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WHEN MOTHER LETS US SEW

MRS. RALSTON

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Arabella in all her finery

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WHEN MOTHER LETS US SEW

By VIRGINIA RALSTON

ILLUSTRATED

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1915

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WHEN MOTHER LETS US SEW

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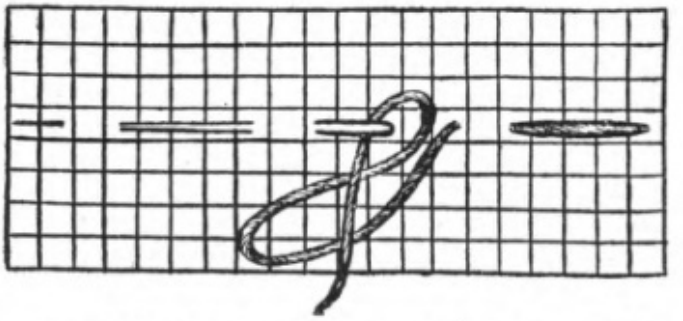
BASTING STITCH

Basting is a long stitch used to hold the material or seam in place until it is more securely sewn. It is exactly the same as the running stitch, except that it is longer, so it will be easier to learn these two stitches together. Make the basting stitch an inch below the running stitch, using the running stitches as a guide to keep them straight. Let us use blue zephyr this time. Hold the needle in your hand easily, for when making a long stitch in sewing



UNEVEN · BASTING · NO.1 · ·

you will do better work with a "free" hand, instead of a hard, tight hand. The length of stitch in even basting depends upon the material. For our first lesson, let us make it twice the length of the running stitch. So take up four threads on the needle and pass over four, making them the same length on each side. To make uneven basting, take up two threads and pass over four.

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"Oh! dear! A knot's a puzzle how to make!
It looks just like a creepy little snake!
But what's the use of sewing tight
If one hasn't started the seam just right?"

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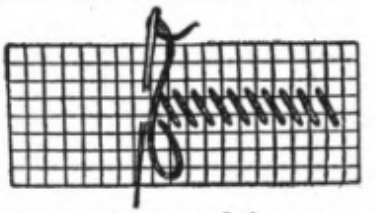
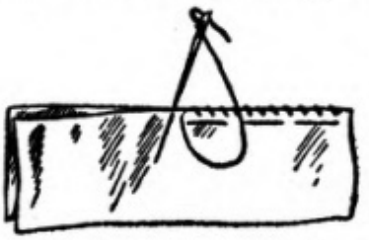
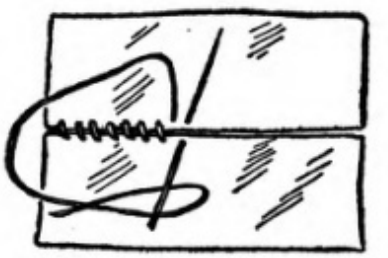
"OVER-HANDING"

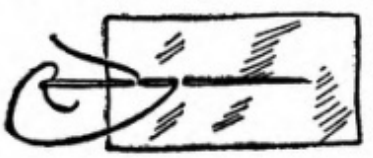
Practice first on canvas sampler, using a brown zephyr thread. This stitch is used to join the two edges closely together on the right side of the material. First baste the two ends together to within a couple of inches of the end if you are making a bean bag, as we must leave a little opening to pour in the beans before closing up the entire seam. If you are making an iron holder, get mother to give you several pieces of flannel cut in squares to fit, to put inside before beginning to baste.





To make the overhanding stitch sew from right to left, holding the material straight before you with the two edges to be overhanded between the thumb and forefinger. Put the material into the material between the two thicknesses, pointing it straight toward you. Take up enough to make a firm stitch, and make an-





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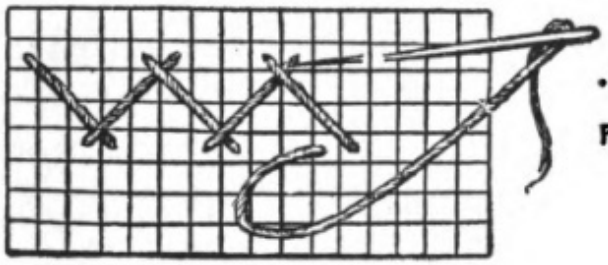
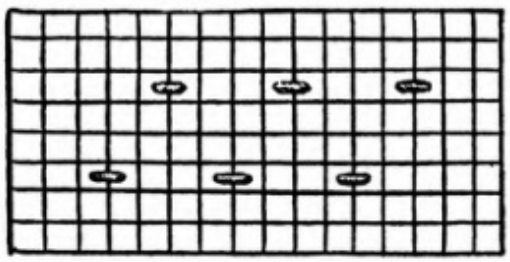
"CATCH-STITCH"

Catch-stitching is a loose, fancy stitch used to hold down edges that have no wear or tear on them such as the seams on flannel petticoats or



CATCH-STITCHING
Right Side

in the trimming of hem or bands. It is pretty used as a trimming on dolls' wrappers and sacques. As in making the overhanding stitch, the needle must point directly toward you. This stitch is made from the left to the right



CATCH-STITCHING
Wrong Side

and is a slanting cross stitch which on the wrong side looks like a running stitch. Each stitch should be alike in depth and width. In trimming bands or hems, keep the lower edge of the

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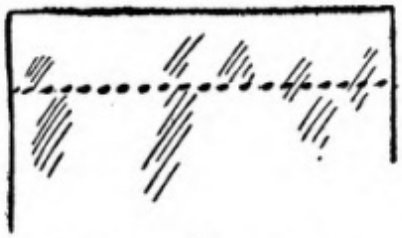
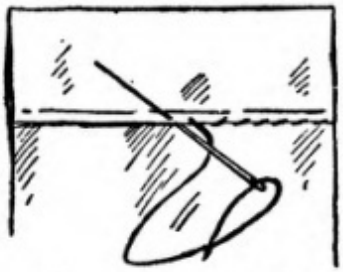
HEMMING STITCH

The hemming stitch is a slanting stitch taken from right to left first through the material under the folded over hem and then upward, in a slanting line toward the left shoulder into the

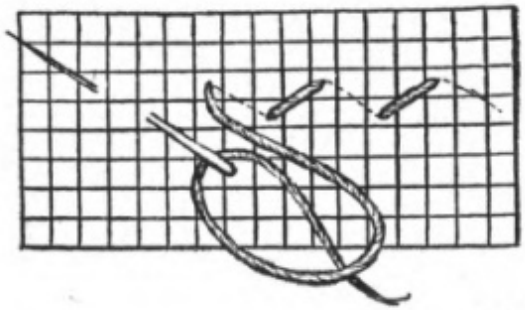


Right side of hem



Hemming stitch
Showing fold and needle in position

edge of the hem. Do not begin with a knot, but sew under the end of the thread with your first stitches as in overhanding. The stitches must be as small and regular as you can make them. Take each stitch in advance of the last one.



HEMMING STITCH
On Canvas · · No. 1.

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Arabella has a petticoat

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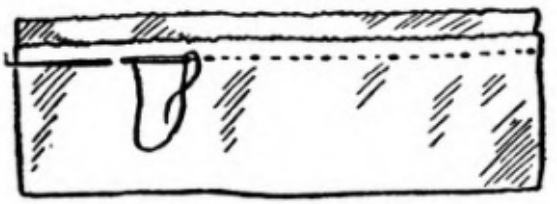
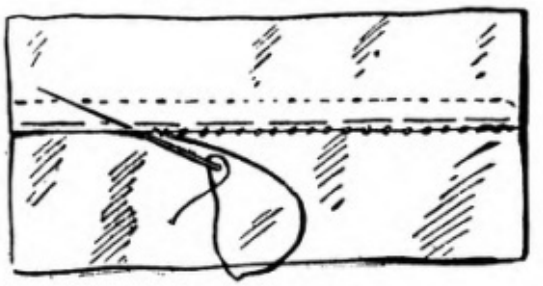
ished, open the two pieces of material out flat and turn the wide edge over the narrow one, first turning under the raw edge, then basting and hemming.

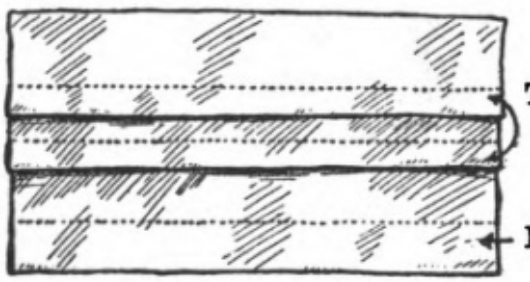
Turn a hem at the lower edge of the material an inch wide, using a notched card as a guide to keep it even as you fold and baste. Finish with hemming stitches. Above the hem we will trim with tucks. Tucks are folds sewn in the material as a trimming. To make them straight and even use a card for a guide as in making a hem, measuring the first tuck from the top edge of the hem. As you measure crease the material for the edge of the tuck. Run with basting stitching a quarter of an inch below the



b. Second sewing



c. Last sewing



Illustrations of tucks

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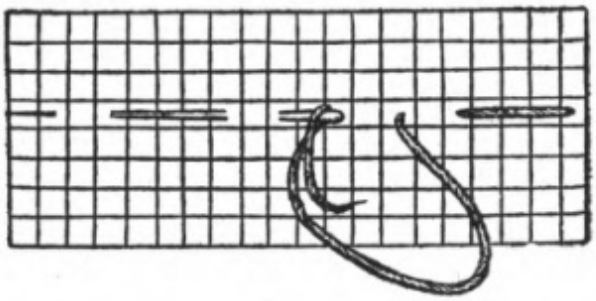
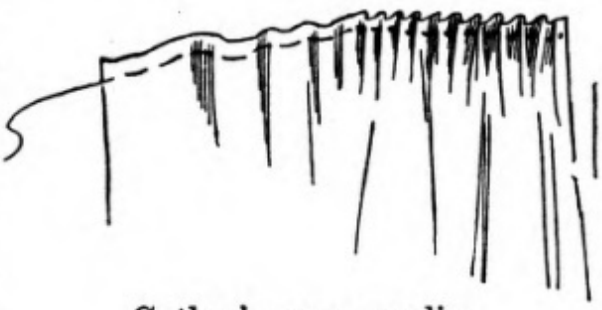
THE GATHERING STITCH

The top edge of the petticoat must now be made ready to put on the band: First it must be gathered. The "gathering" stitch is very much the same as the running stitch, except that



GATHERING
On Canvas

in gathering, the spaces between the stitches are twice the length of the stitch. This is called "uneven gathering," and is the kind used in a petticoat. Gathering is used to give fullness and to draw the fullness into a smaller spaces. Use a strong thread for the gathering and sew in a straight line on the right side of the material to the placket at the end. First dividing the length of the material to be gathered into two parts and using a separate thread for each part, as a long



Gathering on muslin

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Arabella needs a nightgown

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as you did on the underbody. Hem the edges of the placket, making the narrow hem on the left side of the front and the wider hem on the right. The right hand hem folds over the left side and must be wide enough to hold the button-holes.

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Arabella is measured for her new frock

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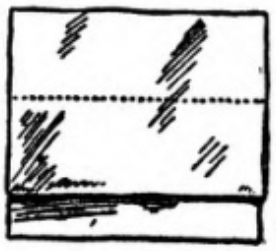
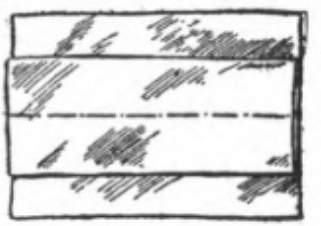
measure off the box plaits, and baste and sew with a running stitch. There are three box plaits, one at the direct center and one on each side. A box plait is measured off and made like a tuck, except that in this case the edge of the tuck is opened out flat over the line of sewing, and basted until the dress is finished when they can be pulled out. Make these box plaits to the waist line front and back. Now lay the pattern on the material with the center box plait folded directly in the center. Pin carefully and cut. Join the sides at notches for the under seam and baste. Sew with a French seam. Turn a wide hem around the lower edge of the skirt, baste and sew. Slit the material down the back under the center box plait, from the neck to waist line, for the placket opening. To finish this opening we must make a "fly-fastening."



1. Detail of box plait



2. Open

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'Arabella wears her new sacque

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stitches. Now bring the needle out on the under side of the button and pass the thread around several times to make a kind of stem, so that the buttonhole will slip more easily around the button. Fasten the thread on the wrong side in a slanting stitch.

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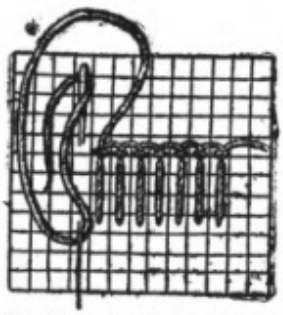
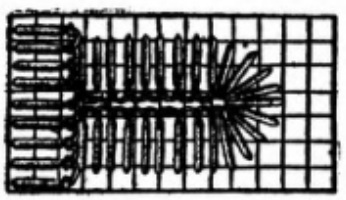
thread from the right side of the needle and pass it under the point and around to the left side,



Buttonhole stitch

Draw the needle out with the thread straight before you, so that the thread will purl at the edge. Make the next stitch close to the first, exactly the same depth and in the same way. When you reach the end of the thread, spread the stitches around in fan shape and work down the other side. When this is finished make the stitches straight across the right end as in the illustration.



Buttonhole

In making the buttonholes in the doll's clothes, cut a slit a tiny bit longer than the width of the button. First fold the hem or placket over at its center, and cut carefully through the exact length. Hold the material slanting across the forefinger of the left hand with the inside lower edge of the buttonhole toward you. First outline the slit with long stitches, slipping the needle in at each end from one side to the other. This makes a heavy edge and strengthens the buttonhole. Then make long overcasting stitches around the edge,

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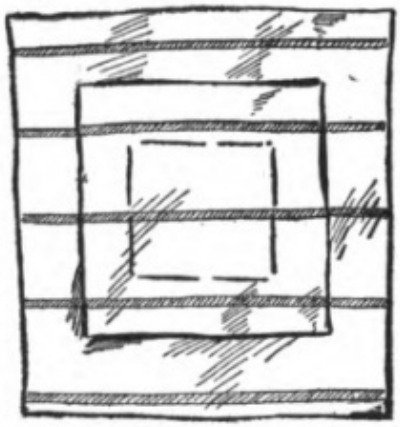
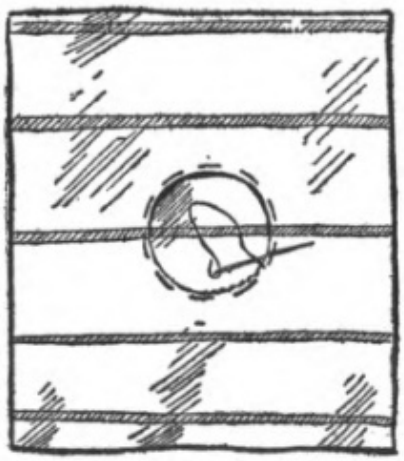
"PATCHING"

A patch is a piece of material sewn to clothes to mend holes and worn places. The patch should be of the same material as the garment to be mended, and so that it will be very neat when finished, it should be put on with the weave running in the same direction as the part of the material to be patched, matching as closely as possible.



1. Wrong side

A patch is usually square, whether the hole is square or round. Cut the patch at least half an inch larger all around than the hole. Baste it on the wrong side, making the stitches halfway between the edges of the patch and the edges of the hole. If the hole is ragged, trim the edges neatly in a square or circle.



2. Right side

First hem the garment to the patch, then hem the patch to the garment. Turn under a narrow

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