CHAPTER IX

SEAMS AND HEMS. MAKING AN APRON, CHILD'S PRINCESS SLIP AND DRAWERS

French felled seam.—This seam is used when gathers are to be sewed on the edge of a straight piece.

Place the wrong side of the gathered piece to the wrong side of the straight piece, baste and stitch a seam having the stitching coincide with the gathering thread. The ruffle may be gathered and stitched on to the straight piece at the same time by careful adjustment of the gatherer. This may save time and it may not, depending on the time it takes to adjust the gatherer. Trim raw edges, leaving not more than 1/8". Holding the wrong side toward you, fold the straight piece over the seam, making the seam as narrow as possible. Baste and stitch, having the gathered side up and the stitching as close to the fold as possible. This method of attaching gathers does not interfere with the fullness and gives the appearance of a French seam. A seam very similar to this is often used on the long seams of ready-made
garments. It gives a finished seam in one opera-
tion which means a saving of time. Place right
sides together and pin so that one edge extends
beyond the other about 1/16". Hem with the
foot hemmer.

**Tucked hem.**—A tucked hem is begun as the
French felled seam and the same directions are
followed up to the last stitching. Then open
with the right side uppermost and the fell
folded back on the plain part of the garment.
Stitch on fold close to the ruffle. Turn to wrong
side and stitch on fold next to plain portion.

**Lapped seam.**—Turn raw edge of material to
wrong side and raw edge of piece to be joined
to the right side. Lap these edges so that both
are covered and stitch twice. This method is
often used in joining a straight piece of em-
broidery to a garment.

A weighted pin-cushion, which may be made
by covering and padding a brick, will be found
very convenient when sewing. The work may
be pinned to this and held securely while the
worker sits erect. A pupil should never be al-
lowed to pin her work to her knee since this
usually means bending the back and sitting in
a cramped position.

**Apron—kimono style.**—*Material:* Percale
or gingham may be used for this apron. Per-
cale with a white ground and small black dot or
figure makes a very neat and attractive apron.
The black and white combination launders very well also, which is another point in its favor.

The amount needed may be estimated after the pattern has been adjusted to the correct size.

**Pattern.**—Select a pattern similar to illustration.

![Kimono Apron](image)

To increase the width over the bust allow the necessary amount along the center front and center back line.

To decrease the width over the bust remove the surplus at the center front or center back line or put it into tucks as shown in the illustration.

The apron may be lengthened or shortened by adding on or cutting off the necessary amount at the bottom. Allow from 2" to 4" for a hem. The side seams may be closed all the
way down, or, if the material should not be wide enough to allow the slant of the underarm seam to be continued to the bottom, the lower part may be hemmed, bound, or faced and left open.

The sleeve may be lengthened or shortened as circumstances require, with very little trouble. The neck may also be varied as desired.

_Cutting._—Fold the material in half crosswise, being careful to have the selvages together. This will bring the fold of the material in line with a weft thread. Place the pattern with the top on the fold and either at the extreme right or left side of the material. This will leave the surplus material in as large pieces as possible. Pin pattern in place and cut out the apron.

_Making._—Cut down the center back line about 10" or 12", or enough to allow the garment to slip on and off easily. Face back the left side, making the facing ½" when finished, and turn a ¾" hem on the right side. To finish the raw edge of the faced piece at the bottom of the placket, turn the edge under and hem it down neatly, or cover with a rectangular piece of similar material and stitch in place. If the first method is used, it will be necessary to stitch with a machine or backstitch by hand across the bottom of the placket on the right side to make it secure.

_To finish the neck._—Use a bias facing around
the neck as shown in the illustration. To cut strips on a true bias, fold material so that the warp threads in the material are parallel to the weft and cut on the folded edge. Strips cut from either of these edges will be a true bias.

If tucks are to be placed in the front, it should be done before the facing is put on. They should be stitched down about 5" or 6".

Place the right side of the bias piece to the wrong side of the garment. Baste in place, being careful not to stretch or full the bias edge. When attaching a bias piece to a curved place, it is necessary to full one side and stretch the other in order to make it lie smoothly.

Seams.—Use French seams at the sides, making them as narrow as possible. If the seams are to be left open part way up, the raw edge should be finished before the French seams are put in.

Hem.—Follow directions given for other garments.

Sleeves.—Baste in a narrow hem and hem by hand or stitch on the machine, preferably the former, to give practice in hemming.

Note.—A white apron with sleeves, trimmed with lace, might be given to an advanced grade or as extra work to a girl who works more rapidly than the others.

Child’s princess slip.—Material: Use a soft-
finished, rather sheer material so that the garment will not be too clumsy at the waistline. A simple, durable trimming suited to the material should be used.

The amount of material and trimming needed should be carefully estimated after the pattern has been adjusted to the individual.¹

*Pattern.*—Use a pattern similar to illustration.

Use a pattern which is a little larger than the child needs. Adjust it to fit the child, making allowances for seams, hems, and growth.

*Cutting.*—Fold the material lengthwise, so that the double width of the material is as wide as one-half the pattern at the widest part with the folded edge parallel with the warp threads. Place the larger part of the front at the cut end with the center front on the folded edge of the material. In placing the back, slip the neck up into the end you have just cut, and so save as much material as possible. A great deal of material may be wasted through thoughtless placing of patterns on material preparatory to cutting and, therefore, care should be exercised at this point.

The bottom may be finished with a hem or ruffle as desired. This question should be de-

¹Allow 1¼" to 1½" per yard for shrinkage. The material may be shrunken before making up, but it is more difficult to work on after the dressing has been removed.
cided before the garment is cut and allowance made on pattern. If possible plan to make the garments with a ruffle on each one, so that the pupils may have the new problem of setting on a ruffle.

Child's Princess Slip

Seams.—Use French or felled seams on the sides.

To finish the neck or armseye.—The neck and armseyes should be finished with a continuous strip of trimming. Novelty lingerie trimming would make an inexpensive, attractive, and durable finish. A narrow linen lace would also serve the purpose nicely. If the trimming
chosen is finished on both edges, it may be attached by turning the raw edge of the garment toward the wrong side and creasing it about \( \frac{1}{8} \)" from the edge. Place the trimming on the wrong side, covering the raw edge. Baste and stitch twice, once at the folded edge of the garment and once at the edge of the trimming. When turning corners, lay the surplus material in pleats.

A buttonhole should be placed in the point, which laps over the front, on the shoulders. Determine the place for the button by lapping the end at the shoulder the necessary amount to make the garment fit correctly. Mark the place directly under the buttonhole with a pin. Place a button at this point.

To finish the bottom.

1. With a hem.—A 2" or 3" hem may be used. In that case follow directions which have been given previously.

2. With a ruffle.—The ruffle should be at least 4" wide, as a narrower one is difficult to iron. The amount of fullness depends upon the prevailing styles, varying from 1\( \frac{1}{4} \) to 1\( \frac{1}{2} \) times the part to which attached. Embroidery, material edged with lace, or material hemmed and tucked may be used for the ruffle.

Joining of ruffle.

1. If embroidery is used for the ruffle, match the pattern as nearly as possible and join, using
an overhanded French seam, a very narrow felled seam, or an ordinary seam closely overcasted.

2. If ruffle is to be edged with lace, join with a narrow French seam, crease hem, open, and stitch lace 1/8" below crease. Turn back and stitch hem.

3. A hemmed and tucked ruffle should be joined by narrow seams and made continuous, then hemmed and tucked. The seams, above the tucks, should be overcasted. (French seams might be used if the material is not too heavy.)

**Attaching ruffle to garment.**—Divide ruffle and the bottom of the garment into four parts and mark divisions with pins placed at right angles to edge of material. The ruffles may be attached by using a tucked hem or French felled seam or by using white bias binding as follows:

1. Place wrong sides together with pins matching. Care should be taken to avoid having a seam come at or near the front. Draw up the gathers, distribute fullness evenly, pin, baste, and stitch.

2. Remove basting, trim seams, and turn up. Cover the raw edges with white bias binding, placed so that the lower edge just covers the stitching. Stitch as close to the edge as possible.

**Drawers.**—Either open or closed drawers may be made, as preferred.
Decide on the pattern, alter to correspond with pupil’s measures, and submit original and corrected patterns together with measurements.

If the pattern was purchased to correspond with the waist measure, few changes should be necessary except possibly in the length. Take the measurement from the waistline to the knee on the side and also in the back when seated. The back should be about ⅛ of the hip measure longer than the front. The finished garment should come just to the knee.

In changing the length, alter it in two places, unless the amount is very small, halfway between the waist and seat line and halfway between the seat line and bottom. A change of 1" or less may be made at the bottom. Seams should always be allowed on a pattern to avoid mistakes in cutting and should be traced so that the garment may be put together accurately.

To calculate amount of material.—Do not rely on estimate given on commercial pattern. Estimate amount needed, using a corrected pattern which has been cut off or turned back the depth of the ruffle minus ½". Make allowances for facings or placket, band, and ruffle if same material is to be used. Calculate amount of ruffling (straight or bias) by taking 1¼ to 1½ times the part to which it is to be attached. Ruffling should be cut across the warp threads or on the bias. Embroidery, material edged with lace,
or material hemmed and tucked may be used for the ruffle.

The ruffle should not be less than 4" wide when finished, as a narrower ruffle is more difficult to iron.

To cut out the drawers.—Straighten the raw edges of the material by cutting on a thread or tearing straight across. Fold the cloth, placing the raw edges together. Place pattern on material with the bottom on the edge of the goods. Pin in place, trace seams, and cut out. Before removing pins make two or three short traced lines at right angles to the seams. They will serve as connecting points when garment is put together. This method of marking is preferable to notches, as the latter may be accidentally cut too deep.

To make the drawers.—1. If a ruffle is to be used, it may be put on at this time or after the legs have been sewed together. If put on at this time, proceed as follows: Gather ruffles on the machine or by hand; divide ruffles and the bottom of each leg into four parts and make divisions with pins placed at right angles to the edge of the material. Place wrong sides together with seams and pins matching, distribute fullness evenly, pin, baste, and stitch. Remove basting, trim seam, and turn up. Cover the raw edges with white bias binding, placed so that the lower edge just covers the stitching. Stitch
as close to the edge as possible. A tucked hem might also be used as a finish.

Put ruffle on the other leg in the same way, being careful to see that both are not for the same leg.

Closed drawers.—Pin or baste the two front edges together, having the seam come on the wrong side. Stitch on traced line. Stitch back seam in the same way. Pin together at the center before trimming for felled seams. Care must be taken at this point, as there is no remedy if the wrong side is trimmed. Both seams should be turned the same way so as to appear continuous. Follow directions given for felled seams.

Place wrong sides together with the front and back seams carefully matched. Pin and stitch for a French seam. This method of stitching the lower seam of the drawers and ruffles at the same time is the simplest, and gives a neat appearance.

Open drawers.—Pin and stitch lower seams and ruffles for French seams, being careful to see that the ruffles and binding with which they are put on are carefully matched. Finished seams should be 1/8" deep.

Cut bias strips 1 1/4" wide and long enough to reach along each front and back. Lay the right side of the bias strip and right side of the leg together. Pin and stitch, using a 1/4" seam.
Turn this bias strip over on to the wrong side, turn in the raw edge, crease, pin, and stitch or hem by hand if preferred. Put strip on the other leg, in the same way.

2. Fold one leg over, right sides together, so that the curved sides which run up from the bottom are together. Baste with a $\frac{1}{4}$" seam.

Stitch on traced line and fell down by hand, using fine hemming stitches. (Long straight seams may be felled on the machine, but since these are on the bias they can be finished more neatly by hand.) French seams could be used here if preferred.

Sew the seam in the other leg in the same way, being careful to fold it so that it is not for the same leg as the one just made.

**Note.**—The felled seams should match when the legs are sewed together. Pin together before trimming the seam, that there may be no mistake.

**Closed drawers.**—Beginning at the felled seams, pin or baste the two front edges together with a $\frac{1}{4}$" seam, then the two backs (beginning at the same place).

Stitch seams on the traced line, pin together at the center before trimming. Great care must be taken at this point, as there is no remedy if the wrong side of the seam is trimmed. Both seams should be turned the same way and so appear continuous.
Open drawers.—Cut bias strips 1¼" wide and long enough to reach along each front and back. Lay the right side of the bias strip and right side of the leg together. Pin and stitch, using a ¼" seam. Turn this bias strip over onto the wrong side, turn in the raw edge, crease, pin, and stitch or hem by hand if preferred. Put strip on other leg in the same way.

Joining of ruffle.—1. If embroidery is used for the ruffle, match the pattern as nearly as possible and join, using an overhanded French seam, a very narrow felled seam, or an ordinary seam closely overcasted.

2. If ruffle is to be edged with lace, join with narrow French seams, crease hem, open, and stitch lace ¼" below crease. Turn back and hem.

3. A hemmed and tucked ruffle should be joined by narrow seams and made continuous, then hemmed and tucked. The seams, above the tucks, should be overcasted. (French seams might be used if the material is not too heavy.)

Attaching ruffle to garment.—Divide ruffles and the bottom of each leg into four parts and mark divisions with pins placed at right angles to edge of material.

Place wrong sides together with seams and pins matching, draw up the gathers, distribute fullness evenly, pin, baste, and stitch. Remove basting, trim seams, and turn up. Cover the
raw edges with white bias binding, placed so that the lower edge just covers the stitching. Stitch as close to the edge as possible. The binding should be joined just back of the seam in the leg.

*Placket.*—For closed drawers, cut an opening over the right hip long enough to allow the garment to slip over the hips easily (9 or 10 inches will usually be sufficient). If an opening is desired on both sides, the cuts may be made shorter. Placket No. 1 or placket No. 2 may be used as preferred.

In open drawers the opening is in the back. The fronts should be lapped over the width of the facings and stitched down about five or six inches, making a V where the two lines of stitching meet in the center. In putting on the band the same general method is followed for both open and closed drawers. It should be lapped about an inch or an inch and a half.

*Putting on band.*—Gather the upper edge of drawers ¼” deep. Cut a piece of material 2” wide and 2” longer than the waist measure. (Bands should always be cut with the warp because of the greater strength of the warp threads.) Measure 1½” from end, allowing for the extension hem of the placket, and put in a pin. Find the center of the remainder and mark with a pin.

Pin the band to the drawers, placing the right
side of the band to the wrong side of the drawers with the allowance for the extension hem over that part of the placket. Pin at both ends, allowing ¼" to turn under, also pin the center of the band to the center of the left leg. Distribute the fullness ¹ evenly in the front, putting in enough pins to hold in place.

Baste band in place and stitch, having the gathers up so that they may be kept in place. Turn in the ends and fold over to the right side.

Baste down, being careful to see that the wrong side is perfectly smooth. Stitch as close to the edge as possible around the four sides of the band.

¹Darts may be used to eliminate some of the fullness if desired. The fullness in the back should be arranged so that the larger part of the gathers come in the center of the back.