CHAPTER XVI

CONSTRUCTION OF OUTER-GARMENTS: TAILORED WAIST

*Suitable Materials*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Linen (heavy).</th>
<th>Khaki Cloth.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Madras.</td>
<td>Habutai Silk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poplin.</td>
<td>Silk Broadcloth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percale.</td>
<td>Silk Duck.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Head Muslin.</td>
<td>Unshrinkable Flannel.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The severity of the tailored waist has been greatly lightened through the adoption by many of the open neck line, with which the coat or hem opening is more frequently used. It is well to understand, however, the method of constructing a severely tailored garment, many principles of which may be applied in the making of other garments. For this purpose the construction of a plain tailored shirtwaist with sleeves having fulness at the top will be considered (Fig. 180). Use the pattern drafted and tested in the earlier pattern making work. Remember that it does not allow seams. Provide yourself with the necessary amount of the material you have chosen.

Then proceed as follows: Fold the material so that the cut ends are together (Fig. 181). Measure up from the cut ends, the length of the front piece of the pattern at its highest point. At this point cut through both thicknesses of cloth about four inches. Tear off the selvedges from this cut, to the ends of the cloth.

**Box Plait and Hem.**—Decide which piece of cloth will be the right-hand side of the waist when completed. On the edge from which selvedge has been torn fold the material toward the wrong side, the width you wish to have the box plait finished (Fig. 182A). If using plain materials, you need only consult your individual taste and the prevailing style, but if striped material is being used, consideration must be given to the balance of the stripes and the relation of the edge of the plait to the stripes in the body of the waist (Fig. 180). When you have made the first fold the desired width, then fold again (Fig. 182B), and one-quarter of an inch from the edge of this second fold, baste a tuck. Baste one-quarter inch from the opposite folded edge (Fig. 182C). On the edge of
Fig. 180.—Tailored shirtwaist, sleeves with fulness at top.

the other end of cloth, lay and baste a hem one-eighth inch narrower than the box plait, being careful when using striped material to keep the succeeding stripes opposite those of the other piece of cloth.

Placing Pattern.—Fold both the box plait and hem through
Fig. 181.—Pattern placed on material for cutting shirtwaist.
the center lengthwise and place the straight edge of front of pattern (center front) on this fold; sleeve pattern next with narrow end beside front of waist, and the crease through the length of pattern on a stripe or on lengthwise thread of the material; the cuff pattern so that the longer edge is on the selvedge; the collar band so that it will be lengthwise around the neck; the back should be placed so that the center back is on a lengthwise fold of the goods, or on a stripe. The pocket, if used, and facing should be placed so that the center line of each from top to point is on the lengthwise thread of the goods. Place the back after the other pieces except pocket and facing have been cut out (Fig. 181).

Proceed in the following manner:

1. Pin pattern to place; do not use many pins, and do not lift material from table while you pin.

2. Mark seam allowance beyond your pattern, one inch on underarm and shoulder and one-quarter inch at neck and armhole, one
inch on sleeve seams and one-quarter inch at top and bottom; one-quarter inch on cuffs, collar bands and pocket. Place tape measure at edge of pattern, letting end extend beyond edge, the width of seam. Use the tape measure as a guide until eye is trained to gauge distances.

3. Cut out on seam allowance markings.
4. Trace waist line first; then seams, along the edge of the pattern, beginning at waist line and tracing up and down. Trace armhole and neck lines. Let tracings cross at the ends of seams (Fig. 184). In tracing, run wheel straight ahead; do not see-saw back and forth. Use tailor basting (Fig. 183) or chalk-board for marking seams of silk or wool. Tailor basting can be done along edge of pattern before removing it. With the chalk-board the seams are traced, but the wheel must be raised carefully, else the material will be cut. The chalk tracing board is a sheet of heavy cardboard on which a thick layer of paste, made of carpenter's chalk mixed with water, is laid with a flat brush. When dry, the board is covered with heavy curtain net, glued to the under side. Silk seams can be traced lightly on this, the chalk coming off sufficiently to mark them. It is inadvisable to trace anything but seams of silk. Points for trimming should be marked by pins and threads. Tailor basting, tacking or marking stitch, is made in this way: Thread a needle with double cotton, using no knots; make even running stitches, leaving a loop in each stitch above the cloth. Sew right along the edge of pattern; fold pattern back when marking other lines. Separate the two edges of material and cut through the stitches, leaving a marking line at the same point on both pieces of cloth (Fig. 183).

5. Remove the pattern from the cloth.

Basting Waist Together.—Mark waist, neck and armhole lines and center shoulder points with colored thread. Begin with under-arm seam, pinning waist lines together first, and keep traced lines together with pins at right angles to seams, and seams on right side of the waist. Baste from waist line up and down, using even basting, small stitches. Pin shoulder seams so that cross and center lines meet (Fig. 184). Baste, holding back shoulder toward you, so as to ease the extra fulness on the front; the back shoulder was made one-quarter inch longer than the front when the pattern was drafted. When the waist is basted, try it on, to be sure that the shoulder, underarm and neck lines are good.

Finishing Seams.—Stitch the seams, being sure to have the upper stitch of the machine on the top of the seam. Finish seams with a stitched fell one-quarter inch wide. Turn all seams toward the front of the waist when finishing. Finish bottom of waist with a narrow hem. Other finishings are sometimes used for the bottom of the waist when the figure is very stout: binding with bias lawn seam binding, overcasting the raw edge, or pinking it and stitch-
ing it by machine just above the pinking (Fig. 185). Still another method is to cut away the front of the waist below the waist line as far back as the underarm seam, then fit a circular peplum to the waist line. This removes all fulness where not needed.

Fig. 184.—Shirtwaist and sleeve basted for fitting.

**Waist Band.**—Use a piece of non-elastic tape, four inches longer than the waist measure. Place it on the waist line as indicated when the pattern was tested. Gather through waist line, two rows as far apart as width of tape. Draw fulness to fit and stitch top and
bottom of tape as far as the underarm seam. Finish the ends of the tape with a blanket stitch. A hook and two eyes may be used to fasten the tape, setting the eyes so as to loosen the belt if desired. Ordinary twilled cotton tape is sometimes used for waist bands, but is not so satisfactory because not firm. The band may be made of the material of the waist if desired, using it double and turning the edges in and stitching the same (Fig. 185).

**Fig. 185.**—Finishes for lower edge of tailored waist  Waist line finishing.

**Collar Band.**—One of three types of collar bands may be used.

1. Straight Band.—For some slender necks the straight band may fit very well. It can be made of a single lengthwise piece of cloth cut the neck size plus the width of the box plait and one-quarter-inch seams by one and one-quarter inches. Turn up the edge of the band one-quarter inch all around. Baste through center fold at top. Set the band down on the neck line on the right side of the waist. Let the ends of collar band come to edges of box plait and hem, pinning band to center of plait and center of hem. Then
fold band from these points to find center. Place at center back of waist. Baste to place and set the under folded edge of band directly on this and baste. One continuous stitching on the edge should finish this band. Care must be taken not to cut band too wide, else it will lie in folds under the collar. If too narrow, it is apt to slip out from under the collar.

2. Curved Band.—This band is in two pieces, cut from pattern. Turn the lower edges of band up one-quarter inch and crease. Put two right sides together and baste seam at top. Stitch and turn right side out. Place same as straight band (Fig. 186E).

3. Curved Band with Protector.—This band is cut with an extension at the bottom of the center back, which folds in such a way as to protect the neck from friction caused by collar button. The extension is cut only on the outside of band. Baste two pieces of the collar band together at the top, turning the lower edges of the band up and creasing before basting around top. Stitch top; turn right side out, and baste turned edge to hold it firm. Fold the extension piece under to place and slip the collar band over the neck of the waist, basting the under side of the band to place first, then the under side of the extension. Stitch across extension. Lay the outside of the band to place and let one continuous stitching finish it (Fig. 186D).

Collar.—With severely tailored waists are worn close-fitting collars of linen, stiffly starched, or made of the same material as the waist. The pattern for such is in two pieces, a stand, and the collar portion. The stand is cut lengthwise of the material around the neck, and enough longer than the collar to admit of lapping and fastening. The collar is cut crosswise around the neck to allow for stretching over the stand when drawn about the neck; it is cut long enough for the upper corners to meet or separate slightly. Cut two thicknesses of collar and stand sections. Place the right sides of the two collar sections, and also the two stand sections, together; stitch across the ends and lower edges as far as indicated on the pattern;

Fig. 186.—Cuffs and collar bands; making and placing; A, interlined cuff, wrong and right side; B, triple fold cuff, wrong and right side; C, French turn-back cuff; D, collar band with protector, pieces cut and pinned together; seam basted, extension folded back; band, right side; H, plain band, wrong and right side; F, band placed showing end of buttonhole on line with center of plait; G, cuff placed, arrow shows point one inch beyond center of cuff, placed to seam of sleeve; H, cuff to button over; I, cuff for link fastening.

Fig. 187.—Placket facing for sleeve, continuous; bound and faced; A, sleeve folded, dart placed at top of opening; B, facing placed; C, facing cut and basted to under sleeve; D, edge of sleeve dropped, facing swung to place; E, finished facing.
Fig. 186.—Cuffs and collar bands. (Descriptive matter on p. 320).
Fig. 187.—Placket facing for sleeve. (Descriptive matter on p. 320.)
trim corners diagonally; turn both sections to right side, and baste on turn. Then turn in the edges of the unstitched portion of the stand, and clip the edge of the collar between these, baste and stitch in continuous line, first around the collar, then the stand. Work buttonholes at points indicated on the pattern (Fig. 179A and B).

**Sleeves.**—*Placket Facings.*—Before stitching the sleeves, the placket must be faced. The opening should have been cut as far as indicated, on the pattern, four inches long and one inch from the fold on the under side of the sleeve. There are five separate steps to be followed in making the placket facing:

1. **(a)** Fold the sleeve lengthwise on a line with the placket opening. On the right side of the sleeve sew a dart one-eighth inch wide at the top of the placket opening and running off to nothing one-half inch above the opening. Use fine running stitches (Fig. 187A).

2. **(b)** Tear a lengthwise strip of material twice the length of the placket opening, by three inches wide. Hold the right side of facing to the wrong side of sleeve; sew to place all round the opening, taking a very narrow seam and using small running stitches (Fig. 187B).

3. **(c)** Lay the sleeve flat on the table right side up, fold the upper part of the sleeve back on itself on a line with the top of the placket opening. Fold the facing back on the under part of the sleeve. Baste folded edge to place. Measure from folded edge at bottom of facing seven-eighth inch (no more). Cut facing through at this point up as far as the top of the opening. Clip the facing in at this point one-eighth inch. Turn edge in and baste to sleeve (Fig. 187C).

4. **(d)** Drop top of sleeve to place and swing facing around so as to form the upper piece. Baste to place (Fig. 187D).

5. **(e)** Measure five and one-half inches from the bottom of sleeve and cut facing straight across at this point. Turn edges under so as to form a point. Cut away unnecessary cloth, baste to place. Stitch close to edge of facing and twice across at the top of the opening, one-eighth inch apart, yet so as to cover the raw edge of the material (Fig. 187E). Striped material sometimes makes a difficult problem on account of matching the stripes. If the problem proves too difficult one may cut away the upper part of the facing and apply a separate piece, the stripes of which will match those of the sleeve. The placket in one continuous piece is very satisfactory because the sleeve is smooth on the inside, and there is little bulk
of material from unnecessary seaming. The placket is strong, being all in one piece.

The seams of the sleeve are to be finished with a stitched fell. After making the first stitching, turn the fell from the upper side of the sleeve to the under. Examine your sleeve before turning the fell and notice that the upper sleeve being higher at the top than the lower, the seam would run short on the under if the fell were turned the reverse way. The seam would also be likely to draw at the elbow curve. In stitching the fell the second time, you will find it easier to handle if you turn your sleeve wrong side out and work from the inside. Place a row of gathers one-quarter inch from bottom edge of sleeve and a second row one-quarter inch above the first, except across the placket facing, and for a space of three-quarter inch on each side of the seam.

Cuffs.—Any one of three types of cuffs may be used on tailored shirt sleeves.

Interlined Cuff.—An interlining may be used for one or two reasons; to make a soft cuff firmer or when fashion decrees, stiff cuffs to serve as a stiffener. In the first case fine, soft materials may be used, such as lawn or cambric; in the second, coarsely woven materials, such as butcher's linen or heavy muslin. In either case the interlining should be shrunken before using. Cut the interlining one-quarter inch smaller than the cuffs on all sides. Place on wrong side of the under piece of the cuff and baste to place. Stitch back and forth across, so as to prevent blistering when laundered. Place the two right sides of cuff together; the edges that are to be placed on the gathers should be turned back one-quarter inch. Baste around the other three sides of the cuff and stitch, being careful not to catch the edge of the interlining in the stitching. Cut off the corners so as not to add to the thickness when completed. Turn cuff right side out and baste folded edge carefully, but do not stitch until after placing on sleeve (Fig. 1864).

Triple Fold Cuff.—The special advantage of this cuff is that there is no undue thickness to mar the smooth tailor finish. It is, moreover, neither difficult to make nor place. Take a lengthwise strip of cloth having a selvedge edge. Cut it three times the depth you wish the finished cuff to be and the necessary length. Add one-quarter inch seams to the length. Working from the selvedge edge, fold the two right sides together and divide into thirds, folding back
and forth. Stitch across the ends. Turn right side out and the cuff is ready to place (Fig. 186B).

**French or Turn-back Cuff.**—This is usually made of two pieces of cloth. Cut the length desired by twice the depth, plus one-quarter-inch seams. If cut of one piece, the same length by four times the depth. It is sometimes interlined, in which case the interlining should be cut the full size of the cuff as it cannot be cross-stitched to the under side. When the material is firm do not interline this cuff. There are at any rate four thicknesses of material to lie back on the wrist without the interlining, and in most cases it is unnecessary. Fold back edges one-quarter inch as in interlined cuff, baste and stitch seam. Turn to right side and it is ready to place (Fig. 186C).

**Placing Cuff.**—Find a point one inch beyond the center of the length of the cuff. Place this point to the seam of the sleeve, letting the shorter end of the cuff come to the under side of the sleeve. Set the folded edge of the cuff to the outer row of gathers, adjust fulness. If cuffs are to be used for links, turn the under side of the placket back on the sleeve and set both within the cuff. If the cuff is to button over, do not fold the under placket back (Fig. 186H and I). Be sure that both sides of placket measure the same length. Baste cuff to place. Let under fold of cuff, or in the triple fold cuff, let the selvedge lie directly on top of the gathers, on the under side of the sleeve; baste to place. Make a continuous stitching all around the cuff, close to the edge, and where it joins the sleeve add a second row of stitching one-quarter inch from the first, straight across the sleeve. Remove second row of gathers from sleeve (Fig. 186G).

**Placing Sleeve in Armhole.**—In order to place a sleeve correctly, it is necessary to have some point in the armhole at which to set the seam of the sleeve, as well as points between which to scatter the gathers. To ascertain these, first measure one inch back of the shoulder seam on the armhole; from this point fold the armhole in half; this locates the point at which to place the sleeve seam. Then fold the armhole again so that the underarm and shoulder seams meet; the gathers are to be distributed on the top of the armhole between the two points just found. Lay waist on table, slip sleeve in armhole; pin seam to mark, and sleeve as far as it is to be plain, holding waist towards you while pinning and basting the sleeve in place. Hold under part of sleeve easy so as not to draw waist
and make it fit badly. Gather sleeve at top on seam line, and again one-quarter inch below. Distribute gathers between the two points marked in the armhole, keeping most of fulness at top of shoulder, and baste to place, sewing directly on line of gathers. Try on to see if it sets properly. Before stitching sleeve in armhole take a piece of bias seam binding, open crease on one side, and baste to inside of sleeve, letting crease come directly upon line of gathers. Hold binding easy. Let ends meet at the underarm seam (Fig. 187A). Make a bias join. It is simpler to baste binding to within one inch of each end and then fold ends back so as to complete the circle; overhand turned edges. Stitch binding and sleeve at the same time, turn back flat on waist, baste carefully to place, one basting at edge of armhole, holding right side towards you; the second on edge of binding. Stitch at edge of armhole and on edge of binding (Fig. 188B).
Pocket.—See Middy Blouse pocket, p. 300.

Buttonholes, Eyelets, Buttons.—A general rule for placing buttonholes in shirtwaists: Buttonholes should be cut lengthwise of the material in shirtwaists, that is, lengthwise in the box plait, collar band, cuffs and placket facing and crosswise in coat openings. In spacing, the top buttonholes in the box plait should be as far from the collar band as the buttonholes are apart. Use from three to five, according to the length of the figure. Do not let the bottom button fall below the belt. Cut the buttonhole in the collar band so that the outside end of the buttonhole is on a line with the center of box plait (Fig. 186F), to prevent waist from spreading apart at the neck. The buttonhole in placket-facing holds sleeve together well if cut not more than three-quarter inch above cuff. Let the

Fig. 189.—Shirtwaist buttons: A, four-hole; B, two-hole; C, buttons with shanks and fasteners.

outside end of buttonhole be one-half inch from the edge of the cuff and up one-third depth of cuff, measuring from lower edge. If studs are used, or buttons with shanks, work eyelets and use fasteners, so buttons may be removed before laundering. Either four-hole or the two-hole buttons may be used, or buttons with shanks and fasteners (Fig. 189), the size depending somewhat upon the width of the plait. Buttonholes on tailored waists should be barred at both ends to add to the tailored appearance.

Coat or Hem Opening.—This finish is made by folding back the material of the front to the wrong side without turning the edge in, and basting one-quarter inch from the edge of the fold.
This edge is later stitched in one with the collar. If the material of the waist is light weight, a strip of nainsook or batiste may be laid under the folds of the fronts to give them firmness and also strengthen it for the buttons and buttonholes (Fig. 178). Both sides of the front may be treated in the same way, the width of the hem depending upon the type of neck finish to be used.

Collar.—(1) For the open neck line the collar may consist of a double thickness of cloth, fitted to roll back from the neck. This may either be basted to the neck line, already cut in V-line, holding the under side of collar to the right side of waist (with center of each meeting), then stitched and finished with a narrow bias, or shaped facing, or one thickness of the collar may be sewed to the waist and the other thickness hemmed to the first sewing. (2) The neck of the waist may be left high, and a lengthwise double strip of material, twice the depth desired for the collar, cut the length of the neck, plus the seams. The ends of this strip should be stitched across, then the collar turned right side out, one thickness sewed to the neck of the waist, the other hemmed to the first stitching. The neck of the waist may then be opened as low as wished, or closed all the way up the front, leaving only a turn-over collar at neck.

Tucked or plaited waists may be designed directly in the material, using a fitted pattern. For such design follow the directions given on p. 154. The waists may be finished the same as plain tailored waists.

Waist with Gibson Plait.—This type of waist may also be designed in cloth from a fitted pattern. Proceed according to directions for designing waists, on p. 156. Finish the waist as other tailored waists are finished.

SUGGESTIVE QUESTIONS
1. How do you fold material to form a box plait in the front of a waist?
2. Describe the method of basting a shirtwaist for fitting.
3. How do you place the sleeve?
4. Show, by diagram, how to cut a collar band with neck protector.
5. Name the steps in the process of facing the placket of a sleeve.
6. State the rule for placing buttonholes in a shirtwaist.
7. In what way is the making of a Gibson waist different from a plain tucked waist?
8. How would you space the buttonholes in a tailored waist? What type of buttonhole should be used?