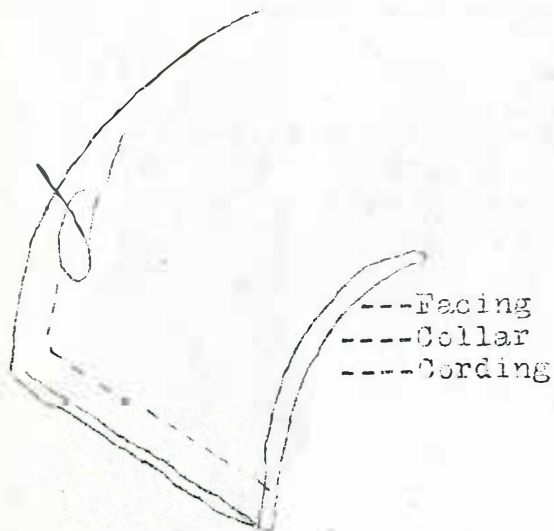
Cording makes a very attractive finish to any edge in silk garment.

C. Neck and Sleeve Finishes -

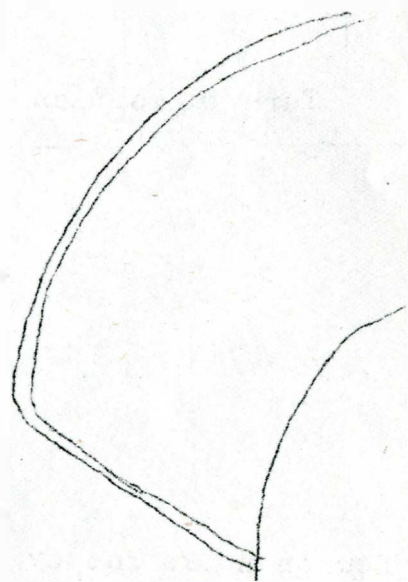
1. Cording - This makes a smart finish for collars, neck curves, and sleeves. Use either soft cord or light weight cable cord. Cut a bias strip of material one inch wide and as long as the finished edge is to be plus enough for joining - If the cording is to be used to finish the edge of a collar place the cord in the center of the bias and make a tube for it by using small running stitch. The two right sides of the collar are put together (that is the collar and facing, with the tubing between). All raw edges extending out. Stitch with small running stitches as close to the cord as possible. Turn collar right side out and press.



Cord sewed inside bias strip



Stitching, Collar, Cording & Facing together

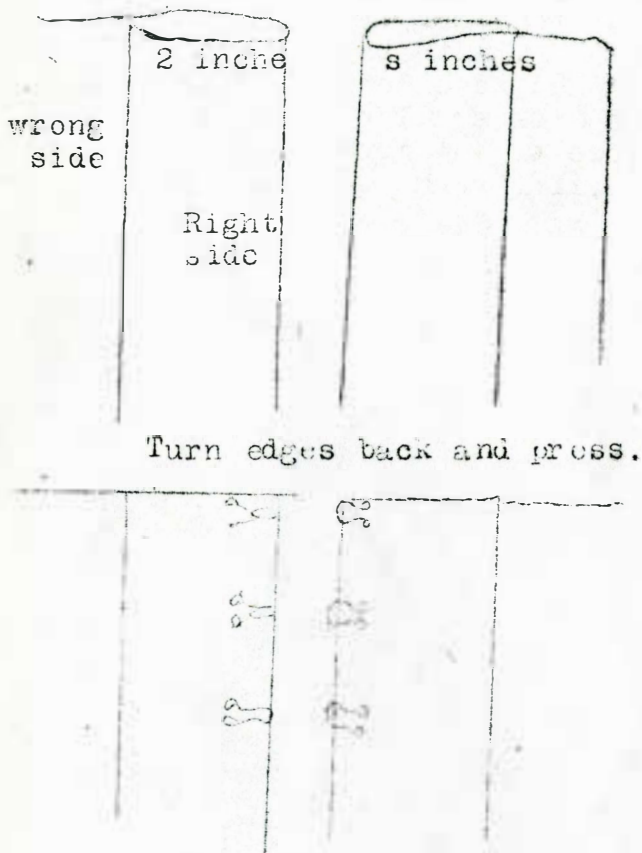


Finished collar with corded edge

D. Fasteners -

1. Snap-fasteners should always be sewed on with the buttonhole stitch. They will stay on much longer than if the over and under stitch is used.

2. Hooks and eyes should always be sewed on with the buttonhole stitch. The eye should extend beyond the edge just enough to catch the hook. In this way the edges will be much closer together. A neat finish for hooks and eyes when used on silk linings is the bound one.



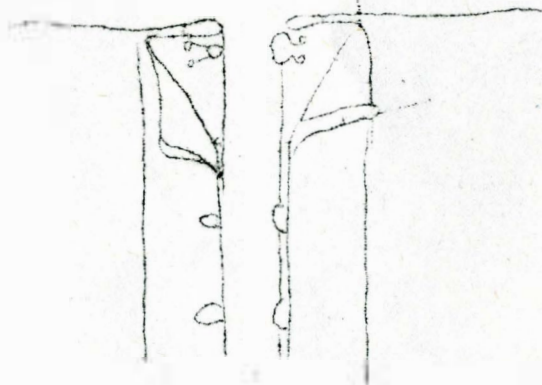
Sew on hooks and eye with buttonhole stitch.

Allow two inches of material on either side of the opening. Fold the material back 2 inches and press. Sometimes a basting thread is not necessary along the fold to hold the material in place.

On one edge stitch the hooks using the buttonhole stitch so that the edge of the hook just comes to the edge of the material.

On the other side fasten the eyes with the buttonhole stitch so that the ends of the eyes extend slightly beyond the edge.

Turn the raw edge under $\frac{1}{4}$ inch. Then slip the edge under the hook. Catch the two edges together with a slip stitch or narrow overcast stitch - Press.



Wrong side nearly finished

TAILORED PLACKET

1. Tailored placket - Turn both edges of the seam toward the front. Baste in place. On the front gore sew within one-sixth of an inch from the edge of the fold. When the desired length of the placket is stitched, usually ten or twelve inches, pull out the bottom thread four or five inches and break in the center, then continue the stitching making the seam. Thus with the one stitching the placket and side seam are made giving a neat tailored finish. A straight piece of material is tacked to the under side of the placket which makes a more solid foundation for the fasteners.

DRAPING TWO - PIECE SKIRT

The foundation pattern of most skirts is laid on the plain two-piece pattern. The majority of the sport skirts and suit skirts are cut on this pattern.

a. To drape a plain skirt.

1. Place bolting around waist.
2. Mark the center of the material both front and back.
3. Starting in the center back, pin the material to the top of the bolting, allowing it to extend two inches above the top.
4. Put second pin in at the hip line and also on the center back.
5. Work from the hip line, keeping the grain of the material straight across the hips. As fulness is usually desired in the back, this is worked in at the hip line. When the center sides are reached, pin the material in place at the top of the bolting.
6. The front of the skirt is draped in the same manner. Usually the front is made plain without gathers. Work from the hip line. If the material is allowed to sag over the hips the skirt will fall to the front.
7. The side seams must be straight from the line under the arm straight down the side.

b. Contrasting skirt.

Baste the side seams in place. Sew them making the tailored placket and seam as described on page 3. Gather material at top of bolting, turn in raw edge and stitch. Make inserted or patch pockets. Turn the hem and finish in one of the ways described. The width of the belt depends upon the individual. Snaps or hooks and eyes may be used as fasteners.

DRAPING A PLAIZED SKIRT.

Measurements needed:

- a. Waists - Take a close measure in a perfectly straight line without any drop at the front.
- b. Hip - Take an easy measurement around the fullest part of the hip.
- c. Length - Measure from waist line to floor and subtract desired amount. Hem allowances must be made. Whether there are two or three lengths used in the skirt will depend upon width of material. Most woolen material comes 36, 40, 42, 50, 56, 60 inches wide. If two widths of 50 inch material were used the skirt would be 100 inches or 2 $11/16$ yards around the bottom. The side seams will take up a little of that. With the plaited skirt the first draping is done at the hip line. If one-half of the total measurements are used the numbers aren't quite so large to work with.

Hip measure - 40 inches

Width of material - 50 inches. Two lengths are used, making width 100 inches to encircle 40 inch hips.

100 minus 40 equals 60 inches of material to be put into plaits.

20 - number of plaits (number of plaits matter of choice).

60 inches divided by 20 equals 3 inches to put into each plait. This will make the plaits one and one-half inches wide.

40 inches (hip measure) divided by 20 (number of plaits) equals 2 inch distance between each plait, that is from the edge of one plait to the edge of the next.

Measure two inches from center front line and start first plait. Put all plaits in from hip line keeping material straight across the hip. Then work in plait at the waist line, using waist measure instead of hip measure. The plaits will be larger at the waist line and the distance between them less. This gives a plaited skirt which fits both waist and hip lines.

The plaits may be basted then pressed or they may be sewed to the hip line and pressed in place the rest of the way.

DRAPING WAIST LINING (Fitted)

I. Front -

1. Measure from highest point of neck to desired length of lining.
2. Tear off cloth.
3. Mark center line - allow 1 inch
4. Pin center line to center form
5. Pin straight across chest
6. Cut away neck line - Keep scissors pointed up toward neck.
7. Shoulder line - Right angles to neck and highest part of shoulder.
8. Pin underarm
9. Underarm seam - Continuous line from shoulder to waist line, keep line at right angles to waistline.
10. Pin at hip
11. Allow 1 inch for seams
12. Mark dart - Pin on form allow $\frac{3}{8}$ inch for seam. (Note) Not linings or soft silk linings, gather instead of taking darts.
13. Have dart start from point of bust and run it down straight.

II. Back -

1. Mark center line of back.
(Note) If opening is in front use double cloth for back.
2. Measure from highest point on shoulder to desired length (Same length as front)
3. Pin center back and down back.
(Note) Next few steps same as front.
4. Run straight line from shoulder to waistline - Pin.
5. Dart - straight line - do not get dart too high.
6. Pin shoulders and under-arm seams together.
7. Mark with pins desired neck line and cut.
8. Remove lining
9. Cut other half of front
10. Baste seams and stitch

DRAPING ONE-PIECE DRESS

1. Mark center front line
2. Pin center front to center front of form
3. Pin straight across chest
4. Cut neck and keeping scissors slanting in toward neck and upward.
5. Center line must fall straight down and at right angle to floor.
6. Take dart along waist line.
(Note) If long waisted take dart below waistline.



SIMPLE ONE PIECE HOME DRESSES EASILY DESIGNED.

Other methods of keeping center line at right angles to the floor.

1. Take dart at shoulder straight from shoulder line - Dart used nearer armseye than neck.
2. Tucks or gathers at shoulder
3. Tucks or small darts under arm along crosswise grain of material

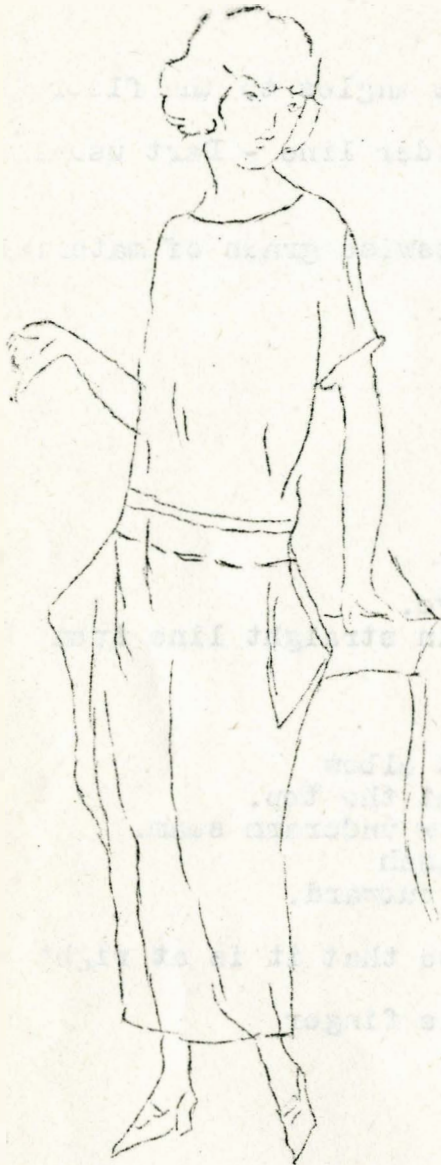
- SLEEVE -

1. Mark center sleeve to elbow
2. Measure off about amount needed for sleeve.
3. Mark center with a thread - should fall in straight line from shoulder to elbow
4. Pin at center top and fasten at elbow
(A rubber band may be used at elbow)
5. Crossgrain of material straight around at elbow
6. If fullness is wanted, ease in a little at the top.
7. Pin seam directly underarm so as to follow underarm seam.
8. Seam allowances for upper arm curve 1/2 inch
9. For flare at bottom of sleeve slant seam outward.
10. For fitted sleeve
 - (a) Run underarm sleeve slightly in, so that it is at right angles to the hand.
 - (b) Dart - From elbow to line of little finger

- KIMONA SLEEVE -

1. Pin center back of material to center back
2. Hold hand on back and draw line until get bias fold - (This makes the kimona sleeve fit more smoothly)
3. Cut neck
4. Pin down center front
5. Pin underarms, so that it falls on a straight line, down back.

- THE ONE HOUR DRESS -



To the busy housewife who has many calls upon her time, the following method of making attractive dresses will be a benefit. The design is suitable not only for the mother but the school girl as well.

DESCRIPTION OF DRESS

The kimono waist is cut lengthwise of the material and the skirt crosswise, with the selvage edge at the bottom.

This necessitates only four seams in the dress - the two underarm seams, one side seam in the skirt and the seam joining the waist and skirt together.

The neck, armholes and pocket edges are bound with bias tape. A pocket in each side serves as a drape for the skirt. A narrow sash or belt may be used at the waistline.

- MATERIAL -

Any medium firm material that does not have a definite up and down such as stripes is suitable for this dress.

For 38 inch bust or over use 40 inch material.

For 34 - 38 inch bust use 36 inch material.

For less than 34 inch bust use 32 inch material.

From 3 1/8 to 3 1/2 yards of 36 to 40 inch and 2 to 2 1/4 yards of binding required.

- METHOD -

This dress may be either draped on the dress form or if you do not have a form, measurements may be taken and a simple draft made.

In draping garment see - Draping, One Piece Dress - Kimono Sleeve.

- MEASUREMENTS NEEDED -

1. Length of garment - Measure from the shoulder at neck to bottom of floor, and subtract desired amount. Allow one to two inches more as the sash will shorten the dress slightly.

2. Length of blouse - Measure from a point 3 to 6 inches below the normal waistline up over the shoulder and down the back to a point parallel to the front.

3. Hip measure - An easy measurement over the fullest part of the hip.

4. Width of sleeve - Take measure around the upper arm any desired width.

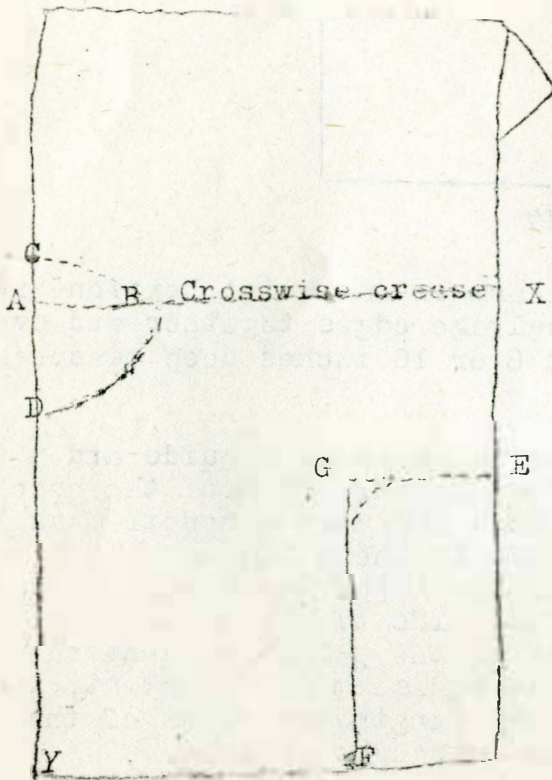
(Note) Erect figures with full bust may need to shorten the back of the waist from 1 to 3 inches to give a correct balance to the dress.

- DIVIDING THE MATERIAL -

Measure off on the material the waist length and cut. The piece left for the skirt should measure on the selvage and hip measurement and 6 inches for ease and 24 inches for pockets. For instance, if the hip measure is 40 inches, the total skirt width would be 70 inches.

Cut or tear off a 2 inch strip from the skirt the full length of the selvage - This is for the sash. For short figures it may be necessary to cut off more to make the skirt the correct length. To determine the length of the skirt, subtract half the length of the blouse from the full length measure.

- CUTTING OUT THE WAIST -



Fold the material through the center lengthwise, then crosswise. After crosswise crease is made open in order to cut neck.

Neck - A to B - 4 1/2 inches

A to C - 1 inch

A to D - 4 1/2 inches

Sleeve - Fold material together again on crosswise fold.

E to X - 1/2 width of sleeve

Y to F - 1/4 hip measure plus 1 1/4 inches.

F to G is a line parallel with the selvage extending to a point directly opposite E.

Draw curve at underarm.

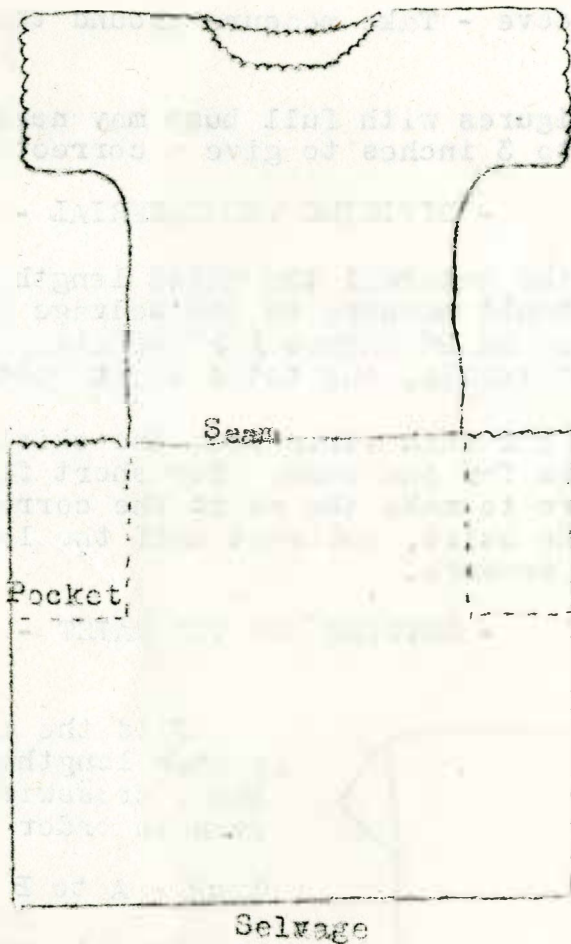
A - Binding

Bind the neck and sleeves with bias tape. Either commercial tape may be used or bias tape can easily be made. Time may be saved by pressing the tape together before covering edge.

B.- Skirt Seam

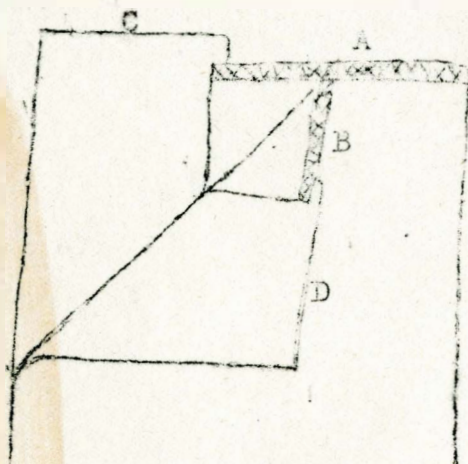
Make the side seam on the skirt either plain or French.

C - Making the Pocket.



The pieces cut from under the arm in the waist portion are used for the pockets - Seam the two selvage edges together and even off the curved end - Make the pocket 8 or 10 inches deep measuring from the top edge down.

Divide the skirt in half using the seam as a guide and notch the opposite side on the top edge. Then measure in from the notch and the seam on both upper edges 6 inches and make a pencil mark $1/4$ inch from the edge. Then, from the mark to the notch and theseam cut off $1/4$ inch along the top edge of the skirt to allow for the binding on the pockets. Place the wrong side of the pocket against the inside of the skirt, with the seam of one pocket against the notch and the seam of the other against the seam on the skirt, keeping the upper edges even and letting the lengthwise edges of the pocket extend a seam's width beyond the straight slashes.



Secure the upper edges of the pockets to the skirt by binding them together as at A & B.

The inside seam of the pocket is left until the last and is sewed up when the underarm is stitched.

The part of the skirt that is sewed to the waist is shown in C & D.

D. Stitching the waist and skirt together -

Stitch the skirt and waist together. If the garment is made of firm material a plain seam will do - If not, a french seam is necessary.

E. Underarm Seam -

Stitch the underarm seam beginning at the sleeve edge, and stitch down thru the waist line and the length of the pocket and across the bottom of the pocket.

F. Making the belt -

Fold the strip lengthwise thru the center and stitch the ends together using a $1/4$ inch seam. Clip the seam at the corner in order to avoid bulkiness. To turn the belt inside out, draw the belt down over a pencil until full length is turned out. Finish the open end with a blind stitch, then press.

G. Finishing and pressing -

The plain seams may be notched or overcast.

Lay the dress out flat and press on the outside if the dress is of cotton. If the material is silk pressing should be done on the wrong side and use a pressing cloth between the iron and the material.