CHAPTER XXIII
BOYS' SUITS

THE MAKING of a boy's suit is not at all a difficult matter if one goes about it in the right way. There are a few tedious details of finish, the proper carrying out of which determines the success of the suit. A hot iron is a necessary requisite to good work, and its frequent use will help much toward the progress of the suit. Follow the pattern directions closely and there will be no trouble.

Before Cutting have the cloth shrunk and pressed. Then lay the entire pattern out on the material to the best advantage, as explained in the pattern instructions. With tailors' chalk trace the seams along the perforations that indicate the sewing line of the outlet seams. With tailors' tacks, one long and two short stitches (see Chapter IV), mark these seams through the two thicknesses of the cloth. Cut the stitches and separate the pieces.

The various sections of the suit should have the pockets in place before they are joined. Mark the positions of the pockets as indicated by the perforations.

THE TROUSERS will be our first consideration. As the initial step, baste and stitch the darts in the back portions of the trousers, and press them open. In the right-back portion make a pocket, instructions for which will be found on page 104, Chapter XX, "Pockets."

The fly is next put into the front portion. Baste a facing, cut from the fly-piece pattern, to the outside of the front edge of the left-front portion, with the notches even. Stitch a narrow seam from the top to the notch. Turn the facing to the wrong side, and baste it flat, with the cloth at the seam edge entirely covering the lining.

Now lay together, face to face, two fly pieces, one of cloth and one of lining, and stitch a seam on the notched edge from the top to the notch. Turn it to the right side, baste flat and press.

It is more convenient to make the buttonholes in the fly now, than after it is stitched in place.

They are worked from the cloth side, the first one coming just below the waistband. Then baste the fly into position, its edge a trifle back of the edge on the left front of the trousers. Stitch one-quarter inch back of the buttonholes, through the four thicknesses of goods, down from the waistband, ending in a curved line on the lower edge. (Fig. 318.) Tack the fly between the buttonholes to the facing. Overcast the raw edges on the inside.

The underlapping fly piece for the buttons on the right front of the trousers should be faced with lining; the seam sewed at the unnotched edge. The notched edge of the cloth piece is then basted and stitched to the edge of the right front of the trousers. This seam is then pressed open. Turn under the lining, clipping the edge to make it lie flat, and baste it to the cloth seam. From the right side stitch neatly an even line down close to the bastings and across the free edge at the bottom.
Small trousers buttons are sewed on in position corresponding to the buttonholes on the opposite fly.

*For the Smaller Boys,* when buttons and buttonholes are impracticable, the small facing provided for in the pattern is attached to the right side of both of the fronts, turned in and stitched down. (Fig. 317, page 128.) The front seam is then closed from the notch above to the waistline.

The Side Pockets should be put in next. Complete instructions for making them will be found on page 106, Chapter XX, "Pockets."

*Trousers Having no Fly Closing* have the waistband divided into a front and back waistband, leaving an opening at each side of the trousers. In this case the extension on the side of the back pieces of the trousers is faced, thus forming the underlap for the opening. The loose edge of the pocket piece is then faced on both sides with the cloth, and two rows of stitching, a quarter of an inch apart close to the edge, give it a firm finish. Now the upper edges of the pocket are basted to the upper edge of the trouser’s front. (Fig. 317, page 128.)

Make a bar, overcast or buttonholed, between the two rows of stitching, catching through the cloth, and both sides of the pocket at the top and at the bottom of the opening.

The pocket may now be closed. Round off one or both of the corners, and, turning in the seam with the raw edges toward the inside of the pocket, stitch securely.

The Outside Seam of the trousers is closed next. In knickerbockers, it is stitched in a seam all the way down. The lower edge of the leg is gathered in a casing with an elastic. In trousers finished with a band the extension allowed at the lower part for an opening at the side is turned under for a facing on the upper side, and faced and used as an extension on the underside. The band can be fastened with a buckle or with a button and buttonhole. After stitching the seam, turn the raw edges toward the front. From the outside, run a line of stitching one-eighth of an inch from the seam.

Now stitch and press open the inside seam of each leg.

The two leg portions may then be joined, beginning the seam down the back at the waist, and extending it to the notches in the lower edge of the fly pieces, including in the seam the seams of the fly pieces below the notches. Press this seam open and baste over it, flat on the inside, a piece of tape or a bias strip. Stitch from the outside a row on each side of the seam. Turn the end of the tape over and hem neatly down at the end of the fly stitching. On the outside, at the end of the fly opening, make a strong stay-stitch or bar, to keep it from tearing out.
The Top Edge of the trousers is turned over a seam, and a strip of lining stitched to it, then basted down in a faced hem. A band, with the buttonholes worked in it with stout thread or twist, is basted over this faced hem, and from the right side stitched through both facing and band at the lower edge and the ends. A strong tack thread should catch the band and the facing between the buttonholes.

The Lower Edge of each trousers leg is hemmed up by hand with invisible stitches.

RUSSIAN BLOUSES for little boys' suits vary considerably in detail of style, but they are generally made without lining. They may or may not have a pocket; they may be perfectly plain or made with tucks or box plaits; with sailor collar or with a stand-up band, or to be worn with a linen collar. They may be trimmed with braid, chevrons and badges, with hand embroidery, or without either, as the case may require.

In cutting observe and mark all perforations and notches for seams, box plaits, pocket openings, etc. See Chapter X.

If a pocket is desired it should be put into the left-front piece before the seams are closed. Proceed as directed in the instructions for the pocket on page 104, Chapter XX, "Pockets."

Bind the raw edges of the front and back pieces at the seams with lining satin or seam-binding. Baste the pieces together and stitch. If preferred, a seam requiring no binding may be made by allowing a wider seam when cutting and arranging a lap seam, as explained in Chapter XIX, "Tailored Seams." Then press it flat and from the right side stitch an even row down on each side of the seam.

The Front is closed by means of buttons and buttonholes whether in fly, the single lap, or double-breasted style. In case of a fly make a strip of lining, doubled, in which the buttonholes are worked. This strip is then basted to the overlapping front, one-fourth inch from the outer edge of the blouse, and stitched from the outside through all the thicknesses, on the line of the inner edge of the fly. Tack the fly between the buttonholes. With a visible closing, the eyelet buttonholes are used. See Chapter II. The lower edge of the blouse is hemmed.

The Sailor Collar should be turned under a seam's width around the outside edge, and all the trimming sewed on it before the collar is lined. Turn under the outside edges of the collar lining a seam's width and baste it to the wrong side of the collar with the edge of the lining about an eighth of an inch within the edge of the collar, keeping the corners straight and being careful not to stretch or pull the edge of the cloth. Baste the lining to the back and sides of the collar, then stitch, turn to the right side and press. Baste the cloth neck edge of the collar to the neck edge of the blouse, according to the notches, with the seam toward the under or outside of the blouse and stitch. Baste the lining neck edge over the seam. Hem it down by hand. Fig. 320.

The Sleeves may have a cuff or not, according to the pattern. The seams are stitched and finished like the seams of the blouse. Baste the sleeves into the armhole and try the blouse on before stitching by machine. Bind the raw edges at the armhole with a
bias strip of the lining or with seam-binding. For illustrations see Chapters X, "Children’s Clothes,” and XI, “Sailor or Naval Suits.”

A Belt, either of leather or of the blouse material, is worn with the Russian blouse suit. It is slipped through cloth straps which are fastened, according to the perforations, at each under-arm seam. When a belt of the material is used it should be stitched flat, to correspond to the stitching on the collar.

A NORFOLK JACKET is somewhat more like a coat, in that it is lined and has a more strictly tailored finish. In cutting, observe all the notches, perforations, etc., and mark the material accordingly.

The chalk or thread marks indicating the box plait are then brought together, and a large tuck stitched. Spread it out, bringing the sewing directly under the center line of the plait. Baste along both edges and press flat.

If preferred, the box plaits may be made separately, if the pattern does not allow for them. Turn under the side edges of the cloth three-quarters of an inch and baste. (See Fig. 322.) The plaits are then stitched to the jacket three-eighths of an inch from the edge.

A Pocket with a Lap is made in each side of the front piece, behind the box plait. For making the pocket see instructions on page 104, Chapter XX, "Pockets.

The Yoke, if one is used, is cut by the pattern and basted in position with its lower edge turned under. Stitch it flat with a row of stitching three-eighths of an inch from the edge. Cut the cloth away from under it, and press.

Now face the fronts of the jacket with canvas from the shoulder, as shown in Fig. 323. The upper corners of the fronts, that are turned over to form the lapels, are made firm with padding stitches run through both cloth and canvas.

A cloth facing, a little wider than the lapels, is basted to the right sides of the fronts. Stitch a seam across the lapel corner and down the front edge. Trim away the canvas from the seam as close as possible, and turn the facing back. Baste the edge flat, and stitch it down neatly three-eighths of an inch from the edge.

The shoulder and side seams joining the fronts and the back of the jacket may now be closed. Press these seams open. Turn up the lower edge of the jacket and baste it flat.

The Collar is cut from two pieces of the cloth and one of canvas. The cloth piece for the top of the collar is a seam’s width wider all around than the canvas. Baste the latter two pieces together, and trace the turning line of the collar. The crescent-shaped space thus outlined is the part that stands up in the finished collar. To give it stability and strengthen the

Fig. 321. Front View of Jacket, Pieced

Fig. 322. Separate Box Plait, Ready to Apply to Jacket
curve, run several rows of stitching across it, parallel to the tracing. The other part of the collar is covered with "padding stitches." (Fig. 324.) Now baste the top collar piece over this foundation; turn the edges under and baste.

The collar is then basted to the jacket on the outside of the neck edge. Baste it on carefully, avoiding any possible stretching out of shape. At the points where the collar meets the lapels of the jacket, the canvas must be cut away to make a neat joining.

The Sleeves are cut, the seams stitched and pressed open. Turn the wrist edge up as far as the pattern allows, and baste it flat. Then run a line of stitching around it, as directed in the pattern instructions. Following the notches, baste the sleeves into position and try on the garment. If they set properly, they may then be stitched in by machine.

If cuffs are provided for, they are made separately, and slip-stitched to the sleeve over the wrist edge after the lining has been put in. (See page 54, Chapter X, "Children's Clothes."

The Belt has an interlining of canvas, stitched in at the same time with the row of machine-stitching that finishes it three-eighths of an inch around the edge. The lining is then added by hand. Two buttonholes are made, two inches apart, at the round end of the belt, and two corresponding buttons are sewed on the straight end. An opening through which the belt is run is allowed under each box plait in the jacket.

The Buttonholes are made with eyelets as described and illustrated in Chapter II.

The Lining for the jacket is the next consideration. Cut the back by the pattern for the jacket, allowing a half-inch plait down the center, which keeps the lining from drawing the outside cloth out of shape. Baste this little plait down. Now secure the lining back into position on the inside of the jacket. Baste the raw edges at the side seams over the corresponding seams of the cloth, but do not have the bastings show through to the right side of the jacket. Do the same at the shoulder seams. At the neck edge clip the curve enough to make the lining lie smoothly; slip the raw edge under the collar and baste the latter down over it.

Each lining front is cut in one piece, with a dart-like plait allowed at the shoulder which graduates to nothing five inches below it. Baste each piece into position in the jacket. The raw edge at the side seam is turned in and hemmed down by hand, covering the raw edge of the back piece. It may be necessary to clip the edges slightly to prevent any possible drawing at the seams.

The raw edges down the front are, likewise, turned in and stitched down over the cloth facing by hand. At the shoulder, the seam of the back lining laps over the raw edge of the front piece. The top collar piece is then stitched down by hand.

The sleeve lining is cut by the sleeve pattern, the seams stitched and pressed open. Slip it into the jacket sleeve with corresponding seams together. At the wrist edge
turn in the lining and hem it to the cloth sleeve by hand. Hold the lining in place by running a basting thread around the sleeve about four inches from the upper edge. Lastly, turn under the upper edge of the lining, baste it down over the raw edges of the armhole and sew down by hand.

The lower edge of the jacket may now be closed in the same way; all basting threads that show are pulled out, and the jacket is given a final pressing wherever necessary.

Boys' suits should always be made of strong, durable materials of as good a quality as one can afford, for they get very hard usage, and a poor cloth will not only wear out quickly, but is also likely to stretch and lose its shape. For cold weather heavy serges and cheviots are about the best materials one can get. For the spring use lighter weight serges for every-day suits, and tweeds and homespuns for better wear. These last materials are extremely smart-looking, but they are loosely woven and are not practical for school suits. They are generally used in the light shades of gray and tan. In summer weather heavy linen crash is an excellent material for ordinary wear. The lighter linens on the order of a good-quality French linen are very nice for better suits.