

A COMPLETE COURSE  
IN  
DRESSMAKING

IN TWELVE LESSONS

BY  
ISABEL DE NYSE CONOVER

HOW TO MAKE CHILDREN'S CLOTHES  
LESSON EIGHT

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# A COMPLETE COURSE IN DRESSMAKING

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LESSON VIII  
HOW TO MAKE CHILDREN'S  
CLOTHES

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## LESSON VIII

### HOW TO MAKE CHILDREN'S CLOTHES

**Romper with Underleg Opening.**—A child's first romper is shown in Fig. 316. A romper of this type is usually made of linene, kindergarten cloth, percale, gingham, and occasionally for a very small child in white China silk.



FIG. 316

**Cutting.**—Diagram 317 shows the pattern laid on the goods. Instructions for cutting were given in Lesson II.

**Making.**—Finish off the neck first. Mark the depth of the slash on the right side of the



DIAGRAM 317

goods. Cover the mark with a facing piece, indicate the position of the slash on the

[ 1 ]



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facing piece and stitch either side of the mark, running the stitching one-eighth of an inch from the mark at the top to a point just below the mark. (See Fig. 318.)



FIG. 318 FIG. 319

Slash and turn the facing onto the wrong side of the garment. Turn under the raw edges a seam's width, press and stitch as

shown in Fig. 319. Line collar as described in lining collar of bathrobe, Lesson VI. Face collar to neck as described in joining collar to kimono, Lesson IV.

Bind lower edges of sleeves. The Fig. 36, Lesson II, shows how to stitch binding to the material.

The underleg opening can be finished, too, while the garment is out flat. The front



FIG. 320



FIG. 321

edge of the opening is faced and the back edge is finished with a shaped extension. Both the facing and the extension ought to be cut to fit the lower front portion of the romper. (See Fig. 320.) Cut two pieces for

[ 2 ]

## HOW TO MAKE CHILDREN'S CLOTHES

the extension and stitch them together as shown in Fig. 321. Turn the extension right side out, press and stitch to back as shown in Fig. 322. Face front at underleg opening as shown in Fig. 323.

Make French seams at the underarm joining and finish the lower edge of the leg

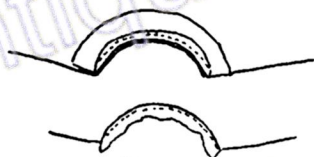


FIG. 322

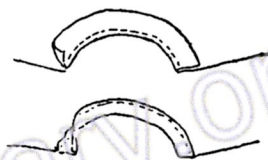


FIG. 323

sections with casings and insert elastic. See finishing of lower edge of camisole, Lesson III. Of course in the case of the romper the elastic is tacked to the material at the underleg closing with over-and-over stitches.

Work eyelets either side of slash at neck and close with lacing or ribbon. Make button-holes in front of romper at underleg opening and sew buttons to match to back extension.



FIG. 324

**Romper with Drop Seat.** — Older children wear rompers such as shown in Fig. 324. Gingham, percale, denim, art print, kinder-

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garten cloth, or chambray are suitable materials of which to make them.

**Cutting.** — There is a layout of the romper



DIAGRAM 325

shown in Diagram 325. For cutting directions read the first part of Lesson II.

**Making.** — The first thing to do in making a romper of this type is to join the fronts and close the shoulder seam. Make double-stitched seams. Then bind the neck. (See Fig. 36, Lesson II.) As soon as the neck is bound the hems can be turned at the back. (See Fig. 326.)

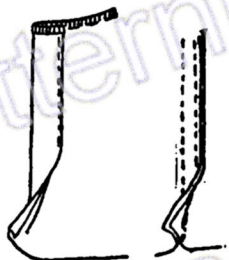


FIG. 326

FIG. 327

Next bind the lower edges of the sleeves and join the sleeves to the armholes. A double-stitched seam is easier to make and lies flatter than a French seam at the armhole. The Fig. 327 shows a double-stitched seam. This seam is often used in place of a lap-felled seam in inexpensive garments.

Finish the lower edge of the backs of the

## HOW TO MAKE CHILDREN'S CLOTHES

romper with facings. The Fig. 328 shows how to stitch on the facing. Make French seams at the sleeve and underarm joining. Join the back trouser section to the front at the outer leg seam, leaving the seam open to placket depth. Make a French seam. Finish the placket



FIG. 328

with a continuous facing just as described in boys' combination, Lesson VII. Bind lower edges of leg sections. In joining the seams at the inner leg and crotch, make double-stitched seams for a flat finish.

Gather the upper edge of the back of the trousers and finish with a waist-band as described in combination, Lesson VII.

Finish back closing with buttons and buttonholes, make buttonholes in waist-band and sew buttons to match to bottom of back of waist.



FIG. 329

**Straight-hanging Dress.** — The very small girl's dress is usually a straight-hanging one as the dress illustrated in Fig. 329. Often it has a touch of handwork as is the case on this dress where the pocket, collar and sleeve are outlined in blanket stitch and the pocket



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embroidered in cross stitch. There was a time when very little girls wore only white, pale pink or pale blue, but now there is a wider choice. Lavender is one of the most popular shades for the little girl. She may also have lemon yellow, orange, buff or ecru or perhaps pale green. Fine chambray makes pretty little frocks, or for summer



DIAGRAM 330

wear nothing is nicer than organdie or dotted swiss. Of course, there are batiste, mulle, China silk, or handkerchief linen that are always appropriate for the small girl.

**Cutting.** — See Diagram 330 for the placing of the pattern pieces on the goods.

**Making.** — Whenever it is possible, work the embroidery before making the garment. In this case, the collar must be lined before the edges are blanket stitched. Stitch the lining to the collar as described in making bathrobe, Lesson VI. Turn a narrow hem at the lower edge of the sleeves, then fold back about three-quarters of an inch of

## HOW TO MAKE CHILDREN'S CLOTHES

material. (See Fig. 331.) Finish top of pockets in the same manner. Blanket stitch edges of collar, pocket and sleeves. The Fig. 332 shows the position of the needle in blanket stitching. Usually



FIG. 331

mercerized embroidery cotton or silk floss is used for the work. Black is effective on pale green, pink, yellow or blue, and yellow is very



FIG. 332

pretty on lavender, or the scheme may be reversed. Cross stitch is often used in a combination

with blanket stitch. The Fig. 333 shows a cross-stitch chicken which might be used effectively on the pockets. See Fig. 334 for position of needle in making a cross stitch.



FIG. 333



FIG. 334

The easiest way of finishing the placket at the back of the dress is with a continuous facing. See finishing of the placket in petticoat, Lesson III. Face collar to neck as described in making kimono, Lesson IV.

French seam the underarm joinings. Try on the dress to determine the proper length.



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After the hem is turned so that the dress hangs evenly, press the lower edge and trim off the hem the same depth at all points. Turn under the top of the hem a seam's width and press. Run a gather thread around the top of the hem and draw it up so that it is the exact size of the dress. Keep the fullness running straight up and down at all points. Then stitch the hem. Turn under the sides and bottom of the pockets a seam's width and stitch to front of dress, running stitching one-eighth of an inch from edge. The pockets should be placed so the hands can be slipped in comfortably.

**Raised Waistline Dress.** — Little girls from six to ten years old very often wear raised waistline frocks such as shown in Fig. 335. This type of dress is made in both medium weight cottons such as gingham and chambray, and woolen, such as serge or wool jersey.



FIG. 335

**Cutting.** — Diagram 336 shows the pattern laid on the goods. If in doubt regarding any point, in cutting, read Lesson II.

**Making.** — Center-back closings are finished in two ways — either as a blind closing

## HOW TO MAKE CHILDREN'S CLOTHES

which has an underlap for a buttonhole-stand, or as an ordinary closing where the buttons show through. In either case hem the

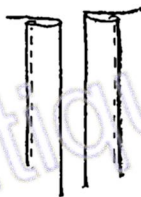


FIG. 337

edges of the back as shown in Fig. 337. If it is a plain closing, after the dress is finished, work buttonholes in the right side and sew buttons to

match to the left side. A blind closing has an applied buttonhole-stand under the hem of the right



back. Fold the material for the buttonhole-stand as shown in Fig. 338. Stitch one edge of the buttonhole-stand to the right back along the back edge of the hem. (See Fig. 339.) Where there is to be a buttonhole-stand do not stitch the hem until after the buttonhole-stand is basted into position.

The one stitching will do for both. Work buttonholes in buttonhole-stand at regular

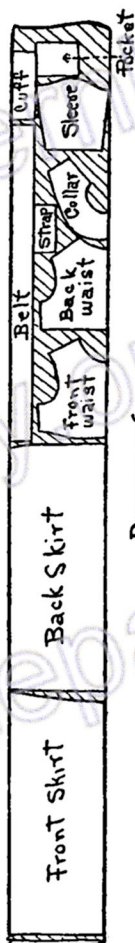


DIAGRAM 336

## A COMPLETE COURSE IN DRESSMAKING

intervals. After the dress is finished, matching buttons can be sewed to the left back.

It is a matter of choice whether you French seam or lap-fell the seams at the shoulders.



FIG. 340

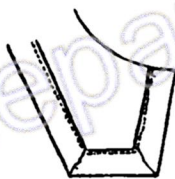


FIG. 341

Do not forget to stitch around the neck to prevent stretching. The neck can be finished and the collar

stitched on while the waist is opened out flat, before the underarm seams are joined. Line the collar as described in making bathrobe, Lesson VI, or finish the outer edge with a bias facing. The Fig. 340 shows the facing stitched to the right side and Fig. 341 the facing turned onto the wrong side and stitched the second time.

As the dress opens in the back and the collar in the front only one side of the collar can be stitched to dress. It gives a better finish at the back if the left side of the collar is stitched to the garment and the right side left free. Pin the collar to the left side of the waist. Lay a narrow strip of bias binding along the edge and stitch as shown in Fig. 342. Turn the facing onto the wrong side and stitch as shown in Fig. 343. Finish the

## HOW TO MAKE CHILDREN'S CLOTHES

free edge of the collar with a straight piece of material cut the exact size of the neck from closing in back to center-front. (See Fig. 344.) Do not attempt to use a bias binding on the free edge of the collar as both bias and edge of collar are sure to stretch and the collar will not fit the neck edge of the dress. Work two or three buttonholes along neck edge of

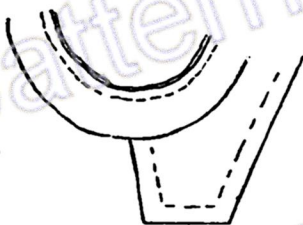


FIG. 342



FIG. 343



FIG. 344

waist on right side and sew matching buttons to collar. (See Fig. 345.)

In joining the sleeve to the armhole make a plain seam and bind the armhole (see Fig. 346), or sometimes the armholes are finished with lap-felled seams or double-stitched seams. Make French seams at the sleeve and underarm joinings. Line cuff



FIG. 345

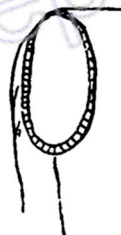


FIG. 346



## A COMPLETE COURSE IN DRESSMAKING

and stitch to sleeve as shown in Fig. 173, Lesson V.

Mark center-front of waist at bottom. Gather lower edge of waist and try on waist to adjust fullness properly at waist-line. The underarm seams should run straight up and down and the gathers ought to run straight up and down; not drag to the front nor back. Join the lower edge of the waist to a narrow waist-band, being sure to match the center-front of the waist with the center of the waist-band and keep the underarm seams even. Stitch waist-band to waist as described in finishing lower edge of blouse, Lesson VII.

Where selvedge edges come together in a skirt joining make an open seam, but where the edges are raw make a French seam. In a straight gathered skirt where there is a width and a half of the material used, place one of the seams at the center-back, but if the material is narrow and there are two widths in the skirt place one seam at each side. If a seam comes at center-back leave the seam open to placket depth. If center-back comes midway of a gore, slash the material to placket depth. Finish the placket with a continuous facing as described in making the placket of the petticoat, Lesson III.

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In a straight skirt turn the hem, stitch it and do any adjusting in hanging from the top. Stitch the hem as shown in Fig. 347. Mark the center-front of the skirt at the top and points halfway between the center-front and back at the top. Run in four gather threads — one between the center-front and the side notch and one be-

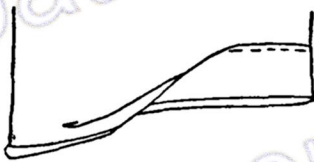


FIG. 347

tween the side notch and the back in each half of the skirt. Draw up the gather threads until the skirt is the size of the waist-band. Try on the waist and pin the skirt along the top of the waist-band, adjusting the fullness to look the best. Ordinarily the prettiest effect is gained by throwing more fullness in the back than the front. Be sure to keep the side notches the same distance from the center-front. If the skirt dips at any point raise it at the waistline until it hangs evenly. Mark the new stitching line. If an alteration of this kind is necessary it is better to remove the skirt and run in new gather threads along the new stitching line.

After the skirt has been properly adjusted



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at the waistline, mark the exact stitching line, and fasten the ends of the gather threads securely. Remove the garment and unpin the skirt.

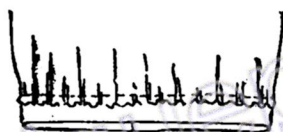


FIG. 348

Slip the skirt over the blouse with the right side of the skirt next to the outside of the blouse and the top of the skirt and the lower edge of the blouse even. Stitch as shown in Fig. 348.

When the skirt is brought down into the finished position the raw edges will not show.

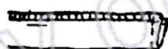


FIG. 349

An easy and pretty way of finishing a belt is to bind the sides. If you want to make



FIG. 350

one end pointed fold the belt and stitch across the end as shown in Fig. 349. When the belt is turned right side out it will form a point. Hem the other end of the belt. (See Fig. 350.)

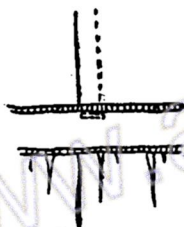


FIG. 351

Tack the belt to the right side back as shown in Fig. 351 or sew loops to side seams. See making bathrobe, Lesson VI.

Fasten the front of the belt with a button and buttonhole.

## HOW TO MAKE CHILDREN'S CLOTHES

**Guimpe Dress.** — The Fig. 352 shows another style of dress that girls from six to twelve wear. This kind of a dress is made up in great variety of materials. Sometimes



DIAGRAM 352

the guimpe is pongee or China silk and the dress serge, or the guimpe may even be chiffon, georgette crepe or net and the dress taffeta or crepe de Chine. Guimpe styles are made, too, in wash materials. Here the guimpe is usually batiste, and the



FIG. 352



FIG. 353

dress colored chambray, plaid gingham or colored linen.

**Cutting.** — Diagram 353 shows the pattern pieces laid on the goods. This layout may not suit your particular width of material but it will give an idea of how to place each piece. Explicit directions for cutting are given in Lesson II. Cut each piece separately.

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**Making the Guimpe.**—Hem the back closing first, turning and stitching the hem as described in making raised waistline dress. Make French seams at the shoulders and, just as soon as these seams are closed, stitch around the neck or run a thread around the neck by hand and draw it up to prevent stretching.

There are several ways of finishing the outer edge of a neck frill. Of course, the simplest is to turn and stitch a narrow hem. The Fig. 21, Lesson II, shows how to turn and stitch such an edge. Another way of finishing is to have the strip of material for the frill machine hemstitched a seam's width back from the lower edge, and cut center-way of the hemstitching. This is what is called a picot edge. A narrow crochet edge or Valenciennes lace is also effective. (See Figs. 71 and 72, Lesson III.)

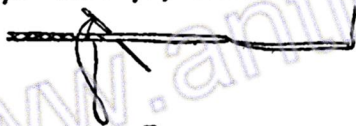


FIG. 354

Another pretty finish is to roll the edge and hold it with cross stitches of mercerized cotton in a contrasting shade, (See Fig. 354.)

Turn hems at the ends of the frill. Gather the edge of the frill that sews to the neck and face it to the neck as described in joining

## HOW TO MAKE CHILDREN'S CLOTHES

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collar to kimono, Lesson IV. It will help to keep the gathers even if you mark the center of the frill and run in two gather threads.

In light-weight material French seam the sleeve to the armhole. Also make French seams at the sleeve and underarm joinings. Gather the lower edge of the sleeve and finish the edge of the sleeve frill the same as the collar was finished. French seam the joining in the sleeve frill and baste to the lower edge of the sleeve. Join the cuff with a plain seam and sew the cuff to the sleeve as shown in Fig. 355.



FIG. 355

Finish lower edge of waist with casing. See finishing of camisole, Lesson III. Insert a draw string in the casing.

**Making the Dress.** — The easiest way of finishing the body portion is to line it. Use the body pattern to cut the lining and trim the edges of the lining afterward to make it a trifle smaller than the outside.

Make open seams at the shoulder joinings in both lining and outside. Lay the lining on the waist with the right sides of the material together and stitch around the



## A COMPLETE COURSE IN DRESSMAKING

neck, down the back, and around the armhole as shown in Fig. 356. Trim off the seams close to the stitching and turn the waist right side out. Roll the outside material

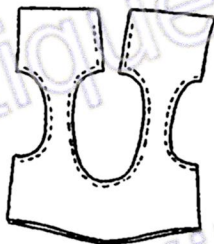


FIG. 356

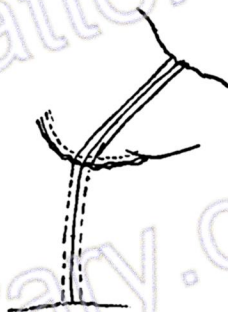


FIG. 357

over the lining a trifle at the neck, back and armhole edges, and press the waist.

Make the joining at the underarm of the outside and lining in one continuous stitching. (See Fig. 357.) Turn under the material at the lower edge of the outside waist to form a tuck and press. Baste the tuck in place.

Usually, the skirt of a dress of this description is cut straight. (Of course, the skirt is always an inch and a half shorter at the front than the back, but the slope comes at the waistline, the lower edge being straight.) French seam the skirt joinings unless selvedge edges happen to come together, in

## HOW TO MAKE CHILDREN'S CLOTHES

which case plain seams will answer every purpose. Hem bottom of skirt and finish center-back with placket as described in raised waistline dress.

Fold pleats either side of the center-front to form the panel. To form a pleat, mark where the fold of the pleat is to come, determine how much material is to be taken up and measure this amount beyond the first mark and make a second mark. Bring the fold to the second mark. (See Fig. 358.) A pleat folded in an inch or an inch and a quarter will stay in press, but anything less than that is apt to fall out.



FIG. 358

Press both pleats in place, mark center-front and points halfway between center-front and center-back at the top of the skirt. Run in gather threads, try on waist and hang skirt as described in making raised waistline dress. After stitching line is marked and fullness arranged evenly, lap lower edge of outside waist over top of skirt and stitch as shown in Fig. 359. Turn under

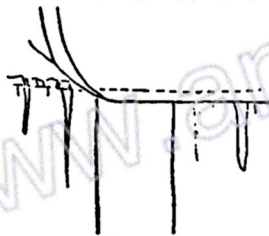


FIG. 359



## A COMPLETE COURSE IN DRESSMAKING

free edge of the lining and fell over raw edges. (See Fig. 360.) Finish the back closing with



FIG. 360



FIG. 361

snap or buttons and buttonholes. (See Fig. 361.)

**Blouse with Buttoned-on Skirt.**— Girls from eight to fourteen

years old often wear a blouse and buttoned-on skirt as shown in Fig. 362. The blouse is usually of white pique, cotton rep, linen or lawn, and the skirt of colored chambray, linen, checked gingham, plaid gingham, serge or checked worsted. Sometimes when the skirt is woolen, the blouse is made of natural pongee or white habitua silk.



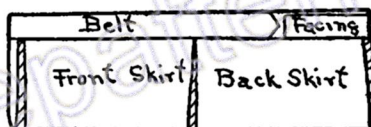
FIG. 362

**Cutting.**— Diagram 363 shows the skirt and the blouse pattern laid on the material. In cutting follow the general directions given in Lesson II.

**Making the Blouse.**— Make a box-pleat on the right front of the blouse at the closing. See making box-pleat in Lesson V. If there is material enough allowed turn a hem on the left front at the closing just as hem was

## HOW TO MAKE CHILDREN'S CLOTHES

turned on back of raised waistline dress. If the material comes to the center-front with only a seam beyond face the left edge, stitch the facing to the front as shown in Fig.



364.

If you want a tailor finish, make lap-felled seams



DIAGRAM 363

at the shoulder joining. In sheerer stuffs, make French seams. Stitch around the neck. Unless the collar is finished with a lace edging, line it. Lesson III tells how to sew on lace and Lesson VI how to line a collar.

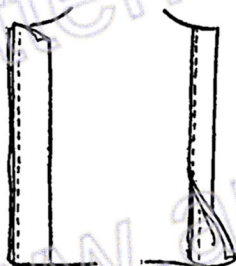


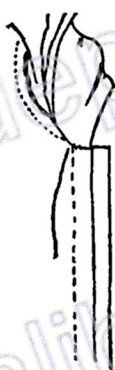
FIG. 364

In joining the collar to the neck bring the front edges just to the center-front, letting half the box-pleat and half the hem project beyond it. (See Figs. 365 and 366.)

In joining sleeve to armhole double stitch or lap-fell the seams. Make French seams at the sleeve and underarm joinings. Line

## A COMPLETE COURSE IN DRESSMAKING

the cuff and join to the lower edge of the sleeve as shown in Fig. 173, Lesson V. Gather lower edge of blouse and finish with waistband as described in making blouse, Lesson VII.



Finish front closing with buttons and button holes. A blouse of this type is usually worn with a Buster Brown tie of black or a bright colored silk.

### Making the Skirt. —

As in the other skirts make French seams at the joining if the edges are raw or plain seams if selvages come together. As soon as the seams are joined hem the lower edge of the skirt. If it is wash material turn the hem as described in the raised waistline dress, but if woolen bind the edge before turning the hem.

It is an easy matter to pleat a skirt if you figure out beforehand just how much material can be taken up in each pleat and the width of the spaces between the pleats. Measure the waistband from center-front to center-back and then measure the top of the skirt from center-front to center-back. The differ-

## HOW TO MAKE CHILDREN'S CLOTHES

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ence between these two measurements will give you the amount of material to be taken up in pleats in half the skirt. Divide this by the number of pleats you want in half the skirt and it will give you the exact amount to take up in each pleat. Decide how wide you want the front panel, subtract half of this from half the waist measure and divide the remaining amount by one less than the number of pleats in half the skirt. It will give you the width of the spaces between the pleats. For example, suppose that the skirt is planned to be cut from thirty-six inch material, there being one full width in it and one width with  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches taken off for the belt, it would work out as follows. One width of the skirt would measure 36 inches and the other  $31\frac{1}{2}$  inches across. Adding these together makes  $67\frac{1}{2}$  inches, the total width of the material in the skirt. There are two joinings in the skirt. The regulation seam is three-eighths of an inch wide. Since the seam allowance is taken on each edge joined, each seam takes up three-quarters of an inch and the two seams an inch and a half of material. Subtracting the material in the seams,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches, from the total amount in the skirt,  $67\frac{1}{2}$  inches, leaves 66 inches or the



## **A COMPLETE COURSE IN DRESSMAKING**

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exact measurement around the top of the skirt after the seams are joined. One-half the skirt will measure 33 inches. Suppose the desired waist measure is 24 inches, or in other words the waistband measures from center-front to center-back 12 inches. Subtract half the waist measure, 12 inches, from half the width of the skirt, 33 inches, and it leaves 21 inches. This is the amount which must be taken up in pleats in half the skirt. Fourteen pleats in the whole skirt or seven pleats in the half are a good number for a child's skirt. Dividing the amount of material to be taken up in pleats, 21 inches, by the number of pleats, 7, gives 3 inches, which is the exact amount to be taken up in each pleat. To determine where to place each pleat the waist measure must be divided. Decide first on the width of the front panel. Four inches is a good width for this, which gives two inches on either side of the center-front, or in other words the front panel will take up two inches of the waist measure on either side of the center-front. Subtracting this 2 inches from half the waist measure, 12 inches, gives 10 inches which is the space from the first pleat to the center-back. From the first pleat to the center-back

## HOW TO MAKE CHILDREN'S CLOTHES

there will be one less space than there are pleats, so divide the 10 inches by one less than the number of pleats. There are 7 pleats so one less will be 6. Dividing 10 by 6 gives  $1\frac{2}{3}$  inches for each pleat. Since it is impossible to measure sixths of an inch with a ruler, it is better always to figure in eighths of an inch. Six into ten inches gives one inch for each pleat and four inches over. Four inches is equal to thirty-two eighths of an inch and six will go into thirty-two eighths five times and two-eighths over. So figure on making the first four spaces  $1\frac{5}{8}$  inches wide and add the extra two-eighths to the last two spaces, making them  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches wide. It is well to jot down a memorandum of the widths of the spaces and amount to be taken up in each pleat on half the skirt as follows:

Front panel.....	2	inches
1st pleat.....	3	“
1st space.....	$1\frac{5}{8}$	“
2d pleat.....	3	“
2d space.....	$1\frac{5}{8}$	“
3d pleat.....	3	“
3d space.....	$1\frac{5}{8}$	“
4th pleat.....	3	“
4th space.....	$1\frac{5}{8}$	“
5th pleat.....	3	“



## A COMPLETE COURSE IN DRESSMAKING

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5th space.....	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	“
6th pleat.....	3	“
6th space.....	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	“
7th pleat.....	3	“
Total.....	33	inches

(which is the width across half of the skirt)  
(half of the waist measure)

Front panel.....	2	inches		1st pleat.....	3	inches
1st space.....	1 $\frac{5}{8}$	“		2d pleat.....	3	“
2d space.....	1 $\frac{5}{8}$	“		3d pleat.....	3	“
3d space.....	1 $\frac{5}{8}$	“		4th pleat.....	3	“
4th space.....	1 $\frac{5}{8}$	“		5th pleat.....	3	“
5th space.....	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	“		6th pleat.....	3	“
6th space.....	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	“		7th pleat.....	3	“
Total.....	12	inches		Total.....	21	inches

This proves whether or not your figures are correct. Adding the width of the panel, spaces and pleats should total the width of half the skirt. The width in the panel and spaces should equal half the waist measure and the amount taken up in the pleats should equal the difference between the waist measure and the width of the skirt.

Make a marker for pleating the skirt. Cut the marker of stiff paper just half the width of the top of the skirt before the pleats are laid in. In the case of this particular skirt it would be 33 inches. Four or five

## HOW TO MAKE CHILDREN'S CLOTHES

inches is a convenient depth for the marker. Mark one edge center-front and one edge center-back. From the center-front edge measure half the width of the front panel, in the case of this skirt two inches, and make a mark. Then from this mark measure the amount of material to be taken up in the first pleat, in the case of this skirt three inches; then the width of the first space, in the case of this skirt  $1\frac{5}{8}$  inches; then the second pleat and the second space, and so on across the entire width according to your memorandum. (See Fig. 367.)

Usually when there are two pieces in the skirt the seams are thrown to the sides. Lay on the marker and notch the skirt at each



FIG. 367

pleat at the top of the skirt. Then lay on the marker at the bottom of the skirt and indicate each pleat with pins. If the seams should come in a space or on the edge of a pleat shift the seams until they come under pleats or make the pleats in the front of the skirt shallow and in the back of the skirt deep, which will throw the seams in different places. If you decide to change

## A COMPLETE COURSE IN DRESSMAKING

the width of the pleats, figure out exactly what change is needed and make a new marker.

If you start in and pleat the skirt haphazardly it means pleating and repleating until you chance upon the right waist measure, and then the spacing of the pleats in all probability will be uneven.

To lay in the pleats, turn the skirt right side out, lay it on a smooth surface and bring the first notch to the second notch in each pleat. Baste the pleats all the way to the bottom of the skirt and press the skirt. In pressing woollens cover the material with a damp cloth. Stitch around the top of the skirt to keep the pleats from coming out.

Slash the skirt for a placket at the right back under the first pleat. Bind the edge of the slash. The pleat covers it so a facing is unnecessary.

Stitch the lining to the belt as shown in Fig. 368. Trim the edges, turn the belt



FIG. 368



FIG. 369

right side out and stitch around the top and ends a second time. (See Fig. 369.) Turn

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under the lower edge of the outside belt to form a tuck and press. Lap the belt over the top of the skirt and stitch as shown in Fig. 370. Turn under the free edge of the lining and fell in place.

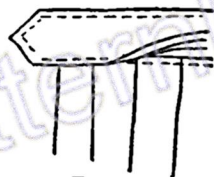


FIG. 370

Work buttonholes in belt to match buttons on waistband.

**Middy and Pleated Skirt.** — A regulation middy and pleated skirt are shown in Fig. 371, while Fig. 372 shows the underwaist on which the skirt is hung.



FIG. 371

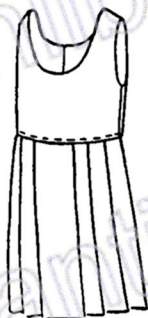


FIG. 372

Middies of this type are made of serge, linen, cotton twill, or khaki cloth. The pleated skirts are usually of serge, Scotch plaid woolen or khaki cloth.

**Cutting.** — Diagram 373 shows the pattern pieces laid on the goods. For general cutting instructions, see Lesson II. If the skirt is made of Scotch plaid be careful to cut so that the plaid will match when the gores are joined. It is a good plan to mark the



## A COMPLETE COURSE IN DRESSMAKING

seam allowance in the pattern pieces which will give you the exact sewing lines. When the first skirt piece is laid on the goods mark

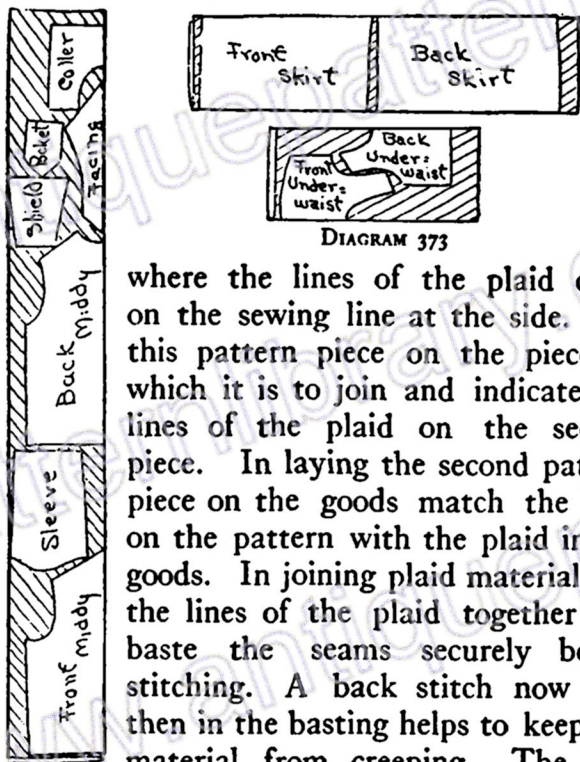


DIAGRAM 373

where the lines of the plaid come on the sewing line at the side. Lay this pattern piece on the piece to which it is to join and indicate the lines of the plaid on the second piece. In laying the second pattern piece on the goods match the lines on the pattern with the plaid in the goods. In joining plaid material, pin the lines of the plaid together and baste the seams securely before stitching. A back stitch now and then in the basting helps to keep the material from creeping. The Fig.

374 shows the position of the needle in back stitching. All plaid materials are not woven accurately. Often it is necessary to stretch the edge of the material between two lines

## HOW TO MAKE CHILDREN'S CLOTHES

of the plaid to make it match the same pattern in another piece.

**Making Underwaist.** — Turn hems at the back as the hems were turned in the raised waistline dress. Close the shoulder seams, making lap-felled seams. The neck and armholes can be finished with narrow hems (see Fig. 21, Lesson II) or bind the neck and armhole. (See Fig. 36.) Lap-fell underarm joinings; finish closing with buttons and buttonholes.

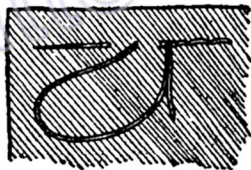


FIG. 374

**Making Skirt.** — Join pieces, hem lower edge and pleat as described in making but-

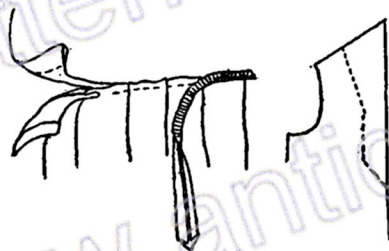


FIG. 375

FIG. 376

toned-on skirt. Join the top to the underwaist and bind the raw edge as shown in Fig. 375.

**Making Middy.** — The front of the middy is slashed to form revers but do not slash the material until after the facing piece is stitched in place. Use the front pattern as a guide in cutting the facing piece, marking where the facing is

## A COMPLETE COURSE IN DRESSMAKING

to come as indicated by dotted line in Fig. 376. Lay the front pattern on another piece of material and trace over dotted lines and mark around outer edge for facing pattern.

Turn a narrow hem at the sides and bottom of the facing. (See Fig. 21, Lesson II.) Lay facing on right side of garment, mark position of slash and stitch either side of mark as described in stitching facing to romper. After slashing the front, turn the facing onto the wrong side. Baste in place and press. Lap-fell shoulder seams.

Stitch braid to collar as described in making boy's sailor blouse, Lesson VII. Stitch lining to collar as shown in Fig. 377.

After seams are trimmed, the collar turned right side out and pressed, stitch the under collar to the neck and revers facing as shown in Fig. 378.

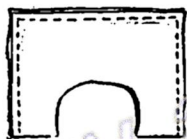


FIG. 377

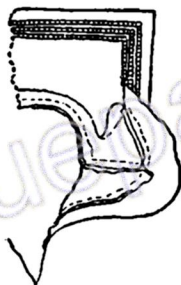


FIG. 378

Turn under the free edge of the collar and fell by hand or stitch in position.

Lay pleats in lower edge of sleeve. (See Fig. 379.) Double stitch or lap-fell the sleeve to the armhole. Close the sleeve and

## HOW TO MAKE CHILDREN'S CLOTHES

underarm seam in one continuous stitching. Here a French seam is the usual finish. Braid cuff and join to lower edge of sleeve. Braid, line and adjust shield and hem lower edge of middy just the same as described in making boy's sailor blouse, Lesson VII.



FIG. 379



FIG. 380

Turn hem and braid top of pocket as shown in Fig. 380. Turn under sides and bottom a seam's width, press and stitch to blouse at left side front, running the stitching about one-eighth of an inch from the edge. At the top, stitch over the first stitching two or three times to prevent ripping. In a case of this kind it is a good plan, instead of clipping the threads on the right side of the goods, to draw them through to the wrong side and tie them in a hard knot.



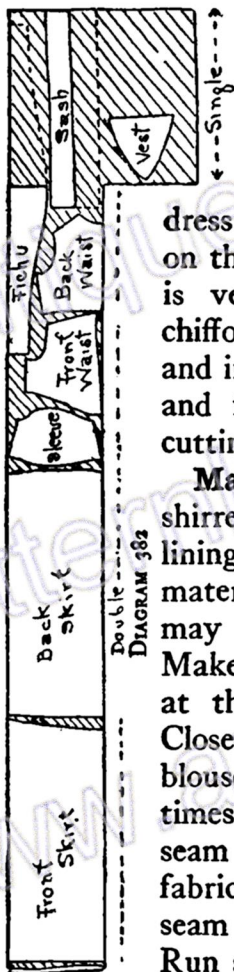
FIG. 381

Work eyelets either side of the front slash; finish with lacing.

**A Party Dress.** — The dress illustrated in Fig. 381 is just one of the innumerable designs suitable for sheer stuffs, but it will serve to illustrate how to



## A COMPLETE COURSE IN DRESSMAKING



handle such fabrics as organdie, swiss, georgette crepe, crepe de Chine, China silk, net and the like.

**Cutting.** — Diagram 382 shows the pattern for the dress illustrated in Fig. 381 laid on the material. If the material is very sheer, such as net or chiffon, lay it between tissue paper and in cutting, cut through paper and fabric. Follow the plan of cutting laid out in Lesson II.

**Making.** — Where a waist is shirred as this one is it needs a lining. Net, China silk, mulle or material the same as the dress may be used for the lining. Make French seams in the lining at the shoulder and underarm. Close the shoulder seam in the blouse. A French seam is sometimes used but a hemstitched seam gives a prettier finish in sheer fabrics. See making a hemstitched seam in lingerie blouse, Lesson V. Run shirr threads across the front below the shoulder joining.

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## HOW TO MAKE CHILDREN'S CLOTHES

The Fig. 383 illustrates the way to run in the threads for shirring. Make French seams at the underarm joinings. Slip the outside

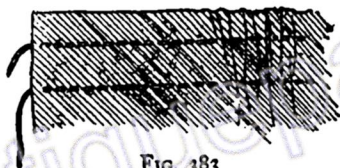


FIG. 383

waist over the lining and draw up the shirring at the shoulders until the outside just fits the lining. Tack the outside waist to the lining across each row of shirring. French seam sleeve seams: gather and face lower edges: bind sleeves to armholes.



FIG. 384

Run three rows of shirring across the back of the fichu, as shown in Fig. 384. It will make it set better. Try on waist and pin

fichu in place, mark point where fichu crosses in front, also points where it ties in back. Finish outer edge of fichu across back of neck and around to where it ties in the back with lace edge. See Lesson III.

From point where fichu crosses in front, picot

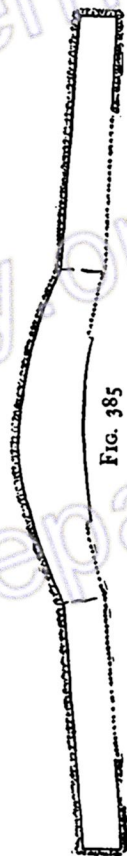


FIG. 385

## A COMPLETE COURSE IN DRESSMAKING

the edge across the sash to point where bow ties. (See Fig. 385.) Baste fichu to neck edge from center-back to point where fichu crosses in front. Run shirrings across top of vest front and stitch top of vest to lining as shown in Fig. 386. Turn vest right side out and tack outside to lining along shirrings. Baste vest on top of fichu along right front. Lay bias facing along edge and stitch as shown

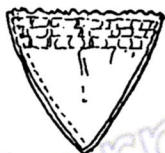


FIG. 386

in Fig. 387. Turn facing onto wrong side and slip-stitch by hand.

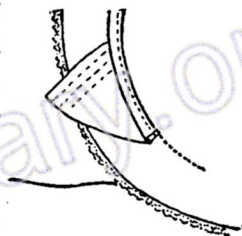


FIG. 387

A tucked skirt always ought to be cut straight. French seam the joinings in the skirt and turn the hem and stitch it as described in hemming the skirt of the raised waistline dress. Then take up the tucks. One of the easiest ways of laying tucks evenly in sheer material is to run a basting thread along the sewing lines, and bring the two lines of bastings together. Where the tucks are placed just above the hem as in the case of this dress, take up the lowest tuck first. Decide how much material is to be

## HOW TO MAKE CHILDREN'S CLOTHES

taken up in the tuck and how far above the stitching of the hem the sewing lines are to be. Make a gage of cardboard, notching it at the stitching of the hem and the creased edge and sewing lines of the tuck.

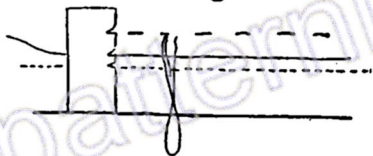


FIG. 388

Use this in running the bastings. (See Fig. 388.) After this tuck is basted and pressed,



FIG. 389

make a new gage for the second tuck and proceed as before. After the tucks are all basted in, press and then stitch. A tuck is stitched through just two thicknesses of material as shown in Fig. 389. Leave the left side seam of the skirt open to placket depth and finish with a continuous facing.

Gather the top of the skirt, running in four gather threads as described in the other skirts. Also gather the lower edge of the blouse, and try on the blouse to adjust the fullness properly, and hang the skirt. In stitching the waist and the skirt together

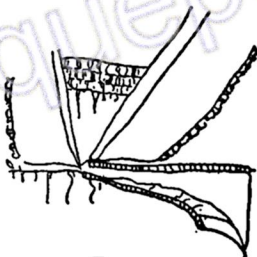


FIG. 390



## A COMPLETE COURSE IN DRESSMAKING

bind the seam with a straight strip of material. (See Fig. 390.) Note that waist is free from skirt at left side front because the waist fastens at the front and the skirt at the side. Finish the closing in the waist at the waistline and the placket with small snap fasteners.



FIG. 391

**Petticoat.**—The Fig. 391 shows a petticoat suitable for either cotton or flannel.

**Cutting.**—Diagram 392 shows the pattern for the petticoat laid on the goods. Cutting instructions are given in Lesson II.

**Making.**—Hem underwaist at back, close shoulder seams and finish neck as described in making underwaist with pleated skirt. Or the neck and armhole can be prettily finished

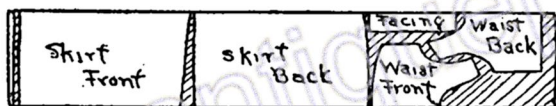


DIAGRAM 392

with lace edging. (See Lesson III.) French seam the underarm joinings.

At selvedge joinings in the skirt make plain seams and where raw edges come together French seams. Hem the skirt as described in making raised waistline dress,

## HOW TO MAKE CHILDREN'S CLOTHES

or the hem can be cut off and the lower edge finished with lace. Petticoats are trimmed in many ways. Insertion might be added above the hem in several rows with pin tucks in between, or the petticoat might be folded several times and the lower edge scalloped. (See Fig. 393.) Where the lower edge is scalloped, lace edge makes an effective finish. The sewing on of lace

Fig. 393 edging and insertion was taken up in Lesson III and tucks were described in Lesson V. Make tucks any desired width.

Finish the placket at the center-back with a continuous facing. Gather the top, using four gather threads and join to the underwaist with a plain seam, the raw edge extending on the wrong side of the garment. Then bind the raw edge. Finish the back closing with buttons and buttonholes.

**Drawers.**— A child's drawers are shown in Fig. 394. As a general rule these are made of muslin.

**Cutting.**— Diagram 395 shows the drawers pattern laid on the goods. Refer to Lesson II for cutting directions.



Fig. 393



Fig. 394

Waistband



DIAGRAM 395

## A COMPLETE COURSE IN DRESSMAKING

**Making.** — Slash the sides and finish with continuous facings for placket. Make lap-felled seams at the inner leg and crotch joinings. Gather the top of the drawers and finish with waistbands. (See Fig. 396.) Work buttonholes in waistbands to match buttons on child's underwaist. Make hems about three-quarters of an inch wide at lower edge of leg sections.

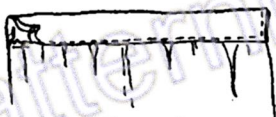


FIG. 396

**Sleeping Drawers.** — Pictured in Fig. 397 is a practical pair of child's outing flannel sleeping drawers.

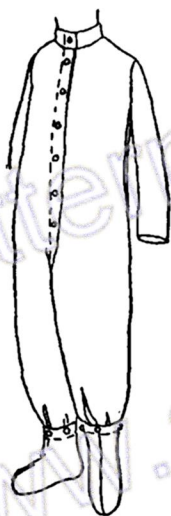


FIG. 397

**Cutting.** — Diagram 398 shows the pattern placed on the material folded double. See Lesson II for cutting directions.

**Making.** — Face the edges of the front closing as the boy's combination was finished, Lesson VII. Make lap-felled seams at the shoulders and stitch around the neck to prevent stretching. Fold the neckband and stitch across ends as shown in Fig. 399. Stitch neckband to neck just as neckband was stitched to man's shirt, Lesson VI.

## HOW TO MAKE CHILDREN'S CLOTHES

Double stitch the sleeve to the armhole or lap fell the seam. Make French seams at



DIAGRAM 398

the underarm. Hem the lower edges of the sleeves. Face the lower edge of the back as the boy's combination, Lesson VII, was finished, but in this case it is not necessary



FIG. 399

to reinforce the waistline in front. In joining the back trouser section to the front at the outer leg make French seam and leave the seam open to placket depth. Finish the placket with a continuous facing just as the boy's combination, Lesson VII, was finished. Make lap-felled seams at the inner leg and crotch joining and finish the top of the drawers in back with a waistband as combination was finished, Lesson VII. In making foot section, press the seam open and reinforce with tape. (See Fig. 267, Lesson VII.) Hem the lower edge of the trousers and the top of the foot section and join with buttons and buttonholes. Finish front closing with buttons and buttonholes.



## A COMPLETE COURSE IN DRESSMAKING

**Nightgown.**— Figure 400 illustrates the usual style of a winter nightgown of flannel or early summer nightgown of muslin.



FIG. 400

**Cutting.**— Diagram 401 shows the pattern pieces laid on the material. General cutting directions are given in Lesson II.

**Making.**— First of all finish the front closing. Slash the material to placket depth and finish the left edge with an extension and the right edge with a pointed facing. Stitch the facing on just as shown in Figs. 402 and 403. Work buttonholes in right side and sew buttons to match to extension on left front.

It is a matter of choice whether you French seam the shoulder joinings or make lap-felled

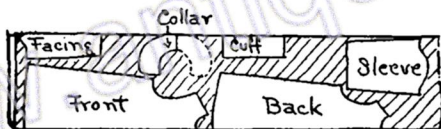


DIAGRAM 401

seams. Some people prefer lap-felled seams because they lie flatter.

Line the collar as the collar in the man's

## HOW TO MAKE CHILDREN'S CLOTHES

bathrobe was lined, Lesson VI. Turn in raw edges and stitch from center-front to edge of extension and facing as shown in Fig. 404. In joining collar to neck, stitch one edge of collar to neck, and turn under the free edge and fell down by hand or stitch by machine.

Double stitch or lap-fell the sleeve to the armhole. French seam the sleeve

and underarm joinings. Turn an inch hem at the lower edge of the sleeve and about a three-inch hem at the bottom of the gown.

A child's low-neck short-sleeved summer nightgown is made the same as a woman's gown, and bloomers are made the same as drawers except that the lower edges of the legs are finished with casings and elastic. (See Lesson III.)

Keep this lesson for reference.

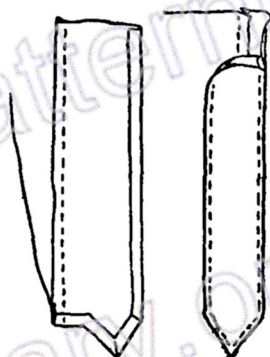


FIG. 402

FIG. 403



FIG. 404

