THE UNDERSKIRT

Select a commercial pattern for an underskirt according to your waist measure.

Fig. 90.
Underskirt Suggestion.

A three, four or five gored pattern with a flounce makes a very nice skirt. The five gored skirt is more easily fitted than the three gored.

The pattern you select will give you full directions as to the amount of material you will require for that particular pattern.

Read the directions on the pattern and be sure you understand all the markings referred to in the directions.

The materials suitable for underskirts are long cloth, cambric, batiste, cotton crepe, gingham, crepe de chine and taffeta.

GINGHAM

Gingham is a plain woven material; the warp and woof threads are the same size and twist. It is woven in stripes and checks, the pattern being produced by the arrangement of the warp and woof threads. It was originally manufactured at Guingamp, France, from where it received its name. It is used principally for women’s and children’s washable dresses and aprons. At first it was a coarse material of two colors, but now it can be had in the finest tissues, often made into artistic patterns of

Fig. 91.
Skirt Suggestion.
the daintiest colors. When gingham is taken from the loom, it has a very unfinished appearance. The cloth is then inspected and when an imperfection is found it is discarded for the time and is finished later as "seconds." The loose ends and the threads are removed by the use of a gas flame.

The soap and water bath brightens the colors; it is then starched and ironed. The ironing process is done with large rollers and is called calendering. The cloth is then rolled on a board by an automatic machine that registers the number of yards on each board. The bolts are then pressed and the paper bands are pasted on. Now the gingham is ready for shipment in the form that it is shown you over the counter.

**TAFETTA AND CREPE DE CHINE**

*Taffeta* and *Crepe de chine* are silk fabrics that have come into favor recently for underwear. The crepe de chine is used for corset covers, night dresses and skirts. It is not a durable material but looks sheer and pretty for a short time. It requires great care in laundering and cannot be scalded.

*Taffeta* is used for underskirts and suits. History records that the term has been applied to various silks of the same weave for about six hundred years. Sometimes the material was thin and soft, while at other periods it was heavy and thick. The taffeta of the present day is the glossy stiff material. It is not the best wearing material one could find for skirts because of its affinity for the salts of different metals used in the weighing of the silk during the dying process. Much of the weight of the silk that is lost in the boiling off is replaced and considerable weight is added.

Taffeta may be bought in a variety of colors.

Make your first skirt of chambray or gingham. You may make a taffeta skirt later as a home project.

The average width of gingham and chambray is 30 inches to 36 inches. The pattern will tell you the amount of material you will need.

![Fig. 92.](image)

Placing skirt pattern on the material.

Place the pattern on the material according to the markings. Watch for the markings that indicate the length of the goods.

Cut the skirt and mark the notches that indicate the joinings. Use thread or chalk to mark the notches. (Refer to instruction on cutting notches, *Kimono Night Dress* project.)

Join the gores according to the notches, beginning at the top of the
skirt; baste down. Baste the seams on the right side. Leave an opening 13 inches long for a placket.

Slip on and fit.

The lines of the skirt must follow the lines of the figure.

If the skirt is too large at the waist and gathers are not desired, take up by making each seam a little deeper, or by taking darts in the side gores. If darts are taken, they must end at the hip line. If the skirt fits all right at the hips and is not loose enough at the waist, let out each seam to make the waist line large enough.

**OUTLINE FOR UNDERSKIRT**

Cut

Fit

Stitch seams

Plackets

1. Hemmed
2. Extension.
3. Faced and Extension.

Band

Button and button-hole

Hem

Flounce

1. Finishing braid or a bias.
2. Tuck.

It is well to be able to think through a project and see the possible steps from the beginning to the end. The above outline is the result of thinking through the project and putting the steps in logical order. At a glance you can see the number of different methods of finishing that can be used.

As you progress with the sewing course, your constructive power will be increased.

Stitch the skirt by machine making French seams.

**PLACKETS**

The placket is an opening in the upper part of a petticoat or skirt.

There are three types of plackets that may be used on an underskirt: The hemmed placket, used on flannel skirts for children and on children’s wash dresses; the extension placket which is used on nearly all kinds of underwear, and the faced and extension placket which may be used on underwear and wash dresses.

The hemmed placket (Fig. 93) may be made in a seam or the material may be cut the depth of the required placket. On the right hand side of the opening turn a hem the required width. (An inch to an inch and one-half is the average.)

![Fig. 93. Hemmed Placket.](image)

Keep the width of the hem even its entire length. Baste and then hem to the skirt.

Turn down a narrow hem on the left side of the opening and to the right side of the skirt. Using the narrow hem, which is usually one-fourth or one-half inch wide, makes a neat finish at the bottom of the
placket that is not obtained when the narrow hem is made on the wrong side of the skirt.

Lap the wide hem over the narrow hem and backstitch across the width of the wide hem at the end of the placket. Refer to Half-sleeves project for backstitching.

For the extension placket (Fig. 94) sew a piece of material, cut on the length of the goods and twice the length of the opening, around the opening. The right side of the strip is placed to the right side of the skirt. Make a very narrow seam and as you stitch around the bottom of the opening take care that no plaits are made in the skirt. If you are sewing on the strip by hand, the plaits can be avoided by holding the end of the opening over the first finger of the left hand, letting the strip and the skirt curve on the finger making a stitch at a time.

The width of the strip depends upon the material; for the average underwear material the strip is cut two inches wide.

The strip is then creased down to the wrong side about one-fourth of an inch and basted down even with the line of stitching. Hold the work to the light and see that no part of the strip extends below the stitching that holds the strip to the skirt. The strip must pull perfectly straight; it is wrong, if there is the slightest curl in it. Stitch by machine, or hem down by hand. Do as much hand work as you can in the projects as it will give you the necessary practice.

The right side of the extension placket is turned back its width to the wrong side of the skirt and basted to the top edge of the skirt; while the left side of the extension is permitted to remain extended and is held in place by the belt.

To make the faced and extension placket, cut a strip on the length of the goods an inch longer than the length of the opening and about two inches wide. Sew the strip to the left side of the placket putting the right side of the strip to the right side of the skirt and even with the top. Do not make the seam too deep. Turn in the opposite raw edge of the strip and baste down even with the stitching that holds the strip to the skirt. Stitch by machine or hem by hand.

For the right side of the placket cut a strip on the length of the goods an inch longer than the opening and about one and one-half inches wide. Stitch to the right side of the opening, putting the right side of the strip to the right side of the skirt, and even with the top.

Turn down the piece just stitched creasing on the line of stitching. Turn in the raw edge of the strip making the width of the facing equal to the extension on the opposite side
of the placket. Baste the facing and then hem to the skirt.

Turn up the bottom of the extension to the front side, lap the faced side over the extension and hem to the faced side.

Trim off any extra thickness at the end of the extension and backstitch the faced side at the bottom about one-fourth inch above the hemming that holds the extension. Fasten the thread securely.

You now have three styles of plackets from which to choose.

If the placket of your skirt is at the center of the back, you may use any of the plackets given, but if the opening is at the front or side use either the extension or the faced placket.

**RESUMÉ**

What advantage is there in giving you a chance to choose the style of placket you wish for your skirt?

Did you try to make each placket before deciding?

Did you have any difficulty in making any of the plackets?

Which placket do you like the best? Why?

Save the practice plackets you have made and put them in your record book.

**PUTTING ON THE BAND**

Take your waist measure loosely. Add to this measure the width of the extension, if you are making the extension or the faced placket, add one inch for the turn-in at the ends and the shrinkage.

\[ \text{Waist Measure} + \text{Width of Extension} + \text{Material to Turn in at Ends} = \text{the Band}. \]

On the length of the goods, cut the band the required length and two and one-half inches wide.

Fold the band in two equal parts to locate the center, if the skirt opens at the center back or the center front.

Pin the center of the band to the center of the skirt.

Turn down to the wrong side one-fourth inch at each end.

Pin the ends of the band even with the sides of the placket. (Fig. 95.)

If there is fullness in your skirt, adjust it to the back.

Baste the band to the skirt, putting the seam on the wrong side and making the seam one-fourth inch wide.

Stitch the band to the skirt. Remove the bastings.

Turn down the opposite raw edge of the band one-fourth inch to the wrong side.

Fold the band over the seam and baste on the line of stitching. The band must not extend below the first stitching of the band. Hold to the light and you will readily see if the band is perfectly straight. The band must pull straight on the length also. If it curls in the least, the band is imperfectly put on.

Hem the band to the skirt.

Overhand the open ends.

Remove the bastings.

![Fig. 95. Putting on band by hand.](image-url)
Put the button on the left side of the band at the center of the end. Put the button-hole on the right side of the band at the center of the end. (Refer to Buttons and Button-holes in the Corset Cover project.)

Put the skirt on and turn up the hem, making the skirt the required length.

When basting the hem, use a gauge for the measuring. (Refer to Cooking Cap project.)

When basting the hem, it will be necessary to lay an occasional plait in order to take up the extra fullness. When placing these little plaits, be sure that the warp threads of the hem follow the warp threads of the skirt.

A skirt may be finished at the bottom with:

- A Hem,
- Tucks,
- Insertion,
- A Ruffle or Flounce.

The ruffle or flounce may be put on the edge of the skirt or it may be set upon the skirt. Each treatment has several ways of finishing, each in itself a correct way. The following outlines will give you some idea of the finishings used:

Ruffle on edge of skirt—
1. Set into the hem. (Fig. 96.)
2. Finished with a French seam. (Fig. 97.)
3. Finished with a French Fell. (Fig. 98.)
4. Rolled and whipped on. (Fig. 99.)

Ruffle set upon the skirt—
1. Finished with a tuck. (Fig. 100.)
2. A bias tape. (Fig. 101.)
3. A finishing braid. (Fig. 102.)
4. A heading. (Fig. 103.)
THE RUFFLE OR FLOUNCE

The Ruffle or Flounce is the most common form of trimming the Underskirt. Cut the ruffle according to the directions given in the pattern. When a ruffle is made without the use of a pattern it is cut so as to have it one and one-half the fullness of the skirt.

A ruffle may be cut on the width of the material or on the bias.

One sometimes sees a ruffle cut on the length of the material, but this is the exception rather than the rule. There are good reasons for not doing it, except when effect can be had in no other way.
Join the widths of material for the ruffle and finish at the bottom with a medium sized hem. A hem from one to two inches is all right on gingham.

A flounce of coarse curtain net is often used on gingham underskirts and is quite effective. If the net is used it is faced to the right side with a bias of the gingham about two or two and one-half inches wide.

Fold the flounce in two equal parts and then fold again, thus dividing the flounce in four sections. Mark the sections by cutting a small notch at the top of the ruffle.

Gather each of the four sections. Make a double row of gathers one-eighth of an inch apart. Draw up the gathering threads and adjust the gathers. (Refer to Cooking Cap project.)

Pin the center of the front of the ruffle to the center of the front of the skirt. Pin the center of the back of the flounce to the center of the back of the skirt. Pin the quarter markings of the flounce to the quarter sections of the skirt. Now with the flounce adjusted at four points, adjust the gathers so that the fullness will be equally distributed. Baste the ruffle to the skirt. Stitch the ruffle to the skirt, putting the line of stitching between the two rows of gathers.

Trim off any extra material at the top of the ruffle. Be watchful and do not cut the skirt.

Make a gauge for one-half inch. Measure one-half inch above the stitching, crease and baste along the creased line. (Fig. 104.)

Bring creased edge even with the stitching and baste. Stitch the edge of the tuck to the skirt. Stitch on the edge. Turn the skirt wrong side out and stitch down the folded edge. Stitch on the edge. Fig. 105.)

Fig. 104.

Fig. 105.

STUDENT’S RECORD

The Record book for this project should be very rich in memoranda of lessons involved. If you have the time, make the plackets and mount them, or make sketches showing that you have the idea of how they look.

Secure samples of materials suitable for underskirts and estimate the amount of material needed and the approximate cost of the skirt.
Go to the store and look at the garments on sale and make a comparison of the ready-to-wear skirt and the one you made.
Give three points in favor of the skirt made by you.
Give three points in favor of the ready-to-wear skirt.
Secure pictures of underskirts for different occasions.

QUESTIONS
What do you understand by a commercial pattern?
How many makes of commercial patterns do you know?
What points in commercial patterns are similar?
What argument would you use in favor of commercial patterns?

Name materials suitable for underskirts.
Give three facts about taffeta that would not be in favor of its use for every day wear.
Name three types of plackets. Describe each.
Why should a band be made on the length of the goods?
Describe the making of a French seam.
Describe the method you used in attaching the ruffle.
Define the following terms: Selvage, warp, hem, seam, overhand.
Give directions for making a corset cover for a fourteen-year-old girl. State amount and cost of materials.