CHAPTER IV

Tailors’ Tacks

TAILORS’ tacks are valuable to tailors and dressmakers in marking both sides of a garment so they may be exactly alike. In putting in tucks or plaits, first-class work cannot be done without them. The stitches
should be taken through both thicknesses of cloth marking them alike on both sides.

To make the stitch we use a double thread of basting cotton. Take two short stitches then leave a space a little longer than is required for the two short stitches. In this space leave a loop of the double thread two inches long. Then take two more short stitches, then loop as described and so continue until all marking for plaits, ruffles, bands, pockets, seams, or whatever it is necessary to have marking done is finished. Gently separate the edges of the material by pulling apart the mark-stitching or tailors' tacks, clip thread, being careful not to clip the goods, and separate the sides.

**Over-Handing**

Use over-handing to sew two edges together, usually the selvage is used.
Take stitches small and close together, over and over the seam, point needle to the left.

Do not draw thread too tight as it will cause the seam to pucker.

When seam is opened it should lie flat and smooth with no ridge on wrong side.

*Tailors’ Fell Stitch—To Sew in Lining*

The fell stitch is used to sew in linings in coats and wherever an edge should be held close and stitches are not to show. This is made by bringing the threads up through the lining at the very edge. Then place needle in outside material as close to where needle comes out of lining as it can be placed. Take short stitch about one-eighth of an inch in material but not through to right side.
Again bring needle out through the edge of lining, reset as before. Do not draw thread too tight as it will cause little dents where the lining is caught.

**Over-Casting**

This stitch is used to keep raw edges from raveling. Trim seam even and the width it is to be finished, take a slant stitch pointing

![Overcasting Diagram](image)

needle toward left shoulder. Loose-woven, soft material will require a deeper stitch than firm, close-woven material. An average stitch may be about one-eighth of an inch
deep and one-third of an inch apart. Keep depth of stitches and space even.

_French Seam_

Make a narrow seam on the right side of material as narrow as material will allow.

In fine-woven, firm material the seam may be narrower than in large thread, loose-woven goods.

Trim off all loose threads or rough edges, turn seam, crease in seam where stitching is done, baste deep enough to cover entirely the first seam and stitch again. This finish may be used on light-weight material.
Hemming

Turn edge to be hemmed from one-eighth to one-fourth of an inch, then turn width of hem desired. It should be even in width as even width and even stitches mean success to your hem. The stitches are taken on a slant, pointing needle toward the left.

On point of needle take up two or three threads of material, catching the edge of hem at same time.

Cat-Stitch or Catch-Stitch

This is a cross-stitch used as a finish to raw edge where material is heavy and flat; smooth finish is required. Take small stitch like running stitch cross-thread by working from you, alternate stitches first to the right then to the left.

Stitches should be in straight rows, one row on edge to be covered, the other just off the edge.
Feather-Stitch

Feather or brier stitching is sometimes used in place of hemming or to hold tucks in place. It may be done in single or double stitch and is very pretty as a finishing.

To make the feather-stitch have a knot in the end of thread. Bring needle up through material, bring thread forward and place thumb of left hand on thread, take stitch placing needle about one-fourth of an inch to the right of where it was brought up through the material. Take slanting stitch about one-fourth inch long and bring needle...
up half-way between and one-fourth inch from where it was placed at first, bring stitch up over the thread (thread held down by thumb) continue slant stitch first to the right, then to the left and always work toward you. Two or more stitches may be taken the same slant and is very effective.

Fagoting

Fagoting is one of the prettiest stitches used in dressmaking. It is used to join edges of lace, insertion, narrow ribbon, silk or satin folds. Two folds of satin or silk may be joined with fagoting and the top fold sewed on a skirt as ornamental trimming.

The lace, fold, or ribbon should be finished and basted on paper the width apart desired, then insert the needle from the under side of each edge bringing it out over the thread, as in the feather-stitch, giving a double twist which makes it firm.
Buttonhole

A nice closing is an ornament to a garment and good buttonholes help to make the successful closing.

The hem in which the buttonhole is to be made should be not less than one inch wider than the buttonhole to be worked. The straighter the edge of the buttonhole is cut, the more successful it can be made. Begin at the upper right-hand side of buttonhole. Stitches should be even distance apart and uniform depth. The depth depends on the firmness of the material; just deep enough to hold firm and not tear out.

Stitches should be close enough to keep purled edge firm and tight which makes it strong and durable.

Mark top and bottom buttonhole. Divide the space between according to the number of buttons to be used. Use buttonhole shears and cut straight, even edge for buttonhole. Bring needle up through starting point which
is the upper right-hand corner, take the double thread extending from the eye of the needle and wind around needle, pull needle through and draw the thread down snug.

The front end of buttonhole should be worked round like an eyelet; the back end should be finished with bar by taking three or more stitches over each other at the end of buttonhole.

*Tailored Buttonhole*

In tailors' buttonhole the stitch is made the same as in the plain buttonhole in previous lesson.

The difference is in the preparation of buttonhole for working.

Determine the number of buttons to be used, find the distance they are to be apart and with the tailors' chalk mark a straight line where each buttonhole is to be worked, place a button on this line and mark with the chalk each side of the button to find the cor-
rect length of buttonhole. The buttonhole should be one-sixteenth of an inch longer than the width of button to allow the button to slip through easily.

Baste through all thicknesses of materials on the chalk line, use small stitches to hold material firm. Stitch each side of basting just far enough apart so that when the buttonhole is cut on basting and chalk line, in working the stitch will be taken just over the stitching.

Use buttonhole punch and punch round hole in outer edge of buttonhole, then cut with sharp shears the length marked for the opening. Use heavy linen thread in needle,
then twist and double thread which gives a cord to work over. Put knot in thread, take one stitch one-eighth of an inch back of buttonhole, bring needle up at edge of buttonhole, hold this cord in place at edge of buttonhole, hold in place with left hand and work over it all around. Pull cord snug after work with silk twist is complete. Put needle through material and fasten.
Questions

1. For what are tailors' tacks used?
2. Describe the stitch used in making tailors' tacks.
3. For what is over-handing used?
4. Describe the stitch.
5. What stitch is used to sew lining in coats?
6. Describe the stitch.
7. What stitch is used to keep raw edges from raveling?
8. What kind of material requires a deep stitch.
9. Describe how to make a French seam.
10. Describe the hemming.
11. For what is the cat-stitch used?
12. Describe how to make the feather-stitch.
13. For what is it used?
14. For what is fagoting used?
15. Describe how to fagot.
16. What is the use of the buttonhole?
17. Describe how to make a buttonhole, also a tailored buttonhole.