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SHORT CUTS IN SEWING

by

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SHORT CUTS IN SEWING

In this day when we hear so much about labor saving devices, when every business man realizes the value of labor saving equipment, we find that in the majority of homes that the women in sewing work do not make use of the devices that they have.

Hand decoration on garments requires a great deal of time. Many new and attractive stitches can be made by the sewing machine and used for decoration. Then with the use of sewing machine attachments a great deal of time and labor can be saved. They offer many possibilities. Tucking, ruffling, hemming, hemstitching, braiding, yarn trimming, machine couching, darning and overcasting, are a few.

Tedious hours of hand work may be eliminated by use of machine. A quick fell seam, two kinds of bound buttonholes, tailored pockets, simple plackets, fitted facings, pipings can quickly and easily be made.

EQUIPMENT

Good equipment for sewing will save time, strength, and nerves. Sewing as well as any other work is made much easier and more efficient when the proper equipment is at hand.

1. Sewing machine and attachments (any standard make)
2. Cutting table (36 inches is satisfactory for average worker)
3. Pressing board
4. Flat iron
5. Pan for water
6. Pressing cloths
7. Sewing basket equipment
   a. Tote measure  
   b. Pins  
   c. Needles  
   d. Thread  
   e. Pencil  
   f. Scissors  
   g. Thimble  
   h. Tailor's chalk  
   i. Ruler  
   j. Tracing wheel

USES FOR FLAT IRON AND PINS

In sewing cotton goods, the amount of basting may be greatly reduced by the use of flat irons and pins. Place pins in cloth at right angles to edge.

1. Press a wrinkled pattern before laying it on the goods.
2. Press wrinkled material before cutting a garment.
3. Press the second turn of a French seam.
4. Press the first and second turn of a hem.
5. Press a bias piece to fit a rounded edge. A bias piece often cuts to better advantage than a fitted facing.
   a. Place the edges together.
   b. Stretch the outer edge of the bias and press.
6. Pin the bias and facing after it is pressed straight.
7. Pin straight seams instead of basting.
8. Place pins in cloth at right angles to the edges.

USE OF SEWING MACHINE

A woman whose time is limited should substitute machine work for hand work whenever possible.

1. Machine darning - A good way to mend towels, pillow cases, sheets, table linen, embroidery and knit underwear.
   a. Use No. 50 thread for towels; No. 100 thread for table linen.
   b. Tie up the machine feet so that it is about 1/10 inch from the feed. This allows the work to be drawn forward and backward.
   c. Stitch forward and backward, making rows of stitching very close together. Put in lengthwise stitches, then crosswise.

2. Overcasting
   a. Tie up foot as for darning.
   b. Run stitching in zigzag line along edge of material.

3. Cable stitching - Used as an ornamental stitch. This may be used as band trimming or in connection with handwork or in tracing a design stamped on the wrong side of goods.
   a. Place heavy mercerized or silk thread on the bobbin. Lengthen stitch of machine. Stitch from the wrong side. (This can be done on most machines).

4. Fell seam - Used when it is not necessary to fit the garment before seams are made.
   a. Let one edge extend 1/4 inch beyond the other.
   b. Pin in place.
   c. Turn in raw edge of under piece 1/4 inch and press.
   d. Stitch just to catch in raw edge.
   e. Turn down flat.
   f. Press and stitch.
5. **Fitted facing** - Used for facing necks of dresses, aprons, edges of collars.
   a. Lay the right side of facing on wrong side of edge to be faced. There is less danger of stretching if center of facing is not cut out until after the first stitching.
   b. Pin in place.
   c. Stitch 1/4 inch from edge.
   d. Cut out center of facing.
   e. Clip in at intervals, to stitching, so that neckline will be perfectly smooth.
   f. Turn facing to right side.
   g. Shape outer edge as desired.
   h. Turn in raw edge.
   i. Pin and stitch.

6. **Piping**
   a. Cut true bias piping 1 inch wide.
   b. Turn and press 3/8 inch seam on one edge and 1/4 inch on the other.
   c. Lap under edge over edge to be piped.
   d. Stitch back from the edge the width piping is to show.
   e. Turn to wrong side.
   f. Press, pin in place, and stitch.

7. **Cording** - A cord made in the following fashion may be used.
   a. To make designs on wool or silk dresses or suits by couching it on with rope silk or by slip stitching it on.
   b. To make a belt or sash by braiding three cords and using a tassel or ball to finish the ends.
   c. To make loop buttonholes.

**Method of Making Cord**

a. Cut a bias strip the desired length and as wide as type of your material requires for padding. Try a small piece following the directions before cutting a quantity of bias.

b. Fold bias through the center.

c. Stitch from the fold the desired size of the casing of your cord. This stitching produces a tuck. The material part of the tuck is to be used for the padding of the cord.

d. Use a safety pin which is small enough to pass through the casing. Secure it at one end of the casing, wrong side out. This draws the material through the tuck turning
it inside out and acting as padding. If the tuck is too narrow to use a safety pin as a bobbin, catch one end with a stout thread, run the threaded needle, blunt and forward through the tuck. Pull on the end of the thread and the tuck will turn inside out.

8. **Bound buttonholes** - Used for dresses, belt, or as a foundation for set-in pockets. If figured, plaid or striped material is used in binding it should be cut on the bias.

   a. Mark with basting thread the exact length of the buttonhole.
   b. Lay a piece 2 1/2 inches wide and 1 inch longer than the opening, over it, on the right side, with center to the basting line. Baste into place.
   c. Turn to the wrong side and stitch the width of the small pressure foot from the original basting. Start at one side to stitch, turn square corners and continue to stitch until rectangle is complete.
   d. Cut a slit down the original basting to 1/4 inch from the end. Then cut to each corner being careful not to cut your stitching.
   e. Remove the basting that held the facing in place and pull the facing at the ends so the opening has square corners. Fold the facing so that two edges just meet at the center of the opening. Secure the folded ends of the facing which extend past the ends of the opening.
   f. On the right side stitch just outside outer edge of binding. On the wrong side catch stitch the outer edge of the facing.
   g. Overcast edges together one way, then return. Press the buttonhole very hard. Remove the overcasting stitch and the product is complete.

9. **To hemstitch**

   a. Place the two right sides of the material between which the hemstitching is to be done, together.
   b. Slip blotting paper or several thicknesses of paper between.
   c. Loosen the upper tension and stitch as you would for a plain seam.
   d. Tear the paper away being careful not to break the thread, for that will necessitate doing the work over.
   e. Open your seam, turning the raw edges away from the stitching between the two pieces of the material.
f. Stitch close to each edge of the hemstitching to prevent detracting from the open lacy effect.
g. Trim the raw edges close to those last stitchings.

USES OF MACHINE ATTACHMENTS

Machine attachments are time savers. It pays to know how to use them.

1. Foot hemmer
   a. Hem straight or circular edges.
   b. Hem and sew on lace at the same time.
   c. Unthread the needle, run napkins, and table linens through the hemmer to lay hem perfectly even before hemming by hand.

2. Tucker
   a. Indispensable in tucking.
   b. To shir.
      1. Lengthen stitch and stitch through tucker. The tucker carries for the next row of stitching.
      2. Draw up the under thread adjusting the gathers as desired.

3. Gatherer
   a. Gather the ruffles and stitch them on at the same time.

4. Braider - Soutache braid or yarn may be used in the braider. The pattern may be stamped on the cloth or stitched through paper.

5. Binder - The binder may be used to finish edges of aprons and collars, the necks and arm-holes of underwear, the seams of coats and skirts and for making buttonholes. Such bindings may serve for both trimming and finish. Either turned or unturned binding may be used in the binder.

6. Bound buttonholes (with binder) - Bound buttonholes may be made by using the binder. This type of buttonhole is very practical for children's clothes.
   a. Take a strip of cloth as wide as finished buttonholes are to be apart. Bind it down both sides with straight binding, one inch in width. (Bias tape is very satisfactory.)
b. Cut bound strip of material, crosswise into strips 1/2 inch wider than buttons to be used.
c. Lay strips with bound ends, end to end and stitch together.
d. Stitch this strip to the garment.
e. Bind both edges.

7. Sewing on buttons with tape:
   a. Use buttons with two holes.
   b. Thread the holes with bias tape. Leave ends about 3/4 inches long.
   c. Mark the place for the buttons.
   d. Pin or baste into place.
   e. Place a long strip of tape so as to cover ends of the tape to which the buttons are attached, baste and then stitch into place.

REFERENCES USED


"Making Sewing Easier," Extension Circular 416, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska.
## Demonstration No. 1. Explanation of Illustrative Material

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supplies needed</th>
<th>Illustrative Material</th>
<th>Steps during demonstration</th>
<th>Points to be brought out</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sewing machine</td>
<td>Samples of homemade</td>
<td>Show samples and explain</td>
<td>1. As bias tape is expensive when purchased, money can be saved by making it at home. In this way is can be made the width of the kind of material desired,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/6 yd. material</td>
<td>1. bias tape</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>thread</td>
<td>2. joining true bias</td>
<td></td>
<td>2. In dressmaking it is often necessary to join true bias and it can be done so that it is not discernable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>scissors</td>
<td>3. cording</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pins</td>
<td>4. fitted facing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5. middy blouse</td>
<td>2. Joining bias tape</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>front</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>placket</td>
<td>3. Fitted facing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>bound button holes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>open</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>closed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>inserted pocket</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4. Cording</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5. Middy blouse front</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Placket opening</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As many homemade dresses and children's clothes slip on over the head a facing made in this way saves much time.

4. The most expensive shop dresses have very little trimming and when trimming is used it is usually some little hand made touch. Cording can be worked very beautifully as dress or hat trimming.

5. Quickly made, neat finish on either right or wrong side. Blouse - eyelets may be worked Placket - suitable for plaited skirt.
6. Bound button holes  
   a. open  
   b. closed

7. Inserted pocket

Note: After showing samples 6 and 7 with explanation sit at machine and make an open buttonhole. Change into a closed buttonhole and then make into a pocket.

6. Quickly made and give a neat finish on right or wrong side. Used as slots for belt.

Neat button hole finish for fronts of tailored blouses. Type of button hole finish used in suits, coats, tailored dresses, either for service or trimming.

7. Carry the closed button hole one step farther and have a neat tailored pocket.

Variations in material  
   (plain and colored)  
   (bias and straight)  
   (silk and wool)

Variations in stitching  
   (stitched around outside of pocket)  
   (tailored back at each end)

Variations in inside finish  
   (raw edges bound with bias tape)  
   (over handed)  
   (turned in and tailored back)  
   (raw edges tailored back)

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**Demonstrator No. 11 SEWING MACHINE ATTACHMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supplies needed</th>
<th>Illustrative material</th>
<th>Steps during demonstration</th>
<th>Points to be brought out</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sewing machine</td>
<td>Samples of:</td>
<td>Sit at the machine and do the work as you talk. Pass sample around and then do a sample on the machine. As soon as finished pass this sample around and go on to the next.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>set of attachments</td>
<td>1. machine hemstitching</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/6 yd cotton material</td>
<td>2. cable stitching</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 bolt bias tape</td>
<td>3. sewing on lace and narrow hemming</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/4 yd lace edging</td>
<td>4. ruffling and sewing to garment with one</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Satin braid
blotting paper
thread for cable
stitching
thread
scissors
pins
needles

stitching
5. tucking
6. braiding
7. bound button hole
8. rompers, showing
9. pattern

1. Machine hemstitching

2. Cable stitching

3. Narrow foot hemming
   and lace attachment
   make a small sample
   of this.

4. Gatherer
   Run the above sample
   thru the gatherer and
   sew to the garment at
   one stitching.

5. Tucker
   Do a small sample of
   tucking.

1. Devices are on the market for machine
   hemstitching but soft blotting paper
   does equally as well. Makes a suitable
   finishing for luncheon cloths, curtains
   bed spreads, sheets, pillow cases, and
   dresses.

   Things to remember:
   start with two pieces
   soft blotting paper between
   medium machine stitch.

2. Points to remember
   1. heavy thread on bobbin
   2. lengthen the stitches
   3. design stamped on the wrong side
   4. right side down

   Works easily with a round shuttled
   bobbin. If you have a long shuttled
   bobbin it may be necessary to loosen
   the tension of the bobbin. Used on
   Curtains, dresses, scarfs, bed spread
   and dresses.

3. Time saver

4. When one becomes proficient with this
   attachment, they may also bind the raw
   edging with the same stitching, thereby
   making one stitching do where the aver-
   age sewer uses three.

5. A sure and quick method of making
   tucks the same size and distance
   apart.
6. Braider
   Do a small sample of braiding.

7. Binder
   Show a sample displaying the different steps in making bound button holes.

8. Show romper or dress which has bound button holes.
   Demonstrate the construction of bound button holes using the sewing machine attachment.

9. Give the women time to cut a romper pattern if they so desire.

6. Braiding attachments vary in appearance for different makes of machines. It is a wonderful time saver when braiding middy blouses, dresses or any article.

7. Most binders may be adjusted to receive widths of tape. Feeding must be carefully done so that the tape gets a firm hold on the material. Used on children's clothes and house dresses.