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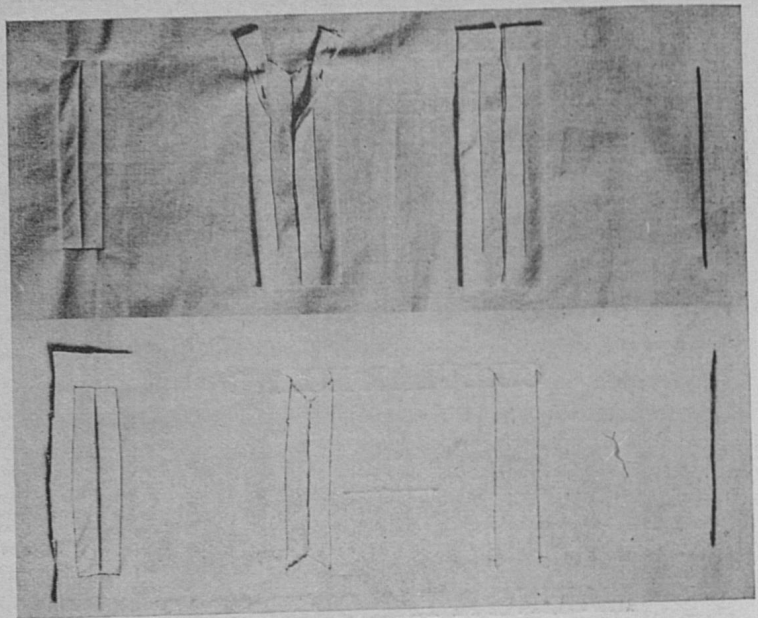
CIRCULAR NO. 168

MAKING A TAILORED COAT

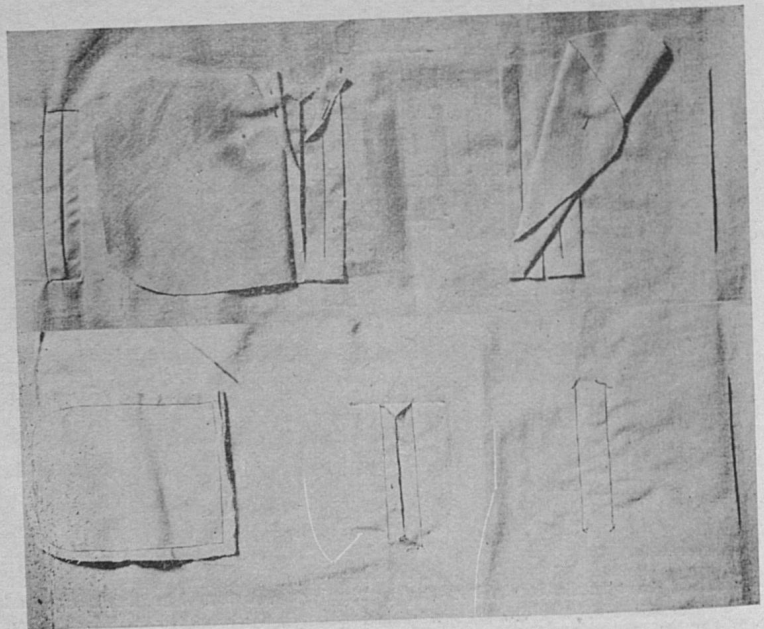
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Cut I.



Cut II.

CIRCULAR NO. 168

Making A Tailored Coat

By Irene M. Piedalue

Field Agent in Clothing

DIRECTIONS FOR MAKING COAT

1. *Material*—Tweed, polo cloth, serge, tricotine, broadcloth, or any *all wool* material firm enough for a coat.
 - a. *Amount*—It is best to mark off a space half the width of material on a table or floor and lay pattern on it to decide exactly how much material will be needed.
 - b. *Caution*—Be sure to notice if material has up and down, and lay pattern accordingly. (3½ yds. of 54-inch material will make a full length coat for a medium sized person.)
2. *Pattern*—Any good commercial pattern suitable to wearer in line and design. Choose size according to bust measure.
 - a. Pin pattern together and try on. If too large, fold in tucks to make it fit. If too small, cut pattern open and spread out the desired number of inches. (See directions in Circular 133.)
3. *Cutting*—Lay all of pattern on material before cutting. Be sure to notice if material has nap. Many coats are cut so that the nap goes up rather than down. This is to keep the nap from getting ruffled. Most patterns allow just ⅜-inch for seams. If the seams are to be stitched again on top allow at least ¾-inch. Notch carefully so as to be sure to get pieces together right. Use tailors' tacks to mark places for pockets, etc. This marks both halves of the coat at the same time and is done by taking a rather small stitch thru both thicknesses of the material, leaving large loops between stitches, then pulling the two thicknesses apart and cutting the threads in between. Use double thread.
4. *Making**—Pin pieces together carefully, keeping edges even; then baste with uneven basting stitches (two short and one long). If possible, keep the material flat on the table while basting. For heavy material use heavy basting threads. Try

*If the buttonholes are to be bound it is well to make them before coat is put together. See directions on page 6.

on and fit carefully, being sure to get a good neck and shoulder line. If sleeves are set in, stitch shoulder and underarm seams and press open carefully. If preferred the seams may be felled; then they should turn toward the front.

- a. *Facing*—Pin and baste facings on to coat, starting from notch to which collar comes. In stitching facing on, stitch it to coat across the bottom, making the seam the depth that coat is to be turned up at the bottom. Cut corners off quite close to stitching and turn to right side. (If material stretches easily stitch a firm, narrow tape in with seam). Trim seam to $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch, turn to right side, pull out corners and baste on edge, being sure to pull seams out well. Have outer edge extend a little beyond the other. Press carefully.
- b. *Collar*—Cut the lining of $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch all around. Pin the two pieces together, stretching the lining to fit the top of collar, and baste. Stitch on machine, having the top next to the feed of the machine, as the under thread of the machine usually holds the material. Trim seam to about $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch and turn to right side. Baste on edge with top of collar extending about $\frac{1}{16}$ -inch beyond the other. Press and baste to coat. The collar lining is stitched to the coat and the top of collar to the facing. Fasten the threads where the collar and revers meet and press these seams out flat.

NOTE: If length of sleeve has been determined, sew cuffs on before sleeve is sewed in.

- c. *Sleeves*—Baste and fit sleeve. Stitch and press seam open. Baste sleeve on to coat, being sure to match notches. Try on to see that sleeve sets properly. If there is a little fullness a gathering thread should be run from notch to notch on top of sleeve. This fullness should be shrunk out later after sleeve is stitched in. Stitch in the sleeves and press with seams opened, if there is to be no stitching on top. In this case the seam will have to be clipped almost to the stitching under the arm so that it will open out flat. It is well to stitch a piece of tape into the seam on top of sleeve from notch to notch. This keeps it from stretching.

- d. *Cuffs*—Stitch seams in top of cuff and lining, taking the seam in lining $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch deeper than in the top; press these seams open. Baste the two pieces together and stitch. Trim seams to $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch and turn to right side. Baste on edge, having edge of top extend about $\frac{1}{16}$ inch beyond as in collar. If the sleeves are long, cut them off the exact length desired. Then cut the lining of the cuffs off one inch. Sew lining of cuff to sleeve and turn the top of cuff over the edge and baste and press. A cuff sewed on in this manner will not be bunglesome at the wrist. If the sleeves are raglan and in two pieces, sew two pieces together first, stitch seam on top and press, then baste and stitch to front and back of coat and stitch on top before sewing up underarm seam. The underarm seam may be pressed open or felled. These seams may all be turned either toward the front or the back.
- e. *Lining*—The lining may be made of sateen, satin, pussy-willow, taffeta, canton crepe, or radium silk. For full length lining get the same amount as coat material. The lining material comes narrower but as it only comes to the facing and can be pieced the greater width is not required. If the coat is to be lined just to the waist line, get twice the length of coat to waistline and once the length of the sleeve. (This usually is $1\frac{3}{4}$ yards.) It is not necessary to cut the lining the full width of the front as the facing extends about one-third of the way. In cutting the lining allow for turning in over the facing. The back lining should be cut an inch wider than the pattern and this extra fullness pressed into a plait down the middle of the back. This keeps the lining from drawing across the back. The lining is sewed in by hand with blind stitches.
- f. *Seams*—If the coat is not lined, the seams should all be bound with bias strips of sateen or satin which matches or harmonizes with coat material. This binding should be cut about one inch wide. If the seams are to be stitched again on top, stitch the binding to the seam with right sides together, with seam $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch deep. Turn

the binding over edge and baste. When the seam is not felled, raw edge of the binding should be turned in, basted carefully and stitched. Better results will be obtained if this second stitching comes on top.

- g. *Hems*—If the coat is lined thruout, the bottom should be turned up about one inch and basted and pressed. The lining is then sewed to this. If the coat is not lined to the bottom, the edge of the hem should be bound the same as the seams and stitched by machine or by hand. Blind stitching the hem by hand is preferable in most coats.

NOTE: If the coat does not hang evenly it should be marked by measuring the desired length from the floor with a ruler or gage in the same manner that a skirt is hung.

- h. *Buttonholes*—The buttonholes may be worked or bound. *Worked*—If they are to be worked, cut carefully the needed length and round out the end nearest the edge of the coat. Make a cord of the buttonhole twist and work the buttonhole over this. The hole should be overcast first with fine cotton or silk thread.

Bound—Mark the place for the butonhole, then cut two bias strips about $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch wide and an inch longer than the buttonhole is to be finished. Fold these pieces with edges together, right side out and baste them with the raw edges of the two pieces meeting at the line where the buttonhole is marked. Stitch these pieces to the garment about $\frac{3}{16}$ of an inch from the raw edges. (That is, in the exact center of the piece.) The stitching should extend the length of the buttonhole. Cut the buttonhole to about $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch from the ends of the stitching and clip from there to the ends of the stitching. Do not clip thru the bias pieces. Turn the raw edges of the bias pieces to the wrong side. Then stitch along the ends of the buttonhole on the wrong side. (See Cut I.)

- i. *Pockets*—The pockets should be sewed on or made into the coat before the lining is put in.

Patch Pockets—Turn the edge of the pocket and flap about $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch and baste down carefully. Pin or baste

the lining to them so that it comes about $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch from the edge of the pocket. Slip the flap between the pocket and the lining at the top and catch-stitch the pocket to the flap on the right side of the pocket. Then, on the wrong side, turn and baste the lining of the pocket over the flap and blind stitch the lining to the pocket and flap. Press carefully, then pin the pockets to the coat. (Try on to see that they are in the right place.) Stitch the pocket to coat, either right on the edge of the pocket or the same distance from the edge as the stitching comes from the seams of the coat, when the seams are felled.

Slit Pockets—This pocket is set in and can be made very much like the bound buttonhole. Mark the line for the pocket with chalk or basting stitches. Cut a bias fold about $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch wide and 1 inch longer than the width of the pocket. If this measurement is 5 inches a large bias piece 5 inches wide and about $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches long will be needed. Round off the corners at one end and fold the top edge down about $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch. Cut another piece the same size and shape on the straight of the goods. Baste the bias fold with the raw edges touching the line marking the pocket. Baste the large bias piece with the raw edge of the fold touching the line also. Stitch both pieces in the exact center of the folds the full length of the opening of the pocket. Cut along the line to $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch from the ends of the stitching and clip from there to the ends of the stitching. (See illustration.) Do not cut the bias folds. Turn to the wrong side. Press carefully. Baste and stitch the other piece of the pocket in place. (See Cut II.)

- j. *Buttons*—Mark the places for the buttons with a pin. To avoid sewing the buttons on too tight, take a double thread and fasten to the coat under the button (not on wrong side of coat), take one stitch thru the button, then place a heavy pin under this stitch and continue sewing over this pin. After a sufficient number of stitches have been taken, wrap the thread around the threads between the button and the coat. This makes a

sort of a stem under the button, which gives sufficient space for the thick buttonhole.

- k. *Belt*—Cut belt the desired length and twice the width it is to be finished, plus about $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch for seam allowance. Fold wrong side out with edges together. Fasten a piece of fairly heavy tape or cord a little longer than the belt to one end and keep this cord inside the belt while stitching up the seam. After the seam is stitched press it open, having the seam in the center of the belt. Turn to the right side by means of the tape or cord. Turn in the ends and slip stitch. If the belt is to have bound buttonholes they should be made before the seam is stitched up and should be placed in the exact center of the pieces of material which has been cut for the belt. Then the seam is opened up the length of the buttonhole and blind stitched in place. If a buckle is to be used eyelets may be worked in like buttonholes.

For good tailoring, keep the following rules in mind:

1. If necessary, alter the pattern to fit.
2. Pin seams first with pins perpendicular to edge and baste carefully. (Lay material on table while pinning and basting.)
3. Fit carefully.
4. Stitch straight, using gage if necessary.
5. Press each seam as you sew and press carefully. Use heavy cloth such as galatea or ticking over material when pressing on the right side, also use heavy iron. When pressing material with nap, such as Gerona cloth, press on a piece of same material or bath towel with nap up. Never let the iron stand in one place and do not dry completely.
6. Finish seams carefully.
7. If the seams are to be stitched again on top, baste first on top of seam then on line where you wish to have stitching come. Use gage in basting and follow these basting stitches in stitching on the machine. This will insure straight stitching.