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BULLETIN 28A



AIDS TO SEWING

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New Ideas for SPRING

*Now is the time to adopt these new
aids to quicker and better sewing*

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Never has sewing and the making of attractive garments been so easy. Much of this is due to the ingenuity of certain manufacturers who have produced a range of sewing aids, which cut down time and yet produce results as satisfactory as those achieved by the older methods.

There are wide ranges of fabrics in the shops, in glorious shades, patterns and textures and, what is most important, in prices to suit every purse. The paper pattern manufacturers have commissioned some of the great names of the haute couture to provide exclusive designs, which are included in their catalogues of attractive styles. Certain garments are also designed in such a way that they are simple both to cut and sew.

This bulletin deals with the most important aids to quick sewing, some of which may already be well known to you. However, step by step in this bulletin we shall show how some of these aids may be used to their best advantage — to make sewing truly quick and easy.



The Paper Pattern

There are two types of paper patterns, plain and printed. On the plain pattern a series of marks, notches and perforations indicate the position of all the important features. As its name implies, the printed pattern has the names of the pieces, the style lines and all other necessary markings and information printed with name or sign in position on the tissue. The printed pattern has also the added advantage of having a printed cutting line and stitching line; and the instructions for certain sewing processes printed in the required position. Thus at a glance it is quite easy to understand the construction of the garment and so no time is wasted. Some printed patterns also indicate the position for lengthening or shortening the pattern.

Grey worsted flannel and a printed pattern were selected to make the pinafore dress illustrated in this bulletin. (*The Blouse is from*

Bulletin 27A). First lay the pattern pieces on the fabric as indicated in the cutting chart, and then pin them securely in position with steel pins. Always use Steel Dressmaker Pins; they are quick to insert and remove and do not damage the fabric. Cut out the garment (*Fig. 1*) and the next step in the making-up process is the marking of all the style features on the fabric.

Fabric Marking

This process can, of course, be done most adequately by tailor tacking and this method is recommended when the style is intricate. However, to speed up the sewing process again, there are two excellent aids to marking which should be considered and which could be used in the very simple style of this pinafore dress. They are

- (a) waxed carbon paper and a dressmaker's tracing wheel, and
- (b) a dressmarker.

These methods are suitable for both the printed and the plain paper pattern.

Method of using the Waxed Carbon Paper

First, cut out the fabric with the right sides facing, as it is most important to mark only on the wrong side. Slide one piece of carbon paper, colour side down, over the top layer of fabric, under the pattern marking. Slip another piece of waxed carbon paper face up in the same position under the bottom layer of fabric. The fabric is now sandwiched between carbon paper. Repin the pattern, if necessary, out with the carbon paper through all layers. Using the tracing wheel, press down hard, (*Fig. 2a*) so that colour from the paper is clearly marked on the fabric. (*Fig. 2b*). Use a ruler to guide the wheel along straight lines. Check to make sure that all markings are distinct. There are three colours of carbon paper. Choose the one that is in least contrast to the fabric, but still shows clearly.

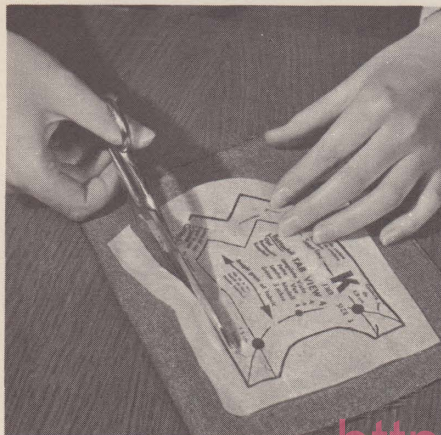


Fig. 1. Cutting out the fabric.

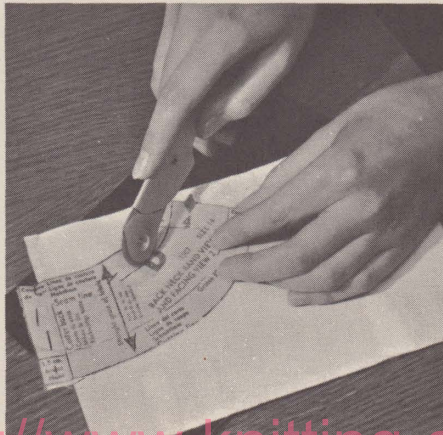


Fig. 2a. Marking with tracing wheel

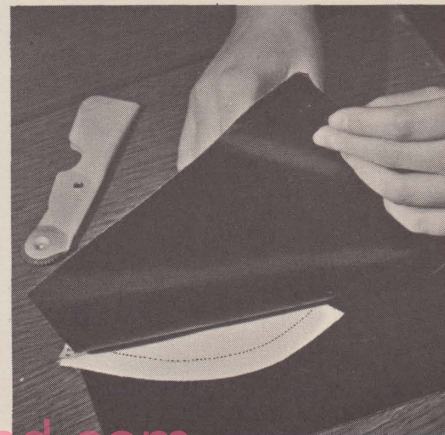


Fig. 2b. Marking complete.

Method of using the Dressmarker

This is a combination of a chalk disc and a chalk pencil. It is possible to mark both layers of fabric simultaneously, as the disc of chalk, inserted into the plastic arms of the dressmarker, marks the under side, while the pencil marks the upper side. When using a printed pattern, it is necessary to tear the paper pattern slightly with the pencil when marking. (Fig. 3).

The pinafore dress was marked with the dressmarker, but either method would have been suitable for this type of fabric.

After having marked the darts, the tucks, the pleat and the seam lines of the pinafore dress the paper pattern is removed. Now baste the sections together for fitting. Before any machine stitching is worked, the garment must be fitted and any necessary alterations made. The darts, pleat, seams, etc. are then machine stitched, following the order given on the pattern instruction sheet.

The Skirt Marker

The final process which takes care and time is marking the hemline, so that it hangs evenly. This can be done simply and accurately by using a Skirt Marker. One of the latest types is semi-mechanical and by using it you can mark your own skirt length. Adjust it to the correct height and as you slowly turn, squeeze the bulb to release chalk at regular intervals. (Fig. 4). These chalk marks indicate the hemline.

The Dressmaker Guide

A notch on this guide was used to mark the hem width of the pinafore dress. (Fig. 5). However, this dressmaker guide has many other uses. Occasionally you may wish to include certain style lines, tucks, scallops and also buttonholes which are not detailed on your paper pattern. In this case a dressmaker guide is invaluable as it includes measurements for different sizes of scallops, (Fig. 6), standard spacings for buttons and buttonholes and notches which are used for marking tucks and hems.

The Swing Needle Sewing Machine

This new type of sewing machine with the needle that swings from side to side is a wonderful addition to dressmaking equipment. It has a wide variety of detachable cams which alter the stitch formation. Apart from decorative machine embroidery certain of the cams provide very quick steps to dressmaking. For instance, the zig-zag cam may be used to finish raw edges (Fig. 7), to sew tricot material and to make buttonholes (Fig. 8) and attach buttons. If you have an older type of sewing machine, it is possible that you may be able to buy a zig-zag attachment for it, which will produce a similar effect.

Stitch Cutter

A stitch cutter, as its name implies, is a boon to all who sew and particularly to anyone who alters existing garments. It may be used to remove buttons, press studs and basting threads very quickly, also to unpick seams and pleats. If you make your buttonholes by machine, you can use the stitch cutter to slit the fabric afterwards. (Fig. 9).

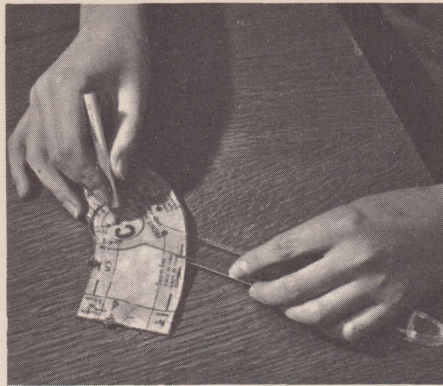


Fig. 3. The dressmarker.

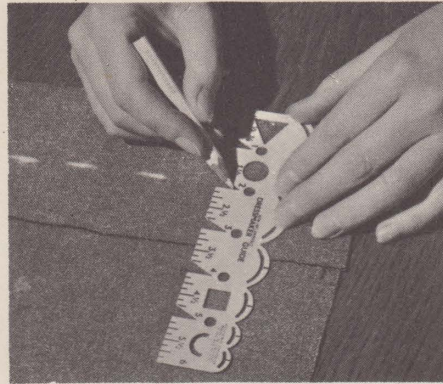


Fig. 5. Marking hem width.

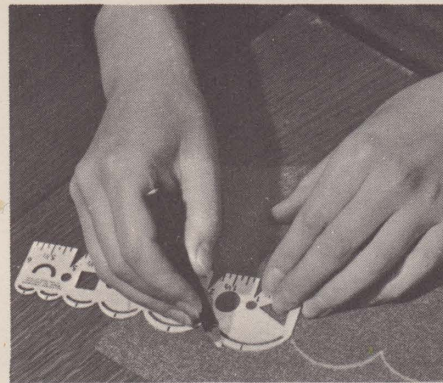


Fig. 6. Marking scallops.

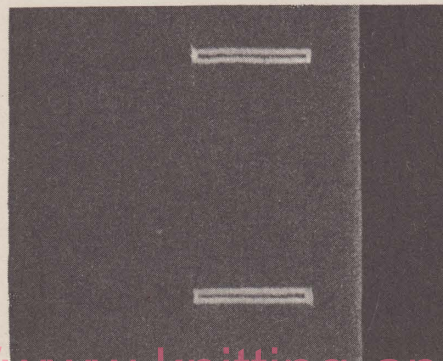


Fig. 8. Machine buttonhole.

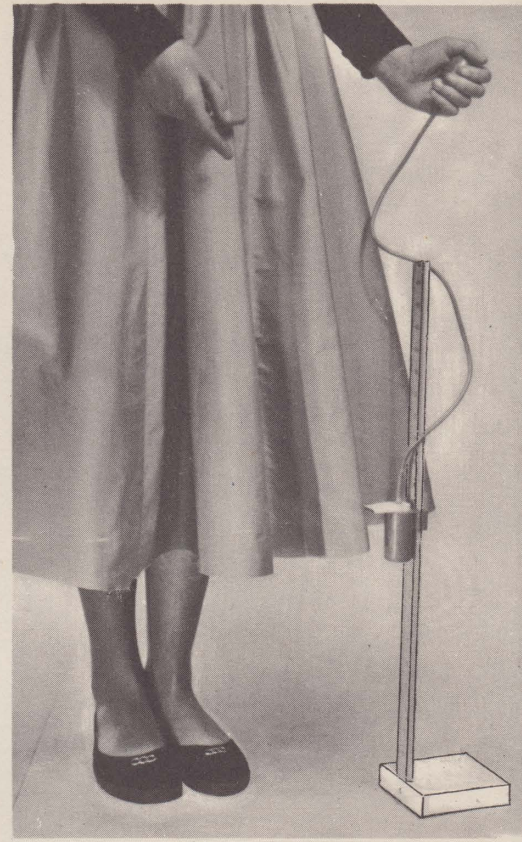


Fig. 4. Hem marker.

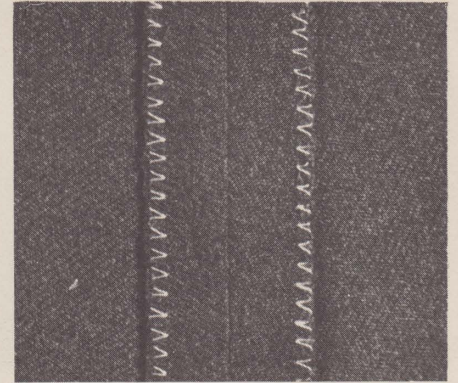


Fig. 7. Zig-zag stitching on raw edge.

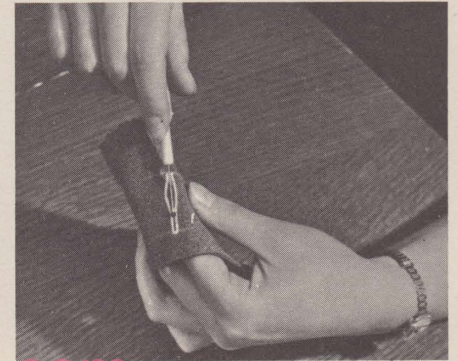


Fig. 9. Cutting the buttonhole.