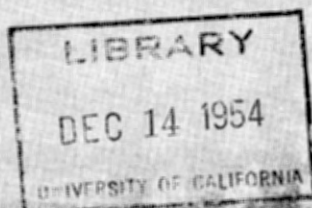


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THE FAMILY

Mending



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The Family Mending

Ola Armstrong

Extension Clothing Specialist

There is an art in being well dressed, and being well dressed includes care, repair and upkeep of clothing. Taking care of your clothing protects your original investment in that suit, coat, or other garment.

To conserve our clothing in every possible way must be our first consideration. Get extra wear out of every garment on hand through constant and effective care. To do this we must increase our mending skills.

SOME MENDING HINTS

To keep mending materials on hand, outfit a work box with the following supplies:

Standard old and new scraps.	Zippers from worn-out garments.
Pieces of net for reinforcement.	Darning cotton and yarn.
Commercial mending tape.	Thread, various sizes and colors.
Scraps from slips for patching other slips.	Needles of different sizes.
Bits of wool.	Buttons, old and new.

Mend worn places before they are too badly worn and rips and tears when they first appear. This saves both time and the garment.

Work in a good light. A garment saved is not worth the ruining of a pair of eyes.

Learn to mend well. Patching and darning are arts, but they can be mastered. All mending should be neat, durable, and attractive.

Use thread that matches perfectly in color. For patching sheer fabrics use extra fine thread and fine needles. Coarser thread should be used on such garments as children's underwear and work clothes. Sharp scissors are necessary to get true corners on patches and to cut threads cleanly.

Have the grain of both garment and patch going the same way. This is especially true in corduroys and velveteens.

For invisible patching match designs most carefully.

Pressing is necessary for invisible mending. Keep pressing until little sign of the mend is evident. It is often necessary when pressing woolen patches and darns to pound with the iron where the mending is done. Always use a pressing cloth and moisture for woolens. (See pressing pamphlet.)

WHERE CAN I GET MY PATCH MATERIAL?

Scraps of material left from garments made at home. From ready-made garments any number of places may afford patches. A self-fabric belt may be used for patching and a matching commercial belt bought to replace it. Often the removal of pockets does not mar the appearance of the garment and they make excellent patch material.

Shorten long sleeves and use the lower portion for patches.

Cut off a strip from front facings, but be careful not to leave facing too narrow.

If stitched down pleats extend to waist, the underneath material can be cut out and used.

Use collar for patches and replace with lingerie collar or face the neckline for a collarless dress.

A vest can be used for patches and darning reinforcement. One pair of trousers from two when both pairs get too badly worn and patch material left for future patching.

TYPES OF MENDING

Small Repairs:

Mend all ripped seams as soon as they appear.

Sew fasteners and hooks and eyes fast or replace if gone.

A button lost may mean replacing several buttons if it cannot be matched. Sew fast as soon as it becomes loose. Use coarser thread for sewing buttons on men's and boys' clothing and on children's underwear.

Keep shoulder straps in good repair. Put on new ones if too badly worn. Reinforce joining to garment.

Stay pocket corners with tape or reinforcements cut from the material. Sew under each pocket corner and stitch through it.

Keep hems sewed fast.

Replace worn tape at neck, cuffs, and hem with new tape.

Sometimes tears or worn spots are where they can be hidden with decorative patch, darts, pockets, or cuffs.

Bar tacks may be used at places of strain, as ends of pockets. Make several stitches through the material, across end of opening. Work over the long stitches with short over and over stitches, always inserting needle in fabric. Finish each end with a small bar tack.

In mending gloves if it is a split seam, it is best to make the seam like it was originally, whip stitch or running stitch. For heavy leathers, use heavy duty thread to match. The lighter weight threads are suitable for cotton or doeskin. Do not use a knot, secure ends of stitching and conceal all ends of thread inside of glove.

Darn or patch underwear as soon as rips or worn places appear. Mercerized thread of matching color makes a neat darn. Patch worn slips with good sections of old, worn-out slips saved for this

purpose. Bind worn tops with bias of old slip or use ribbon or tape. Patch children's, men's, and boys' underwear with good parts of worn-out garments.

Repair by Piecing or Reinforcement:

Underarm wear may be mended by setting in a piece of the same material. For figured fabric a hand-stitched, set-in patch is best

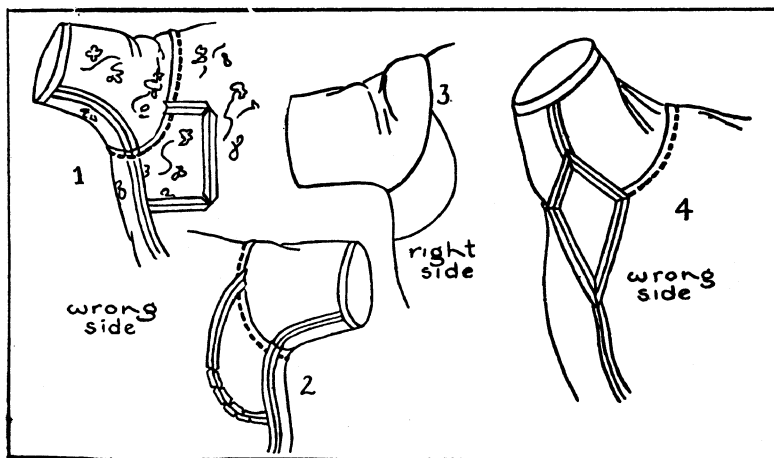


Figure 1. Underarm Repairs.

(Figure 1 (1)), cutting away the worn part along the grain of fabric. For plain fabrics a stitched-in shield-shaped patch is best (Figure 1 (2-3)).

Where the sleeve is also worn, a gusset may be set in, (Figure 1 (4)).

Panels may be set in under the arm if the worn place extends too far down, (Figure 2).

Skirt "re-treads" or reinforcements save many a skirt worn thin across the seat or at knees. Use percale, sateen, or rayon coat lining or similar fabrics of matching color. Let the reinforcement extend from the waistline to below the worn place, catching it firmly at waist and at either the side seams or gore seams as the need may be. Do not draw too tightly and do not fasten at lower edge.

A similar reinforcement can be used under the arm for stout figures. Worn places in pajamas may be reinforced in like manner.

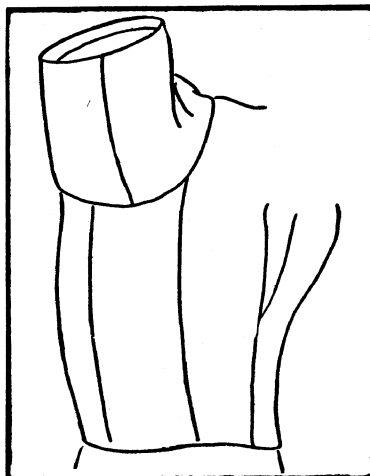


Figure 2. Set-in Panel

Patches:

The Hemmed Patch – This is one of the strongest patches. It may be hemmed by hand or on the machine, depending on its use. It is used mainly for patching children's clothing, under-garments, aprons, and work clothes.

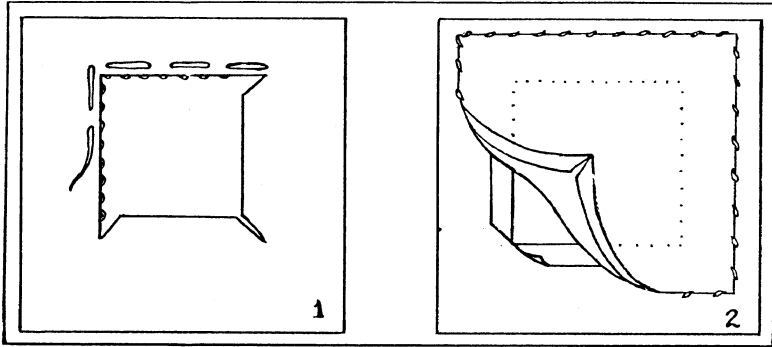


Figure 3. Hemmed Patch.

Cut away the worn part, cutting on a thread each way of the material, making a square hole. Slash each corner in about $\frac{3}{8}$ inch, turn edge under evenly with the thread and crease, making the turned-under edge a little over $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, (Figure 3 (1)).

The patch should be large enough so that it will extend at least one inch beyond the edges of the hole after the edge has been turned in. Place it back of the opening with the right side showing through, and match the pattern of the material. Pin securely.

Baste around the edge of the hole where it was turned under, and press, being careful not to stretch the corners or edges. Turn to the wrong side of the patch and crease down $\frac{1}{4}$ inch all around the edge of the patch and baste (Figure 3 (2)). Then hem the edges on both the right and wrong sides with an invisible hemming stitch, (Figure 3 (1-2)). Press carefully.

A Small Three-Cornered Tear – This may be hemmed in exactly the same manner except that double slashes will have to be made at the two ends and the patch will be rectangular in shape (Figure 4 (1-2)).

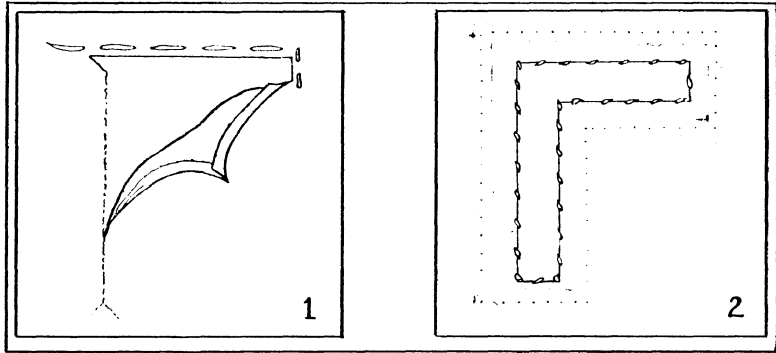


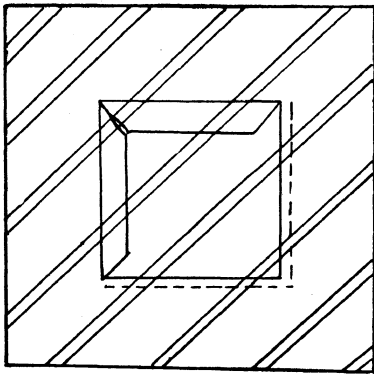
Figure 4. Three-cornered Tear.

The Set-in Patch – Overhanded – For fabrics with a design or pattern it is necessary to do the patching by hand to insure a perfect match and an invisible patch.

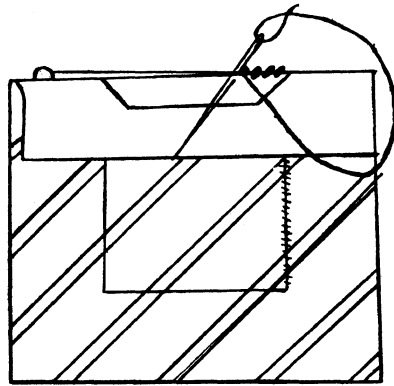
This is used a great deal on outer garments as it shows less than any other form of patch.

Prepare the hole in the garment by cutting away the worn portion to a square always keeping the cut edge on a thread or yarn. Crease a seam around the hole, allowing $\frac{3}{8}$ inch seam and be careful to crease exactly on thread. Clip diagonally outward from the corners of the hole to the corners of the creases. Then turn the edges to the wrong side, crease, and baste in position, if necessary (Figure 5).

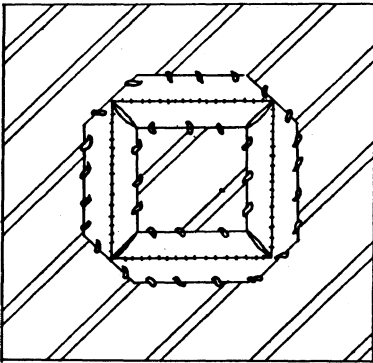
Cut a piece of material for a patch which matches the design and grain perfectly and large enough to cover the hole easily, it should extend at least one inch beyond the hole on each side. Place with the right side of the patch to the wrong side of the garment. Baste carefully in position.



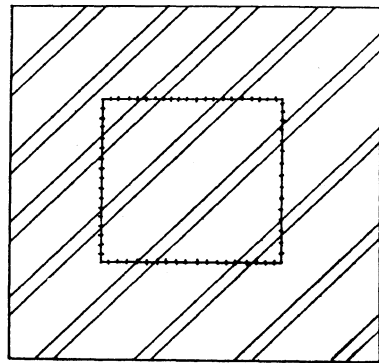
1.



2.



3.



4.

Figure 5.

1. Right side-placing and basting patch.
2. Method of holding patch and garment and stitch used.
3. Wrong side-finished patch.
4. Right side-finished patch.

Remove from one side of the patch the basting which holds the patch and garment together. Fold the garment back toward the right side and fold the patch back on itself on the basting line so that the right side of the garment rests on the right side of the patch, with the folded edges even and with design perfectly matched.

Overhand the edges together with small stitches, on the wrong side, starting in the center of one edge. Use from No. 80 to 100 white thread for most cottons and many rayons.

For dark fabrics use matching thread. Continue the overhanding around the four sides of the patch, removing the basting from one side at a time. Catch extra firmly at corners.

When all four sides are done, crease the seams open and trim off the patch to within $\frac{3}{8}$ inch of the seam. Clip off a triangular

piece of cloth from each corner of the patch, being careful not to cut into the stitches at the corner. Then overcast all the edges and press them open.

Set-in Patch – Seamed on the machine – For plain fabrics, woolens, overalls and all places where a durable and invisible patch is desired.

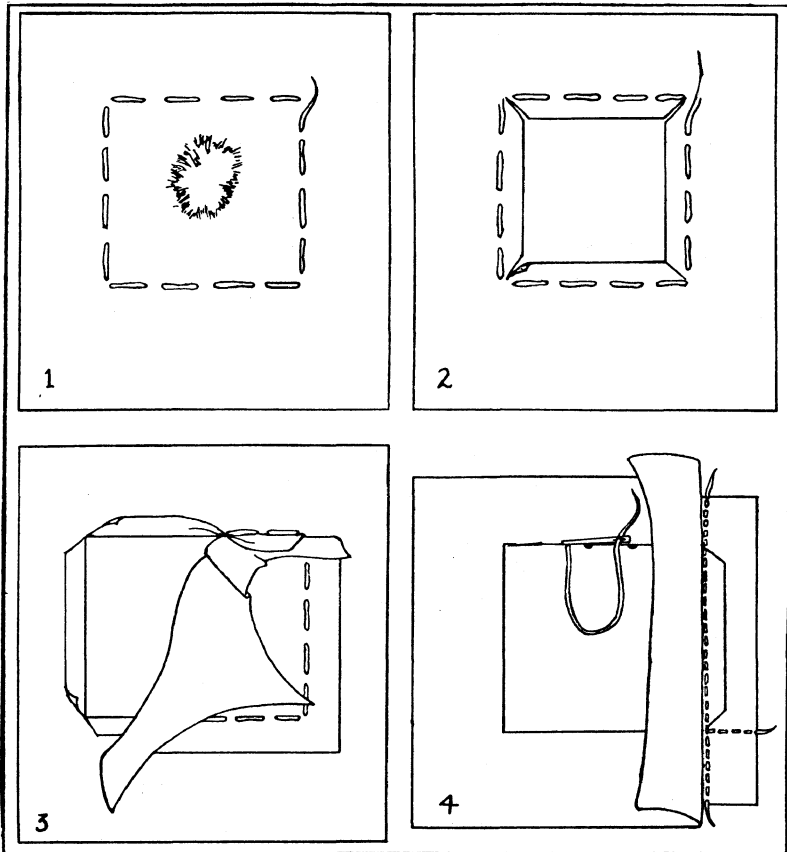


Figure 6. Machine stitched set-in patch.

Mark the seam line exactly on the grain with basting stitches, (Figure 6 (1)). Proceed as for the hand-made, set-in patch as to cutting (2). Place the patch over the hole with right side of patch to wrong side of garment (3). Turn under seam and baste from the right side using a slip basting stitch (4). It then may need to be basted more firmly from the wrong side. Use care to get the patch true. Do not pucker the corners but catch completely. A smoother patch results if one side is stitched at a time (4).

Trim seams as for preceding patch and press open. For all woolens, press hard enough to hide the seam as much as possible.

If a shine appears, remove by brushing with a damp woollen cloth. To completely hide the seam catch the edges together on the right side with a "stab" stitch.

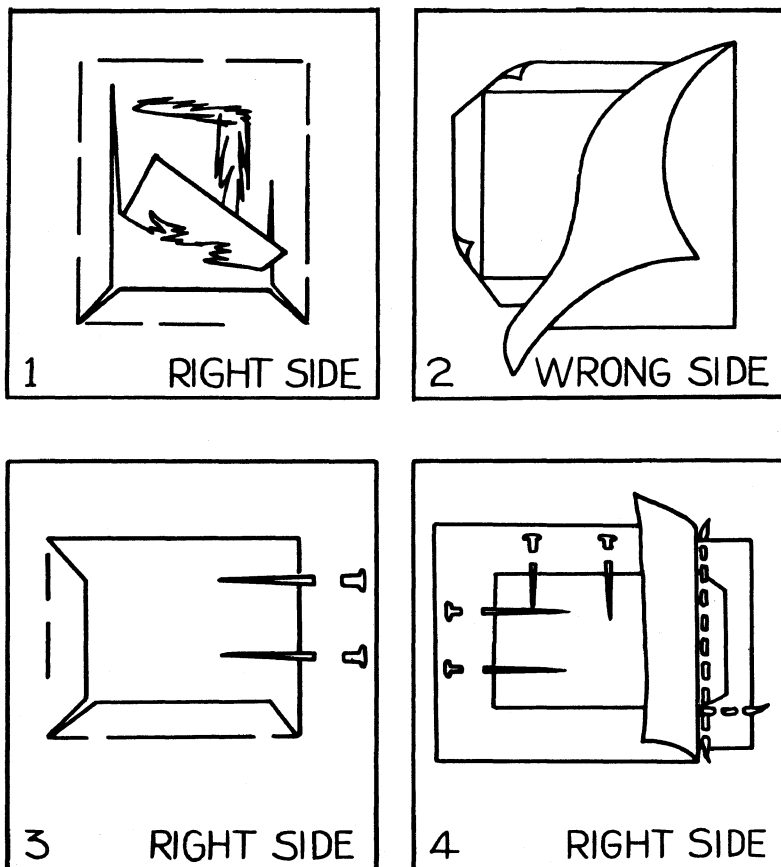


Figure 7. First steps in making Overall Patch (Quick Method).

Overall Patch (Quick Method) – Prepare the hole as for the hemmed patch. Clip the corners diagonally as shown in (Figure 7 (1)) and turn edges under exactly on the grain line. Press with an iron if necessary. This crease will insure your getting a neat turn under and will serve as a guide for stitching. Cut the patch one inch to one and one-half inch longer and wider than the hole, being careful to match the grain or the printed design of the fabric. Place the patch over the hole with the right side of patch to wrong side of garment – (Figure 7 (3)), pin, remove pins on

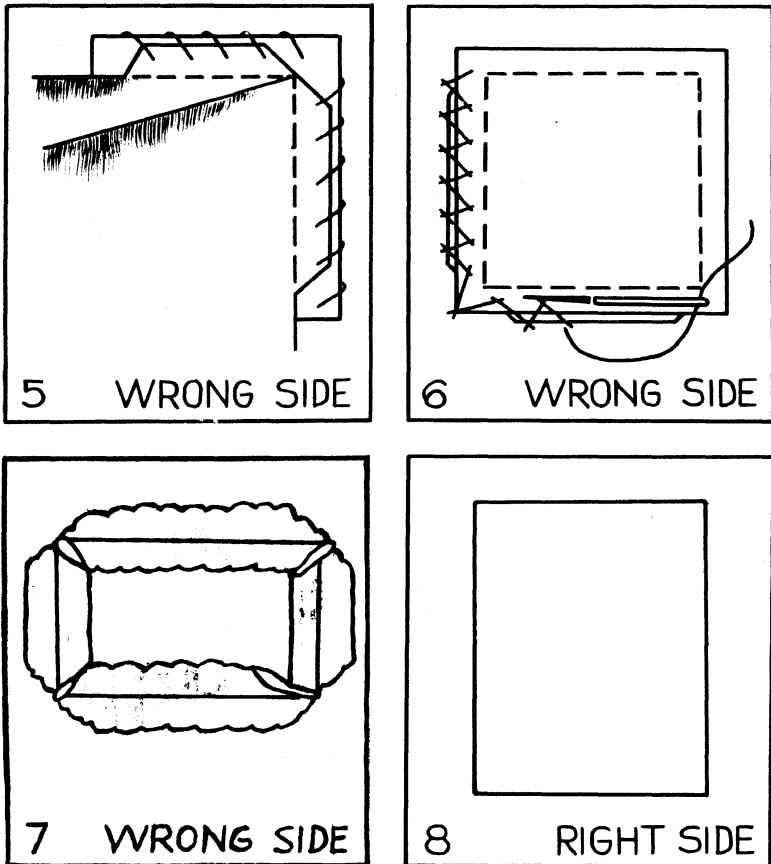


Figure 8. Overall Patch (Quick Method) continued.

one side at a time and stitch each side exactly on the crease (it is easier if each side is stitched separately instead of trying to turn a corner.) If the material ravels, overcasting may be used on the wrong side. Press.

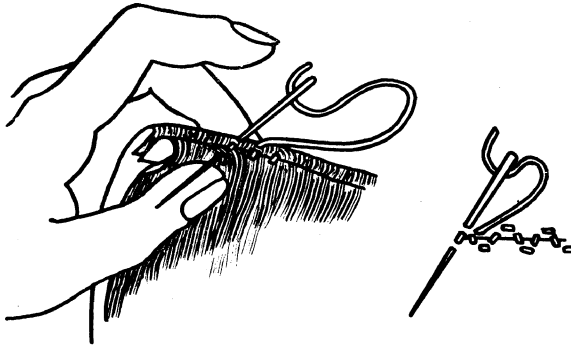


Figure 9. The Rentering Stitch (Stab).

The Rentering (Stab) Stitch – To hide a machine stitched seam, particularly on woolens, (Figure 9) pinch the seam on the right side so that seam line is exactly on the edge and take slanting stitches across edge catching hardly a thread on each side. Draw together firmly and make stitches close. They should slant slightly.

Darned Patch – Set-in made by hand – This is a method of patching heavier woolens invisibly (Figure 10). Draw a circle around the worn place or tear or mark the circle with bastings (1). Place a piece of the material under the place to be patched, matching the grain and weave exactly (1). Baste in place and cut out the hole and the patch to be set in at the same time (1). A square hole may be cut out and filled in, but it ravels more easily than a circle.

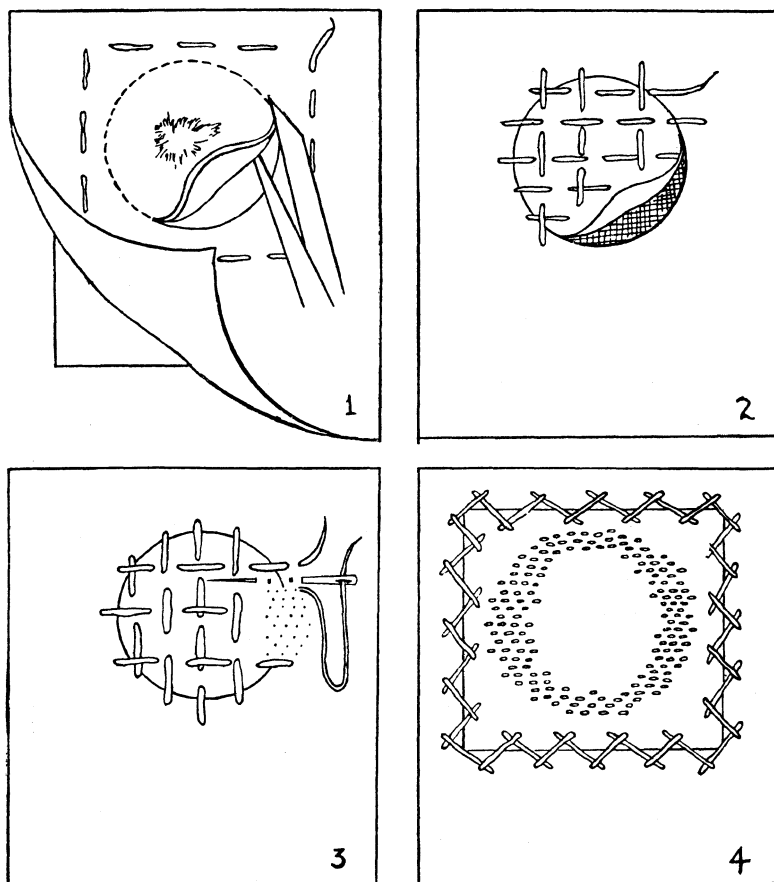


Figure 10. The Set-in Darned Patch.

The Set-in Darned Patch – Baste a reinforcement of net or light-weight silk or rayon of the same color to the wrong side of the hole and set in the patch. Baste securely in place (2). Darn with the grain completely around the hole catching the edges together and to the reinforcement (3). Use a dull thread of matching color. It is often necessary to split the ends of the yarns with the needle of both patch and hole in order to catch down all rough edges. Allow no stitches to show on the right side. Press carefully. Catch stitch reinforcement to garment invisibly on the wrong side (4).

When patching velveteen or corduroy with the darned patch, do the darning on the wrong side and brush away frayed pile on the right.

Darned Patch – Machine Stitched – Cut away frayed edges of worn place. Match patch with weave, grain, and design, placing the right side of patch to wrong side of garment over hole to be

patched. Baste in place and machine stitch back and forward over edge, using matching thread (Figure 11). Stitch with the grain as nearly as possible unless stitching with the design shows less. Press flat.

Darned Patch – Hand Darned – Make exactly as a machine darn except darning is done by hand.

Woven Patch – Fabrics of not too fine weave and of plain weaves are easier handled by weaving in a patch.

Pull threads forming as small a square as possible around worn place or tear (Figure 12 (1)). Match this square with a piece of fabric nearly twice as large to be used as the patch. Ravel the patch on all sides until almost as small as the square.

Baste in place along two sides of the patch on the right side with

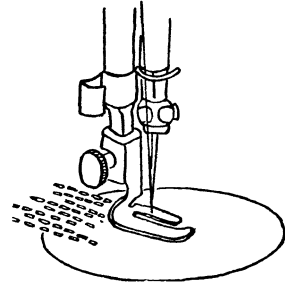


Figure 11.

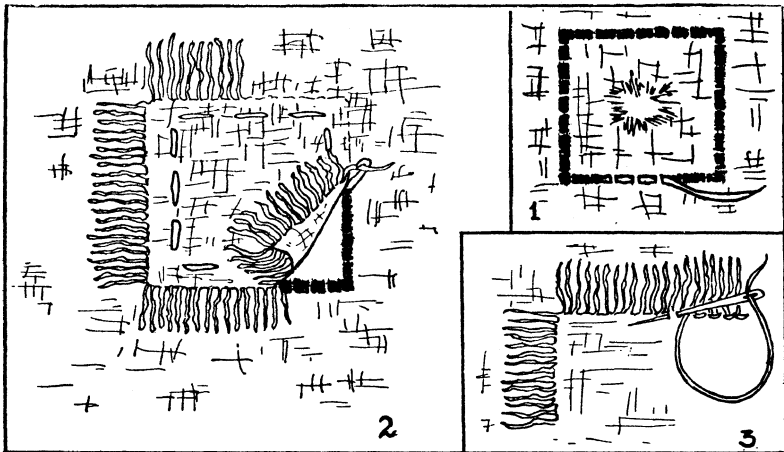


Figure 12. The Woven Patch.

two edges of the patch falling directly over two outer edges of the square (Figure 12 (2)).

Using a crochet hook, start with the corner ravelings and pull through to the wrong side where thread had been pulled – one raveling to one opening between threads. (Figure 12 (2)). Proceed along the two sides. If the patch is too large on the other two sides keep raveling until it fits perfectly and then complete drawing the ravelings through. A patch too large can always be raveled until it fits. Draw tightly and press. Cut ravelings off to about $\frac{5}{8}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, catching down invisibly along edge where they were drawn through (Figure 12 (3)). This keeps the patch secure. Press again.

Commercial tape patches – There is commercial tape on the market that serves excellently for quick and invisible patching. It comes in a variety of colors but for sheer fabrics is slightly stiff. Directions for application come with the tape.

Darns

Stocking Darn – Mend stockings before laundering. Darn as soon as thin places appear, or before hole gets too large (Figure 13).

Turn stocking right side out and place darning inside the stocking under hole. Trim off all ragged edges, being careful not to stretch the hole. The darning thread should match the thread of the stocking in size and color. Use long-eyed needle, not too coarse.

Start about one-half inch from each side of the hole, taking running stitches the same direction as the ribs in the stocking. Do not draw thread too tightly since it shrinks when laundered. When the hole is filled in with thread running in one direction, start putting thread across at right angles to the first ones, always alternating over and under the edge of the hole and weaving one thread over the next, and so on. Be careful that your weaving does not make the darn heavier than the stocking itself.

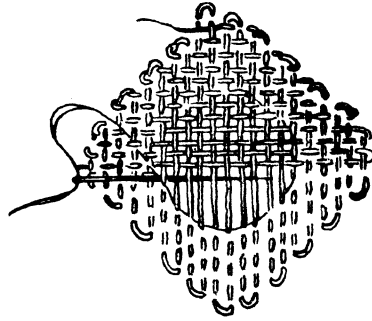


Figure 13. Stocking Darn.

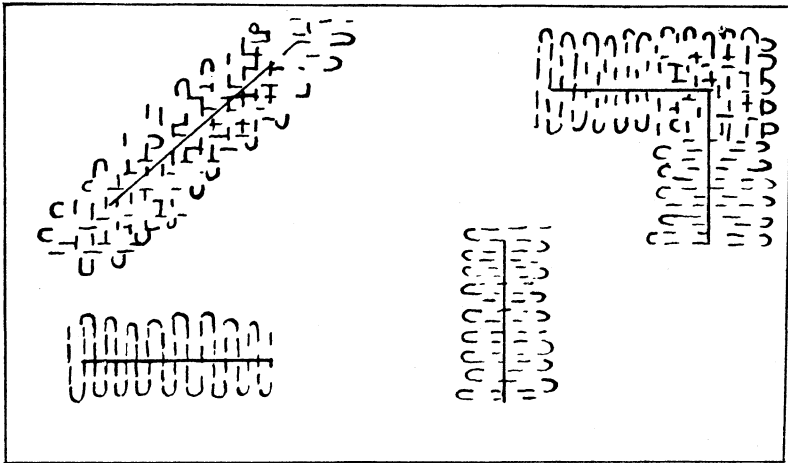


Figure 14. Wool Darn.

Wool Darning – Straight or Diagonal Tears or Cuts (Figure 14) – It is an art to be able to darn a cut or tear in a garment so that it is invisible. Darn from the right side, picking up only about one thread of cloth with the needle, thus keeping most of the darning thread on the wrong side. None, if possible, should show on the right side. Always have your darning stitches run with the thread

of the cloth, even if the slit is diagonal. Keep edges of slit together when darning, splitting the thread ends with the needle, which should be small, in order to catch down all rough edges. Use single thread or raveling as it shows less than when doubled. Do not pull the darning too tight or it will give a drawn appearance. Press on the wrong side when finished.

A reinforcement of the same fabric or light-weight material of the same color may be placed on the wrong side of the darn if extra strength is needed in the garment. Catch stitch loosely and invisibly around the reinforcement on the wrong side.

Machine Darn – Worn places can be darned on the machine with a backward and forward movement keeping the stitches with the grain. Use a reinforcement of the fabric or of some matching lightweight material.

Darning Worn Places – Place a reinforcement under the worn place and darn down by hand with short running stitches and no stitches showing on the right side (Figure 15). This is done by taking the stitch THROUGH (not over) the fabric yarn. Darn both crosswise and lengthwise.

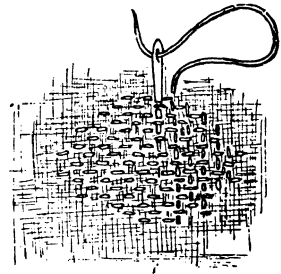


Figure 15.
Worn Place Darned.

MENDING MEN'S AND BOYS' CLOTHING

Turning worn shirt collars and cuffs is perhaps one of the most widely used methods of adding life to a shirt. Rip open collar band and cuff – turn underside to top and restitch in band or on sleeve. Cuffs will button backward if they are not changed to opposite sleeves. Change buttons to other side.

If the inside band is badly worn a new one can be cut from the extreme end of the tail of the shirt. Or, new bands can be purchased. A shirt thus saved is a shirt gained even if it does have a slightly shorter tail.

Holes in sleeves can be mended by cutting off the lower portion of the front shirt tail.

Men's and Boys' Coats

Collars – A worn or frayed coat collar along the break of the collar can best be mended by ripping the top collar loose and seaming out the worn place in as small a seam as possible, (Figure 16 (1)). Clip this seam open and press. Rebaste the collar down along the neckline. This narrows the collar somewhat so that the neckline seams will need to be let out. Use the reentering "stab" stitch along the mending seam on the right side and the seam will be almost entirely hidden (2).

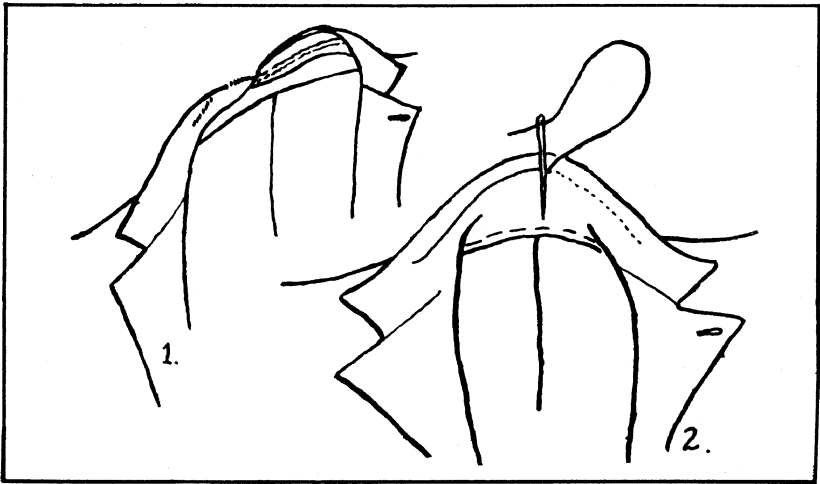


Figure 16. Mending Coat Collars.

Worn Fronts of Coats – Open the seam of the worn side and trim off frayed edges. Turn in new seam and baste. Overhand the edges closely together to give the appearance of inside seaming, top stitch close to edge, matching the original top stitching as nearly as possible. (Figure 17).

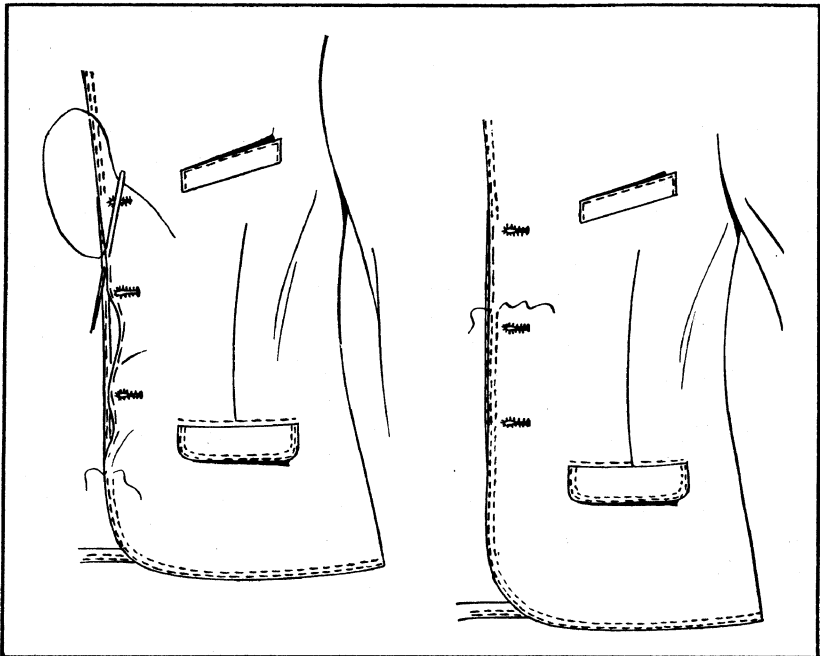


Figure 17. Mending Worn Fronts of Coats.

Worn Buttonholes – Get matching buttonhole twist, cut away all worn threads, and buttonhole stitch around worn sections. It is sometimes advisable to cut away all of the old buttonhole stitching and completely rework.

Worn Elbows – If there is an extra pair of trousers the worn portion of sleeve can be (a) either completely removed and a new one put in (being careful that grain is the same) or (b) a new section can be seamed in just above the worn place. Press and stab stitch so the seam won't show (c). If there are no extra trousers and there is a vest, a machine-stitched, set-in patch could be used (d). If not worn too badly put a reinforcement under the thin place and darn it down.

Worn Sleeve Edge – If the sleeves are slightly long the worn part can be (a) seamed out and rehemmed. They can be (b) reinforced and darned or they can be (c) faced.

Torn or ripped Pocket Corners – Either darn or patch according to the size and shape of the worn place. If not too large, it might be seamed out.

Men's and Boy's Trousers

Worn Side Pockets – A pocket often gets worn along the edge. Rip pocket edge open and replace worn edge of pocket with new material, matching carefully. Press seams open and bring to edge in manner of the original pocket. Reface either with old facing or with new piece. Stitch along original stitching line; press thoroughly and the piecing is not evident. Resew to pocket and bar tack pocket ends.

Worn Seats and Knees – Keep worn places darned before they become holes. But if trousers are worn through in the seat and there is an extra pair of trousers partly worn, mend with a machine set-in patch. Cut a patch to completely cover the hole as well as the thin place. Rip the crotch seam to set the patch in. If the patch is cut curved it will not take so much material (Figure 18). Match the weave and grain and place the patch over the part to be mended, on the right side. Turn under a seam on the curved side and slip baste securely in place (Figure 19). Turn to the wrong side and machine stitch. "Stab" stitch to hide the seam. Reseam the trousers and press well. This type of mending, if done well, can hardly be seen.

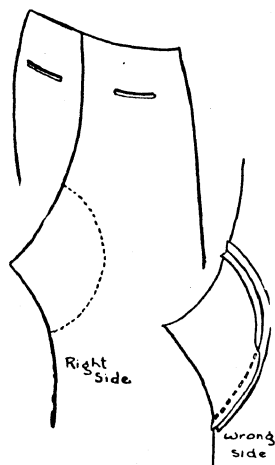


Figure 18.
Set-in Patch on Trousers.

If a small patch is needed, it might be obtained from the vest and a machine set-in patch or darned patch used.

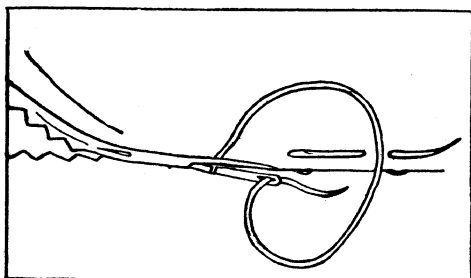


Figure 19. Slip Basting Stitch.

The holes in the knee can be patched by (a) machine set-in patch, or (b) if the trouser has a cuff by seaming the hole crosswise. Rip the trousers leg side seams to above worn place and take a seam deep enough to take all the worn portion. Trim off worn edges and press the seam open. Rip out cuffs - reseam side

seams, even the bottom edge, and hem.

Mock Cuffs - For trousers having worn cuffs, and if cuffs are still desired, a mock cuff can be made (Figure 20). Rip cuff and trim along worn edge. Hem the trouser leg using hemming stitch with hem the width of the finished cuff. Press creases through center in top and under sides of the hem. Bring the front crease up on trouser leg until the original lower hem edge falls on the hem seam. Press flat. This makes a half cuff, but has the effect of a whole cuff. Catch down at seam and creases.

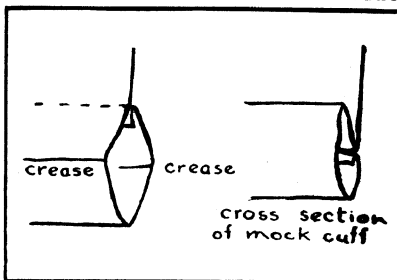


Figure 20. Mock Cuff for Trouser.

"Retread" Seats and Knees - Seats and knees of trousers wearing thin may be reinforced with such fabrics as sateen, cambric, percale, or rayon lining (Figure 21). Rip open the crotch seam and catch-stitch at top of reinforcement. Tailor baste loosely to trousers where thinness occurs and down the crease line. Hem the tops and bottoms of the reinforcements with only one turn and catch the top of the seat retread well above the worn place in back (under the hip pocket). Catch stitch the knee re-tread above the shorts line.

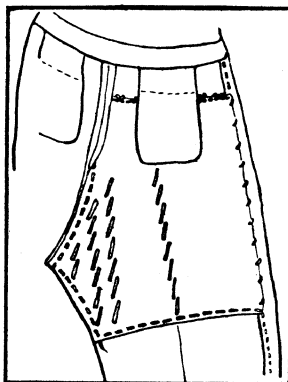


Figure 21. A
"Retread Seat".

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