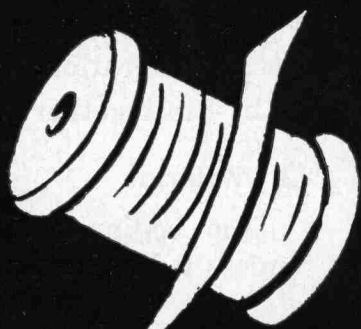


Quick and Sure

method
of making
a dress



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A Quick and Sure Method of Making a Dress

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To women serving on the home front, the matter of making and conserving clothing is becoming more and more vital. Today the women who sew are serving their country by releasing labor for war work. The person who uses efficient and safe methods of construction is saving her own time which can be used for war effort, and money which may be loaned to the Government through the purchase of stamps and bonds.

Dressmaking when done right is a pleasure, depending on how much skill and interest you put in your work. Good equipment is a "must" for good work. A sewing machine that is in good order, good pressing equipment, adequate table space for cutting, plenty of pins, needles, thread, thimble, tape measure, chalk, good sharp cutting shears and a small pair of scissors for clipping threads are among the "musts." Keep the small equipment all together in a convenient place.

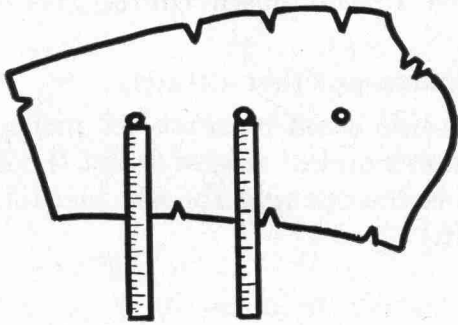
1. Pattern

A good pattern is a necessity; it is also a time saver. Select a simple one of becoming design in the right size. You must *know* the pattern you are using. An hour spent in studying the pattern before starting to work will save hours later. Every pattern today has a *guide chart* which gives the pattern layout on different widths of material, also directions for putting the dress together and finishing. Different makes of patterns have different marking systems and different seam allowances.

- a. Check pattern with own measurements and make any necessary alteration.
- b. Pin together and try on.

2. Material

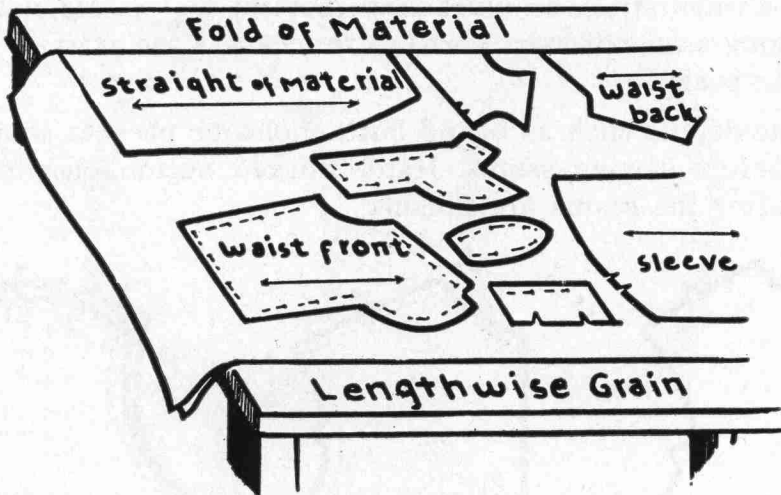
The beginner should select firmly woven material. Shrink unless it has been preshunk. Before cutting, be sure your fabric



is straight, *crosswise* as well as lengthwise. On a sheer fabric draw a crosswise thread and cut on this line. Press out all wrinkles and creases from the fabric. Pin every piece of pattern on material before cutting. Be sure that the perforations on the pattern which indicate the grain are laid *exactly* on the

grain and are pinned to it. "On the grain" means straight with a lengthwise or crosswise thread. The distances from the top and bottom of the lengthwise grain mark to the selvedge should be the same.

Each piece of the pattern is pinned on the straight lengthwise grain line first. Then the pattern is smoothed out toward the nearest edge and pins put in, closer together along curves than along straight long seams.



3. Cutting

Cut with good sharp shears, using long, clean strokes, sliding shears ahead. Material and pattern should be on the inside of the shears towards the cutter. Cut all notches out—not in. Cut on pattern edge—do not allow or take from.

4. Marking

While pattern is on material, mark all construction details accurately.

- a. Center lines—baste a colored thread down center front, back and sleeve cap.
- b. Darts—Seam allowance—Pockets or other details.
- c. Placket—Put a mark on left side seam of skirt six inches down from waist line. Put a mark on left side of waist three inches down waist line. This is the opening for the placket. (Omit if dress opens in front.)

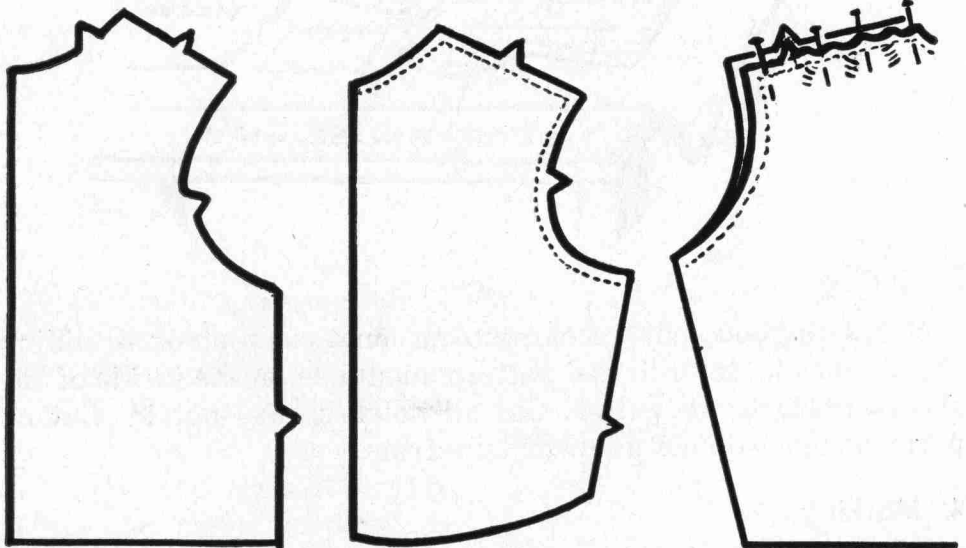
5. Stay Edges

The purpose of edge stitching is to keep grain thread in place and prevent stretching. Edge stitching is done on edges of materials that are cut off the grain.

6. Standard points to be stay stitched

Shoulders—back and front, stitch from neck line to shoulder; armholes, back—front, stitching from shoulder seams down; neck line—back and front, stitching from center out. Top edges of skirt—stitch from outside edges in to center. Placket edges of skirt—always stitch on skirt from bottom to top. Do not edge stitch long seams of skirt gores as this causes the skirt to ripple from the seam.

7. Some details such as bound buttonholes or pockets should be made before sewing seams. Hand worked buttonholes may be made after the seams are finished.



Notches Cut Out

Edge Staying

Joining Shoulder Seams

8. Blouse

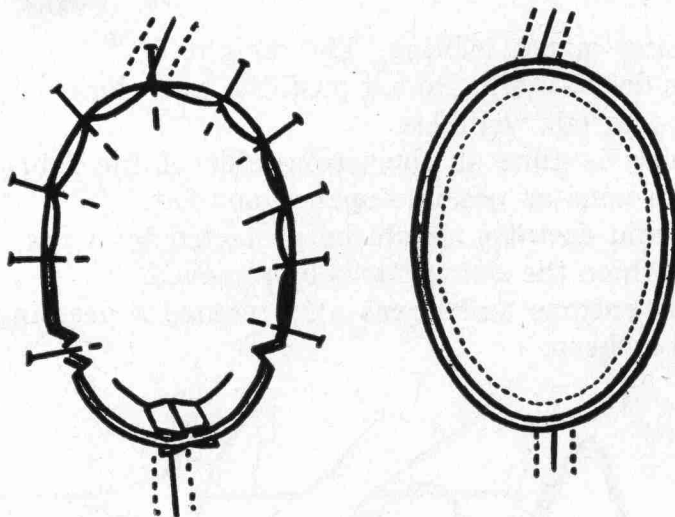
Baste darts, stitch from wide end to narrow. This is always the procedure for stitching darts. Pin shoulders with edges even, ease in the *extra width* of back, which is $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch, and baste. Stitch on the front, stitching from neck line to armhole.

Seams: Stitch undearm seams, *stitching from top to bottom*.

9. Sleeve

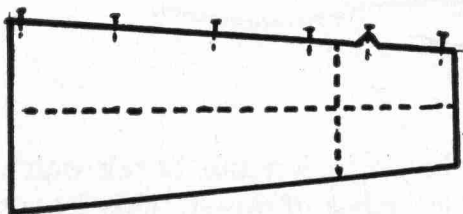
Close sleeve seam, stitching from top to bottom.

- To get the sleeve in the correct armhole, you must match the notches of the sleeve and armhole.
- Since sleeves are cut at least an inch larger than the armhole, the fullness must be adjusted and eased in before you start to baste.
- The fullness may be adjusted more easily if the pins are placed so that they point toward the bottom of the sleeve.
- Stitch close to the basting line, but never inside it, with the sleeve side up.



10. Skirt

Join sections together by matching notches. Place a pin at top of each two pieces, one at the bottom, another midway between.



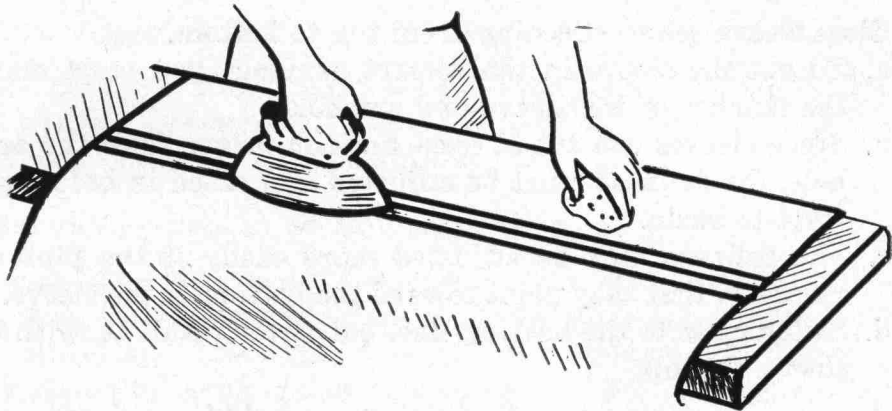
Pin or baste rest of seam. Stitch skirt seams always from *bottom to top* because grain threads are held together more evenly and seams are straighter. Take darts, stitching from wide end to

point. Stitch seam on exact seam allowance line. Stitch *straight* and *evenly*. Press seams open.

11. Pressing

Pressing gives a smooth professional finish; next to proper cutting, it is the most important factor in constructing a well finished dress.

- a. Short seams require pressing as much as long ones.



- b. Pressing is not ironing. The weight of the iron and the steam do the work. Do not push the iron along as you would to smooth out wrinkles.
- c. Pressing is done on the wrong side of the fabric with as many seams as possible opened out flat.
- d. Silks and acetates should be protected by a pressing cloth from which the sizing has been removed.
- e. Sturdy cottons and linens also require a pressing cloth to avoid a sheen.



12. Placket

Stitch left side seam of skirt to the six inch mark. Stitch waist, left underarm seam to within three inches of waist. This leaves

opening for placket which may be finished with a zipper or otherwise.

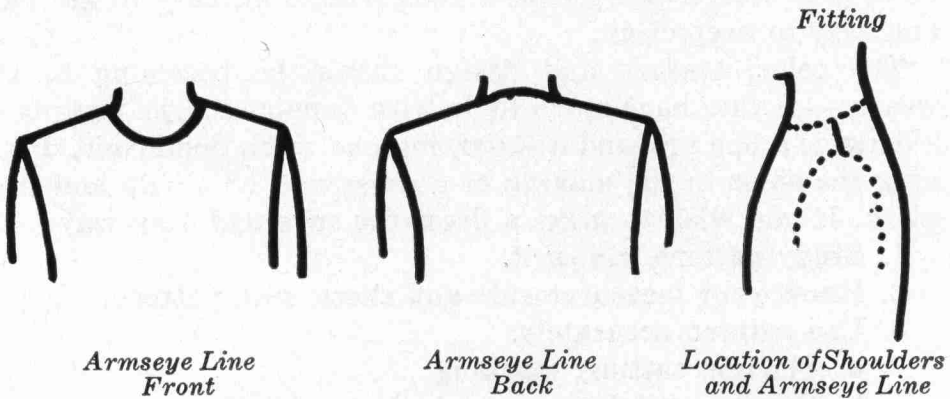
13. Join blouse and skirt

Match center marks, back and front and notches. Modify fullness to suit the individual. Darts or gathers may be used.

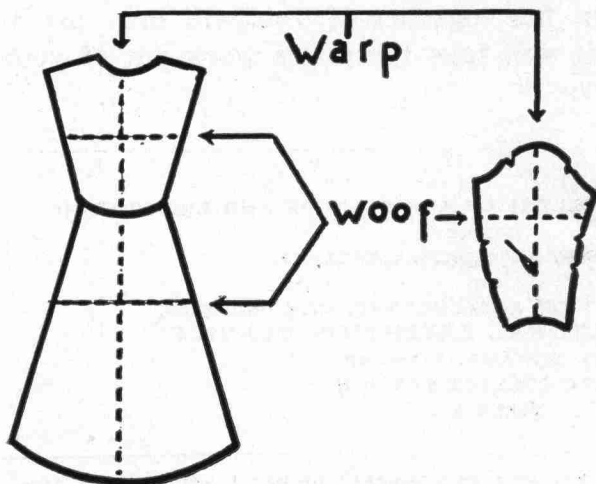
14. Fitting

If the pattern has been carefully checked and altered, and seam allowance observed, fitting will be easy. Check the following points in order listed:

- a. Shoulder seams.
- b. Neck line.
- c. Bust line.
- d. Arm hole and sleeve.
- e. Waist line.
- f. Hip line.



Keep eye on the grain line of cloth. The colored basting put down center front, back and sleeve will assist you in fitting. The



warp, or up and down threads, must be straight at—

- Center front:
- Center back:
- Cap of sleeves:

The woof or filling threads must be straight at bust, hip and arm girth.

15. Finish

The fabric determines more or less the finish to be used.

Seams: a. Cottons and finely woven materials—plain seam, press open, edges pinked.

b. Ravelly material—overcast, edge stitch, or bind.

Hems: a. For cottons turn $\frac{3}{8}$ inch on lower edge of skirt and stitch $\frac{1}{8}$ inch from edge; turn hem and slip stitch.

b. For heavier materials to avoid bulk use readymade binding stitched flat to the hem edge.

Neck line and other finishes—follow directions that come with your pattern.

SUMMARY

Fashions today are taking on a war character. Dresses must be easy to wear—this means a comfortable fit, easy to get into, and easy to keep clean.

The color, texture and design should be becoming to the wearer—clothes have much to do with happiness. The making of a dress is a fine art, and a satisfying one when done right. Planning the steps in the making of a dress will be a help and time saver. If you wish to make a dress the sure and easy way:

1. Study pattern. Know it.
2. Know your measurements and check with pattern.
3. Use pattern accurately.
 - a. Placing, cutting, marking.
 - b. Basting, stitching—seams, darts, details.
4. Edge stitch.
5. Press as you go.
6. Use finishes that best suit material.

Remember, the pattern fits together if you will only use it right—try this method. It will take the guess work out of your sewing.

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