

CHAPTER IV

TUCKS, PLEATS AND FULLNESS

Pin Tucks. — The narrowest tuck that can be made is called a pin tuck. They are used as a trimming in sheer fabrics.

To form a pin tuck crease the material, bringing the wrong sides together and stitch about one sixteenth of an inch from the creased edge. Where it is possible, pin tuck the material before cutting the garment out. If the piece is pin tucked after it is cut, more or less may be taken up than is allowed for, making the garment consequently small or large. See *How to Use a Block Waist Pattern*, page 118.

Side Tucks. — If any portion of a garment is caught together with stitching, making a fold of goods, and the fold turned to one side and pressed flat, it forms a side tuck. Side tucks are used as trimming in thin and medium weight materials. They vary in width.

To form a side tuck crease the material along the line which will be the free edge of the tuck, bringing the wrong sides of the material together. Press the crease and mark the stitching line with chalk or wax or use a sewing machine foot with a gage in stitching. Stitch through the two thicknesses of the material, placing the stitching the width of the tuck back from the edge. See Fig. 23. Fold the tuck into the finished position and press.



FIG. 23

To make a gage for spacing a group of tucks cut a straight piece of cardboard and notch the cardboard at the outer edge and sewing

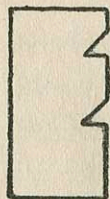


FIG. 24

line of each tuck as they will appear when finished. Cut the lower edge of the notch at right angles to the edge of the cardboard and the upper edge of the notch diagonally. See Fig. 24.

Side Pleats. — Where material is lapped over to take out fullness it forms a side pleat. Side pleats are used in the

top of skirts, bloomers, etc., where fullness is desired but where bulkiness is to be avoided.

To form a side pleat determine the amount of material to be taken up in the pleat. Mark this space on the right side of the goods, plac-

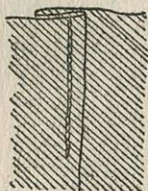


FIG. 25

ing the first mark at the fold of the pleat. Bring the two marks together forming the pleat. See Fig. 25.

Soft pleats are pleats which are unstitched. They are used in pliable materials.

In *stitched side pleats* the needle passes through the three thicknesses of the material. The stitching is placed any desired distance from the fold.

Box Pleats. — A box pleat is two side pleats turned away from each other. These are used as trimming on waists, skirts and children's dresses. Determine the amount of material to be taken up in the pleat. Mark the amount on the material and fold the goods center way on the marks, bringing the wrong sides of the goods together. Stitch the

finished width of the pleat back from the edge of the fold, which will be along the marks. Open up the material, bring the fold center way over the stitching and press. If desired stitch down either side of the pleat. See Fig. 26.

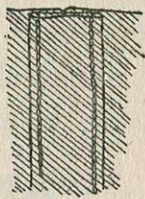


FIG. 26

Double Box Pleats. — Where side pleats are added either side of a box pleat and turned away from the box pleat, it is called a double box pleat. The effect is of one box pleat on top of another. This type of pleat is used in children's dresses and ladies' skirts.

Simulated Box Pleats. — If two side pleats are turned away from each other with a space between, they form a simulated box pleat. It does not take as much material as a box pleat but gives the same appearance. Determine where the center of the simulated box pleat is to be. Measure out half the width of the simulated box pleat at either side and fold under shallow side pleats. See Fig. 27.

Inverted Box Pleat. — When two side pleats are turned toward each other and the edges of the two pleats meet, they form an inverted box pleat. These are used in skirts and children's dresses. To form an inverted box pleat first determine the amount of material

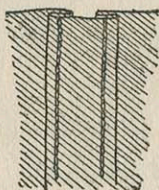


FIG. 27

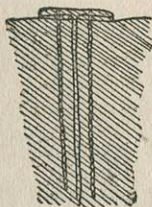


FIG. 28

to be taken up in the pleat. Mark the amount on the material to be pleated and place another mark center way of the space. Crease the material along the outside lines and bring these folded edges to the center line. See Fig. 28. It is a matter of choice whether or not the pleat is stitched. If the pleat is stitched, run the stitching parallel to the creased edges and back any desired amount from the edges.

Plain Shirring. — Where the material is gathered in parallel rows it forms plain

shirring. Shirring is used as trimming in thin goods or to regulate the hang of fullness in heavy materials. Make a cardboard gage to space shirring. See Fig. 24. Mark the lines where the shirring is to be placed. Run the shirr strings in by hand, taking running stitches and using a fine needle and fine thread knotted at the end. See Fig. 29. After the shirring has been drawn up the proper amount, fasten the shirr string securely with over and over stitches.

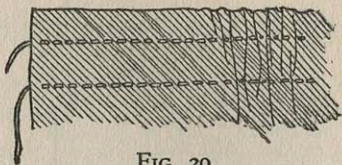


FIG. 29

To reinforce shirring, baste lawn to the wrong side of the material along the lines of shirring after the shirring has been drawn up. Machine stitch over the lines of shirring or secure the lawn to the material with back stitches worked by hand. See *Back stitch*, page 20. After the lawn is fastened to the goods cut it away between the lines of shirring.

Tuck Shirring. — When a small tuck is taken up on each line of shirring it is called tuck shirring. This particular trimming is suitable only for sheer goods. To form tuck shirring, crease along each line of shirring, bringing the wrong sides of the material together. In running in the shirr strings, place the stitches back a little way from the creased

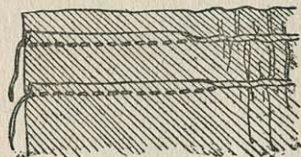


FIG. 30

edges. Spacing the shirr string back an eighth or a quarter of an inch from the edge gives a good effect.

When the shirr strings are drawn up, there is a tuck or heading formed on each line of shirring. See Fig. 30. Tuck shirring may be reinforced as described on page 43.

Cord Shirring. — If the material is gathered up on a cord at each line of shirring, it forms a cord shirring. Cord shirring makes attractive trimming in medium weight as well as sheer goods. To form cord shirring, crease the material as for a tuck shirring, inserting a

cotton cord along the crease, taking the stitches just in back of the cord and shirring the material up on the cord. See Fig. 31.

If a sewing machine is equipped with a one-sided foot, the cord can be stitched in by machine. Place the material in the machine so the cord comes on the side of the needle which is not covered with the foot. After the stitching is finished shirr the material up on the cord.

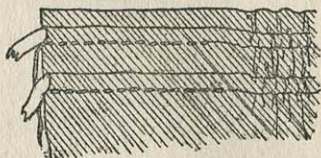


FIG. 31

The cotton cord used for cord shirring is called cable cord. It comes in various sizes.

To Keep Shirring Equally Distributed. — Divide the material to be shirred into four equal parts and use separate shirr strings for each part.