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EC58-417 Finishes for Little Girls' Dresses

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Finishes for Little Girls' Dresses.....

By GERDA PETERSEN, Extension Clothing Specialist

Steps in Making a French Seam

1. Place together the wrong sides of the pieces to be joined and stitch $\frac{1}{8}$ " outside the seam line marking.

2. Press the seam open.

3. Trim the raw edges to less than $\frac{1}{8}$ ". For very dainty garments trim to $\frac{1}{16}$ ".

4. Crease the garment along the stitched line, bringing the right sides face to face to enclose the raw edges.

5. Stitch on the wrong side $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the creased edge. This second stitching should fall on the final seam line marking and should prevent any raw edges from coming through to the right side.

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|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. French seams | 4. Double binding |
| 2. Corded seams | 5. Round collars |
| 3. Piped seams | 6. Applying lace |

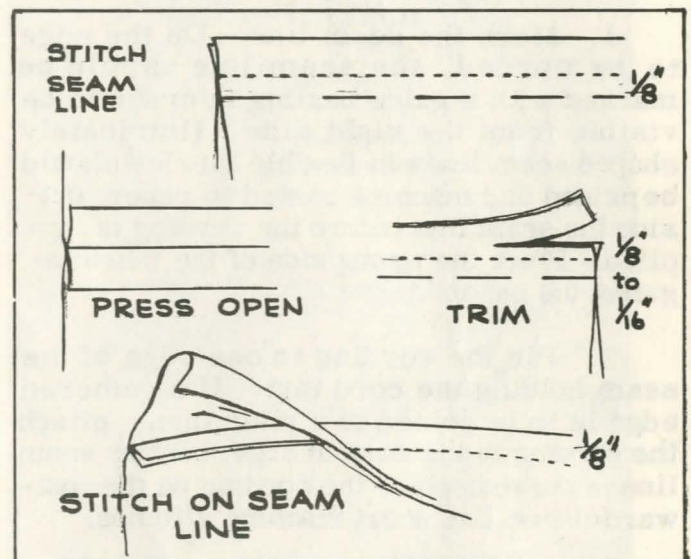
Making dresses for the small girl can be a source of great satisfaction as well as an economy measure.

A few sewing techniques, when skillfully mastered, can give those little dresses that professional look found in the most expensive ready-to-wear.

The first secret of fine workmanship for a dainty dress is the use of a fine needle and thread. Sewing thread No. 80 to 100 is recommended for dainty fabrics. Sewing machine needles classed as fine or No. 9, and needle sizes 8-9-10 for hand sewing are desirable.

Seams

Seams in a child's dress should be soft and smooth to prevent irritation of the skin. Plain and French seams are those most frequently used. French seams are used on sheer fabrics such as batiste and organdy.

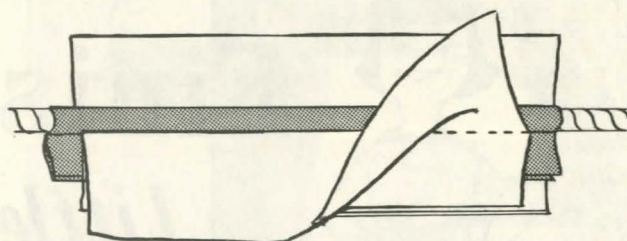


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PREPARING THE
CORD



CORDED SEAM

Corded Seam

Corded seams are often used at the waistlines of dresses to give a professional finished effect.

Preparing the cord

1. Cut a true bias strip about 1" wide and the length of the seam.

2. Fold the strip right side out with the two raw edges together. Place a cord in the fold (the cord should be shrunk before using). Carpet warp or cable cord might be used.

3. Stitch the cord into the bias strip using the cording foot or zipper foot on the machine.

Making the corded seam

1. Mark the seam line. On the edge to be corded, the seam line should be marked with a guide basting in order to be visible from the right side. (Intricately shaped seam lines in flexible fabrics should be pinned and machine basted to paper outside the seam line before the cording is applied. Place the wrong side of the fabric against the paper.

2. Pin the cording to one edge of the seam holding the cord taut. If a gathered edge is to be joined to a plain one, attach the cording to the smooth edge. If the seam line is curved, place the cording on the outward curve. Use short machine stitches.

3. Stitch close to the cord, using a cording foot for cords 1/8" or more in diameter and a regular presser foot for smaller ones. Work slowly around curves to keep the stitching next to the cord and on the marked seam line.

4. Place the seam line of the other piece against the corded one with right sides together. Pin and machine stitch from the wrong side of the corded section to follow the first stitching exactly. Stitching must be kept directly against the cord.

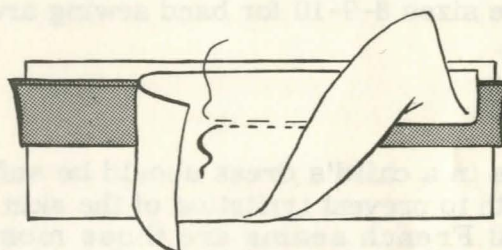
5. When the seam is finished, trim the seam allowance on the cording 1/8". Grade the seams on the garment section.

Piped Seams and Edges

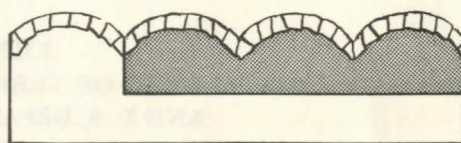
Piping is often used as a decorative trim on seams and collars.

The same method is used for piping as for cording except there is no yarn or cord in the folded edge of the bias strip.

If piping is to be used in a small collar or on scallops, cut a cardboard gauge to outline the collar or scallops. Press curved edges of fabric on the gauge. Baste bias piping on underside so a narrow bit of it outlines the edge. Top stitch close to turned edge.

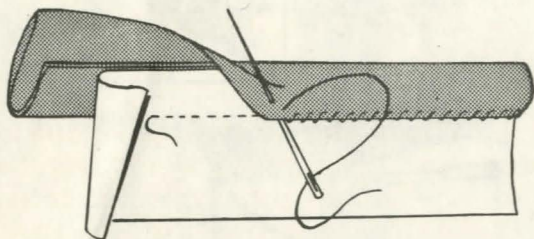


PIPED SEAM



Double or French Binding

Double or French binding is sometimes used on sheer fabrics as a finish on sleeves and necklines. Steps in applying a double binding:



1. Cut a strip of true bias. (Clothing Supplement 48 gives information on cutting and joining bias). Since the binding is to be applied as a bias fold, make it approximately six times the finished width. When completed a strip 1" wide will make a binding about 1/8" wide.

2. Fold the strip in half lengthwise with right side out.

3. Stitch bias to right side of garment, with raw edges together. Hold the bias strip rather taut unless stitching around outward curves.

4. Use the wide part of the presser foot as a guide to keep the width of the folded edge even inside the stitching. Watch the width of the seam allowance. A bias fold in sheer fabric changes width with the smallest variation in tension. Irregularities must be corrected by narrowing or widening seam allowances to the right of the needle.

5. Press only the stitching line to smooth it, not the soft fold edge of the bias.

6. Trim seam allowance to 1/8".

7. Turn folded edge to the wrong side and slip stitch in place over the machine stitching.

Collars

Small round collars such as Peter Pan collars are frequently a part of a little girl's dress design. The following suggestions will help you obtain round, sharp edges on collars:

1. Stay stitch upper collar.

2. Trim away about 1/16" from the outer edge of the under collar but do not stay stitch.

3. Place right sides of upper and under collars together, matching center lines, notches and outer edges. Pin the two together.

4. Stitch along outer seam line. Use short machine stitches (16 to 20 per inch).

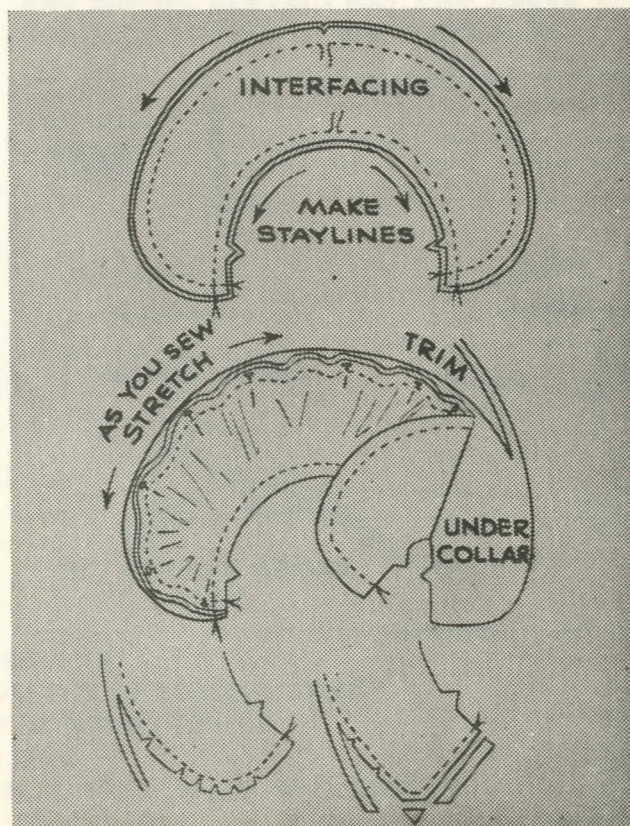
5. Trim seam allowance from 1/16" to 1/4" in width; depending on how badly the fabric will fray.

6. On curves cut narrow V-shaped notches to eliminate bulkiness.

7. Turn collar to right side. Baste seam allowance to under collar. Sharp stitch if desired.

8. Press. Remove basting and press again.

9. Collar may be attached to neckline with either a fitted facing or a bias facing as suggested in pattern instructions.



Applying Lace

1. Val lace may be gathered by pulling a thread on the edge.

2. If the lace is to be joined to a hemmed edge work from right to left. With lace held toward you, catch one hem thread and the lace edge together with whipping stitches or join flat with machine zig zag stitch.

3. Lace is often applied to a rolled edge. Roll the edge of the fabric over using thumb and forefinger. Hold the edge of the lace to this rolled edge, and sew it on with small whipping stitches, sewing over both edges. Ease fullness in when sewing the lace around a curved edge.

