CHAPTER VII

Couching

This is an over-stitch used to hold coronation braid, rattail braid, or any silk or cord used to follow an outline in embroidery.

The stitches should not be farther apart than one-fourth inch, close enough to hold the threads or cords from springing out between them.

Several threads of contrasting colors may be used with pleasing effect but should be twisted slightly in laying it on the outline. When joining or starting the braid or silk, punch a hole through the material and fasten in place.

To press when finished turn right side down on well-padded pressboard and press slowly with moderately hot iron.
Covering Cord

In covering cord for ornamental purposes use a good sizable cord, say one-half to three-fourths of an inch as the cord does not appear as large when covered as before.

Soft wool may also be used if lightness of weight is desired. Cut material on true bias one inch to one and a half inches wide, this depends on the size of cord to be covered. Place cord in center of bias strip on right side of material tight around cord and take a needle’s length of fine running-stitches. This determines the width of material required to cover the cord.

Draw cord out of material, then baste the length of strip keeping the same width of material as was used to cover the cord at the beginning. Use small basting-stitch, stitch on machine to make firm, being careful not to get the casing too large or too small (it is always best to make a small piece first before beginning the trimming piece), pull basting, trim
seam to an even width, being careful not to cut so close that where cord is put in it will tear out. Use tape needle and wind and sew
with strong thread to the end of the tape needle as the cord is too large to go in the eye of the needle.

Sew the edge of seam in casing just made to the cord, allowing at least six inches between needle and end of casing where the sewing is done. Take stitches clear in the edge of the machine stitching from raw edge side of seam and sew very firm.

Turn tape needle back and insert in the end of casing, the casing will turn right side out over the cord as you continue to run needle in through casing.

Shirring over Cord

Material should be marked where cord is to be placed either by tracing, tailors’ chalk, or mark-stitch (never use tracing wheel on silk), place cord on wrong side of material directly under marking.

With left hand hold material tight around
cord and sew by hand using a fine running-

stitch. Hold cord firmly in left hand and with right hand push material back on cord
until desired fullness is obtained. Do not draw up running-stitch.

In shirring yokes or waists or skirts a number of rows of cord may be used.

*Marking for Hooks and Eyes*

When sewing on hooks and eyes, or snap fasteners, place them about one inch apart. Place right and left sides of garment together right side outside. They should be even top and bottom, also at waistline.

Lay flat on work table, turn back the edge of upper piece, and mark both pieces at the same time with tailors’ chalk. If accurately done they will be precisely opposite and when fasteners are on, the closing will be smooth and even.

Round eyes should extend out about one-eighth of an inch. Hooks should set back from the edge one-eighth of an inch, for a placket or closing that is just to meet.
Circular Yokes

Circular yokes are occasionally very fashionable.

A yoke should be cut and fitted; and if stock collar is to be worn it also should be cut and fitted in some cheap material, such as lining cambric.

From the fitted yoke cut a paper yoke and stock and baste together.

These yokes and collars are made of lace, bias folds, two kinds of narrow lace, etc. Bias folds or lace may be basted on the paper one-half inch apart and fagoted together, or the yoke may be made of net and lace medallions appliqued on.

Net, hand embroidered, is also pretty.

To make the narrow lace yoke of two kinds of lace, valenciennes and cluny, in alternate rows, begin at the bottom of collar where it joins the yoke, baste from there to top, then outer edge of yoke allowing the edges to overlap just enough to hold.
Stitch through paper, press, and tear paper away.

_Tucking Circular Skirt_

Tucks in skirts are sometimes a difficult task, especially in circular skirts where the lower part of the material used in tuck is fuller than the upper.

Before the bottom can be finished the placket should be made, all seams finished, and the skirt should be finished with band or belting at the top.

Tucks require twice their length.

Find out the inches necessary for the required number of tucks to be used, pin very carefully or mark and baste the material all in one place at least half-way up the skirt the full amount to be used in tucks to get it out of the way.

Put skirt on, turn up even around the bottom, length of finished skirt.

Baste all around bottom where the skirt
turns for hem, then find the shortest place in material left at bottom for the hem.

If tucks are to graduate, being larger at

\[ \text{TUCKING CIRCULAR SKIRTS} \]

the bottom and decrease in size towards the top, the hem should be as much wider than the first tuck as there is difference in the tucks; that is, if the first tuck is four and one-half inches, the next tuck three and one-half inches, then the hem should be five and one-half inches.

Mark the hem all around from where the
skirt is turned and basted at the bottom. With tape measure or a piece of cardboard with notch cut in five and one-half inches as a mark. Use tailors' chalk to mark with. It can be bought in different colors and brushes off, leaving no trace. Cut off material above mark, leaving only one-fourth inch to turn under for finish.

Turn under on chalk line and gather, using silk thread the shade of the material or any thread the dress is to be made with so this thread will not have to be removed. Use fine running-stitch, stitches to be very small, and right on edge of hem as you are to stitch through your gathering thread.

Draw up this thread to adjust the fullness and pin the hem at top until it is in proper place and gathers are where they should be for hem to lie flat and smooth, baste, and press.

Let out the goods for tucks and measure, first the distance the tucks are to be apart, then the width of tuck as the double material
in tuck covers its width in material underneath it so add to the space between the tucks the width of tuck.

If tuck is four and one-half inches wide and space between tucks to be two inches, mark first notch six and one-half inches, which will be the lower part of the first tuck. Make another notch four and one-half inches above the six and one-half inch notch; this line will be the lower edge of tuck after tuck is finished.

One more notch four and one-half inches still above the notch for the center, or what is to be lower edge of finished tuck, will be the top of the tuck. Use running-stitch and as in the hem, thread the color of material so it need not be removed. Use running-stitch and stitches very small.

Run this thread all around the line six and one-half inches above the hem, turn on next line and baste the same as where hem is turned in bottom of skirt.

Lay skirt on work-table, folding on basting
that is to be lower edge of tuck, allowing top part of skirt to fall toward hem inside the skirt. The full or larger part on top, now draw up gathering thread so as to allow tuck to lay flat and smooth, pin all around to position, turn tuck down to inspect work and see if it looks right; if not, re-adjust gathers and pin them, then baste. Proceed in like manner for balance of tucks and you will find the result most charming and satisfactory.
Questions

1. For what is the couching-stitch used?
2. Describe "Covering Cord."
3. Describe "Shirring over Cord."
4. How far apart should hooks and eyes or fasteners be placed?
5. Explain how to mark for hooks and eyes or fasteners.
6. Explain how to make a circular yoke.
7. Give directions for tucking a circular skirt.
8. Explain how to finish the top of a skirt.