MENDING GARMENTS

A patch is the replacing of a piece of material on a worn place or over a hole in a garment or household cloth.

Always do the repairing before laundering, otherwise the holes become more stretched and the weak threads more weakened.

If the garment is faded or shrunk, the new material that is to be used for patching must be treated so as to match as nearly as possible.

To fade the material, wet the patch and expose to the sun.

The Hemmed Patch is the strongest and the one most commonly used.

![Fig. 75. The Hemmed Patch.](image)

The Overhanded Patch is used on very thin materials where the thickness of the hemmed patch would be objectionable and where a pattern can be more easily matched.

Darning is the replacing of the parts worn out in a garment or the reinforcing of the worn parts by the interlacing of the threads.

The darning material should be carefully chosen and should match in color and texture as nearly as possible the material to be mended.

There is no process in sewing more important than darning, and none which offers such an excellent chance to show skill.

Frequently a fine garment meets with an accident and the torn part can only be repaired by artistic darning.

It requires practice to become skilled, yet every girl should give enough time and attention to this line of sewing to become sufficiently expert.

THE HEMMED PATCH

It is well to practice the patching on a small piece of material before attempting it on the garment.

![Fig. 76. Small Patch basted in place.](image)
For this purpose a piece of striped or checked gingham six inches square and a smaller piece four inches square will serve. Fine needles and thread will give better results.

For muslin and gingham use No. 90 thread and No. 9 needles.

The worn part of the garment is cut away and the hole to be patched is cut square or rectangular. Cut a small hole at the center of the larger piece of material to represent the worn hole, then cut along the sides of the hole, making it square. Place the patch on the wrong side with the warp threads of the smaller piece parallel. The stripes, checks, or pattern must be matched.

Baste the smaller piece in place.

Cut the corners on the large piece diagonally as shown in Fig. 77.

The diagonal cuts are of the same length, ending on the warp and woof threads as shown by the dotted lines in the illustration. (Fig. 78.)

Turn in the raw edges and crease on a thread and baste to the larger piece.

Hem down the creased edges.

Turn in all raw edges on the wrong side and crease.

Open up the creases at the corners. The creases cross at right angles forming a small square at each cor-

![Fig. 77](image)

Showing diagonal cuts at corners.

![Fig. 78](image)

near. (Fig. 79.) Cut diagonally across each square at the corners of the patch. This does away with the extra bulk at the corners that would otherwise be folded under. See illustrations. (Fig. 80.)

![Fig. 79](image)

![Fig. 80](image)
The pattern must match on the wrong side as well as on the right. Baste and hem down the creased edges.

Remove all bastings and press.

Cut off the corners as directed in the Hemmed Patch project to avoid the bulk of the material caused by the overlapping at the corners.

Place the patch on the right side of the garment, or article being mended, with the creased edge of one side of the patch even with the creased edge of the hole.

Pin at each corner so as to prevent the patch slipping. (Fig. 82.)

Begin at the corner and overhand one side of the patch to the garment. Do not take the stitch too deep.

Fig. 81.
Basting and Hemming creased edges.

THE OVERHANDED PATCH

Use a small piece of material in making this patch before trying it on a garment.

Secure a six and a four-inch square of checked, striped or pattern material.

Use a No. 9 needle and No. 90 thread. Prepare the hole as in the hemmed patch, cutting away the worn and weak edges and making a square or rectangular hole.

Make the diagonal cuts at each of the four corners.

Fold the edges of the patch to the wrong side of the patch making a square that will fit and match the hole prepared in the larger piece of material. The warp threads of the patch follow the warp threads of the garment, and the woof threads of the patch follow the woof threads of the garment.

Fig. 82.
Overhanding a patch.

Remove the pins and crease out the seam with the forefinger and the thumb nail.

Pin the next side of the patch to the garment and overhand together, being careful to keep the pattern matched.

Repeat on the four sides of the patch, creasing out the seam of each with the thumb nail.

Overcast the raw edges of each side of the seam.

OVERCASTING STITCH

The Overcasting Stitch is a loose, slanting stitch, put over the raw edges to prevent raveling.
It is important that the warp threads of the patch extend in the same direction as the warp threads of the garment. If this is not observed, the patch will pucker when laundered.

**DARNING**

**Stocking darning** is used to mend a hole in materials of a stockinet weave.

It is done by inserting new threads to replace the warp threads and then weaving in the woof threads, one over and one under the warp threads.

Provide yourself with a stocking to be darned, a medium sized darning needle (No. 6) and darning cotton or wool to match the stocking in color and texture.

The heel and toe of a stocking should be darned over a curved surface so that the darn may keep the form of the stocking. Darning the foot of the stocking on the right side insures a smoother surface next the foot.
A form over which to darn stockings may be bought at the notion counter of any dry goods store.

The darning can also be done successfully by stretching the stocking over the left hand.

Trim off the raveled, loose and frayed edges around the hole.

**TO THREAD A DARNING NEEDLE**

**Fig. 86.**
Threading a darning needle.

To thread the darning needle, pinch the end of the darning cotton between the thumb and first finger of the left hand and press the eye of the needle over the end of the thread. With a little pressure downward over the thread, it will enter the eye of the needle.

**Fig. 88.**
The shape of the darning depends on the general shape of the hole. (Figs. 87, 88, 89.) The reinforcement of the weak, worn part around the sole is called running.

**Fig. 87.**

**Fig. 89.**
Begin as far to the right and above the hole as is necessary to put in the threads corresponding to the warp threads. Do not pull the thread too tight, but leave a loop at each end to allow for the pulling up into the cloth and for shrinkage in washing. (Fig. 88.)

When the hole is reached, pass the needle over the edge and under the opposite edge and when returning pass over the edge and under the opposite edge. This keeps an even thickness around the edge of the hole and does away with a ridge which would be formed if the over and under method is not observed. Keep the stitches close together.

When the hole is covered and the weakened part around the hole is reinforced, put in the woof threads. When the hole is reached, the darning or weaving process is used. The needle is passed over one and under one as shown in the illustration.

Keep the stitches as close together as possible.