CHAPTER VII

SLEEVES AND HOW TO HANG THEM

Sleeve Vents. — Shirt sleeves have a vent at the back finished with a pointed top facing. Divide the bottom of the sleeve in half and then divide the back half in half again. This will give the point where the sleeve should be slashed for the vent. Usually the slash is about four inches deep.

Finish the back edge with an extension. Cut a straight piece of material one and three quarter inches wide and a seam's width longer than the slash. Turn off a seam at the top and press the edge. Lay this extension along the back edge of the slash. Keep the edges even at the bottom but place the edge of the extension nearly a seam's width beyond the slash at the top. Stitch the length of the slash, running the stitching a seam's width in from the edge of the extension piece. On the edge of the slash there will
be a seam taken at the bottom running to nothing at the top of the slash. Turn under the free edge of the extension a seam's width, fold the extension through the center and stitch it flat over the raw edges on the wrong side of the sleeve.

Cut a pointed facing for the front edge of the slash which will finish one inch wide. Mark a line on a piece of plain paper four inches long as line $AB$ in Fig. 66. One inch beyond this line mark another line parallel to it, as line $CD$ in Fig. 66. Draw a cross line at the top between points $A$ and $C$ and mark the center of it, lettering this point $E$. Mark a point one and one quarter inches above $E$, lettering it $F$. From this point draw diagonal lines to points $A$ and $C$. Mark another line, as $GH$, one half inch beyond line $CD$ and parallel to it. Continue the line $AC$ until it reaches line $G$. At the bottom draw a straight line across, touching points $B$, $D$, and $H$. Add the regulation seam allowance.
at all points. This gives a pattern for the pointed facing.

Turn under the top and the side edges $AB$ of the facing a seam's width and press. Lay the facing on the wrong side of the sleeve with the right side of the facing next to the wrong side of the material and the edge $GH$ next to the edge of the slash. Place the facing so the edges match at the bottom but with the edge of the facing extending a seam's width beyond the slash at the top. Stitch the length of the slash, running the stitching a seam's width from the edge of the facing. Fold the facing along line $CD$, bringing the pointed portion onto the right side of the sleeve. The point should come directly over the slash. Stitch the facing flat to the sleeve, running the stitching near the edge. Stitch across what was line $CA$ on the pattern, which will catch the extension at the back of the slash securely to the upper facing. See Fig. 67.

[78]
Short slashes in blouse sleeves are finished with continuous facings. See Continuous Facings, page 57.

Cuffs.—Band cuffs on shirt sleeves are sewed on after the sleeve seam is closed. Lay the cuff lining on the cuff with the right sides of the material together. Stitch across the ends and the bottom of the cuff. Cut off the corners diagonally near to the stitching and turn the cuff right side out. Place the cuff on top of the sleeve, with the wrong side of the cuff next to the wrong side of the sleeve, the raw edges of the cuff even with the bottom of the sleeve and the ends of the cuff coming to the end of the facing and extension at the vent in the sleeve. Stitch the inside cuff to the sleeve, leaving outer cuff free. Turn the cuff down into the finished position. Turn under the free edge of the cuff a seam’s width and fell it over the raw edges on the right side of the sleeve (see Felling, page 22), or stitch it down by machine. See Fig. 68.
Band cuffs on sleeves without vents are sewed to the sleeves before the sleeve seams are joined. Join the lining to bottom of the cuff, with the raw edges of the seam extending on the wrong side of the pieces. Leave the ends of the cuff and lining free. Join the cuff to the bottom of the sleeve with the raw edges of the seam extending on the inside of the sleeve. See Fig. 69. Then join the sleeve seam, the ends of the cuff and cuff lining in one continuous stitching. Turn the cuff lining onto the wrong side of the sleeve, fold in the free edge and fell it over the raw edges at the joining of the cuff and sleeve.

French cuffs are double cuffs which do not lap, but are held together at the end with cuff links. These are used on shirt sleeves which have a vent.

If a stiff cuff is desired interline with coarse lawn, carrying out the plan outlines in interlining Detachable Collars, page 98. After
the interlining is pinned in place, lay the two pieces for the cuff with the right sides of the material together and stitch across the bottom and the ends, leaving the edge which will fasten to the sleeve free. Cut off the seams near the stitching to avoid bulkiness, turn the cuff right side out and press. Lay the cuff on top of the sleeve with the raw edges of the cuff along the bottom of the sleeve. Bring one end of the cuff to the end of the facing on the front of the vent, but bring the other end of the cuff only to the joining of the extension and sleeve. See Fig. 70. In stitching, join one thickness of the cuff to the lower edge of the sleeve. Turn the cuff down, fold in the free edge and fell it over the raw edges at the joining of the cuff and sleeve. Fold the cuff through the center, turning the lower section back on the upper. Work
buttonholes in the end and fasten with cuff links. See Fig. 71.

*Turn back cuffs on sleeves without vents* give the best appearance when they are sewed on after the sleeve seams are closed. If the cuffs are lined, join the lining to the top of the cuff with the raw edges of the seam extending on the wrong side of the pieces. Open up the cuff and lining, and join the ends with the seams extending on the wrong side. Turn the sleeve wrong side out and slip the cuff over the sleeve with the right side of the cuff next to the wrong side of the sleeve and the bottom of the cuff even with the bottom of the sleeve. Stitch the cuff to the sleeve, running the stitching around the bottom of the sleeve and leaving the cuff lining free. Turn the sleeve right side out and the cuff into the finished position, folding under the free edge of the lining a seam's width, and felling it down by hand or stitching it by machine. See Fig. 72.

[82]
Unlined turn-back cuffs are usually sewed to the sleeve after the sleeve and cuff seams are joined. In this case, French seam the joining in the cuff. See French Seams, page 32. Turn the sleeve wrong side out and slip the cuff over the sleeve bringing the right side of the cuff next to the wrong side of the sleeve, and the lower edges even. Stitch around the bottom of the sleeve. Turn the sleeve right side out and the cuff into the finished position.

To Measure a Sleeve. — Mark off the seam allowance on the top and sides of the sleeve pattern. Pin the shoulder seams of the pattern and mark off the seams at the armhole and underarm. Measure around the armhole and across the top of the sleeve with the edge of the tape. A sleeve should be at least an inch and a half larger than the armhole.

To Make a Sleeve Smaller at the Top. — Lay in a dart tuck at the center of the sleeve pattern running from the top to the bottom. Crease the pattern lengthwise through the center, bringing the side edges together. At
the top of the sleeve pattern mark half the width of the tuck on either side of the crease.

See Fig. 73. From these points run diagonal lines to the center of the sleeve at the bottom. Crease along one of the diagonal lines and fold it over to the other to form the tuck. See Fig. 74.

To Make a Sleeve Narrower from Top to Bottom.
— Bring the side edges of the sleeve pattern together and crease through the center. Mark the amount to be taken out of the sleeve, half on one side of the center and
half on the other. Crease along one of these marks and fold it over to the other. See Fig. 75.

**To Increase the Size of a Sleeve at the Top.**—Bring the side edges of the sleeve pattern together and crease through the center. Then cut the pattern along the crease. Mark a straight line on a plain piece of paper. Place half the pattern on one side of the line and half on the other. Keep the lower edges even and touching the line. Spread the pattern apart at the top the desired amount, keeping the two pieces equal distances from the line. See Fig. 76. Mark around the outline of the pieces and it will give a sleeve pattern of increased size at the top.

**To Widen a Sleeve from Top to Bottom.**—Split the pattern through the center and lay the two pieces either side of a straight line
marked on plain paper as described in the paragraph before. Keep the tops and bottoms even and move the pieces equal distances from the line. See Fig. 77. Mark around the pieces for a new pattern.

To Shorten a Sleeve. — Mark off the seam allowance at top, sides and bottom. Fold the sleeve crosswise bringing the bottom of

the sleeve to the top and matching the corners at the bottom where the seams are marked off with the corners at the armhole where the seams are marked off. Crease through the center. Lay in a tuck the desired depth, taking up half the amount either side of the crease. See Fig. 78.

[ 86 ]
To Lengthen a Sleeve. — Fold crosswise as described above and mark exact center. Cut the sleeve pattern through the center. Mark a straight line on a plain piece of material. Lay one piece of the pattern above and one below the line. Keep the edges even and spread the pieces, moving both pieces the same distance from the line. See Fig. 79. Mark around the outside for a new pattern.

Testing a Sleeve to See if it Will Twist. — Mark off the seam allowance on the pattern at the top, sides and bottom. Crease the sleeve pattern through the center, bringing side edges together. The edges at the sides should exactly match, both above and below the elbow when the center of the sleeve is folded in one straight continuous crease. See Fig. 80. If when the sleeve is creased and the edges matched above the elbow, the edges do not come together below the elbow,
the sleeve will twist. See Fig. 81. In this case, true up the sleeve pattern by cutting off a trifle on one edge below the elbow and adding to the other until they exactly match.

**Adding Reach Room to a Sleeve.** — If sleeves draw when the arms are brought forward, the strain coming across the back from elbow to elbow there is not reach room enough in the sleeves. Before using the pattern again, trace off the seams, lay the pattern on another piece of paper and add a little more goods to the top of the pattern at the side back. See Fig. 82. This lengthens the sleeve at just the point where the strain comes.

[ 88 ]
**Shirt Sleeves.** — These are cut the same front and back and the seam in the sleeve matches the underarm seam. Shirt sleeves should be sewed to the armhole before the sleeve or underarm seams are closed. Pin the sleeve to the armhole, working from the wrong side of the garment and with the sleeve toward you. Ease the sleeve to the armhole at all points. See Fig. 83. Double stitch the sleeve to the armhole, turning the raw edges into the garment. See *Double Stitched Seams*, page 33. After the sleeve is sewed to the armhole, close the sleeve and underarm seam in one continuous stitching.

**Waist Sleeves Having Seams Matching Underarm Seams.** — In this case, too, the sleeve should be sewed to the armhole before the sleeve and underarm seams are closed.
Pin the sleeve to the armhole, easing it to the armhole at the side front and side back, and pinning it plain to the armhole at the top and bottom. These sleeves are sometimes French seamed, sometimes double stitched, and sometimes plain seamed and bound. See *Seams*, page 31 and *Binding*, page 113.

**Sleeves with Seams that do not Match Underarm Seams.** — Here the underarm and the sleeve seams are closed before the sleeve is joined to the armhole. Pin the sleeve to the armhole, working from the wrong side of the garment. Ease the sleeve to the armhole at the side front and back, and pin it to the armhole plain at the top and underarm. Baste both sleeves to the garment. If the garment fitted smoothly before the sleeves were sewed in, then, after the sleeves are basted in, draws either through the body portion or in the sleeve, you will know that the fault is in the sleeves. Rip them out and shift them to the front or the back until the garment fits smoothly and the arms can be
moved with freedom. The best finish is obtained in this type of sleeve by plain stitching it to the armhole and then binding the armhole.

**Sleeves with Fullness at the Top.** — Sleeves of this type are usually made with seams that do not match the underarm seams. Join the underarm and sleeve seams before joining the sleeve to the armhole. Run a gather thread all the way around the sleeve. Pin the sleeve to the armhole, working from the wrong side of the garment. Place most of the fullness at the top, side front and back, but ease the sleeve slightly to the armhole at all points.

For *Coat Sleeves*, see page 132.