

Make Use of Your Sewing Machine

FEW of us appreciate the short-cut methods that our sewing machine will enable us to use. The illustrations on this page show simple trimmings and finishes that will lessen the hours necessary to complete many practical garments or dress accessories.

Have the machine in a light and convenient place for work, and see that it and the attachments are thoroughly oiled and that they are clean.

FOR machine couching, as shown in Fig. 1, which makes a very attractive trimming, adjust a machine needle of a suitable size to carry a 30 or 40 thread—No. 18, if it is a Singer machine. Place a spool of knitting silk, or thread, on the spindle bar and tighten the tension. Fill the bobbin with a sewing silk or thread of a matching or contrasting color and slightly loosen the bobbin tension. Lengthen the stitch. Try out the stitching on a sample of fabric to see that the adjustments are right, and then proceed to follow the stamped patterns of any novelty aprons to be hand-outlined, stitch the finishing bindings or ornamental hems of your house dresses, or substitute this finish for the hand-whipping or slip-stitching of appliquéd pieces on bedspreads.

Couching done in this way may be drawn up, as in Fig. 2, for a trimming to give the effect of smocking. With the machine adjusted and threaded for couching, stitch in parallel rows any smocked designs and draw up the under thread to place the fullness. Then, with a double strand of mercerized embroidery floss, add a few fancy stitches for trimming effects.



FIG. 1



FIG. 2

Alternate rows of organdie and of dress material put together with hemstitched binding, as shown below, makes an effective trimming.



FIG. 3

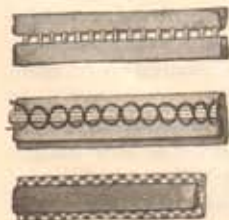


FIG. 4



FIG. 5



FIG. 6



FIG. 7

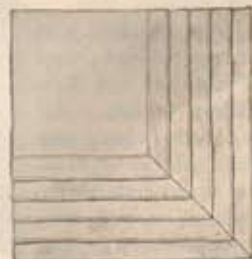


FIG. 11

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DAINTY plaited-lace rosettes, one of which is shown in Fig. 3, and which one sees on the bonnets of little folks, as well as on the party frocks of older sisters, are easily made with the use of the ruffler. This attachment should be adjusted for plaiting as directed in the machine instruction book. Then the lace should be stitched to a $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch strip of lawn, the one raw edge of which can be turned under to prevent fraying. Run the strip under or through (according to the machine you are using) the ruffler attachment so that the stitching is made along the raw edge of the lawn. Press the plaits in position and draw up the under thread to adjust the gathers for the rosette.

Apply the frilling to a finished circle of lawn for completion and add tiny ribbon flowers as a center decoration.

BIAS bindings are taking on such fascinating features nowadays, as those in Fig. 4 evidence, that it's no wonder they are so popular. The first one of these, which is a Barton hemstitched binding, is open at both outer edges so that various cut dress sections, as shown in Fig. 5, can be slipped into position for stitching.

A variation of a plain binding is the turn-over binding shown in Fig. 6. Cut a bias strip $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and apply its right side to the wrong side of the garment so that the raw edges are in line. Make a stitching $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the edge, as at *a*, turn the binding over the raw edges to the right side, and, after folding its free edge to meet the raw edge of the seam, as at *b*, turn and make a stitching on the right side through its center, as at *c*.

WHEN you wish to apply a straight flounce as a skirt trimming of a fabric alike on both sides, much time and labor will be saved if it is done as in Fig. 7. Turn a deep hem to the right side and stitch it in position, as at *a*. Then measure down from this line two-thirds the width of the hem, as at *b*, and cut at this point around the entire skirt. Apply binding or lace, as at *c* and *d*, to both raw edges to provide an attractive finish.

Provision must be made for the added length that results from cutting and turning down the one-third of the hem.

As a substitute for hand hemstitching in the placing of a hem in heavy linen or imitation linen fabric, as shown in Fig. 8, draw the threads to a width of $\frac{1}{4}$ inch. Fold the hem, the raw edge of which has been turned under, so that it overlaps the drawn work to one-half the width of the latter, and machine couch along the edge. Then with a knitting needle draw the hem back so that the line of stitching separates the drawn threads at regular spacings and the stitching comes along the edge of the drawn work.

WHEN rickrack is selected for a finish, it can be applied quickly and attractively and with but one stitching evident on the right side, as shown in Fig. 9. Make a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch turning of the raw edge of the material to the wrong side. Place the rickrack on the right side of the fabric so that the points lie in line with the fold, as at *a*, and stitch through the center of the braid, as at *b*. Turn the braid over to the wrong side and stitch again, this time along the edge of the fold, as at *c*, catching the points of the rickrack. This stitching will appear on the right side, as at *d*.

A simple trimming, made of plaited organdie and footing, is shown in Fig. 10. Straight strips of material pin tucked, as in Fig. 11, can be applied at the outer edge of a dress opening, the lower edge of a sleeve, or down the side and around the skirt.



FIG. 8



FIG. 9

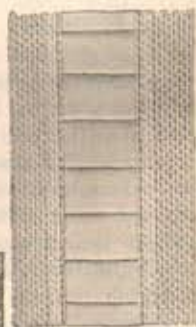


FIG. 10

Carefully mitered corners and accurate stitching will produce a neat tailored effect in the tucked banding below.