

SEWING.

STITCHES.

I. **BASTING.**—The first stitches are the basting stitches. When constructing a garment, or for that matter practically any article, we frequently desire to hold various parts together until they are stitched permanently. For that purpose we put in, by hand, stitches which are removed when the work is finished. These are known as basting stitches. There are various kinds for various purposes. Basting is also used as a guide for some other stitch—as for feather stitching.

(a) *To Start.*—Have the thread longer than ordinarily, make a knot and, taking the first stitch, have that knot come on the side on which you are sewing. If the work is large, baste with it lying on the table.

(b) *To Finish.*—Take two smaller stitches to one side of your last basting stitch, *not on top of it*. Cut the thread from the work. *Never* break it, as this weakens the fastening and may weaken or separate the threads in the material. *Never* bite the thread, as this weakens the teeth and also causes injury to delicate fabrics, due to the moisture from the breath.

(c) *To Remove Bastings.*—In whitewear, and all such, where it is immaterial whether the article or garment is crushed or not, simply loosen the two fastening stitches, take hold of the knot and pull. Where it is important not to crush the garment, or where the fabric would be injured by putting the thread through it—in such cases cut every other stitch, or even every stitch if necessary. In removing bastings from velvet cut every stitch and be careful to pull out *with* the pile of the goods.

(d) *Threads for Basting.*—Use silk thread in basting satins, velvets, chiffons, gauzes and all such, and also for some silks. For other fabrics let the quality govern the number of thread to be used. Guard against using too coarse a thread. For some things the large-sized spools of basting thread prove very satisfactory.

(e) *Kinds of Basting.*—1. *Even.*—The stitching and the spaces between the stitches are the same length, and are used when sewing more than two thicknesses of material, and for seams that are to be fitted.

2. *Uneven.*—That is, the stitches are long and the spaces short. This is the commonest basting stitch, and is used for hems and where machine stitching is to follow immediately.