

Dressmaking at Home.

The shirt-waist is the garment above all others to be considered at this season, as it is an indispensable item of every wardrobe. Notwithstanding the introduction of tucks, plaits and other decorative features, the shirt-waist still remains the trim, neat garment that has become a perennial favorite. Madras, gingham, chambray, piqué and cotton cheviot, perhaps, are the fabrics most generally used this season, thinner textures giving least satisfactory wear: and the collar is as often of the shirt-waist material as of white linen. Studs or buttons, the latter sometimes in a fly, are used for the closing and a novelty in four-in-hand ties—made of ribbon with fringed ends—is shown, although the small neat bow is still in vogue. Plounces and ruffles without limit are the rule on Summer frocks of organdy, lawn, net, etc., and countless yards of lace and ribbon adorn them.

A simply fashioned gown of serge or cloth is provided, of course, for wear on the cool or damp days of Spring or Summer and during the early Autumn. A suit like this may be made severely and given a dressy air by a braid blouse garniture. These decorations are very fashionable and may be made at home at considerably less cost than when purchased. Cut the blouse portions from lining by a simple pattern. Cut out the arms'-eyes correctly, arrange for a closing at the left shoulder and under the arm: and fit so carefully that no alteration will be needed. Now cut from glazed cambric a blouse in one piece after this pattern: this will serve as a foundation for the braid. Leave open the left shoulder and under-arm seams. If a square, round or V neck be desired, cut out the cambric before drawing a design upon it.

A popular pattern that may be easily followed is a lattice which may be made by ruling diagonal or straight lines across each other to form either a diamond or a square lattice. Vertical or horizontal parallel lines may be drawn, if preferred to the lattice. Then baste the braid to the cloth over the traced lines, and at the points of intersection fasten the braids together with a star or some other fancy stitch in black silk, being careful not to stitch through to the cambric. The diamonds or squares may be filled in with spider stitch or some other device. If straight lines of braid are used in forming the blouse, herring-bone stitches may be made between the rows. If plain mohair braid is selected—for a blouse, the braid may also be ornamented with fancy stitching.

A simple border for the completion of a blouse may be made at the neck and arm's-eye edges with straight rows of braid, which should be stayed by a tape to prevent stretching. Of course, the border should not be sewed through to the cambric. If liked, soutache braid may be coiled at one or both edges of the border. The free under-arm and shoulder edges should also be stayed by an underfacing of silk and a closing made with hooks and eyes worked with silk. The lower edge of the blouse is sewed to a belt of satin or velvet ribbon or braid, regulating the blouse to the size of the waist. Rip the blouse from its cambric foundation before applying the underfacing:

design to produce a diamond effect. The sleeves may be trimmed to match. Both edges are sewed in producing such arrangement. The lattice may extend only to the bust or trifle below, and a loop may finish each end.

Double points or tabs of silk are arranged to fall over each side of a standing collar in recent bodices. This is rather a newer fashion than the short side frill of lace or ribbon, though the soft frill is still very much in vogue, proving often to be becoming than the severer points or tabs.

Bows finishing stock collars are preferably tied at the side of the front. Lace is placed thus in sleeves: It is slightly gathered at the front and back of the wrist and bunched very full in openings made at the sides, no longer falling deep over the hand as was formerly the fashion.

FIGURES NOS. 29 X AND 30 X.—LADIES' SUMMER AFTERNOON TOILETTES.—Numerous frills of fine lace edging give a delicate, fluffy effect to the toilette shown at figure No. 29 X. The yoke



FIGURES NOS. 29 X AND 30 X.—LADIES' SUMMER AFTERNOON TOILETTES.—Figure No. 29 X (Cut by Waist Pattern No. 9847; 7 sizes; 30 to 42 inches, bust measure; price 10d. or 15 cents; and Skirt Pattern No. 9885; 9 sizes; 20 to 36 inches, waist measure; price 1s. or 25 cents.) Figure No. 30 X.—(Cut by Waist Pattern No. 9858; 8 sizes; 30 to 44 inches, bust measure; price 10d. or 20 cents; and Skirt Pattern No. 9870; 9 sizes; 20 to 36 inches, waist measure; price 1s. or 25 cents.)

(For Descriptions of Figures Nos. 29 X and 30 X, see this Page.)

waist combines all-over lace with India silk, the latter material being used for the skirt. The front-yoke laps to the left side and the full fronts pouch over a ribbon belt. Frill caps and