LESSON II.

FIVE GORE SKIRT.

The five measures taken for the drafting of any skirt are: Waist, Hip, Length of Front of Skirt, Length of Side of Skirt, and Length of Back of Skirt.

The Waist Measure is taken by placing a tape line around the lady's actual waist, and held snugly while taking.

The Hip Line is taken by passing the tape line six inches below the Waist Line over the Hips. This measure should be taken quite loosely.

The Length of the skirt in front is taken by placing a tape at the bottom of the belt. Measure down straight to the floor and out from the toes three inches. If the skirt is to escape the ground two inches, then subtract two inches from the full length to get the desired skirt length, etc.

Length of side. Place tape about half way between front of belt and back of belt over fullest part of hip, extending tape down to floor and out about five inches from feet.

Length of back of skirt. Place tape at bottom of belt in direct back and extend down to floor and out five inches from the feet.

To cut this pattern we will use a set of measures taken from the average size lady. If you wish to cut a pattern for your own self then substitute your own measures, being careful to take them correctly, as the fit of your entire skirt depends solely upon the accurateness of the measures. It is the foundation of your garment. Practice Measure Taking on any of your family or friends until you can take them rapidly and accurately.

As it has been demonstrated in all high class establishments the world over, that it is not at all practical to use valuable time in the drafting of individual patterns for each customer, so will we teach in these lessons the mode used in these places. The world is entirely too
busy nowadays and time too valuable to spend two or three hours over the cutting of every pattern to be used. Upon investigation in many hundreds of large stores throughout the United States I have found that the mode of cutting used therein is the one I am giving you in these lessons.

A good set of plain patterns is procured from infants up to as large bust measure as can be procured. From each of these cut a set of linings from white cambric; on them write in ink the kind of patterns they are. Baste them up carefully according to directions and you have a Dress-making System that will fit you for any kind of high-class work—and will save you hundreds of dollars in time in the course of a year.

It is not necessary that you purchase all these patterns at one time—you can get them as you need them. To make elaborate garments, it is all done by draping and using the plain foundation as a guide; all this work you will get in later lessons of this course.

Make for yourself a filing case for these patterns. Use a long strip of the cambric and lay onto it another strip of the cambric the same length and twelve inches in width. Stitch the two pieces together every four inches, thus forming pockets in which to keep these patterns. On top of every pocket write in ink the kind of pattern enclosed. Your patterns are all together then and you do not need to waste time searching for them.

When you wish to cut a garment, you select such patterns from the filing case as will nearest fit your customer, this to be determined by measures taken of your customer.

Fit your plain five gore skirt pattern that has twenty-four waist size on your customer. By taking the measure of your pattern, you found it to have twenty-five inches waist; around hip, forty-two inches; length of skirt to be finished in front thirty-eight inches; side forty inches, and back forty inches.

In this lesson we will suppose the person whose five gore skirt is to be made has a waist measure of twenty-four and one-half inches, hip measure forty inches and in front a distance of forty-two inches from waist to floor—forty-
three and one-half inches on side and forty-three and one-half inches in back. The skirt is to be finished two inches from floor, then the finished garment must be in front forty inches from waist to bottom of hem, forty one and one-half inches on side and forty-one and one-half inches in back, but we must allow for a hem. The width of hems vary as much as do sleeves, so change them according to prevailing fashion.

In fitting you will find that the skirt is two inches too large in hip. Now pinch up bias side of side gore of skirt one-half inch on each hip and down to as far as required. At waist line only pinch in one-eighth of an inch, as you see the waist measure of your pattern is only one-half inch larger than your customer.

You will also note that the length of the skirt of the customer is to be forty-five inches finished, including a four inch hem and seam allowance, while the pattern only measures forty-three inches in front, forty-five inches on side, and forty-five inches in back, including hem and seams.

By turning up the hem of your pattern four inches on your customer you find then that it is two inches shorter in front than she desires—one and one-half inches shorter on the sides and one and one-half inches shorter in the back. Now it is a very good plan to use a card marker two inches wide—as your customer wishes her skirt two inches from the floor—pass the two inch card marker around the skirt, between skirt and floor, while your customer is standing on a table; do this as you pin it up. This is a very satisfactory way to hang a skirt.

You will now see just about how the pattern fits. Take it off, mark with colored thread where pins are—rip it at seam where alteration was taken and lay two sides to be altered together—pin securely and with your tracing wheel trace through both sides the desired alteration. This will be the sewing line of the finished skirt.

With the same colored thread mark with a long stitch one-half way around bottom of pattern where you turned it up. Pin the pattern together carefully at top and bottom and trace through the colored mark at bottom so the other side of the pattern will be the same.
If four inches is the width of hem on this skirt we must add four inches to the finished length of skirt. We also must add one inch for seam allowance—half inch at top and half inch at bottom—therefore, the skirt when cut must measure in front forty-five inches, on side forty-six and one-half inches, and in back forty-six and one-half inches.

See Figure 41 to cut without pattern.

The pattern is now complete for the Five Gore Skirt.

Have your cloth sponged if woolen material; shrunk if cotton or linen; silk requires neither. Take particular note of the up and down of your cloth. Velvets and broadcloths have a nap that should extend downward on every piece of your garment. Some materials have certain figures or designs. Be careful that each gore should be laid on the cloth so that when they are joined the designs will match as they were intended. Plaids and stripes should be given the same attention.

In buying your material for a skirt be sure that you get good quality, as an inferior grade will not stand the required pressing to give the finished garment the desired look. Buy only a sufficient amount of material to cut your skirt with ease. For the plain five gore skirt you can always figure on two lengths of your skirt including hem and curve at waist, when using material that is at least forty-four inches in width, providing there is no up and down or right and wrong to the cloth. If you find such conditions as these, always allow one more length of double width in buying. Note all this before taking your material from a store.

You are now ready to cut your skirt. Fold your goods on a straight lengthwise fold and lay pattern of front gore on this with straight of pattern to fold of cloth. Three-eighths inches is the usual seam allowance. In cutting do not forget the half inch seam allowance at top and bottom and the four inches intended for hem, or you will be obliged to face your skirt and that is not desirable nowadays.

Be careful to always use the straight of your pattern to the straight of your cloth. The lowest point in the curve line at waist should always be to the straight of goods. Lay all of the gores on your material before cutting
one of them to be sure that you have sufficient quantity of goods. Have cloth double so you cut both sides at once, except in plaids or figured materials that have a decided up and down, for these must be carefully laid together that all stripes or figures may match.

Cut your lines straight and even or your finished seams will have a zigzag appearance. Pin your pattern carefully on all gores before cutting into your material, as it may save much disappointment. There are five pieces in a five gore skirt—the front gore—the two side gores and the two backs.

When the gores are all cut join together by first pinning the side gores to the front gore while the cloth is laying flat on the table. Insert your pins every three or four inches on a crosswise of your material as they are liable to pick up more goods on one side than on the other and give the finished seam a puckered look. Begin basting from the top and baste with small running stitches to a little below the hip line, then use the Irregular Basting Stitch—two short stitches and one long. Always baste the two seams together by having the straight of the goods on top and baste three-eighths inch seams as you have allowed that amount in cutting. Use a small piece of cardboard that is notched the exact width of the seam and use this while basting to have your work accurate. Baste while cloth is still on table and flat.

Remember that you always have a straight and bias seam coming together, never two bias seams except in the middle of the back or when some special style of skirt is desired.

In basting the gores together be sure to baste the side gore and front gore before beginning the seam where side gore and back gore join. Handle as little as possible until skirt is stitched. Baste with straight side on top.

You are now ready for the fitting and if you have taken your measures carefully and followed your directions to the very letter in cutting and basting, your skirt should fit without a single alteration, but if you find that it is a little too large all over, then stitch slightly inside your basting line. It is best to always stitch just a very little on outside of basting line, unless you find the skirt a great deal too large, as your basting threads
do not hold your gores as tightly as the stitching and you are apt to get your skirt too snug. Be sure to avoid too tight fitting about the hips, as the skirt will then roll in an unsightly manner.

When the skirt is on for fitting note carefully if the seams extend from the bottom up in a correct perpendicular line and that they do not skew from hip line up. In case you find they do, through some inaccurate cutting, then take up on one seam, and let out the same amount that you have taken up on other seam.

When everything has been found correct, then you are ready for stitching. Place your work on the machine with straight side of your seams up. You will be obliged to stitch one half of your skirt from the top and one half from the bottom, or you will get your work skewed. By stitching in this manner you stitch away from the edge of your material, thus avoiding a crowding down of the material. Do not have too tight a stitch on your machine. If your material happens to be of soft silk or other dainty material it is advisable to stitch it on paper or run up the seams by hand, using a very fine running stitch for the work.

Do not close the middle back seam until later—do not even baste it up yet.

Pick out your basting threads by clipping threads now and then and press. Be careful to not stretch your seams in pressing. If cloth has been used for the skirt bear very heavy on the iron and pound seams with iron. It is pressure that counts here instead of motion. If silk has been used in this garment then use moderately hot irons, as heat is very destructive to silk. In all cases be sure to use a cloth in pressing—if cloth or cotton use it damp, but on silk use no water.

Cut a belt of your material the waist size, allowing one-half inch at each end for seams and allow for whatever the skirt laps at placket. Cut this one and one-half inches wide and face with silk or a soft lining. When finished the belt should be three-fourths of an inch in width. Now pin your skirt to the belt. Be sure to have the center of the skirt the center of belt. The waist of the skirt should join to the belt with ease or the seams
will appear strained. Prepared belting can be used. It is found at all notion counters and comes at ten and fifteen cents per yard.

Overcast all seams with heavy self colored thread, bind by hand with seam binding or bind with narrow bias bands of thin silk or lining. The latter mode of binding makes your skirt appear more tailor finished, but care must be used in applying this or your seams will be held in by the binding. Stitch these bias bindings on right side of your seams with small seam and finish up on right side. Do not allow your binding to run down into your hem as it makes the hem clumsy. All outside seams of skirt can be finished with Welt or lap seams and stitched.

The Placket. Use a straight piece of material like your skirt with a piece of light canvas, for inner lining, so hooks will not show through. Cut the placket facing about eleven inches long and one and one-half inches in width. Stitch on wrong side of goods to right side of opening, turn, baste and finish by hand with invisible stitches. Great care should be maintained to get a neat finish to the placket, as it is the most prominent portion of the skirt. The underlap should be same length as facing, but twice as wide. Stitch on right side, turn over and stitch on right side allowing it to extend out at least one inch. Press and sew on hooks and eyes or clasps. A light weight facing can be run over hooks and eyes. Remember the skirt should have the right side to lap over the left in closing.

Baste up the back seam with a straight piece of lining or light tape for a stay, as you have two bias seams together here and they will sag and give that ugly hang at bottom after the garment has been worn a short while. Stitch and press. Finish seam as others have been finished.

Try on skirt again to see if it hangs evenly around bottom. If every precaution has been used, you will find that your hem will turn up just the four inches that were intended. But in case you find the skirt appears uneven, then have some one turn up skirt at bottom until it is found to be of even distance from floor all around. Baste hem in by first basting the lower edge, then turn the upper edge of hem in one-half inch and baste by using
a card marker as a guide to keep the hem even width all around. Use the irregular basting stitch for this. Press all seams again and then try on once more before stitching in hem and on belt. Always stitch hems from right side. The hem can be felled if you do not care to have the stitches show.

Sew a three inch piece of tape lengthwise to belt in center front and center back as hangers. Press again thoroughly and your skirt is complete.

If trimming is desired use nothing more than shaped bands or buttons, as cheap braid or other trimming will ruin your skirt and destroy that tailored finish.

TO THE LEARNER.

Practice measure taking until you can take skirt measures quickly and accurately.

Draw many diagrams of the plain five gore skirt on paper with different measures until you understand every principle of the drafting, then draw the diagram of a skirt as if you were going to cut a skirt of material. Cut the paper pattern out and join each part together as they should belong were you using cloth.

FIVE RULES TO REMEMBER.

1. Have good waist and skirt forms on which to drape your garments.

2. Always use good needles. No. 6 and 7 are good sizes to use for ordinary purposes.

3. Hooks and eyes. Never use too large hooks—No. 2 for linings and plackets, No. 3 for skirt bands, and No. 1 and 0 for collars and on garments where there is no strain.

4. Have all goods shrunk or sponged before making up.

5. Be sure to always get good linings, as a poor quality does not hold its shape.
QUESTIONS.
1. How many side gores in the Five Gore Skirt?
2. What is the foundation on which all skirts are cut?
3. Describe fully how you may fit a Five Gore Skirt.
4. Name the five rules of this lesson.
5. Tell how you would take skirt measures.
6. Why do we fold material in cutting the front gore?
7. Describe the construction of a placket.
8. Explain fully the pressing process of any skirt.
9. What do you know about belts?
10. How do you get an even length on all skirts?