

### CHAPTER III

## SEAMS AND THEIR USES

**Open Seams.** — When the seam is stitched only once and the raw edges are pressed apart, it is called an open seam. This is used in medium and heavy weight materials where a flat finish is desired, as in the seams of skirts or the underarm and shoulder joinings of woolen dresses. To form an open seam, lay the two pieces of the material with the right or face side of the goods together and stitch, taking the exact seam allowance. Press the seams open. See Fig. 17.

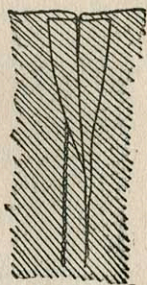


FIG. 17

The edges of the seam can be finished with overcasting, pinking or binding. See *Overcasting*, page 23.

*Pinking* is formed by cutting small triangular shaped notches in the edge. Edges cut

in this manner do not fray as readily as a straight edge.

If *binding* is used, bind the edge of each piece separately before joining. See *Binding*, page 113.

**French Seams.** — A French seam has the edges doubled in so no raw edges show. This type of seam is used on blouses, wash dresses, infants' clothes and lingerie. To form a French seam lay the two pieces of the material to be joined with the wrong sides of the material together and stitch the length of the seam, running the stitching one eighth of an inch from the edge. Turn the

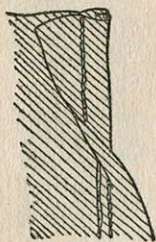


FIG. 18

pieces wrong side out and crease along the stitching. Stitch again the length of the seam, running the stitching one quarter of an inch from the creased edge. See Fig. 18. This takes the regulation seam allowance of three eighths of an inch. If more or less is allowed for the seam, make the stitchings correspondingly farther or nearer to the edge.

**Double Stitched Seams.**— If a second stitching is placed just back from the joining, the seam is called a double stitched seam. Coat and skirt seams are often double stitched for trimming. Lay the two pieces to be joined with the right sides of the material together and stitch the length of the seam, running the stitching in a seam's width. If the garment is unlined overcast the raw edges, see *Overcasting*, page 23, or bind the raw edges, inserting both raw edges in the one binding. See *Binding*, page 113. Turn both edges toward the side where the second stitching is to be placed. Baste, press and stitch the length of the seam, stitching on the right side of the garment. See Fig. 19. The second stitching is usually placed from one eighth to one quarter of an inch from the seam. If the stitching is placed the exact width of the machine foot from the seam the foot can be used as a gage in stitching.

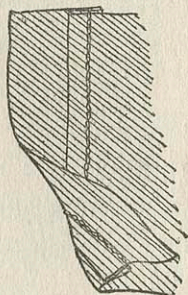


FIG. 19

**Lap Felled Seams.** — When both edges of the seam are turned under and the seam is stitched flat, it is called lap felled.

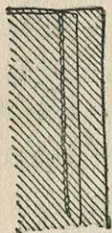


FIG. 20

Men's shirts and underwear and women's tailored blouses are made in this manner. Lay the two pieces to be joined with the wrong sides together. Place the under piece so it extends one quarter of an inch beyond the upper piece. Stitch the length of the seam running the stitching one quarter of an inch from the edge of the upper piece. See Fig. 20. Open up the two pieces and crease along the joining. Turn under the free edge and stitch it flat over the upper piece. See Fig. 21. This makes a seam allowance of three eighths of an inch. If the seam allowance varies, place the first stitching correspondingly nearer or farther from the edge.

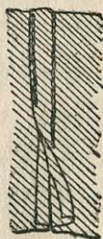


FIG. 21

**Slot Seam.** — When the seam is under faced it is called a slot seam. Seams of this

type are used for trimming purposes in medium weight materials. Fold under the seam allowance on both pieces to be joined and press the edges. Cut a strip of material a half inch wider than twice the seam allowance. Bind both edges of this piece. See *Binding*, page 113. Mark the center of the strip with chalk or a tracing wheel. Place the two pieces to be joined on top of the strip of material, bringing the folded edge of each piece to the center of the strip. Pin or baste in position and stitch the length of the seam twice, running the stitchings one quarter of an inch back from the folded edge of each piece. See Fig. 22.

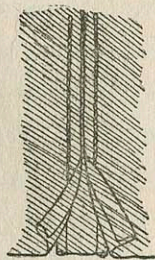


FIG. 22

**Hemstitched Seams.** — Where a light effect is desired in ladies' blouses, children's cotton dresses and lingerie the seams are hemstitched. Lay the two pieces to be joined with the right sides together and stitch the length of the seams, running the stitching a seam's width back from the edge. Fold both

raw edges back one way, baste in place and press. Have the garment machine hemstitched over the exact joining. Cut away the raw edges close to the hemstitching. See *Hemstitching with an Ordinary Sewing Machine*, page 115.

**Seam Beading.** — Tape embroidered to simulate hemstitching is called seam beading. This gives an effect similar to hemstitching and is used on underwear and infants' garments. Cut off all but one eighth of an inch seam allowance on the pieces to be joined. French seam one edge of the seam beading to one piece and French seam the edge of the beading which is free to the other piece. Make the French seam not more than one eighth of an inch wide when finished. It takes three sixteenths of an inch allowance to make a French seam one eighth of an inch wide. With only one eighth of an inch seam allowance the pieces would be short if joined directly together. However, the seam beading coming between adds the extra amount, making the size correct. If the seam beading

## DRESSMAKING MADE EASY

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is wider than one eighth of an inch finished, cut off proportionally more from the pieces to be joined.