CHAPTER VIII

FINISHING

Darts. — When a triangular-shaped piece of material is taken up to eliminate fullness it forms a dart. In forming a dart mark the amount of material to be taken up and where the dart will end. Crease the material centerway between the marks, bringing the right sides of the goods together, and stitch the dart. Curve the stitching, reversing the curve at the top and gradually running it off to nothing. See Fig. 84. It gives a well-rounded, smooth dart on the right side of the goods. If the dart is stitched straight across, it will end in a blunt point which will poke out on the right side of the garment.

Facings. — A straight facing is formed by sewing a straight piece of material to a raw
edge and turning it back on the wrong side. Lay the facing piece along the edge to be faced, with the right sides of the material together. Stitch the length of the facing. Turn the facing onto the wrong side of the garment, fold under the raw edge a seam’s width, press and stitch the facing to the material, running the stitching along the folded edge of the facing. See Fig. 85.

A shaped facing is one which faces a curved or pointed edge and is cut the same shape as the outside piece. Use the pattern as a guide in cutting the facing, marking back on the edge of the pattern the width of the facing plus seams. This gives a pattern for the facing. Stitch the facing to the garment in the same manner as a straight facing. See Fig. 86.

Casings. — An extra piece of material applied to a garment, for the purpose of carry-
ing an elastic or draw string, is called a casing. The waistlines of children's guimpes, ladies' blouses and the tops of petticoats are finished in this manner.

When the casing is placed centerway of a piece, cut a strip of material one inch wide. Turn under the ends and stitch across them. Mark where the lower edge of the casing will come on the material. Lay the casing on the wrong side of the garment below the mark, with only a seam allowance lapping over the mark. Stitch the casing to the garment, running the stitching a seam's width in from the edge. Fold the casing over. Turn under the free edge a seam's width and stitch it flat to the garment. Insert elastic, fastening it to the garment at either end with over and over stitches, or insert a draw string. See Fig. 87.

To make a casing at the edge of a piece, cut material for casing and finish ends as described above. Join casing to lower edge
the same as a facing, see *Facing*, page 92, then insert elastic or a draw string.

**To Miter Corners.** — In order to turn a corner in a straight piece of material, it is necessary to take a V-shaped dart. This forms a mitered corner.

Lay the straight strip of material face down on a smooth surface. Determine where the corner is to be and swing the material around until the outer edges lie in the desired position. Pinch up the surplus goods at the corner until the material is smooth. Pin the dart thus formed and stitch across it. See Fig. 88. Cut off the material in the dart, leaving only a narrow seam. Turn the piece right side out, fold the raw edges of the seam to one side of the miter and stitch across the mitered corner again.

**Lining Trimming Pieces.** — The lining for any trimming piece should be cut a trifle smaller than the outside. Otherwise the lin-
ing will wrinkle and bulge beyond the outside of the piece.

Use the pattern for the outside trimming piece as a guide in cutting the lining, cutting the lining one eighth of an inch smaller on all edges than the outside. Lay the lining on the outside piece, with the right sides of the material together and baste around the edges, keeping the edges of the two pieces exactly even by holding the outside to the lining at all points. Stitch around the outside edges, leaving a space open for two inches in order to turn the trimming piece right side out. Cut the seam off diagonally at the corners to avoid bulk. Turn the trimming piece right side out, fold under the free edges a seam's width and blind stitch across the opening. See Blind Stitching, page 22. The edge of the trimming piece will be thin and neat. See Fig. 89.

Yokes.—In children’s dresses, ladies tailored blouses and men’s shirts, yokes are usually lined.

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To make a lined yoke, cut the lining the same shape as the outside yoke. In joining, insert the material which comes below the yoke between the yoke and the yoke lining. To do this, lay the yoke on top of the piece which is to be joined to it, with the face side of the yoke next to the face side of the material and the lower edge of the yoke even with the upper edge of lower piece. Baste in position and place the yoke lining on the wrong side of the lower piece in a position corresponding to the position of the outside yoke. Stitch across the three pieces. See Fig. 90. Turn the yoke and the yoke lining up into their finished position and press. See Fig. 91. From the right side of the garment, stitch across the yoke again, running the stitching above the first joining.
Unlined yokes are double stitched to the piece below. See *Double Stitched Seams*, page 33.

_Yokes with tucks at the lower edge_ are lapped over the piece which comes below and stitched like a tuck. To finish a yoke of this type fold back the lower edge a seam's width more than the width of the finished tuck. Press this edge. Lap the bottom of the yoke over the lower piece, keeping the upper edge of the lower piece even with the raw edge folded under on the yoke. Stitch across the yoke, the tuck’s width back from the folded edge.

**Collars.** — _Detachable soft shirt collars_ are usually interlined. Use a coarse lawn or linen for the interlining. Make the interlining one, two or three thicknesses according to the desired stiffness of the collar.

Use the collar pattern as a guide in cutting the interlining, cutting off the seams at the outer edges. Cut two pieces for the outside collar. Lay the interlining on the wrong side of the under collar piece and baste in
place. Place the top collar on the under collar with the right sides of the material together. Stitch around the outside edges, being careful not to catch the interlining in the seam. Leave a two-inch opening at the lower edge of the collar for turning the collar right side out. To avoid bulkiness at the edges cut off the seam near the stitching. Turn the collar right side out. Turn under the raw edges at the opening and blind stitch across the opening by hand. See *Blind Stitching*, page 22. Stitch around the outside of the collar again, running the stitching any desired distance from the edge.

Collars which are lined should have the lining cut smaller than the outside. See *Lining Trimming Pieces*, page 95. Leave the neck edges of the lining and the collar raw.

Collars which are hemmed must be cut straight at the edges. It is impossible to turn a neat hem on a curved edge. Turn the hem first onto the right side of the garment. At the corners pinch out the surplus goods, and stitch across diagonally. See *To Miter Cor-
ners, page 95. Then fold the hem onto the wrong side, turn under the free edges a seam's width, and press the edges. Stitch around the collar, working from the right side of the collar and running the stitching a hem's width from the edge.

Collars which are faced give the same appearance as hemmed collars. Square collars can be finished with a straight facing. See Straight Facings, page 92. In this case the corners should be mitered. See To Miter Corners, page 95. The best result is obtained in round or fancy-shaped collars when a shaped facing is used. See Shaped Facings, page 93.

Finishing the Neck.—As soon as the shoulder seams are closed in any garment, run a thread around the neck by hand and draw up the material slightly. This is to prevent stretching.

Collar bands are used as a finish at the neck where the garment has a detachable collar, as in the case of shirts and some tailored blouses. Cut two pieces for the collar band. Lay the two pieces of the band with the
right sides of the material together. Stitch the two pieces together, running the stitching a seam’s width in from the edge at the ends and across the top. To avoid bulk, cut the seams away close to the stitching. Turn the band right side out and press. Mark the center-front and center-back on the band. Place the band on the wrong side of the garment, with the raw edges of the band even with the neck edge of the garment. Keep the center-front and center-back of the band even with the center-front and center-back of the garment. Stitch the edge of the band which comes next to the garment to the neck edge of the garment. Turn the band up into the finished position, fold in the raw edge a seam’s width, and stitch this free edge over the raw edges on the right side of the garment. See Fig. 92.

If the collar is lined, place the collar on the wrong side of the garment with the right
side of the collar next to the wrong side of
the garment and the raw edges on the collar
even with the neck edge of the garment.
Stitch the edge of the collar which comes
next to the garment to the neck edge of the
garment. Turn the collar onto the right side
of the garment, fold under the free edge a
seam’s width and stitch
this edge over the raw
edges or fell it down by
hand. See Fig. 93. See
Felling, page 22.

If the collar is faced or
hemmed finish the neck of
the garment in sewing on
the collar with a narrow
facing. Cut the facing bias, three quarters
of an inch wide. See Cutting True Bias,
page 18.

Lay the collar on the right side of the gar-
ment, with the wrong side of the collar next
to the right side of the garment and the
edges even at the neck. Place the facing
along the neck edge and stitch around the
neck. To avoid bulk, cut the seam off close to the stitching. Turn the facing onto the wrong side of the garment. Fold under the ends and raw edge. Fell the facing in place, see Felling, page 22, or stitch it down by machine. See Fig. 94.

If the front of the waist has revers, join the under collar to the neck edge of the waist, with the raw edges of the seam extending on the inside of the waist. The front of the waist should have facings. Use the front of the pattern as a guide in cutting these. The upper portion of the facing should extend two inches beyond the roll line of the revers. Join the upper edge of the facings to the neck edge of the collar. The raw edge of the seam should extend on the wrong side. Then join the collar and front facings to the waist. Place the facings and collar on the right side of the garment, keeping edges even. Stitch around the out-
side edges of the collar and down the fronts. Cut the seams off diagonally at the corners to avoid clumsiness. Turn the collar and facings onto the wrong side of the garment. Turn under the raw edges a seam’s width and stitch in place or turn off a seam’s width on the back edge of the front facing and stitch along the fold, leaving the facing free from the waist. In this case, turn under the raw edges at the neck of the collar and fell the collar in place, see Felling, page 22, or machine stitch it down.

Slashed Openings at the Neck. — Middies and similar garments which slip on over the head have the front slashed at the neck. A slash of this type is finished with a facing. Do not slash the material until the facing is stitched in place.

Where the collar extends to the center-front, the slash is faced before the collar is joined to the neck. Cut the facing to extend two inches beyond the slash at all points. Turn a narrow hem on the outer edges of the facing or bind these edges. See Binding, page 113.
Mark where the slash is to be placed on the front of the garment. Cover this mark with the facing piece, placing the facing piece on the right side of the material and centerway over the mark. Mark the slash on the facing piece. Stitch either side of the mark, placing the stitching one eighth of an inch from the mark at the top and running the stitching to a point below the mark. See Fig. 95. Slash centerway between the stitching and turn the facing onto the wrong side of the garment. Stitch the outer edges of the facing to the garment, or let the facing hang free. Work eyelets either side of the slash and fasten with a lace. Join the collar to the neck edge in the regular way. See Collars, page 98.

Where the front of the garment turns back in revers, face the slash as described above. In joining the collar to the neck edge stitch the under collar to the neck edge of the garment, and the under side of the revers and the top
collar to the revers facing. Fell the raw edges of the collar over the raw edges of the garment at the back of the neck.

**Waistbands.** — Cut the waistband to correspond to the waist measure, allowing laps and seams at the ends. It should be twice the desired finished width plus seams. Fold the waistband through the center with the right sides together and stitch across the ends. Turn the waistband right side out, fold under the lower edges a seam’s width and press. Mark the center-front and back on both the waistband and the garment. Insert the raw edge of the garment between the two thicknesses of the waistband, keep the center-fronts and backs even, and stitch. See Fig. 96.

**Inside Belts of Grosgrain Belting.** — *Raised waistline skirts* are sometimes hung from the top of an inside belt of stiff grosgrain webbing. The webbing should measure just the amount the skirt is cut above the normal waistline.
The inside belt should correspond to the waist measure and have hems allowed at the ends. The ends of the belt should just come together, after the hems are turned, and be finished with hooks and eyes. Mark the center-front and center-back on the belt.

After the gores of the skirt have been joined and the placket finished, join to the top of the inside belt, bringing the center-front and back of the skirt to the center-front and back of the belt. Working from the right side of the skirt, lap the top of the skirt a seam's width over the edge of the belt, with the belt extending straight up above the skirt. Baste the skirt in this position, turn down the belt inside the skirt and try on the skirt to see if it needs readjustment. In stitching the skirt to the belt, turn the belt up above the skirt, as it was first. Stitch through one thickness of the skirt and the belt. Cover the raw edge with a fold of material or tape and stitch the tape or material along either side. Then turn the belt down into the skirt. The top of the skirt will roll
over the top of the belt and give a clean finish. See Fig. 97.

One-piece dresses often have grosgrain belting as a stay at the waistline. Finish off the waist portion of the garment except at the lower edge. Join the skirt gores, and finish the placket and lay in any pleats, or gather any fullness at the top.

If the dress is made with a raised waistline, make the belt tight enough so the lower edges will stay at the normal waistline and the belt extend above. Finish the ends of the belt with hems and hooks and eyes, and mark the center-front and back on the belt. Try on the belt and adjust the lower edge of the waist over the top of the belt, bringing the center-front and back of the waist to these points in the belt. Put the skirt on over the waist and belt, turn under the top of the skirt a seam's width, bring the center and back of the skirt to these points in the waist and belt, and pin securely to the belt. Re-
move the garment and stitch through the skirt, the waist and the belt, running the stitching along the top of the belt.

If the dress is normal waistline, make the belt a trifle looser so the center will stay at the normal waistline. In adjusting the waist and skirt to the belt, stitch along the center of the belt.

Hemming the Bottom of Skirts. — Straight skirts should have the hems turned evenly all the way around, and any adjusting should be done from the top. Before turning the hem bind the edge, see Binding, page 113, or fold under a seam’s width and stitch along the edge of the fold. Turn the hem, press it and stitch by machine or fell by hand. See Felling, page 22.

In circular skirts there is fullness at the top of the hem. After the hem has been turned back, run a gather thread around the top of the hem, drawing it up so it is just the size of the skirt. The fullness should run straight down at all points. In woolen materials or cottons in woolen finish, shrink out
some of the fullness at the top of the hem. See *To Steam Out Slight Ease or Fullness*, page 18. Bind the top of the hem and fell by hand or machine stitch.

**The Top of Boys' Trousers.** — The edges are faced and finished with a button band. Cut strips of material for bands wide enough to be folded double, one for front and one for back of trousers, and long enough to reach across. Fold bands through center, turn under raw edges, press and stitch around them. Face front and back of trousers. See Fig. 98 and *Facings*, page 47. Work buttonholes in bands and stitch lower edges of bands to trousers, keeping top of bands even with top of trousers. See Fig. 99. Buttonholes in band should match buttons on under waist.