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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. Tape 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 rounding 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 hem 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. Machining 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 foot so that it is about 1/16 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 $\frac{1}{4}$ 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 $\frac{3}{8}$ inch seam on one edge and $\frac{1}{4}$ 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 bobkin, catch one end with a stout thread, run the threaded needle, blunt end 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.
- Mark with basting thread the exact length of the buttonhole.
 - Lay a piece $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and 1 inch longer than opening, over it, on the right side, with center to the basting line. Baste into place.
 - 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.
 - Cut a slit down the original basting to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the end. Then cut to each corner being careful not to cut your stitching.
 - 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.
 - On the right side stitch just outside outer edge of binding. On the wrong side catch stitch the outer edge of the facing.
 - Overcast edges together one way, then return. Press the buttonhole very hard. Remove the overcasting stitch and the product is complete.

9. To hemstitch

- Place the two right sides of the material between which the hemstitching is to be done, together.
- Slip blotting paper or several thicknesses of paper between.
- Loosen the upper tension and stitch as you would for a plain seam.
- Tear the paper away being careful not to break the thread, for that will necessitate doing the work over.
- 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 creases 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

"Short Cuts in Sewing," by Janet G. Cotton, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa. Emergency leaflet No. 53.

"Making Sewing Easier," Extension Circular 416, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Demonstrator's Work Sheet

South Dakota State College
and United States Department
of Agriculture

SHORT CUTS IN SEWING
(Eight Meetings in Demonstration Series)

By
Azalea Linfield

Demonstrator No. 1. Explanation of Illustrative Material

Constructive Processes

Supplies needed	: Illustrative Material	: Steps during demonstration	: Points to be brought out
Sewing machine	: Samples of homemade	: Show samples and explain	:
1/6 yd. material	: 1. bias tape	: 1. Homemade bias tape	: 1. as bias tape is expensive when purchased,
thread	: 2. joining true bias	:	: money can be saved by making it at home.
scissors	: 3. cording	:	: In this way it can be made the width of
pins	: 4. fitted facing	:	: the kind of material desired.
	: 5. middy blouse	:	:
	: front	: 2. Joining bias tape	: 2. In dressmaking it is often necessary to
	: placket	:	: join true bias and it can be done so that
	: 6. bound button holes	:	: it is not discernable.
	: open	:	:
	: closed	: 3. Fitted facing	: 3. As many homemade dresses and children's
	: 7. Inserted pocket	:	: clothes slip on over the head a facing
	:	:	: made in this way saves much time.
	:	:	:
	:	: 4. Cording	: 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. Middy blouse front	: 5. Quickly made, neat finish on either
	:	: Placket opening	: right or wrong side.
	:	:	: Blouse-- eyelets may be worked
	:	:	: Placket-- suitable for plaited skirt.
	:	:	:

Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, W.F. Kumlien, Director,
Distributed in furtherance of Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914.

6. Bound button holes	6. Quickly made and give a neat finish
a. open	on right or wrong side. Used as slots
b. closed	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. Inserted pocket	7. Carry the closed button hole one step farther
	and have a neat tailored pocket.
Note: After showing sampler 6 and 7 with	Variations in material (plain and colored
Explanation sit at machine and make an open	(bias and straight
buttonhole. Change into a closed buttonhole and	(silk and wool
then make into a pocket.	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
	(turred in and tailored back
	(raw edges tailored back

Demonstrator No. 11

SEWING MACHINE ATTACHMENTS

Supplies needed	Illustrative material	Steps during demonstration	Points to be brought out
sewing machine	Samples of	Sit at the machine and do	
set of attachments	1. machine hemstitching	the work as you talk. Pass	
1/6 yd cotton	2. cable stitching	sample around and then do a	
material	3. sewing on lace and	sample on the machine.	
1 bolt bias tape:	narrow hemming.	as soon as finished pass	
1/4 yd lace	4. ruffling and sewing:	this sample around and go	
edging	to garment with one	on to the next.	

Satash braid : stitching
 blotting paper : 5. tucking
 thread for cable : 6. braiding
 stitching : 7 bound button hole
 thread : 8. rompers, showing
 scissors : use of bound button
 pins : hole
 needles : 9. romper pattern

1 Machine hemstitching

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. Cable stitching

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

3. Time saver

4. Gatherer

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

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 average sewer uses three.

5. Tucker

Do a small sample of tucking.

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 display-
: ing the different
: steps in making bound
: button holes.

: 8. Show romper or dress :
: which has bound button
: holes.

: Demonstrate the con-
: struction of bound
: button holes using the
: sewing machine attach-
: ment.

: 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 care-
: fully done so that the tape gets a firm
: hold on the material. Used on child-
: ren's clothes and house dresses.