

Home_Economics_Notes

The following are selections from the class notebook kept by Olive True Smith, UNH Class of 1921, for her Home Economics 3 course. These descriptions accompany the sewing samples included in this database:

Gathering.

Gathering is a means of holding a certain amount of material within a certain space. Stitch is the same as permanent running stitch. It may be even or uneven running stitch. To gather a long strip of material, divide it into equal parts, work each section at right angles to gathering thread, with pins or basting thread. Start with a knot on under side, and best to take one stitch back of knot.

This stitch is used to hold a certain amount of material within a shorter space — as on aprons, petticoats, drawer and ruffles.

Shirring.

Shirring consists of several rows of gathers made with the even running stitch. This stitch is used on soft materials, as the yoke effects on shirts, waists and sleeves. Used as ornamentation.

Gauging.

Gauging is a long stitch on the upper side and a short one on the under side. Each stitch of succeeding row must be directly under the one above. This is used on heavy materials.

Overcasting.

Overcasting is a loose diagonal stitch over the raw edge of the cloth to keep it from raveling. Trim edges evenly and start with a knot concealed on the under side. Hold the cloth over the first finger of left hand and use second finger to draw cloth along. Point the needle toward the left shoulder, working from right to left. Keep stitches regular in size and slant. Do not draw too tight. To fasten, two small stitches on under side and draw needle through loop of last stitch.

French Seam.

A French seam is a double seam and is sewed twice; first on right side. As near the edge as possible, cutting off frayed edges; then turn on the on the side and sew again. This is used for undergarments and unlined garments.

Felled Seam.

A felled seam is used in undergarments, on wash dresses, to join embroidery and to finish outside seams in tailor made garments. In a felled seam, no raw edges are visible, because the turned in edges keep it from fraying.

Button-hole.

The first step in making a button hole is to mark the place for it. This is done by marking either ends by pins or by basting. Get the button first and make the holes about 1/16 inch larger than the buttons. If the button-hole is at right angles on the front of the garment, use the button-hole scissors. If up and down, prick the place with a pin, and make the hole with ordinary scissors. Be careful to cut the hole on the lengthwise threads of the cloth.

4 1

 3 2

In working, start in at 1, out at 2, in at 3 out at 4, in at 3 again and out at 4, in at 1 and out at 2. After these stitches are made around, make about 4 overcasting stitches on back side of the button-hole. Then do the regular button-hole stitch and finish by making either a fan end or a bar end. The bar end is used on tailored shirt waists where the button-hole goes up and down. The fan end is the stronger end.

Mitered Corners.

No. 1 In making this, turn the cloth up about an inch. Turn in about 1/8 of an inch. At the corner cut out on the side to 1/4 of an inch from the edge — about 2 inches. Fold or baste in place.

No. 2

This is made practically the same way. Only at the corner a sort of a V is cut in and then the edges cut off. This is folded in. Baste in place.

Placket

Cut a lengthwise strip of material twice the length of the placket, and twice the desired width of the facing, plus the seam (one and a half inches). Place right side of facing to right side of garment, then, holding garment toward you, baste a seam 1/8 inch wide to within 1/4 inch of the end of the placket; hold the facing straight and stitch by hand around the lower end of the placket. Continue stitching 1/4 inch above end of opening, then baste the remainder of the seam as on the first side.

Stitch by machine, holding garment on top so as not to lay fulness in plaits. Crease firmly, desired width of extension, entire length, same amount again and turn on front; 1st the center of the width of the facing, then on the line of the seam, turning seam toward facing on the front. Fold front part of facing on center crease, 1/4 inch beyond end of placket; turn in raw edges on line of stitching; this forms the extension. On the back of the placket, cut facing away 1/8 inch beyond the center crease, turn in 1/8 inch on edge, and baste facing down.

Hem facing, then close placket and stitch diagonally across the lower end to make firm.