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## EC61-428 Lining Skirts and Dresses

Anna Marie Kreifels

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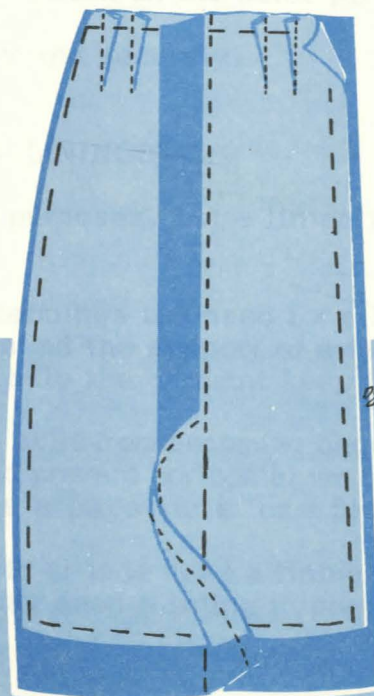
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LINING

# Skirts and Dresses



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# LINING SKIRTS AND DRESSES

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## INTRODUCTION

Whether or not to line a skirt or a dress is a problem the home sewer must often solve. A wise solution is based on consideration of style of the garment, fabric being used, and individual preferences. Commercial patterns sometimes give suggestions for lining materials. Actual pattern pieces and instructions are given to obtain the effect the designer has in mind.

This circular contains standards for a lined garment, information about the selection of suitable lining fabrics, and general tips and methods for lining skirts and dresses.

## STANDARDS FOR A LINED GARMENT

When selecting fabrics and constructing the garment keep in mind that a good lining is:

- \*..an inconspicuous part of the garment acting to improve appearance, durability and wearing satisfaction.
- \*..made of firm material which does not dominate the character of the outer fabric.
- \*..suited to the outer fabric in relation to wear, care, weight, color and cost.
- \*..long enough in the skirt to serve its intended purpose.
- \*..constructed and fitted so as to relieve strain on the outer garment.
- \*..fastened to the outer garment smoothly and securely.

## PURPOSES FOR LININGS

Linings in dresses and skirts serve many purposes, but a lining is not necessarily a characteristic of a quality garment.

In many instances the garment fabric determines the need for a lining. Knits and soft, loosely woven, stretchy fabrics often need the support of a firmly woven lining to improve durability and appearance and to help the garment keep its shape.

Lining the back of a straight skirt keeps the skirt from becoming baggy and stretched. Lining the skirt front serves to cushion folds and prevent horizontal wrinkles which result from sitting. Lining should not be used as a substitute for a foundation garment.

Skirts or dresses made of lightweight fabric or lace need a lining to add extra body and shape. Soft fabrics which drape easily may need a lining to prevent their graceful lines from becoming flattened.



There are persons whose skin is sensitive to certain fibers. A complete lining which covers inside seam construction might be the solution to this problem. At the same time this type of lining prevents seam ravelings and lint from collecting on under-garments, and improves the general appearance of the dress or skirt.

Some linings are definitely a custom finish -- an added bit of luxury -- and not an essential finish. If you do your own sewing you can often afford these custom details on a limited clothing budget.

## SUITABLE LINING FABRICS

A lining should serve the purpose for which it is intended and be suited to the garment design. Therefore, the lining fabric and the method of insertion must be selected in relation to the fabric and the pattern being used.

The lining fabric should help retain -- not dominate -- the character of the outer fabric. Wear and care qualities should be similar and there should be some relationship in costs of the two fabrics. Usually, the colors of the two fabrics either blend or match. Occasionally, the color of a partial lining is matched with the color of slip which will be worn with the dress or skirt.

The lining fabrics should not show through the outer fabric except in the case of sheers or laces. In these cases the color of the lining may be planned to give a desired color effect to the garment, or to accent the design of the outer fabric.

New fabrics especially designed for use as linings are constantly appearing on the market. In some cases, they may not be as desirable in texture or wearing quality as fabrics not specifically intended as lining materials.

Lining fabrics are of two major types -- woven and non-woven. The non-woven fabrics are manufactured by a bonding process. The finished fabrics have no grainline and are produced in various forms, weights and colors. Usually, bonded fabrics do not mold or drape as easily as the woven fabrics, but if a bouffant effect is desired they may be used.

Non-woven fabrics are sold under patented trade names, and are often used as interfacings to retain shape and give body to collars, cuffs, lapels, or peplums. In this case, the garment might have a woven lining in addition to the non-woven interfacing.

If you are unfamiliar with these trade names and fabrics, ask a clerk to show you both lining and interfacing fabrics. Read the labels before purchasing.

Many of the woven fabrics used as outer fabrics can be used successfully as linings. Suggested fabrics are:

batiste	rayon crepe
voile	nylon chiffon
percale	nylon tulle
regulated cotton	nylon marquisette
cotton-dacron blend	nylon net
rayon satin	China silk
taffeta	silk organza



## GENERAL TIPS FOR LINING SKIRTS AND DRESSES

There are several ways to construct lined skirts and dresses, depending on the pattern and fabric being used, the finished effect desired in the garment, and the figure of the wearer.

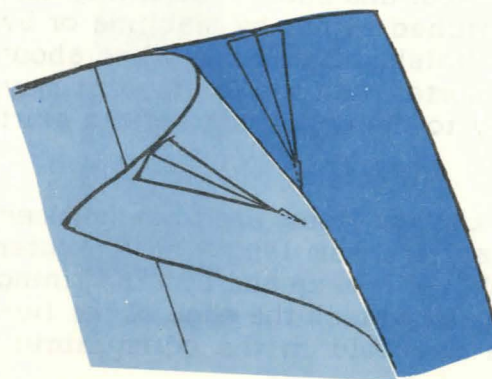
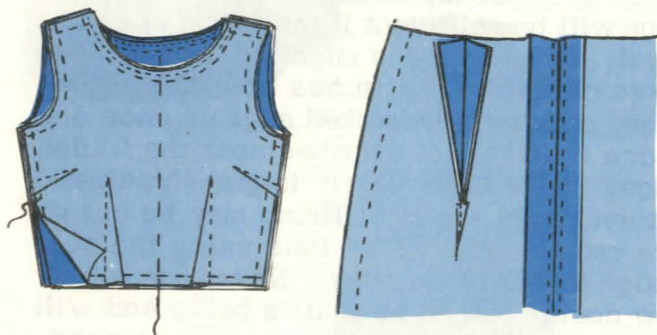
For simple designs the garment and lining are cut from the same pattern pieces keeping the grainlines of both fabrics identical. Occasionally, some construction seams can be avoided in the lining by cutting center back or center front seams on the fold. Do this only if the seams are straight with the grain -- not curved or slanted. A dress or skirt featuring draped lines will sometimes require a lining cut from a basic pattern to control the draping.

Skirts may be either fully lined in front and back, partially lined in front and back, or partially lined in the back only. Partial linings should reach at least nine inches below the fullest part of the hips. A complete lining is necessary if the outer fabric has a tendency to stretch.

Bodice linings of dresses frequently extend only to the armscye but in some cases the sleeves are also lined.

If the outer fabric and/or lining fabric is heavyweight or bulky, stitch the darts and the seams separately. Very sheer fabrics and laces require the lining and the garment to be constructed as one fabric to prevent seam allowances and construction details from showing on the right side. If there is some doubt as to whether to stitch darts and seams separately in the lining and in the outer garment, or to treat both layers of fabric as one, try making sample darts or seams using both methods. Press the samples. Then use the method which gives the better appearance and quality.

Bulky appearance must be avoided. When darts are stitched separately in the two fabrics press those in the lining in the opposite direction to those in the outer garment. Slashing the darts and pressing them open also helps avoid apparent bulkiness.





When the outer garment and lining are to be constructed as a single fabric, machine baste the respective pieces together about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch from the edges. Hand baste delicate fabrics. Darts will be stitched accurately if the two layers of fabric are basted together on the dart fold lines before darts are basted and stitched. After stitching the seams, trim the lining seam allowances to about  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch before pressing the seams flat. This eliminates bulk at the seamlines. Pressing is of utmost importance throughout the construction process.

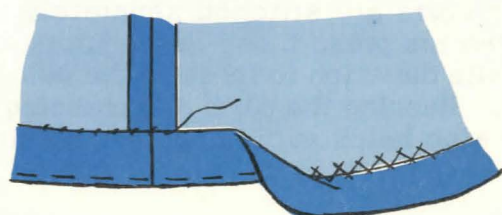
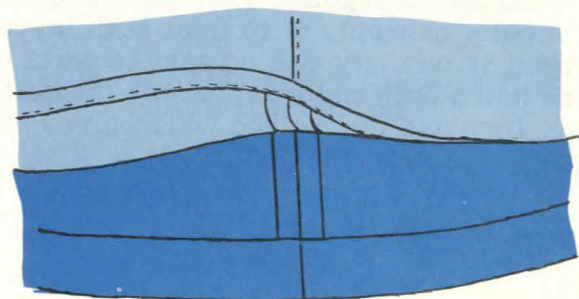
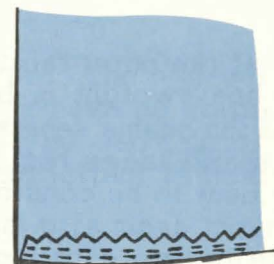
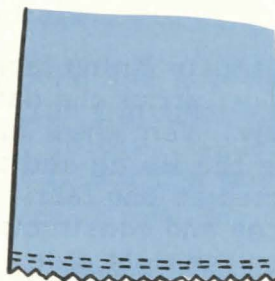
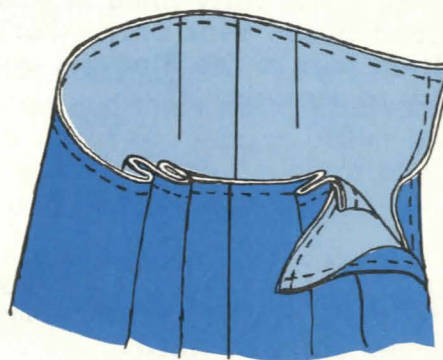
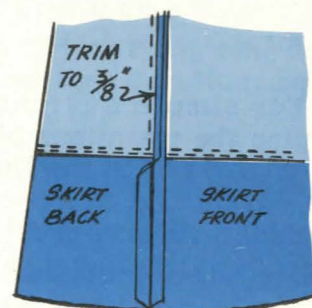
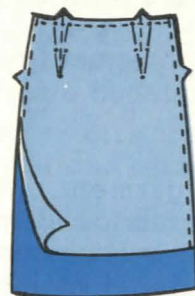
If the pattern design has dart-tucks or unstitched pleats, both fabrics should be treated as one. This gives a softer effect.

Strain on the outer fabric of a straight skirt will be relieved if the lining is fitted slightly closer than the outer skirt. To do this when the skirt and lining are constructed separately, stitch the side seam of the lining  $\frac{1}{16}$  to  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch wider. If the side seams of both fabrics are to be stitched as one, slightly increase the width of the seam allowance on the lining as it is pinned and basted to the edges of the outer fabric.

Finish the lower edge of partial linings in a flat, inconspicuous way. Pinking the edge will be sufficient if the fabric does not ravel. Other finishes might be to place two rows of machine stitches near the pinked edge, or to turn the pinked edge up once and place two rows of stitches near the folded edge. If the lining fabric is pre-shrunk and woven firmly a partial lining may be cut on the cross-wise grain, thus using the selvedge as the lower edge. Never use a narrow double turned hem; it is bulky and will be noticeable when the skirt is pressed.

Full-length linings are often hemmed separately from the skirt. This allows each fabric to drape naturally and to react individually to wear and care. The lining hem may be stitched either by machine or by hand. The finished lining should be about one inch shorter than the skirt, or it may extend only to the upper edge of the skirt hem.

If the skirt and lining are to be hemmed as one, mark the hem length on the outer fabric. Fold the hem up and trim the lining at the fold. Hand tack the edge of the lining to the hem fold in the outer fabric.





Blindstitch the hem of the skirt to the lining fabric only. No hemming stitches will show on the right side of the garment.

## METHODS FOR LINING SKIRTS

Here are three possible ways of joining a lining to a skirt.

### Method 1 - Separate Lining

Determine the length and placement of the skirt lining before cutting. Transfer pattern markings to the skirt fabric and to the lining fabric.

Follow the regular procedure for stitching the darts and seams of the outer skirt. Insert the zipper.

Stitch the darts and seams of the lining leaving the placket area open. Finish the lower edge if a partial lining is used.

Place the wrong side of the lining to the wrong side of the skirt, matching seams and darts. Baste these together at the waistline. Turn under the lining seam allowance at the placket area and hand stitch it firmly to the zipper tape. Now attach the waistband.

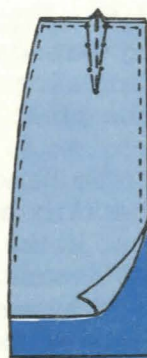
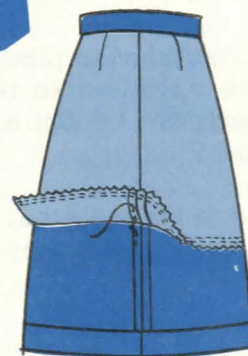
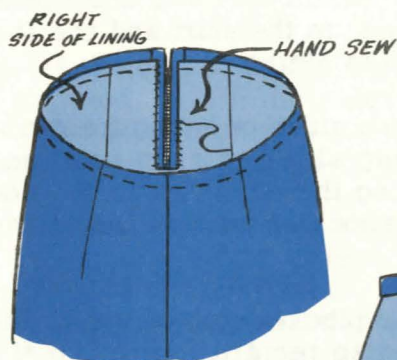
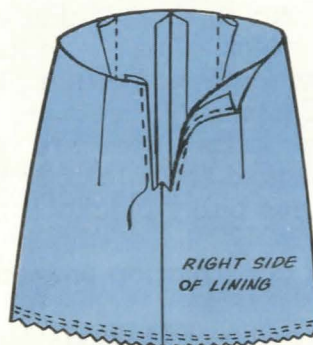
Fasten the lining side seams to the skirt side seams with a loose hand tack stitch. This will anchor the lining in position. Complete the hem and other construction details.

### Method 2 - Double Fabric Construction

Determine the length and placement of the lining before cutting. Transfer pattern markings to the right side of the lining only.

If a partial lining is being used, finish the lower edges.

Place the wrong side of the lining pieces to the wrong side of the skirt pieces. Machine or hand baste along the edges except hem edges. If a full lining is being used and the two fabrics are to be hemmed separately, allow the lining to remain loose about seven inches above the hem at each seam.



Stitch the darts and seams as a single layer of fabric. Insert the zipper and attach the waistband.

If desired, the lining may be left free from the outer fabric in the placket area. Clip the lining seam allowance to the stitching line at the lower end of the placket. The zipper is inserted in the outer skirt and the lining seam allowances are turned under and hand stitched to the zipper tape. This results in a less bulky placket.

Complete other construction processes.

### Method 3 - Combination of Methods 1 and 2

Determine the length and placement of the lining. Transfer pattern markings to both fabrics.

If a partial lining is being used finish the lower edges. Stitch the darts and seams (except side seams) in the skirt and the lining separately as in Method 1.

Place the wrong sides of lining front and back to the wrong sides of skirt front and back. Baste along the edges as in Method 2. Stitch the side seams and insert the zipper.

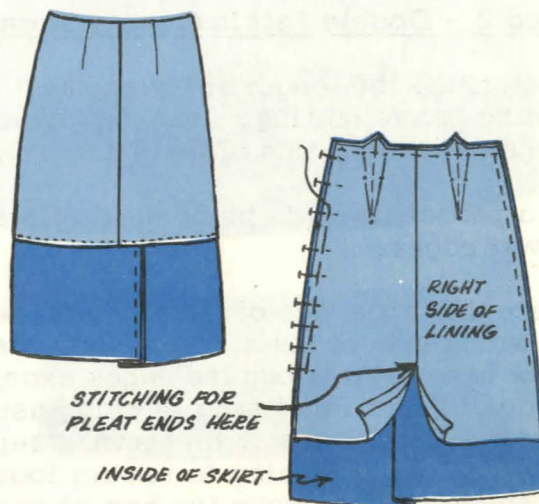
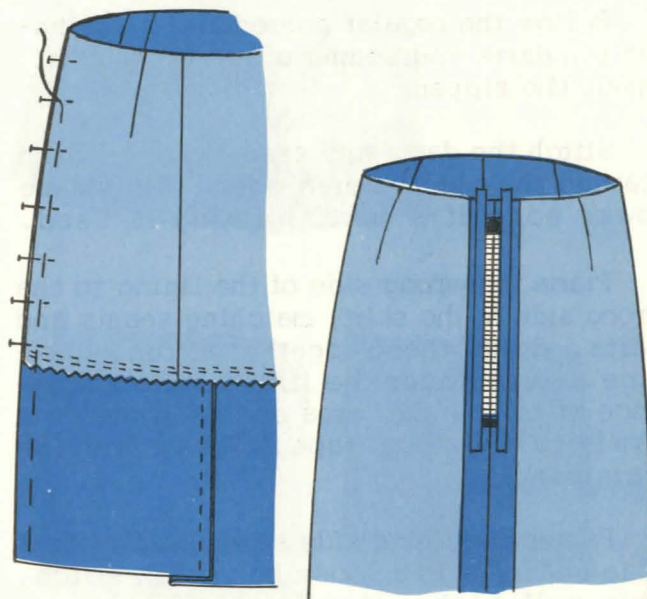
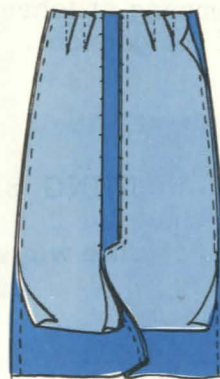
If desired, the placket area of the lining may be allowed to remain loose and the placket may be finished as suggested in Method 2.

Attach the waistband and complete other construction processes.

### LINING SKIRT PLEATS

Strain on the upper end of a kick pleat is relieved if a partial lining extends about two inches below that point. The partial lining is not fastened to the pleat.

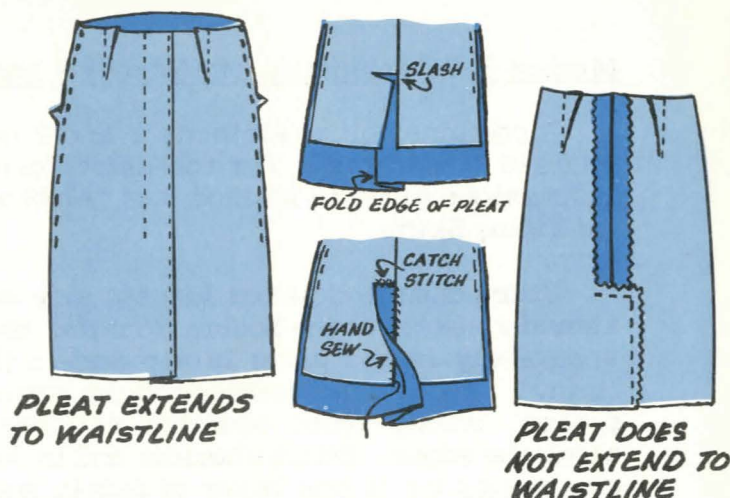
A complete lining must be handled in such a way as to permit the skirt pleat to release its fullness. The pleat in the lining is eliminated by adding a 5/8" seam allowance at the center back. The seam is stitched to the point where the pleat begins. If the skirt and lining are hemmed separately, finish the lining pleat as follows.





If the pleat extends to the waistline, slash the lining from the point where the stitching ends to the folded edge of the pleat. Hand stitch the center edges of the lining to the pleat in the skirt using invisible stitches. Catchstitch the slashed edge of the lining to one thickness of the pleat.

If the pleat does not extend to the waistline, the lining need not be slashed. Simply lay the pleat extension over the lining and finish as described above.

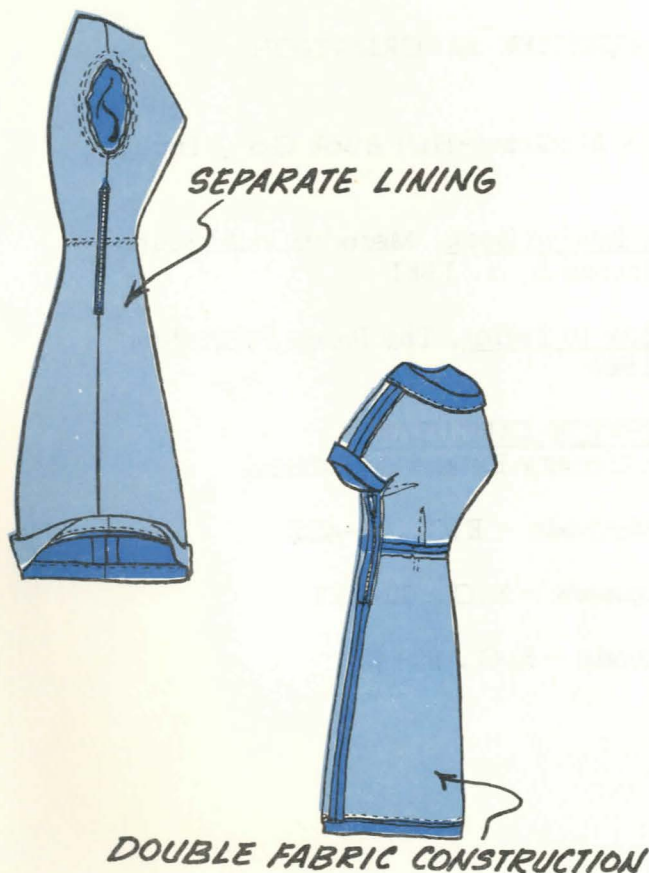


## METHODS FOR LINING DRESSES

A dress may be fully lined or partially lined and linings may be joined in several ways. The skirt of the dress may be lined according to one of the methods discussed in the previous section. Notice the suggestions given in the section on "General Tips for Lining Skirts and Dresses."

### Method 1 - Separate Lining

To hide the construction seams on the inside of the dress, stitch the outer fabric and the lining separately. If set-in sleeves are to be lined, stitch the sleeves into the armholes of each fabric separately. Complete the neckline and sleeve details and the placket in the outer fabric. Leave the placket area open in the lining.



Place the wrong side of the lining to the wrong side of the dress. Pin, hand baste, then hand tack the lining to the neckline finish, to the waistline seam, and to the zipper tape. A waistline stay is seldom necessary in a lined dress. If sleeves are unlined attach the bodice lining to the arm-scyne seam. If sleeves are lined, hand tack the lining to the sleeve finish and loosely tack the lining armscye seams to the corresponding seams of the dress.

Hem the garment and complete other construction details.

### Method 2 - Double Fabric Construction

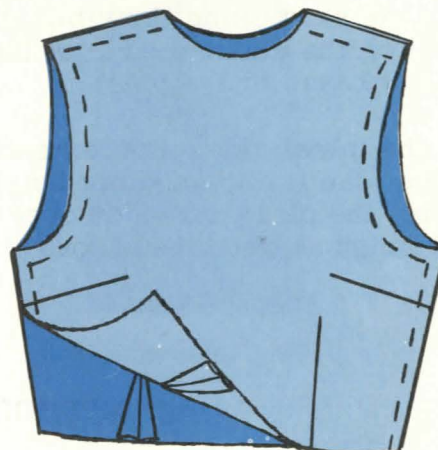
This method can be used throughout the dress if fabric is light or medium weight. Plan which parts of the dress are to be lined. For the skirt note the instructions in Method 2 of "Methods for Lining Skirts."

Continue the construction of the dress as if using a single layer of fabric. The lining may sometimes serve as interfacing at the neckline and in the area of buttons and buttonholes.

### Method 3 - Combination of Methods 1 and 2

A combination of Methods 1 and 2 may be used if desired. For the skirt follow instructions given in Method 3 of "Methods for Lining Skirts."

Stitch darts and seams (except side and shoulder seams) of the bodice front and back separately in the outer fabric and in the lining. Place the corresponding bodice pieces, wrong sides together and baste along the edges. Stitch shoulder and under-arm seams as if one layer of fabric were being used. Set-in sleeves, lined or unlined, are stitched in the armholes as when constructing an unlined garment with set-in sleeves.



Join the bodice to the skirt and insert the zipper. Grade the seams in the placket area to avoid unnecessary bulkiness.

Hem the garment and complete other construction processes.

### REFERENCES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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- \* Better Homes and Gardens Sewing Book, Meredith Publishing Co., 1716 Locust St., Des Moines 3, c. 1961
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Pressing Equipment - E.C. 60-423

Pressing Methods - E.C. 60-424