

Garment Finishes



STATE COLLEGE OF WASHINGTON
EXTENSION SERVICE
Pullman, Washington

Bulletin No. 97

February 1923

LIBRARY
GEORGIA STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
ATHENS, GA.

Garment Finishes



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF STANDARDS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

1933

NO. 1000

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

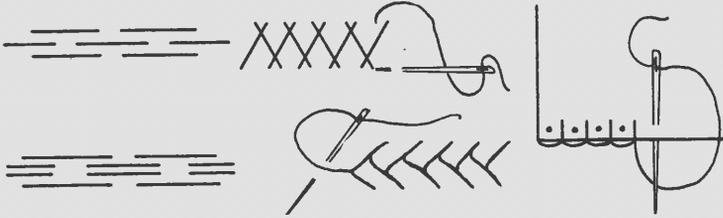
GARMENT FINISHES

Helen K. Robson, Instructor in Home Economics

It is almost impossible to formulate definite rules for the finishing of dresses and garments, because of the changes required by fashion and the purposes of the finish. The suggestions which follow may prove helpful.

Hems

Plain Hem. Trim the raw edge evenly, fold to the wrong side about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch of material, creasing this flat, then fold again the entire depth of hem desired. The finish may be done by hand using hemming stitch or it may be done on the machine, or a fancy embroidery stitch may be used.



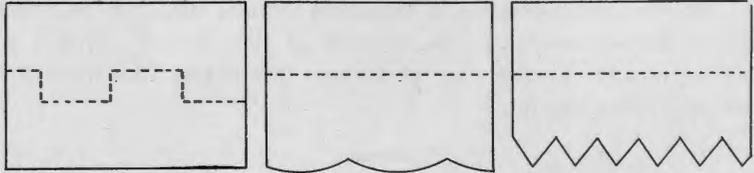
If the material is alike on both sides this same kind of a hem may be turned to the right side and the edge finished with stitching, piping or cording.

Faced Hems. The faced hem is used when the garment is not long enough for a regular hem; when the garment has been outgrown; or by way of decoration. Facings are cut either on the true bias or to match the shape and grain of the material to which they are to be applied.

Plain Facing. The right side of facing is placed to the right side of the garment, basted and stitched. Remove bastings and turn the facing to the wrong side so that a thread or two of the garment

shows below (this is so that there is no danger of the seam line showing on the right side). Then proceed as for a plain hem.

Shaped Hems. This hem is used as decoration. The lower edge of garment is marked in points or scallops and the facing cut to match; care being taken to keep the true shape and grain of the material. The facing is then applied in the same manner as for a



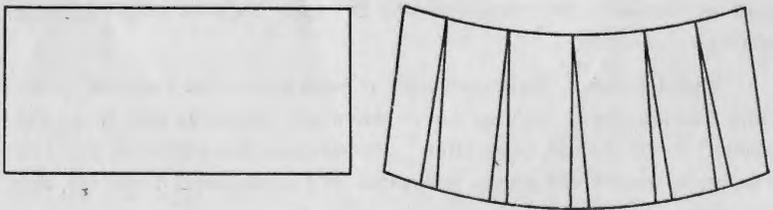
plain facing. The seams should be slashed around the curves and at points between scallops in order to keep the facing flat, when turned right side out.

The top of the facing may be hemmed by hand, or machine or attractively finished with an embroidery stitch.

Ruffles

Ruffles may be cut on the crosswise, straight, or bias. An ordinary straight ruffle is usually cut $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the length of desired space, while a bias ruffle usually is not cut quite so full.

The Circular Flounce. The circular flounce may be cut in one piece or it may be made in sections and these joined with insertion, fagotting, etc. An easy way to make such a flounce is to cut a rec-

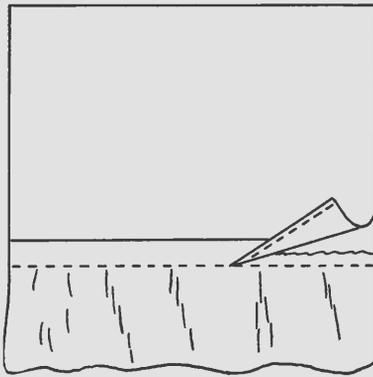


tangular piece of paper the measurement for two sides of which are the same as the desired depth of flounce, the other two sides measure the same as the width of garment at the points, where flounce is

to be attached. Slash this rectangle and spread apart the pieces as much as is necessary to give the desired fullness to the lower edge, great care being taken to keep the top of the flounce smooth and the slashed pieces together—so as not to have the flounce too small or too large to fit garment.

Attaching Ruffles. There are various ways of attaching ruffles to a garment. Bias tape is convenient or a narrow bias strip of the same material as the garment may be used to cover the raw edge.

Another most satisfactory method is the use of the receiving tuck.



Receiving Tuck

Receiving Tuck: Stitch a small tuck in the bottom of the skirt to which the ruffle is to be attached. The lower edge of this tuck, when creased down should come about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch above the raw edge of the skirt. The ruffle which has been seamed up and gathered, is then stitched to the bottom of the skirt. This seam should come up on the right side of the skirt. It is made partly from the ruffle and partly from that $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of material left below the tuck. Fold the tuck

down over the seam, crease flat, baste and stitch. This makes a very flat, neat finish.

Finishes for Neck Lines and Armholes

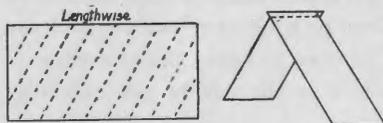
Good finishes for the neck and armholes of undergarments are narrow hems or bias facings.

Hems

Plain Hems must be narrow in order to keep them even in going around the curved edges. These may be hemmed down by hand or on the machine or they may be held down with feather stitching. The trimming is then overhanded to the edge of the garment.

French Hems. A French hem may be used. This makes an attractive finish and has the advantage, that the hem may be put in

and the trimming applied with one row of sewing. Turn a narrow hem to the right side of garment, then fold this hem back to the wrong side of garment and baste flat. The trimming is then overhanded to the double fold thus made, catching both the hem and the trimming with each stitch.



Cutting Bias Strips

Facing: Facings are made of narrow bias strips. Facings are stronger than hems and should be used when either neck or armhole or both get much strain. A facing may be used around the armholes

and a narrow hem around the neck if desired, as often the armhole gets more strain.

Attaching Collars. (a) A collar may be attached with a bias facing. This makes a good flat finish and by using this method there is little danger of stretching either neck or waist or collar. This facing should be made of material like the waist itself. This way of sewing on collars may be used on single or double collars.

(b) If a collar is made of a double thickness of material, it may be applied as follows: Sow the right side of the collar to the wrong side of the waist—this will throw the seam to the right side of waist. Then hem the under side of collar down over the raw edge of the seam.

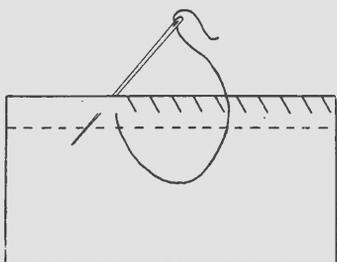
(c) A collar, whether single or double, may be machine hemstitched to the waist. This makes an attractive finish if there is other machine hemstitching on the waist. Baste the right side of the collar to wrong side of waist—thus throwing the seam upon right side of waist. Then baste this raw edged seam flat down to the waist. The machine hemstitching is then done along the seam line. Later take the scissors and trim the raw edges close to the hemstitching line. If the hemstitching has been done exactly on the seam line there is no danger of the seam pulling out. This method is used mostly on cotton or waists of thin material.

Finishing Sleeve Seam At Armhole

Binding. A narrow bias binding is applied around the armhole of waist on inside; the sleeve is then basted in and stitched. Then the binding is turned in along raw edges and hemmed down to the

seam. This gives the appearance of a French seam. This is a satisfactory method and may be used on all kinds of materials. If the waist material seems too heavy for binding, a lighter weight silk or cotton of the same color may be used.

French Seam. Sleeves may be attached by means of a French seam. This, however, is not a very satisfactory way as it must be done with exceeding care or else the set of the sleeve will be spoiled or the whole sleeve seam will have a stretched appearance. It is a quick method but unless very carefully done it is not pleasing to either wearer or observer.



Overcasting. Many times with heavy materials the sleeves are stitched in and then a fine overcasting stitch is used on the edge of the seam. This will keep the raw edges from fraying and do away with any undue thickness of seam.

Machine Hemstitching. If other machine hemstitching is used on the waist the sleeves also may be finished in this way. Baste the sleeve in, turn seam toward waist and baste down flat. Then have hemstitching done along seam line. If the material is very thin and the seam shows through then it is best to trim seam close to hemstitching. This, however, is not overly strong. Otherwise trim off frayed edges of seam and overcast.

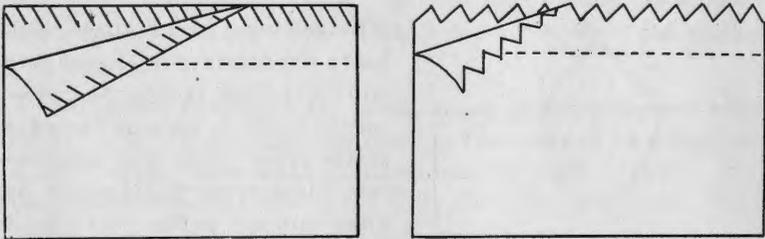
Seams

Plain Seam. The two right sides of the cloth are placed together with edges even, basted and stitched the desired distance from the edge. Press seam open. Now the edges of this seam are raw, so one of the following finishes may be used to keep the seam from fraying.

Overcasting. This makes a flat finish and if carefully done makes a neat finish as well. The stitches should be even and deep enough to hold in well—the usual spacing is “twice as far apart as they are deep.”

Binding. Silk binding tape may be used. This comes in black, white and colors. A bound seam is apt to be thick and often does not press out very well. Fold the binding lengthwise—either crease this well with the fingers or else run a hot iron over it. The seam is slipped between the folded edges and sewed down with a fine running stitch.

Pinking. This is a quick, easy finish and is used on firm materials which do not fray when worn. This may be done with the scissors, notching each edge of the seam at regular intervals or it may be done on a regular pinking machine.



1. Plain seam with overcast edges. 2. Plain seam with pinked edges.

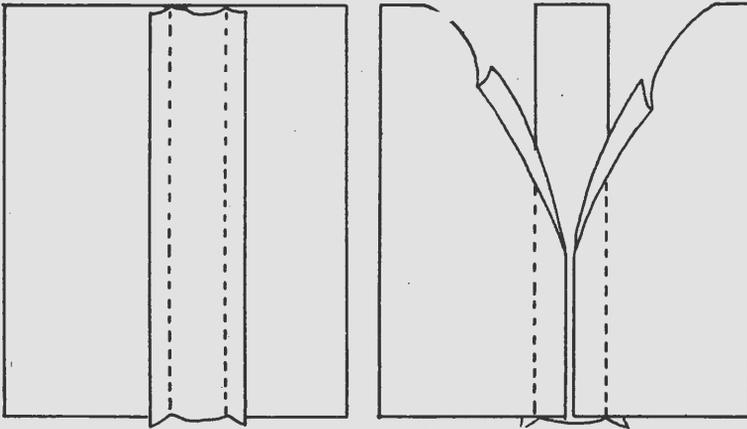
Turning Back Edges. The seam is pressed and then the raw edges of the seam are turned back to wrong side about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch and either stitched or run by hand. This makes a flat finish and is especially good when used on silks that do not fray badly. It is not very satisfactory on heavy materials nor for those that have to be frequently laundered.

French Seams

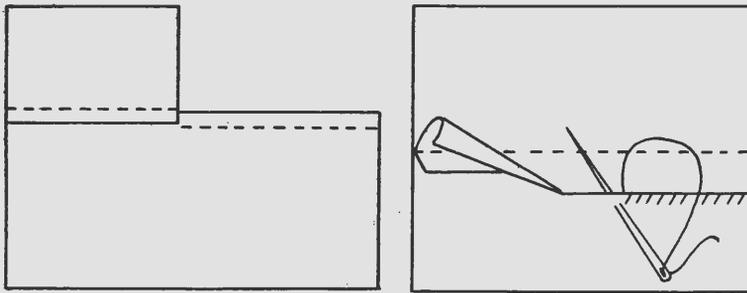
This seam is used on underwear, lingerie, dresses and blouses. If used on heavy materials the seam will be thick and clumsy. If the seam is very curved it is apt to draw, unless made very narrow. Place the wrong sides of cloth together, baste and stitch about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch from edge. This throws the seam to the right side of garment. Remove bastings and trim the seam, then turn the two right sides together and crease to form a fold along first stitching line. Baste and stitch a second time about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch down. This last stitching should follow exactly the original seam line of the garment as shown on the pattern.

Felled Seam

This is a strong seam and very flat. It stands the wear and tear of laundering and pressing and gives a neat appearance. Place the two edges together, baste and stitch. Then open the seam and trim the under side close to the sewing line, then turn the upper side over this in a hem—lay both flat on the cloth and hem down. This seam may be made on either the right or wrong side of the material. When both stitching lines are on the right side—it gives a very tailored appearance and should be machine made. The finished seam should be about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide.



Wrong side and right side of slot seam.



Felled seam and French seam.

Slot Seam. This seam is suitable for tailored skirts. It may also be used up the back of a blouse, when the material is not wide

enough to allow the back to be cut in one piece. This will hide the seam and give a decorative finish. Baste the seam as for a plain seam about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide. Do not stitch it, but press the seam open flat. Cut a lengthwise strip of material the length of the seam and wide enough to extend from edge to edge of the opened seam. Baste this on the wrong side of seam. Then from the right side stitch $\frac{1}{4}$ inch or $\frac{3}{8}$ inch on each side of the centre. Remove the bastings which held the seam together—the turned edge then free gives a slot appearance. On the wrong side the seam edges are overcasted.

Rolled and Whipped Seam. This seam is especially good for very thin materials such as Georgette crepes, when wide seams would spoil the appearance of the garment. Make a small plain seam, sewing it by hand using tiny running stitches. Trim the seam to within $\frac{1}{4}$ inch and roll this seam between the thumb and finger until a tiny roll is formed along the seam line. Whip over this roll occasionally catching into the running stitch used for the seam.

To Whip—pass the needle **under** the roll and let it come out thru the back of the roll. This forms a kind of fine overcasting over the roll, but it should not go through to the material itself. This is not a strong seam and will not stand much strain.

Edges

Hems—may be used for edge finishes. They are suitable for most all materials. The hems may be held in by machine or hand stitching or a fancy embroidery stitch may be used as cross stitch, hem-stitching, chain, feather, etc.

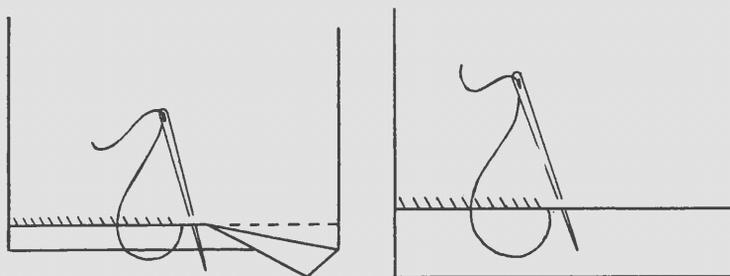
Bindings—cut on the true bias are the best as they go on more smoothly. These bindings may be cut either single or double. When a binding is finished only one half of it shows on the right side.

Single Bindings. In making a single binding it should be cut two times as wide as the desired finish plus about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch which allows for seams and turn in of the raw edge.

The raw edge of the binding is placed to that of the material, basted and stitched. Then, the raw edge of the binding is turned in and the binding folded over to the stitching line and hemmed down by hand.

Great care must be taken not to stretch or twist the bias forming the binding.

Double Binding. This is much easier to put on as there is less danger of stretching but it of course takes a little more material.



Single binding and plain hem.

The binding is cut four times as wide as the desired finish fold plus about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Then fold this bias strip in half lengthwise.

The raw edge of this folded bias strip is applied to the raw edge of the material basted and stitched. The folded edge then is brought over and hemmed down along the stitching line. This does away with turning down the raw edge of the binding and so eliminates the danger of stretching the bias edge. This will make a little heavier binding but it is not clumsy. It makes an excellent finish for collars, cuffs, sashes, belts, overskirts, panels, etc., and in fact most any place where a decorative finish is desired. These bindings may be made of self material or of contrasting material and colors.

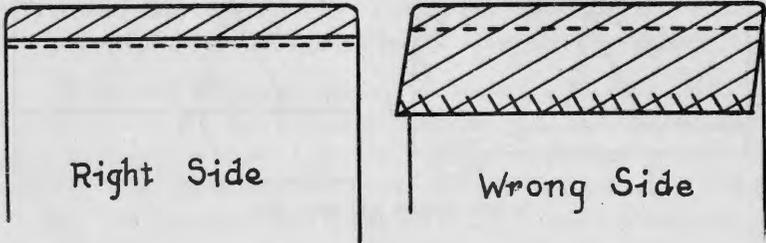
Cording

Cording is used to finish edges of skirts, tunics, armholes, necks, etc., or where shirring might be used as a trimming. The size of the cord depends upon where it is used and the taste of the wearer. A smooth cord is better than a heavily twisted one as the twists wear on the material and also will show through.

To make cording the bias strip is folded nearly in the center. Then the cord is slipped in between this fold and held there by a row of fine running stitches, care being taken to keep the bias drawn smoothly and tightly over the cord. If cording is to be used as a facing also the fold is made with one edge wider than the other. The

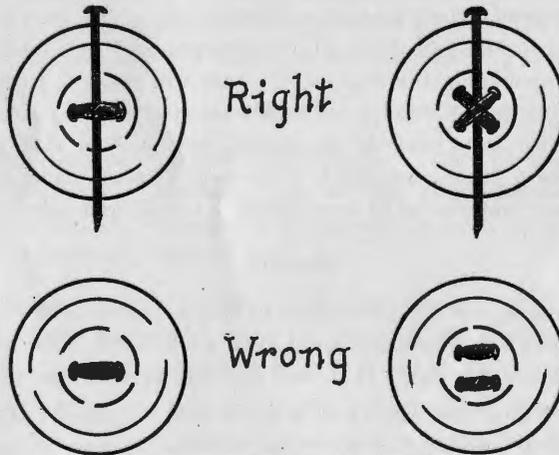
cord is then slipped in and sewed with running stitches. The under side of the fold is finished with a once turned hem.

If the cords are to be along a straight edge or to be used as a round line decoration on a straight skirt— tiny tucks may be run in and the cords pulled through these. The tucks have to be very accurately made, else the casings will not be uniform throughout and will spoil the design through poor workmanship.



Piping

This method of finishing is very pleasing, when made of plaid or striped material or in contrasting color and makes a flat finish.



Right and wrong method of sewing buttons

Machine Picoting

Machine Picoting is a nice finish for thin materials. It is attractive and fairly strong, and especially good for Georgettes, crepes,

and other thin silk or cotton materials. Indicate with a basting stitch the place for the line of finish. Then have machine hemstitching done along this line. Later cut the stitching through the center. This leaves an irregular edge with the appearance of a picot.

Fastenings

The common fastenings for garments are hooks and eyes, snaps, buttons and button holes.

The following table may be of interest, taken from "American Dressmaking Step by Step," by Mme. Lydia Trattles Coates. Sizes of Needles and Threads.

Cotton Thread	Linen Thread	Silk Thread	Needles
8- 10	25- 30		1
10 -20	30- 40		2
20- 24	40- 60		3
24- 36	60- 80	E	4
36- 40	80-100	D	5
40- 60	100-120	C	6
60- 80	120-150	B	7
80- 90	150-170	A	8
90-100	170-180	0	9
100-120	180-200	00	10
120-160	200-220	000	11
160-200	220-250		12

The following tables are taken from a little book called "Notions" by M. A. Sauder.

Types of Hand-Sewing Needles.

Type	Size	Description	Use
Sharp	00-12	Medium length	Ordinary sewing
Between	00-12	Shorter than Sharps	Tailors
Millinery	1-10	Extra long	Milliners and for basting.
Crewel	1-12	Very large eye. Length same as sharp.	Embroidery
Chenille	18-28	Very large eye.	Embroidery
Tapestry	18-28	Large eye, blunt end	Embroidery
Darners	1-10	Large eye	Darning

Types of Snap Fasteners

“There are two types of snap fasteners; those built upon the principle of the ball and socket, reinforced with a wire spring, properly designated as snap fasteners, and those of a flatter and structurally weaker design of a ball and socket without this wire spring, called press buttons.”

Sizes of Ball and Socket Type

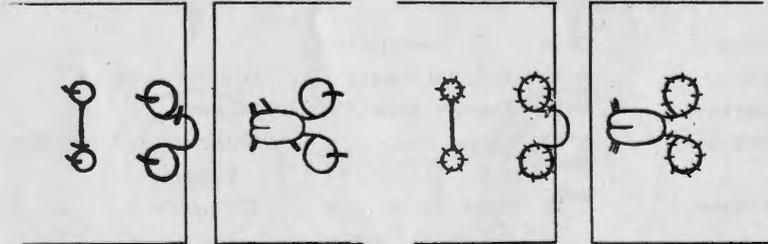
This type of snap fastener comes in eight sizes suitable for dresses and five larger sizes for heavier use.

- 5-0 for chiffon, lace, veiling, tulle, etc.
- 4-0 for organdie, voile, etc.
- 3-0 for light weight waists, lawn, silk, etc.
- 2-0 for heavier wash waists, linen, cambric, etc.
- 0 for light weight and wash skirts, house dresses, under garments, bathing suits, etc.
- 1 for medium weight woolen skirts.
- 2 for heavy weight woolen skirts.
- 3 for slippers.

Press Button Snaps

“They sell in sizes 00, 0, 1, 2, and 3. The small sizes 00 and 0 are adapted for use on lace, net, and other delicate fabrics. Size 1, is for silk and summer fabrics. Size 2 for light wool and serge. Size 3, for heavy goods.

Hook and Eyes



Sizes

There are many sizes of hooks and eyes. The greatest satisfaction is obtained by using the correct size for the purpose, as:

No. 00 or 0, for lace and chiffons.

No. 0 or 1, for collars.

No. 2 or 3, for linings and girdles.

No. 4, for skirt bands.

The smaller sizes should be used on light weight materials; for example a No. 2 size might be used for fastening a silk dress, where the same sort of closing on a serge dress would be better served with a No. 3.

Published and distributed in furtherance
of the act of May 8, 1914, by the State
College of Washington, Extension Service,
S. B. Nelson, Director, and U. S. Depart-
ment of Agriculture cooperating.