

**To Draw Threads Easily**  
 ONE of the most trying things that falls to the lot of the family seamstress is drawing threads across muslin or linen to make a guiding line for cutting, but if the goods be well dampened across where the line is to come the thread may be drawn with ease, and, in most cases, without even breaking the thread. Many a sore finger end has been saved by this precaution.

Another suggestion, if followed, will be found very useful in drawing threads for embroidery or drawn-work. After the required space has been dampened, instead of drawing the first thread, draw the one near the middle. This will be no harder to remove than the first one, and the worker will then be in position to draw two at a time thereafter, and thus halve her work.

**To Shirr a Round Yoke**  
 ONE may well be appalled by the task of shirring a round yoke, particularly if the material is very thin. If one does not know how to go about it, it is, indeed, a tedious piece of work, and seems really formidable. The uninitiated will, perhaps, cut a strip, straight or bias, one and a half as long as the distance around the shoulders. This she will gather in, possibly without much excitement, and after attaching it to the neck of the dress, she will run other shirring in, three or four of them perhaps, until she reaches the neck proper. By this time she is in despair, for she has a bunch of goods which, try as she may, she finds it impossible to bring within a given space. Furthermore, her yoke strains in some places and bulges in others, until it is anything but a thing of beauty, or even a comfort.

The rule, however, is simple, and is mainly a question of arithmetic. Take the measure around the shoulder, just below the slope of the shoulder; multiply this by one and one-half for thicker material, or two for thinner. Divide this result by three, and then cut a circle of which the diameter shall correspond with the last result. For instance, if the measure of the shoulders be forty inches, one and one-half would be sixty inches.

Divided by three, you have twenty. Twenty inches, then, should be the diameter of the circular piece which is to make the yoke. Measure then the distance from the neck of the waist to the actual neckband. Say this is six inches; allow seven and one-half inches, to include seams, and cut a circular hole out of the middle of your yoke goods, seven and one-half inches from the bottom edge. Cut open on straight of goods if to be opened in the back, or bias if to be opened on shoulder and hem each side the required width. Put in the desired number of shirring and draw neck first to fit, and put on the land. Adjust bottom shirring to top of waist next, and then draw intermediate ones to fit.

A shirred yoke can never be properly adjusted on one's self, for it must be pulled down tight and pinned, and is fastened snugly all around before it is permanently attached to the waist.

**To Remove Bastings**  
 THE PROPER removal of bastings from the completed garment is as necessary as the proper putting in. Many a dress has been ruined by a hasty, ill-calculated pull. Did you ever watch a novice catch the end of a thread and then, after pulling up the seam of a skirt in a hard bunch, bring all her strength to bear to break the thread or perhaps even to bite it off? And did you ever see the seam of the skirt afterward?

If you have, you probably know that the pristine beauty of the material was gone forever. If it was silk or lawn, there were holes in it all up the seam, possibly pulled places part way across the breadths. If the goods was so stout as to defy such cruel treatment, then it was probably wrinkled so badly that pressing would never bring the defect out entirely.

Basting threads should be clipped at intervals of three inches, and each short length should be removed without wrinkling the goods in any way. Indeed, there will be no need, for clipped in this way, the thread will yield to the slightest pull. If any one thread seems obstinate, do not jerk. There is probably a slight knot somewhere and another clipping will remedy the evil. An ivory or bone stiletto is a most convenient thing to have in one's work-basket, especially when bastings are to be removed.

**Cats in Church**  
 Most of the churches in Naples have three or four cats attached to them. The cats are kept for the purpose of catching the mice which infest all the ancient



Neapolitan buildings. The animals may often be seen walking about among the congregation, or stretched before the altars, and the strange sight astonishes visitors who witness it for the first time.



## Fizzboonski, The Anarchist

