

THE DRESSMAKER

SKIRTS.

It is well when cutting out a gown to cut the skirt first. Frequently some of the smaller pieces remaining may be utilized for the waist—for collars, cuffs and the like. It is better to cut a circular bell skirt from wide material to avoid much piecing.

Gored skirts may be cut from narrow goods. The slip skirt, which is invariably gored, is at present much used, especially for thin fabrics. Closely woven stuffs are, however, preferably lined, the

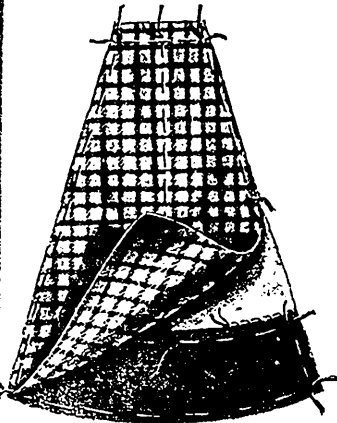


ILLUSTRATION 7.

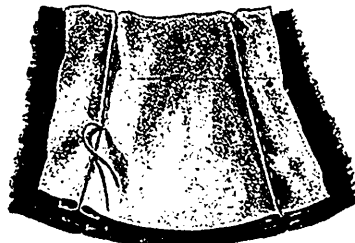


ILLUSTRATION 8.



ILLUSTRATION 9.

lining being made separately and attached only at the belt and foot or seamed with the outside.

The treatment when the lining is thus seamed with the outside presents more complications and will, therefore, be described at length. Cut the lining before the goods to prevent waste, then baste and fit it and regulate the length. Rip it and apply interlining to each gore, about six inches being the regulation width, whether it be crinoline, canvas or hair-cloth. Canvas and hair-cloth interlinings should be shrunk before being used, and the hair-cloth should always be cut with the lengthwise thread running up and down and the joinings protected by galloon. Bind the upper edge with galloon and either machine-stitch or button-hole stitch it to the lining, the button-hole stitches being made far apart (illustration 7, hair-cloth interlining). When interlining transparent fabrics a second layer of lining should be added between the goods and the interlining.

Place each gore of the goods on its corresponding gore of lining. (In basting the gores use an ironing-board or sewing table in preference to a lap-board.) Smooth the goods downward over the lining and baste first through the center and then on each side edge, starting each thread from the top and always smoothing the material downward to prevent it bagging over the lining. (Illustration 7.) Lastly baste the top and bottom. The basting should remain until the skirt is finished.

Now baste the gores together, beginning at the top, and sew them by machine. It is important that the stitching be perfectly straight. This may be done by marking a chalk line and sewing along it. The edges of the seams are cut evenly, pressed apart and either bound with galloon or the edges of lining and goods turned in and sewed neatly together, or simply trimmed off and sewed with over-and-over stitches. In pressing the seams a wet cloth should be placed over them (at the inside, of course) and pressed with a hot iron until thoroughly

dry. The wet cloth, however, may only be used when the material has been shrunk, otherwise no dampness must touch it when ironing. Silk may be dampened and run over an iron set upright, no cloth being required in this instance. Often the seams are pressed together and then stitched on the outside.

When the lining is separate from the outside the interlining is shaped to fit the lining and sewed to it at the seams. (Illustration 8.) In basting the lining of a circular skirt baste it in radiating lines—two inches apart at the top and fifteen inches at the bottom.

After the skirt has been stitched the placket is next finished. At the right edge of the placket, which laps over the left, the goods and lining are turned in and slip-stitched together. The left edge is completed with a lap an inch and a half wide, and the end is finished with a bar-tack. (Illustration 9.) The belt may fit closely if the skirt is to be worn over shirt-waists and blouses, and the ends should be fastened with hooks and eyes. If worn with a basque, the skirt may be finished at the top with a silk binding or cord put on with a little fullness. Baste on the belt before sewing it permanently, so that alteration may be made at the top, if required. Try the skirt on, mark the desired length with pins and trim off the edges evenly. Remove the skirt, turn in both the lower edges of the lining and the outside and slip-stitch them together, if no facing is to be added. When a skirt is lined with alpaca, moiree or silk a facing is not needed. A *balayouse* is sometimes added to a silk-lined skirt. With percaline and other cotton linings a facing is preferable. Before removing the pins mark the desired length of the skirt with basting lines, cut the superfluous edge down to within half an inch of the basting line, apply the facing so that the right sides of the goods and facing come together, and stitch by machine along the line of basting. Then turn the facing over on the wrong side, baste it near the edge and press also on the wrong side. Slip the skirt over a lap-board, smooth the facing upward, turn under the upper edge narrowly and hem it to the lining. (Illustration 10.)

The skirt is now ready to be bound. Velvet binding is necessarily cut bias. One edge is stitched to the lower edge of the skirt, the right side of the binding facing that of the skirt. Turn the binding over on

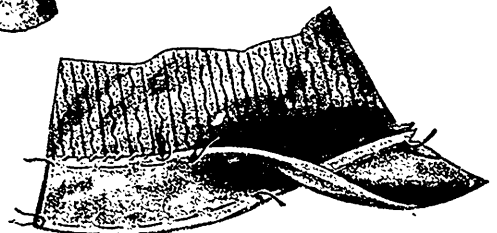


ILLUSTRATION 10.

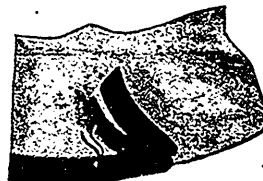


ILLUSTRATION 11.



ILLUSTRATION 12.

the wrong side, sew it near the lower edge to the lining and then hem the upper edge to the lining. (Illustration 11.) None of the stitches must show on the outside. On dark woollen