CHAPTER IV

DARNING AND PATCHING

Darning.—But little sampler work is given because samplers as such should be used only in rare cases. Children dislike to spend hours on a little square of cloth which has no practical value when completed. Usually the principles may be taught just as effectively on useful articles or garments. In giving the mending lessons it sometimes seems wiser to teach the correct method on small pieces of cloth, since it is not always possible to have the children bring worn garments from home with materials to match, etc. Then, too, the variety of problems would be so great that individual attention would be demanded of the teacher. After doing the practice work at school the pupils should be encouraged to mend their own worn garments and bring them to the teacher for inspection and suggestions.

It is always possible to have the children bring worn stockings from home, and it is suggested as the most practical arrangement in teaching stocking darning.

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The repair lessons are not the most interesting so it is well to put them in between the more interesting ones. The logical and psychological orders are not always the same, and it is frequently best to sacrifice the logical order in order to hold the interest of the pupils to the greatest extent.

Darning is used to reinforce worn and weak places and to repair holes, by weaving threads back and forth in such a manner as to imitate the original material. If possible, in darning cloth, the raveled thread of the material should be used; if not, it should be matched as closely as possible with darning thread. Silk thread, if used, should be split. Darning is usually done on the right side of the material. Begin at the upper right-hand corner of the worn place, putting in the warp thread first and being careful to weave a short distance beyond the worn place so that the material is sufficiently strengthened. After the warp threads are all put in, the weft threads are woven in. In the weaving, have the threads lie close to each other to form a strong web, and take up every alternate thread in crossing back and forth.

DARNING OF KNITTED GARMENTS

Materials.—Worn stocking.
Darning cotton or woolen yarn.
Crewel needle.

Flat stocking danner, if any.

1. The stockinette darning may be done on either the right or wrong side, but can be made to look neater with less effort if done on the right side. The new stocking darners which have a flat surface do not pull the material out of shape as does the old egg-shaped variety.

2. Pull out the threads around hole until the edges are even.

3. Weave in lengthwise threads, beginning at upper right hand corner and at least 1/4" from the edge of the worn place. Take up one loop and drop one until the hole is reached; carry thread across to opposite sides, and take up loops in a similar manner, continuing 1/4" beyond, or still further if the material is thin and worn. Upon returning take up alternating loops. When all the lengthwise threads are put in, run in weft threads in a similar manner, laying them in close to each other and keeping the darn flat and even.

**Darning with net.**

1. Prepare the hole as given above.

2. Baste a piece of net to the wrong side and proceed according to above directions with the following variations: weave the lengthwise threads in and out through the meshes of the net. This brings a thread through each row of
holes and makes the horizontal threads unnecessary.

3. Trim the net to within about 3/8" from the darned place. Catchstitch the edge of the net to the material, using fine cotton thread.

_Darning by Machine._—Table linen, towels, knitted garments, and stockings may be darned very satisfactorily using the sewing machine. For the table linen and the towels stitch back and forth, putting in the warp threads first and then the weft. If the knitted garment is badly worn, baste a piece of thin, soft material over the hole, stretching the garment slightly while basting, to allow a little extra fullness. A form is necessary if stockings are to be darned on the sewing machine. There are various styles on the market which are satisfactory, but small embroidery hoops work very well. This makes it possible to get at the hole conveniently.

Short cut methods should be taught and used whenever possible. Work of this kind is often justly criticized as being "too fussy," and "impossible for the busy housekeeper." As teachers of sewing we must meet this by giving simple, practical, and reasonable methods of doing things. In many cases the mending and darning may be very satisfactorily done on the sewing machine, and while teaching other methods we must also include this as a time saver.
There are so many things which are really worth while that the busy housekeeper often finds no time for unless we help her to see how time may be saved in doing the routine duties of the household.

**Hemmed or Counter Patch**

**Materials.**—Cotton print.
Dimensions.—2 pieces 6” x 5”.
No. 70 cotton.
No. 9 needle.
The hemmed or counter patch is called the wash patch, and is generally used on material which is to be laundered.

1. Trim the irregular hole to form a rectangle, bringing the cut edge on a line with a thread of the material.

2. In each corner cut up diagonally ¼”.

3. Fold the edges of the square back on the wrong side ¼”. The crease should be straight with a thread of the material.

4. Place patch, shrunken (and faded if necessary in order to match perfectly), back of the worn piece, match the figures exactly, baste carefully, and hem the garment piece down to the patch with fine, even stitch.

¹ A real hole might be made by tying a pebble in the center and rubbing on a rough surface.
5. Cut off edges of patch to within $\frac{1}{2}''$ from hem, turn in $\frac{1}{8}''$, and hem down to the garment piece having a $\frac{3}{8}''$ hem. Remove bastings and press on the wrong side.

Observe much care to prevent stretching the material. Goods less firm may require a deeper first hem to prevent fraying. (See illustration.)

Hemmed Patch (Right Side)

Overhand Patch

**Materials.**—Checked gingham.
Dimensions.—2 pieces 5"x6".
No. 90 cotton.
No. 10 needle.

1. Trim the irregular hole to form a rectangle, bringing the cut edge on a line with a stripe.
2. In each corner cut diagonally across one square.

3. After matching the patch to the garment piece, fold back the edges of the patch to a line where it *exactly* matches the other piece, and overhand the two pieces together, on the wrong side, using fine even stitches.

4. Cut off edges of patch ¼" from the joining and press back; cut off the corners so they will just meet as mitered edges.

5. Overcast the edges from left to right, being careful not to overhand the mitered edges together.

This patch is particularly adapted for use on wool goods or wash materials, when appearance is of more importance than strength. (See illustration.)

**Making a Sewing Apron**

**Materials.**—Crossbarred muslin (small check about ¼") 7/8 yd. Mercerized cotton, in a dainty color for featherstitching, cross-stitching, or chainstitching.

No. 70 or 80 white thread.

No. 7 or 8 needle.

**Object:** To review stitches previously learned and teach putting on of a band, overhanding, featherstitching, cross-stitching, or chainstitching.
To prepare material.
1. Straighten edges of cloth. See Chapter I.
2. Remove selvage from both sides, keeping the cut edges just as straight as possible.

3. Measure over 3” from one edge and pull a thread or use one of the threads in the material as a guide in cutting. This strip is for the band and is cut lengthwise of the material because the warp threads are stronger.
4. Measure again 4" and cut off as before. This strip should be cut in two crosswise and used for the ties. The remainder of the material is for the body of the apron.

The body of the apron.

1. Baste a 3/4" hem in one end of the large piece of material. Turn a hem to the right side and allow 1/4" to fold under.

2. This hem may be hemmed, cross-stitched, or featherstitched as desired.

3. Turn the hemmed end of the material to the wrong side, forming a pocket 9" deep.

4. Sew up the sides, using combination stitch (2 running stitches and a backstitch). Leave seams open 1/8" at the top of the pocket.

5. Overcast these seams with stitches 3/16" apart and four or five threads deep.

6. Turn to right side. Finish the side by making 1/8" hem. The edge of the hem should be in line with the seam in the pocket. It will be necessary to clip the hem just at the end of the seam to allow it to be turned to the wrong side. This will bring the hem 1/8" below the top of the pocket, making a neater and stronger finish than would be possible if the hem ended at the top of the pocket.

7. Secure the remainder of the seam by overhanding the edges together.

8. The pocket may be divided into two or three sections as desired. The dividing lines
may be made with rows of featherstitching, cross-stitching, or chainstitching.

To put on band.

1. Gather apron \( \frac{1}{4}'' \) from the top, using fine running stitches.

2. Fasten thread, so that apron is gathered into about 12''.

3. Find the center of the band and of the apron. Mark with pins.

4. Place right side of band to right side of apron with the centers together. Arrange gathers, having more fullness at the sides than in the center. Pin to hold in place and baste just above the gathering thread, holding the gathers toward you so that they may be kept in place. Use the half-back or backstitch for
the permanent seam, having the stitches come just under the gathering thread. It is important that the seam be perfectly straight. Again hold the gathers toward you while working.

5. Turn the band up and crease well along the line of the stitches. Turn to the wrong side.

Fold under the raw edge $\frac{1}{4}$" and baste the band, having the folded edge just cover the first stitches. When basted the band should be free from wrinkles on both wrong and right sides.

6. Finish the portion of the band beyond the apron by turning in the raw edges the same amount as in the center. Baste and then overhand the edges together.
7. Hold the right side toward you and begin the overhanding at the left end of the band. Continue until the body of the apron is reached.

8. Turn to the wrong side and, without breaking the thread, hem the band to the body of the apron. Care must be taken at this point that the hemming stitches do not show on the right side.

9. Turn to the right side and overhand the remainder of the band.

To put on the strings.

1. Hem sides of strings with $\frac{1}{8}$" hem.

2. A half inch hem in the bottom may be hemmed, featherstitched, or cross-stitched to correspond with the finish of the hem on the top of the pocket.

3. Fold the unfinished end of the strings in pleats so that they will fit into the ends of the band. The ends of the band must be turned in about $\frac{1}{4}$" to make a neat finish.

4. Hem the strings to the band on both the right and wrong sides.

Christmas and Group Work

Three or four lessons previous to the Christmas holidays may well be devoted to the making of simple gifts. The children will enter heartily into the making of gifts for mother, father, or other members of the family, and
this is a splendid opportunity to develop the spirit of giving and increase their desire to do for others. The constant making of things for themselves has a tendency to make children selfish and this should be guarded against. Working together, on things which may be used in the school or given to some worthy cause, is splendid training for any child. Towels or curtains might be made for the school. A doll could be dressed and sent to a children’s hospital, or given to some unfortunate child. You doubtless will have ideas of your own which will be especially good for the children you have in charge.