

# MONTANA EXTENSION SERVICE IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

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## *Making of Type Pattern*

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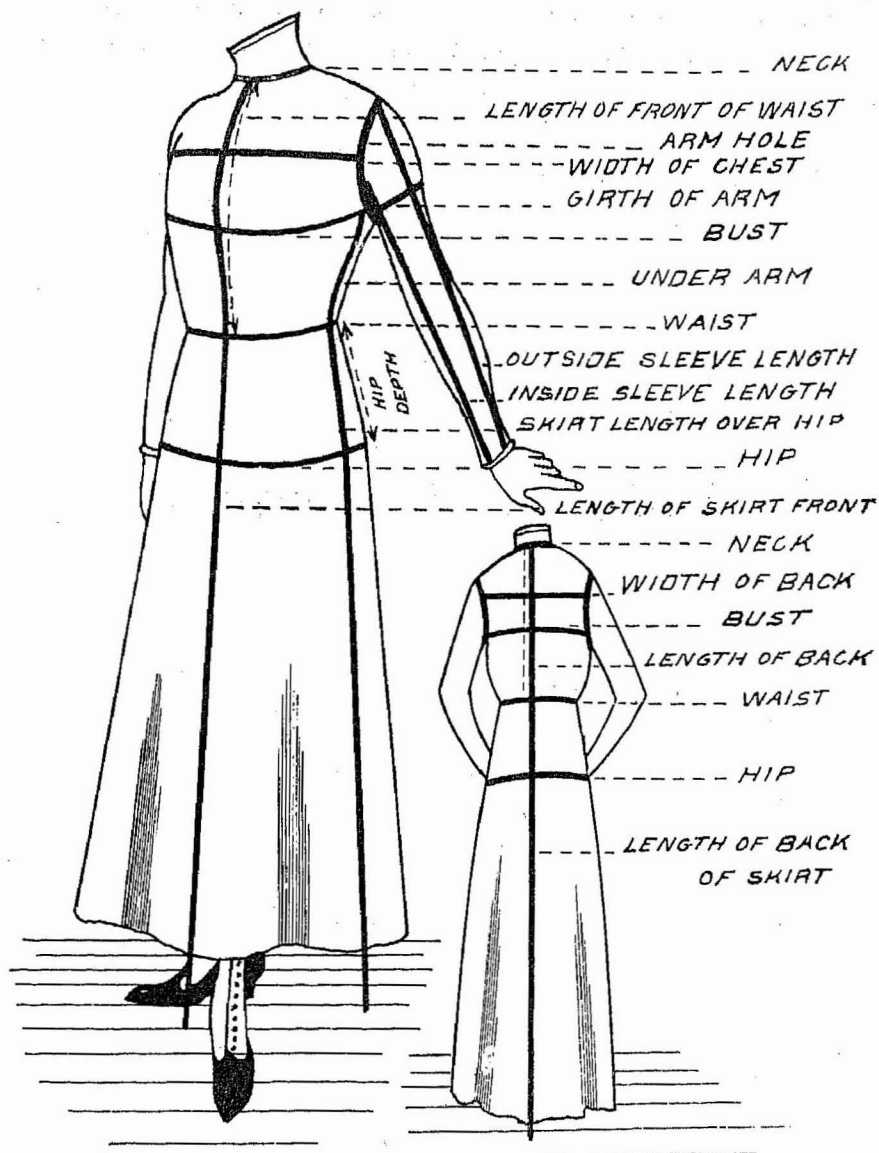


FIG. 1. Illustrating method of taking measurements.

## Making of Type Pattern

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Commercial patterns are made according to certain standard measurements and cannot provide for individual differences. It is for this reason that a knowledge of the proper way to take measurements and make adjustments is necessary if the best results are to be obtained in clothing work.

In the adjusting and testing of patterns it is necessary to know the following measurements. (Figure 1.)

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. neck measurement | 11. arm girth       |
| 2. chest width      | 12. waist           |
| 3. bust measure     | 13. hip measurement |
| 4. back width       | 14. hip depth       |
| 5. shoulder width   | 15. skirt length    |
| 6. front length     | a—center front      |
| 7. back length      | b—center back       |
| 8. underarm length  | c—left side         |
| 9. armseye measure  | d—right side        |
| 10. sleeve length   |                     |
| a—outside           |                     |
| b—inside            |                     |

### Method of Taking Measurements

In this work, accurate measurements are taken and no allowance is made for fullness or blousing. Three length measures are needed, the length of the back, the length of the front, and underarm measure. In order not to be short-waisted and pull up above the skirt nor drag from the neck line, it must be long enough in the center back, center front and underarm. Before taking any measurement, a tape should be placed around normal waist in an even line.

**Neck Measurement:** Take measure at base of neck.

**Chest Width:** Taken usually about two inches below hollow of neck, across chest. This gives a point of location for the front curve of the armseye. (Note—If one places the thumb under the arm and the first finger on the bone at the shoulder, in taking the

width of back and width of chest measurements, it is easier to locate a point at which to begin to take the measurement, as the hand forms an armhole curve from center of which the measurement is taken.)

**Bust Measure:** (stand behind figure) Take measure over the fullest part, an easy measure, one-half way between bone in back of neck and the waist. Care must be taken to keep tape straight across the back.

**Back Width:** It should be taken across the broadest part of the back between the shoulders, usually about one-fourth the distance from neck to waist in center back. This measure, as in front, provides a point of location for the curves of the armseye.

**Shoulder Width:** Take this measure a little back of the very top of the shoulder. The point next to the neck comes about one-sixth of the distance around the neck, measured from center back. Carry out the tape in a straight line to the armseye and it will come about one-sixth of the distance of the neck measurement above the line at which the width of the back was taken, but one-half inch nearer the arm. This determines another point of location for the armseye.

**Front Length:** Should be taken from the hollow or bottom of the neck to the bottom of tape at waist.

**Underarm Length:** Should be taken from hollow of arm or the lower edge of armseye to the bottom of tape at waist. To do this, place tape at ten inches over pencil and place directly under the arm, having arm down at natural position, and measure to bottom of tape at waist. As a rule this measurement is about one-half the length of the back.

**Back Length:** Should be taken from the bone in the back or bottom of neck, to the bottom of tape at waist.

**Armseye Measurement:** Taken around arm over bone in shoulder, keeping in mind the points already located.

**Sleeve Length:** The outside length is taken from shoulder seam to wrist bone, with the arm bent at elbow. The inside length is taken from the muscle at the point where the arm joins the body in front to the wrist bone.

**Arm Girth:** Taken, easy measurement, around the largest part of the upper arm.

**Waist Measure:** Taken around waist at normal waist.

**Hip Measure:** Taken, easy measurement, around fullest part of the hips over hip bone.

**Hip Depth:** Taken from top of tape at waist to hip line, usually about seven to nine inches.

**Skirt Length:**

a. center front—Taken from top of tape at waist line to floor at center front.

b. center back—Taken, top of tape at waist line, to floor at center back.

c. hip lengths—Taken from tape at waist line to floor over highest part of either hip.

The distance skirt is to be made from the floor, minus the depth of the hem, is to be subtracted from these measurements.

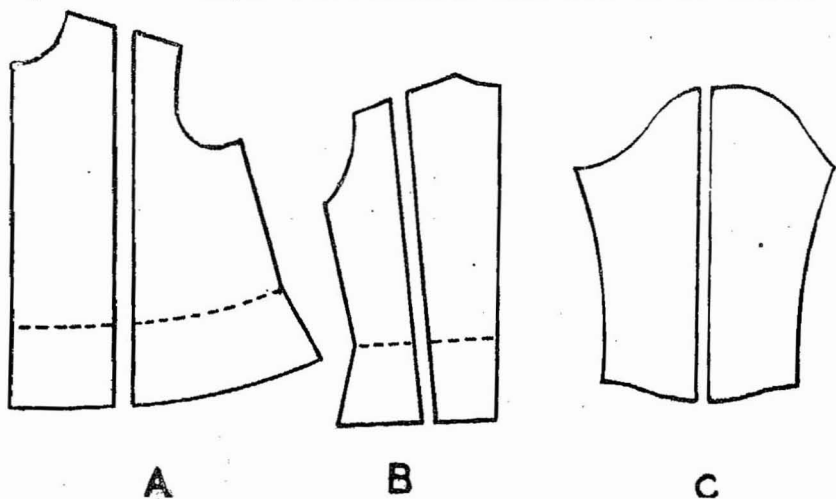


FIG. 2. Alteration of waist pattern. A, B. Increasing bust measure. C. Increasing width of sleeve.

**CHECKING PATTERN**

1. Take pattern from envelope and note number of pieces, putting back all but those needed for work; (front, back, sleeve and skirt gores.)

2. Take measure on pattern at same places as taken on figure, remembering pattern has seam allowances and also has allowed for fullness.

## ALTERATION OF PATTERNS.

### Alteration of Bust Measure

To increase bust and lengthen shoulder, draw straight line from center shoulder through waist line on front and back. Cut on lines and separate the pieces enough to give one-fourth of the entire amount to be increased. (Figure 2-A).

To decrease bust and shorten shoulder, lay fold from center shoulder through waist line on front and back. Fold to take up one-fourth of entire amount to be decreased. (Figure 3-A).

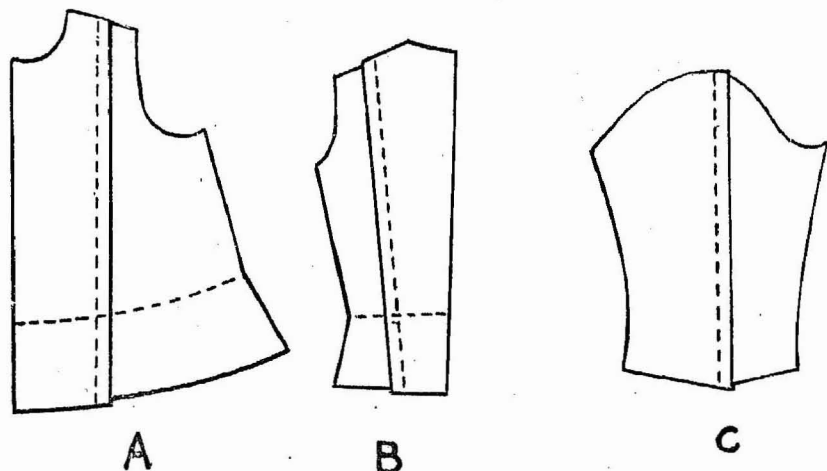


FIG. 3. Alteration of waist patterns. A, B. Decreasing bust measure. C. Decreasing width of sleeve.

The method of increasing the bust measure without increasing length of shoulder is shown in figure No. 4. The opening should expand from the bottom of the waist in a straight line to the deepest curve of the armseye. In the front it is better to make two slashes than to spread one slash too far. This method of adjustment when increasing necessitates lowering the arms-eye; if the second slash is made, slightly lower the tip of the shoulder near the armseye.

### Alteration of Waist Length

To increase waist length, cut front and back two inches above waist line and separate pieces. (Figure 5-A, 5-B). For figure

that is very long from shoulder to the lower curve of the armseye, the pattern may be lengthened by cutting it from the armhole to the center front.

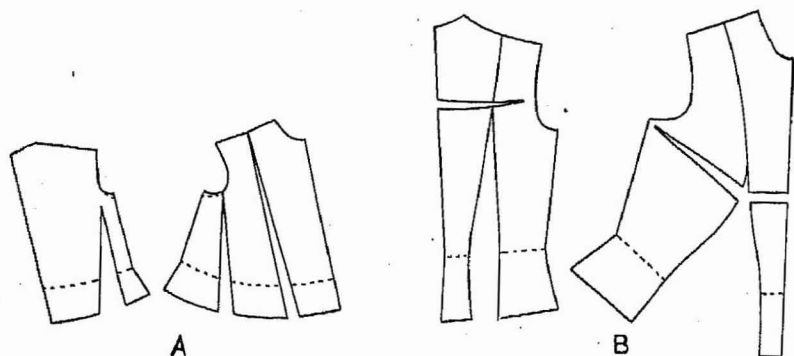


FIG. 4. A—Increasing bust measure, without increasing shoulder length. B.—Increasing for very full bust and back without increasing shoulder length.

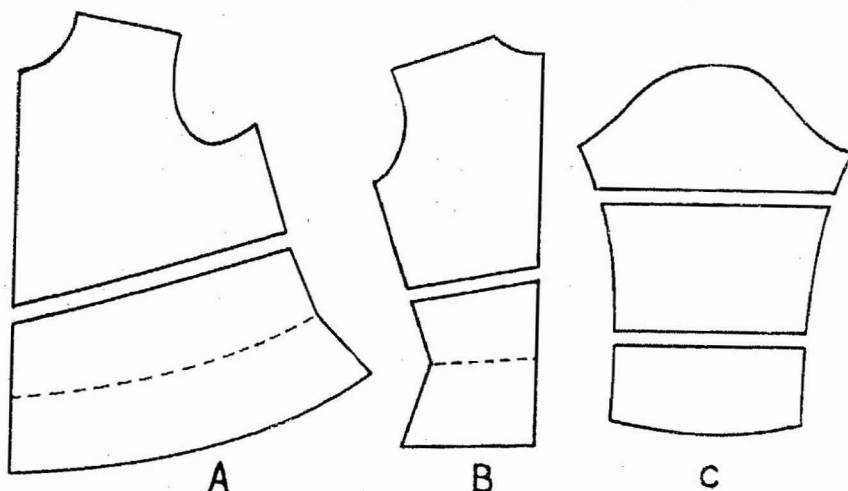


FIG. 5. Alteration of waist patterns. A, B. Increasing length of front and back. C. Increasing length of sleeve.

To decrease length of waist, fold in required amount in front and back, two inches above waist line. (Figure 6-A, 6-B)

### Alteration of Sleeve

To increase girth, draw line from center top to bottom and cut on line, then separate pieces. (Figure 2-C).

To decrease girth, fold on center line from top to bottom, folding in amount required. (Figure 3-C).

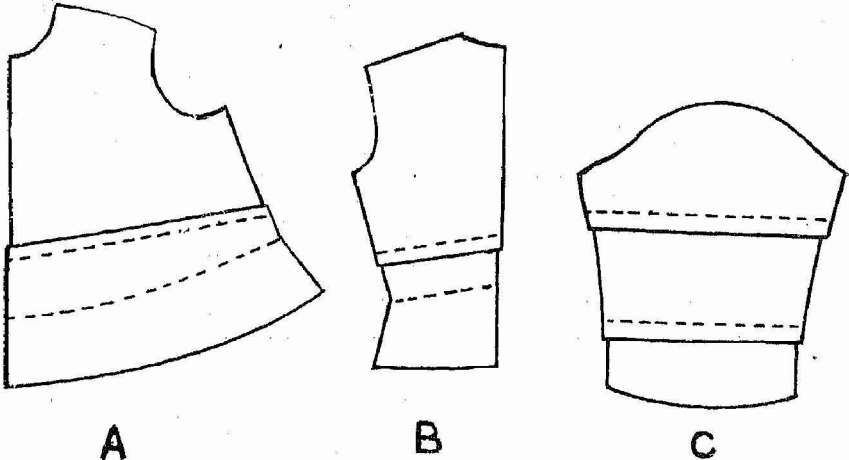


FIG. 6. Alteration of waist pattern. A, B. Decreasing length of front and back. C. Decreasing sleeve length.

To increase length. Lengthening may be done in two places, depending upon whether arm is long from shoulder to elbow or from elbow to wrist. Cut pattern two inches above or two inches below elbow line. (Figure 5-C).

To decrease length, fold should be taken two inches below or above elbow line, depending on the proportions of the arm. (Figure 6-C).

### Alteration of Skirt

To lengthen skirt, cut gores across about twelve inches below waist line; separate pieces enough to give required length. (Figure 7-A).

To shorten skirt (reverse of above) lay fold at some point, taking up amount required for shortening. (Figure 7-B).

To increase waist and hip measure, add to each gore at side a portion of entire amount from hip line to waist, or the amount may



be added all the way down, which then increases width of skirt. (Figure 8).

### Cambric Foundation Pattern

1. **Cutting of pattern:** Place altered pattern on cloth as directed in pattern guide, noting that all threads run correctly with marking of pattern. Pin and cut. Trace seam allowance, waist and hip lines.

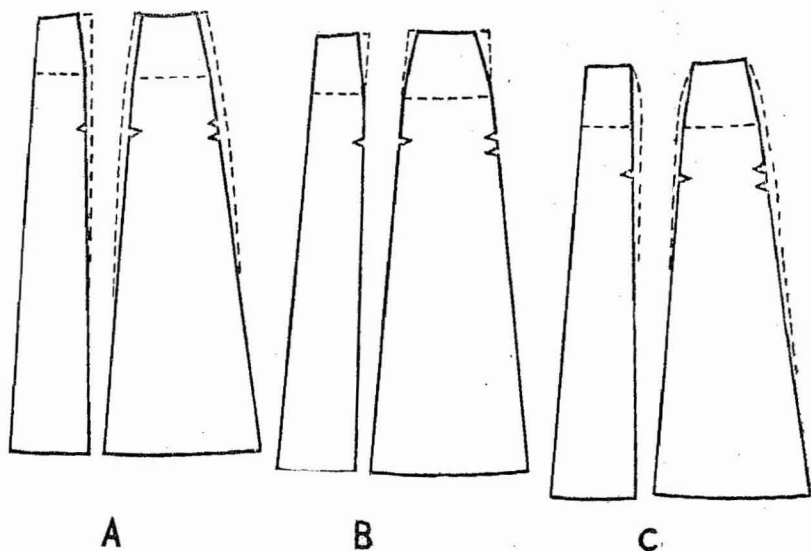


FIG. 7. Alteration of skirt patterns. A. Increasing waist and hip without increasing width at bottom. B. Increasing waist measure. C. Increasing hip measure.

### 2. Basting pattern for fitting:

a. Mark waist, neck and armseye with contrasting thread. Also center back and front lines and center shoulder. See that waist and armseye lines meet. Pin seam. (Pin at right angle to seam). Baste from waist line up and down. For shoulder seam, hold back shoulder toward you while basting. Have neck lines, armseye lines and center shoulders meet. Ease any fullness of back on the front shoulder. Baste seam of sleeve from top to elbow and from bottom to elbow. Ease in any fullness at elbow.

b. Skirt—Mark center front, center back and hip line with contrasting thread. Pin seams, keeping traced lines together, hip and waist and hem lines meeting. Baste seams, leaving left side open ten inches at the top for placket.

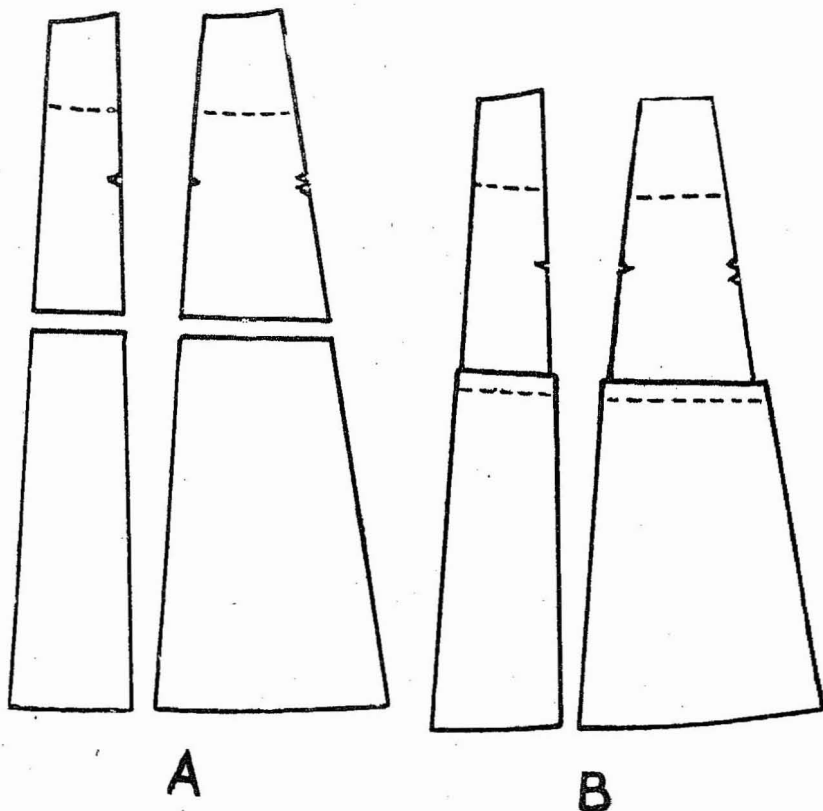


FIG. 8. Alteration of skirt. A. Increase the length of skirt. B. Decrease length of skirt.

### Fitting of Pattern

1. Waist—Put waist on with seams inside, lapping it so center front lines meet. Pin. Draw waist line around waist, turning underarm seams to front. Pin band. Adjust fullness. Survey waist carefully before fitting.

2. Some faults may be found. Following are some of the methods of correcting these faults: (Figure 9).

(a). Shoulder seam should be one inch back of highest point of shoulder. If shoulders are sloping or square alteration probably will be necessary. In sloping shoulders the waist drops at point of shoulder, causing wrinkles from neck to

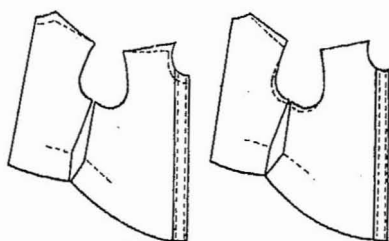


FIG. 9. Methods of correcting faults when fitting waist.

armseye. Correct this by taking up shoulder seam at point of shoulder. Then enlarge armseye by cutting away material under arm. Very square shoulders are likely to lift the waist too much at the point of the shoulder; causing wrinkles across the waist. Correct by taking shoulder seam deeper near neck.

(b). If neck line is too large or small, pin up shoulder seam at neck and slope to armseye. If neck is then too high in back, clip neck at several places. Pin on neck band. If too tight at neck, let out whole front and re-mark center front. In general the collar line should run in a good curve from the bone at the base of the neck in back, to above the small bones in the front.

(c). The underarm seam should appear to be a continuation of the shoulder seam and should fall from center of underarm straight to waist line.

(d). The armseye is a very important feature of the waist. It should be almost a straight line from the point of the shoulder to the front muscle, then curving to fit the underarm as closely as comfortable and forming a straight line from the back to the shoulder point.

(e). To fit sleeve in waist: 1—Mark armseye. Measure one inch back of shoulder seam. Fold armseye in half at this point. Mark point for seam of sleeve. Fold armseye again so shoulder and underarm seams meet. Mark the points at opposite sides of the armseye. Between these points at the top of the armseye the fullness of sleeve is placed. 2—Mark sleeve. Fold sleeve in half from seam.

Mark this point, which goes to point one inch back of shoulder seam. Bring this point to the sleeve seam and mark points at opposite sides of sleeve. 3—Putting sleeve in waist—Pin sleeve in place, matching points. Baste in, holding the sleeve toward you and easing in the fullness. The greater amount of fullness should fall to the back and front of the top of the shoulder, very little fullness coming at the very top. The straight lengthwise grain of the material should fall straight from the highest point of the shoulder, and the crosswise grain should carry straight across the arm.

3. Skirt: Prepare belt of one and one-half inch width to correct waist measure. Sew on hooks and eyes so ends just meet. Place belt around figure with ends at left side. Put skirt on figure, pin on belt at center front and center back and sides to keep it in place and pin placket together. The skirt is a plain front with slightly full back. Survey the skirt carefully. See if seams at sides give appearance of running straight from top to bottom, hip line parallel to floor at all points, or if it seems too wide or narrow at bottom in proportion to hips.

4. Some faults may be found, and these methods used for correcting them:

a. If skirt seems to push toward front too much, raise slightly at the waist line in back.

b. In case of a figure with prominent hips, the skirt may stand out at sides. This may be corrected by draping the skirt slightly from the waist line over the hips.

c. After skirt has been fitted satisfactorily, always straighten hip line.

d. Skirt now will need to be straightened at the bottom to the desired length. If careful work has been done the cambric pattern now will be ready to use as a foundation pattern in cutting any style of dress.

## MAKING OF SIMPLE DRESS FROM TYPE PATTERN

### Cutting of Dress

Useless motion should be eliminated as much as possible.

1. Equipment necessary for work:

a. Material suggested—percale, calico or chambray.

b. Tools—tape measure, shears, tracing wheel, tailor's chalk, pins, needles, thimble and dress form.

2. Place all pieces of pattern to be used on material as directed in guide. Pin in place. Cut. Try to avoid walking about pattern in cutting; learn to cut forwards and backwards, thus saving time and energy. Put in all necessary markings. Do not remove pattern from material after it is cut until you are ready to work with that piece.

### Construction Methods

1. Make stay belt on lengthwise weave from muslin or material of dress. Cut four inches wide and one inch longer than waist measure. Fold lengthwise and turn in edges one-fourth inch and stitch belt. Turn in end edges one-half inch and stitch. It is best to make several stitchings on belt. Spread hooks and eyes at base and sew on belt with buttonhole stitch. Set hooks on right side in one-eighth inch from edge of belt. Set eyes on left side and out one-eighth inch. (Figure 10)

2. Decide on type of seam suitable for this type of dress. If open seams are used, overcast after first stitching.

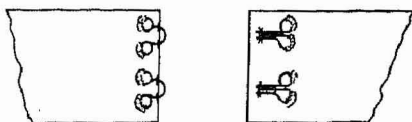


FIG. 10. Showing how hooks and eyes are sewed on to stay belt.

3. Do all possible basting before doing any stitching, where necessary but use pins where possible to save time. (All pins are placed at right angle to the seam). Baste seams of waist, front opening, sleeves, seams of skirt and placket, cuffs and collar. Put in gathers at waist line in waist and skirt, using two rows of gathers one-fourth inch apart, gathering from sides to center back and center front. Do not pull up thread.

4. Stitch all seams possible at this time.

5. Baste collar on waist, cuffs on sleeves. Fit waist on form, then stitch. Baste sleeves in waist. Place stay belt on form with opening at center front. Place waist on form, adjust gathers, pin to stay belt. (Pins are placed at right angle to belt). Now place skirt on form, pinning it at top of stay belt over waist. First pin jacket together, then pin at center front, center back and sides. (Underarm and skirt seams should match). Adjust

gathers. Pin in place to belt. Mark skirt for turning. In all this fitting apply knowledge of fitting learned in making of foundation pattern. Baste waist and skirt to stay belt with one basting, basting in with skirt a strip of cloth one and one-half inches wide and length of belt plus the length of lapping. Stitch, then turn the strip which is acting as a seam, covering up and trim to three-fourths inch, to center front. Baste this over seam, turning in one-fourth inch and then from center front this piece acts as a binding for the skirt at waist lapping. Hang skirt, turning up to the desired length. Hem. Turn hem up even with gauge to desired depth. (Figure 11) Baste in place. If fullness has to be taken up, lay in plaits at right angles to edge of skirt, turning in one-fourth inch at top of hem. Finish all seams neatly and sew on fastening. All snaps should be sewed on with buttonhole stitch. (Figure 12).

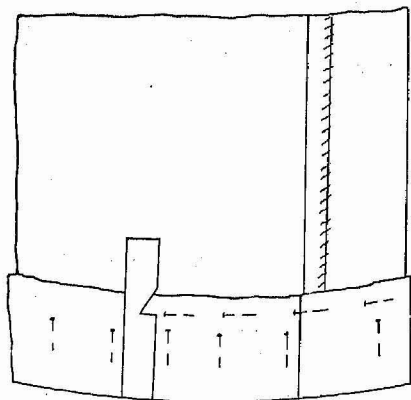
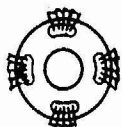


FIG. 11. Showing use of the gauge in turning the hem.



UNDER SIDE OF  
SNAP FASTENER



HOOK

FIG. 12. Showing how snaps are correctly sewed on to garment.