

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

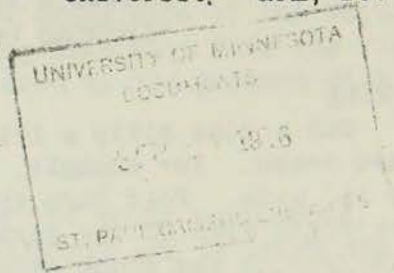
Mon  
LIBRARY ROOM  
LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Home Demonstration Office

University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.

CLOTHING PROJECT I

SHORT CUTS



THE SEWING MACHINE

Cleaning and Oiling

In order to be a real time-saver the sewing machine should be in good working condition. Keep it clean and well oiled. Remove lint and thread ends beneath the feed. If the machine runs heavily because it is clogged with oil, flood the oiling places with kerosene and run the machine rapidly several minutes. Wipe away the kerosene and oil with a good machine oil. A machine which is used every day should be oiled lightly each night. One drop is enough. Before using the machine again, stitch a yard or so on a piece of scrap material to remove any surplus oil.

It

The belt should be tight enough not to slip. If it is too loose, remove the hook at one end, cut off a piece of the belt and rejoin.

Needles

The needles should be neither bent nor blunt at the end, and should be set in the needle bar correctly; i.e., well up in shaft with flat part of needle toward inside of machine. The size of the needle should be determined by the weight of the material stitched.

Tension

The tension must be carefully regulated. It is usually not necessary to touch the bobbin tension, but the upper tension should be so adjusted that the stitch appears the same on both sides. Thin materials require a tighter tension than heavy ones.

Length of Stitch

The length of the stitch should also be adjusted to suit the type of garment and material worked on. A short stitch is used on undergarments while for dresses a little longer stitch is usually more satisfactory.

SHORT CUTS WITHOUT THE USE OF ATTACHMENTS

Seams

Where no fitting is required, pin long seams for stitching. The pins should be put in at right angles to the edge with the heads far enough in so that they will escape the presser foot when stitching. This practice is very satisfactory on firm cotton materials.

Selvage makes a quick and satisfactory seam finish. It should be clipped  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches so that the seam will not pucker after laundering.

Seams in materials which do not ravel and need no laundering may be notched.

A quick and flat finish for a plain seam is secured by turning back the edges and stitching.

A finished seam is used (French or flat fell); cut off the selvage first so

if fitting is necessary, the following methods of making a fell may be

Pin seam so that one edge extends  $\frac{1}{4}$ " beyond the other.

Turn wider edge over narrower one  $\frac{1}{4}$ " and press.

Stitch to just catch in raw edge.

This archival publication may not reflect current scientific knowledge or recommendations.  
Current information available from University of Minnesota Extension: <http://www.extension.umn.edu>

Press down flat to garment and stitch again.  
Press a French seam instead of basting after  
turning to the wrong side.

### French Binding

Cut a bias strip a little more than four times the width of the finished binding plus two seams. For example, if the binding is to be  $\frac{1}{4}$ " finished the bias strip will need to be  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " wide. Fold thru the center lengthwise. Stitch the raw edges of the bias fold to the right side of the garment. Press the seam out on the binding and bring the folded edge over to the wrong side. Baste and stitch on the right side. The stitching should be done on the garment just where it joins the binding so that when finished it will not be seen.

### Cable Stitching

Cable stitching can be done on any machine but rotary and oscillating types are most satisfactory. In using the vibrating type, the lower tension will need to be loosened. Wind the bobbin with heavy mercerized thread. Lengthen the machine stitch a stitch on the wrong side, following the trimming lines.

### Hemstitching

Single: Draw threads in the material allowing the desired width for hem. Crease hem and lay the fold directly on top of the drawn threads. Stitch hem on the machine. Then pull the fold of the hem back to the edge of the drawn threads. This forms a mock hemstitching.

Double: Place about  $\frac{1}{8}$ " thickness of blotters or newspaper between the two pieces of material. Loosen the tension slightly and stitch the edges together in a plain seam. Tear out the paper. Turn back the raw edges on wrong side press and stitch close to the hemstitching. Trim off close to the last stitching. If desired, the raw edge may be hemmed back.

### Gathering

Stitch with an average or long stitch and slightly loosened tension. Pull up one of the threads to adjust gathers.

### Hems

Measure the width with a cardboard gauge. Press the first and second turns of a straight hem with an iron instead of basting.

### Bound Buttonhole

Mark the position of the buttonhole on the garment either with pencil or basting. Cut a true straight or true bias piece of material eight times as wide as width of the finished binding and  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " longer than the buttonhole. Crease lengthwise and crosswise thru the center. Place the binding piece on the right side of the garment so that the center of it falls on the center of the buttonhole lines. Baste or pin securely. Stitch from  $\frac{1}{8}$ " to  $\frac{3}{8}$ " from the buttonhole line according to the width of binding desired. The stitching should form a rectangle, crossing the buttonhole line at each end. Bring the binding material thru to the wrong side, pull back the ends and crease stitching line, forming an opening with square corners. Allow the cut edges together again, and fold the binding back over them evenly. Carefully pre-pleat thus formed and stitch to the triangular extension exactly at the buttonhole. This holds the buttonhole in shape.

If the buttonhole is to be finished without a facing being put on the right side, letting the stitching come on the garment just inside the binding. The material may also be held down by small running stitches. Overcast the raw edges.

If a facing is to be used, bring it over the wrong side of the buttonhole and baste. Mark the buttonhole line on the facing by basting thru slit from the right side. Cut the facing along this line, turn the edges and hem down to the garment with small stitches.

#### Bound Pocket

The bound pocket is made on the same plan as the bound buttonhole. The pocket piece which forms the binding, however, is cut on the straight and is twice the depth of the pocket plus 3". Instead of having the ends of the binding square, the first stitching may come to a point at each end of the pocket.

To finish, baste the bound edges together with a diagonal basting. Make one or two rows of stitching on the right side about 1/16" below the line where the binding joins the garment. Turn to the wrong side and fold up the pocket piece so that the bottom and top edges come together. Stitch a seam down the sides, and finish with a binding or over-casting. On the right side, make one or two rows of stitching across the top of the pocket in the same manner as made below. The ends of the pocket slit may be finished with arrowhead tacks.

#### Welt Pocket

The welt pocket is made on the same principle as the bound pocket except that instead of having the binding alike on both sides of the slit the full amount is left on the lower side of the pocket and forms a wide trim.

#### Patch Pockets

Patch pockets may be made of tucked, plaited, or fancy material. The pocket is finished or basted and pressed first then stitched on flat or slip-stitched onto the garment.

### THE USE OF MACHINE ATTACHMENTS

Every woman who sews should become familiar with the box of attachments belonging to her machine. They will not only save time and energy but in most cases will do the work more accurately than it otherwise can be done. It must be remembered, however, that machine attachments are not time-savers until one knows how to adjust them and has spent some time practicing with them. With the help of the instruction book which comes with the machine, study the various attachments. Following are some of the ways in which they can be used.

#### Cutting Gauge

To cut material for bindings, pipings, facing and ruffles.

#### Binder

To bind the edges of aprons, brassieres, collars and cuffs, seams, necks and armholes of underwear.

To make buttonholes for children's clothes: Bind the two long edges of a strip of material, the width of which equals the distances the buttonholes are to be apart. Cut crosswise into strips  $\frac{1}{2}$ " wider than the buttons. Lay the bound edges together so that they just meet, stitch the strips together. Stitch buttonhole strip to the garment. Bind the seam and outside edges.

#### Hemmer

To make plain hems on towels, aprons, ruffles, narrow hems and sew on lace at the same time. To press hems on napkins and tablecloths to be hemmed by hand. Crease the hem by running the material thru the hemmer with the needle unthreaded.

To make an imitation French seam pin the material together so that one edge of the seam extends a little beyond the other. Run the two edges together thru the foot hemmer. This makes a narrow standing seam on the wrong side.

**Braider**

To make braided designs for trimming.

**Tucker**

To make tucks of various sizes, either singly, in groups or crossbar.

**Ruffler**

To gather ruffles and flounces. To gather a ruffle and stitch it on the garment at the same time. To make narrow plaitings for collars and cuffs.

**Edge Stitcher**

To sew lace together.

11/30/26 - 3000

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



3 1951 D03 292283 N