

# UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Extension Division

THOMAS P. COOPER, Dean and Director

---

CIRCULAR NO. 187

(REVISED)

---

BOUND BUTTONHOLES, POCKETS AND  
NECK OPENINGS.

---

Lexington, Ky.

June, 1931

---

Published in connection with the agricultural extension work carried on by cooperation of the College of Agriculture, University of Kentucky, with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and distributed in furtherance of the work provided for in the Act of Congress of May 8, 1914.

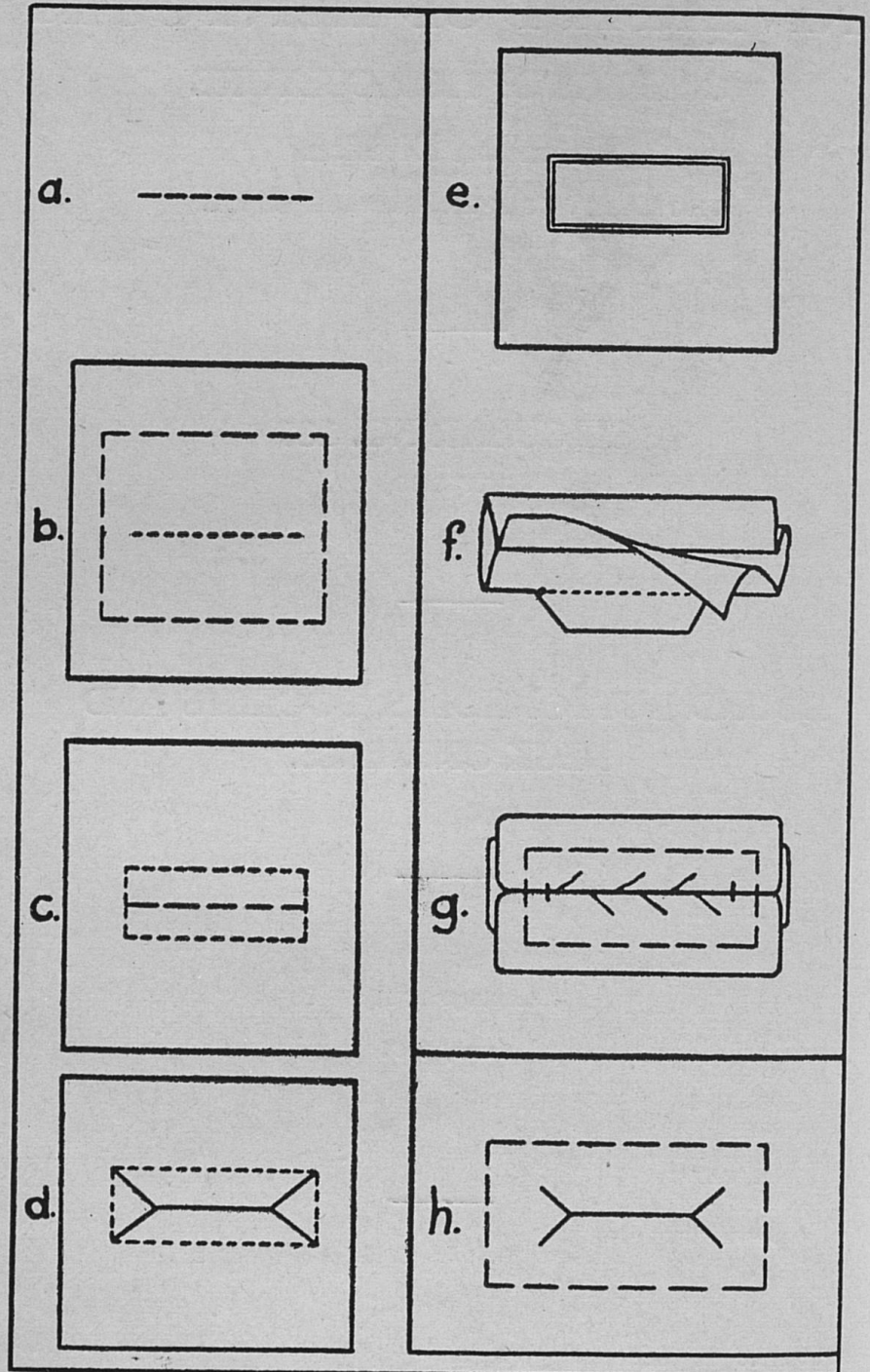


Fig. 1.—Method of making bound buttonhole I.



## CIRCULAR NO. 187

(REVISED)

### Bound Buttonholes, Pockets and Neck Openings

By ISABELLE M. STORY

#### BOUND BUTTONHOLES

Use: On tailored and semi-tailored garments, as coats, suits, dresses, blouses and skirts.

Material: Firm, closely woven cloth of wool, silk, linen, cotton or rayon. Thin, loosely woven materials do not make durable bound buttonholes.

The Binding: May be of same material as garment, or of a material of contrasting color. It may be cut either lengthwise of the cloth or on the bias. A lengthwise binding, however, holds its shape better.

Size: A buttonhole should be about one-sixteenth of an inch larger than the button used. For decorative effect, bound buttonholes sometimes are made half an inch larger than the button.

An opening that is to be bound should not be cut before the binding is stitched in place, as shown in Fig. 1.

*Buttonhole I.* To make— (1) Mark position of buttonhole on garment with colored basting (Fig. 1 a). If two or more buttonholes are used along an opening, care must be taken to maintain uniformity thruout in: (a) Size of buttonholes, (b) space between buttonholes, (c) distance from edge of hem. (2) Cut binding about two inches wide and one-half inch longer than the desired length of buttonhole. Mark with basting the position of buttonhole on binding strip. (The effect of finished buttonhole is more pleasing if facing and opening are cut exactly along thread of cloth). (3) Place right side of binding to right side of garment, line marked on binding directly over line marked

on garment. Baste to position (Fig. 1 b). (4) Stitch around buttonhole, beginning at the middle of one side. Stitch about one-eighth of an inch out from marked line thru center, on each side, and directly across ends of this line. Overlap stitching to give strength, or draw threads thru to wrong side and tie

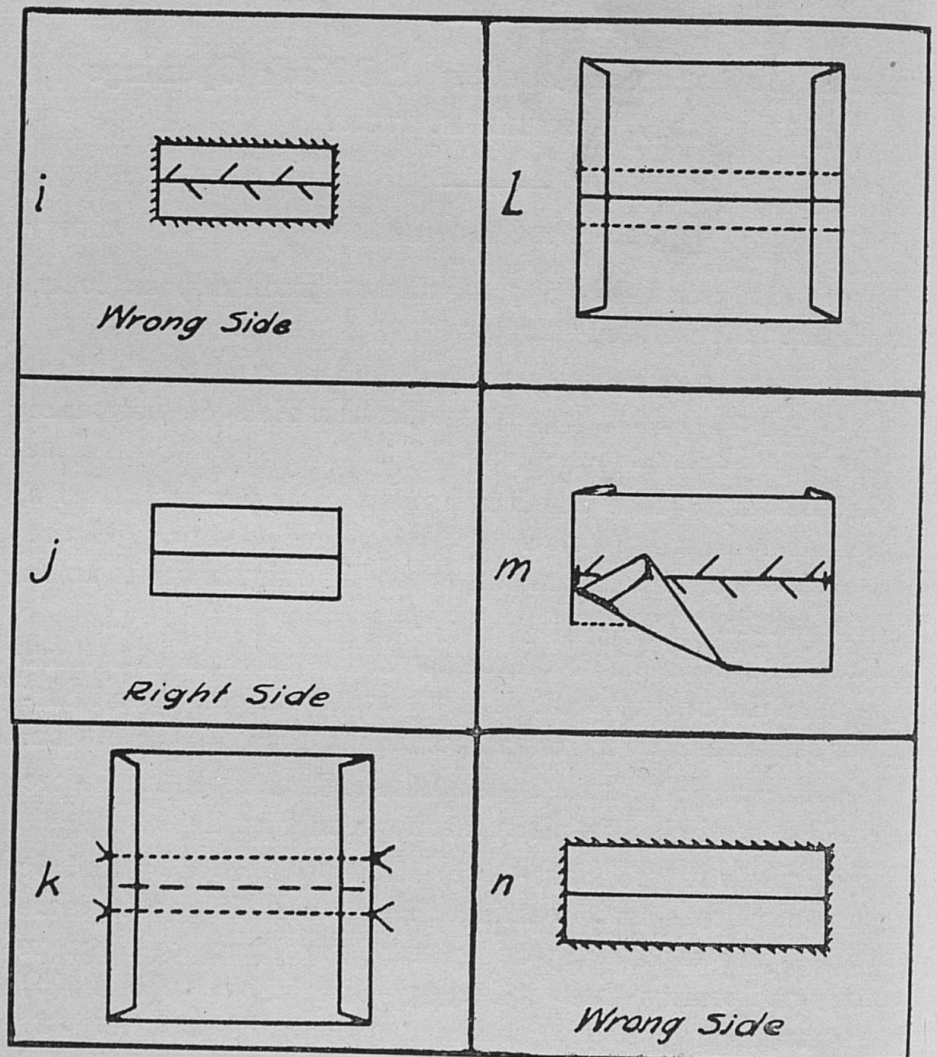


Fig. 2.—Method of making bound buttonholes. i, j, bound buttonhole I; k to m, bound buttonhole II.

(Fig. 1 c). (5) Cut thru both thicknesses of cloth along lines illustrated in Fig. 1 d, taking care not to cut thru line of machine stitching at corners. (6) Draw binding thru to wrong



side and crease along line of machine stitching. Take care that binding at ends of buttonhole does not show on right side. Baste closely across the ends of opening (Fig. 1 e). (7) Fold binding so that edges meet in center of buttonhole (Fig. 1 f). (8) Lace edges of buttonhole together so that they touch evenly thru the center. Baste. Overhand folded edges together securely at ends of buttonhole, taking up small stitches in the material underneath (Fig. 1 g). (9) Turn fold of hem or facing over and baste to position. Cut thru fold as illustrated in (h), taking care that lines correspond with those cut in (d) on right side of garment. (10) Turn in edges around buttonhole opening and hem down by hand along line of machine stitching. Turn under edge of hem of garment and stitch by machine, or hem by hand, using long loose stitches (Fig. 2 i). Press carefully before removing lacing stitches thru center of buttonhole. The right side of finished buttonhole is shown in Fig. 2 (j).

Note: A more durable buttonhole is made by placing a second row of machine stitching around buttonhole on underside, and exactly covering first row, after binding is laced together as shown in Fig. 1, g.

*Buttonhole II.* Cut binding and baste to position, as described in (1) and (2) of buttonhole I. (3) Turn back ends of buttonhole binding one-fourth of an inch at each end and baste. Stitch about one-eighth of an inch from marked line thru center on each side the exact length of buttonhole (Fig. 2 k). Draw threads thru to wrong side and tie. (4) Cut on marked line thru both binding and garment the exact buttonhole length (Fig. 2 l). (5) Draw binding thru to wrong side and press along line of machine stitching. Turn binding over edges of seams and press. Lace edges of binding together at each end of buttonhole (Fig. 2 m). (6) Turn in edges of binding along sides, even with binding on right side of garment, and hem down around buttonhole along line of machine stitching and across ends (Fig. 2 n). Press, then remove lacing thru center of buttonhole.

Note: This also makes an excellent binding for sash and tie slots.

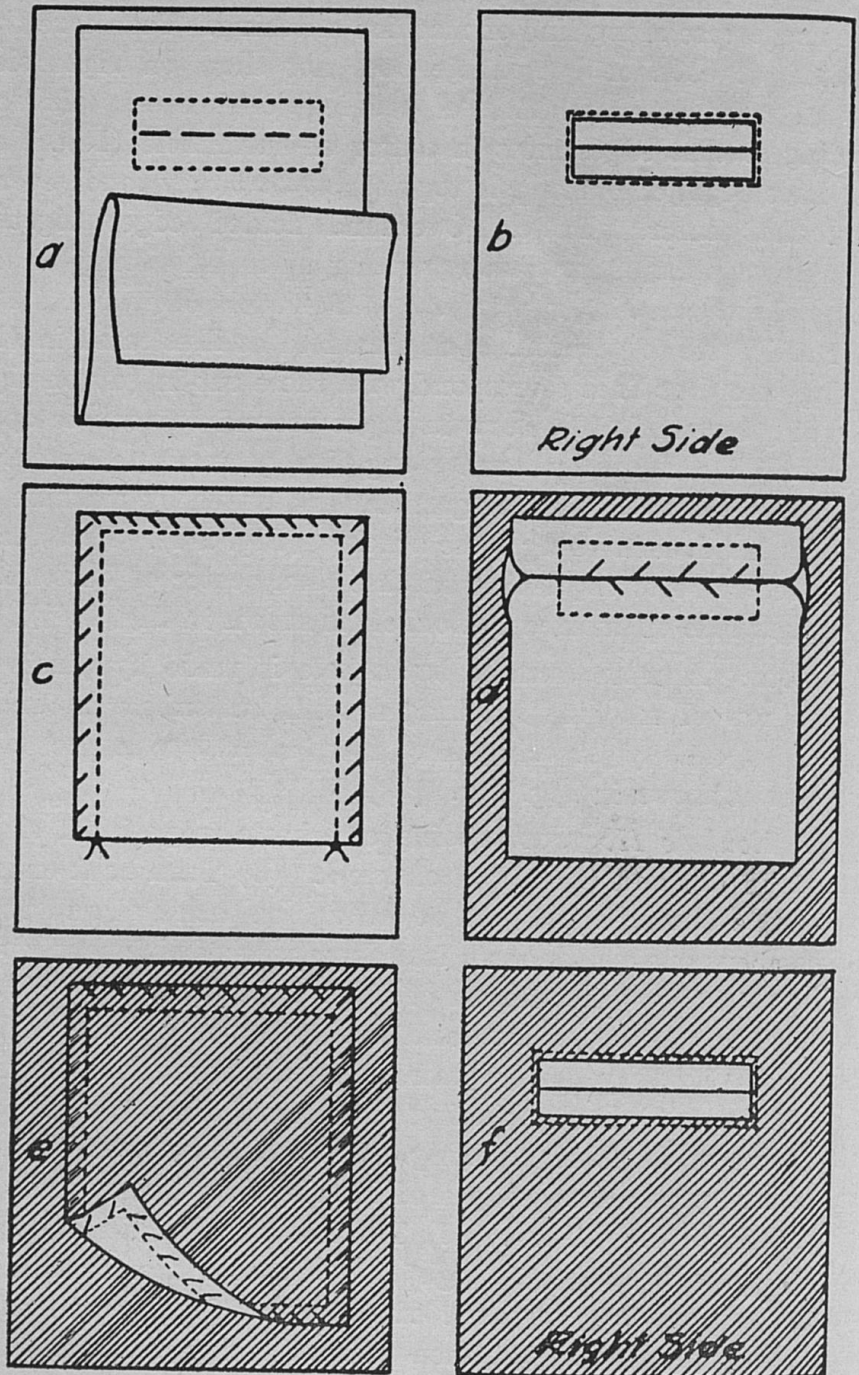


Fig. 3.—Method of making set-in pocket. a, b, c, pocket bound with same material as garment. d, e, f, pocket bound with contrasting material.



**POCKETS**

*Set-In Pockets. (A) Bound with Self Material.* To make—  
(1) Mark with colored basting the place for pocket slit. (2) Cut material for pocket one inch wider than pocket slit, and about ten inches long. (3) Lay right side of pocket to right side of garment, upper end of pocket extending an inch or more above pocket opening, and baste the two together along line marked in garment for pocket opening. (4) Stitch around pocket opening about one-fourth of an inch from pocket slit on each side and directly across ends of slit (Fig. 3 a). Draw thread ends thru to wrong side and tie. Steps 5, 6, 7 and 8 are the same as 5, 6, 7 and 8 in Bound Buttonhole I. (9) Stitch around pocket, on right side, close to the edge of binding (Fig. 3 b); draw threads thru to wrong side and tie. Or, stitch around opening on underside, following exactly the line of stitching described in (4). (10) Fold remaining pocket length up, with edges even, and baste along sides and end of pocket, but not thru garment. (11) Stitch around pocket, holding the side of the pocket next to garment uppermost. Tie off threads at lower end of pocket and overcast raw edges at sides and upper end of pocket (Fig. 3 c). Appearance of finished pocket on right side is the same as in illustration (b).

*(B) Bound with Contrasting Material.* With a few exceptions, this pocket is made just as set-in-pocket (A). The material for pocket is cut in two sections: (1) A strip of material of contrasting color, but about 6½ inches long and one inch wider than the pocket opening. (2) A strip of same material as garment, cut about 4½ inches long and one inch wider than the pocket opening. The contrasting material is applied to the garment as described in the first nine steps of set-in-pocket (A) (Fig. 3 d). In step (10), the pocket section, cut of same material as garment is placed on section already applied to garment, right sides together, edges even, and the two basted together on all four sides. These are then stitched together and finished as described in (11) (Fig. 3 e). Right side of finished pocket is shown in illustration (f).

d with  
material.

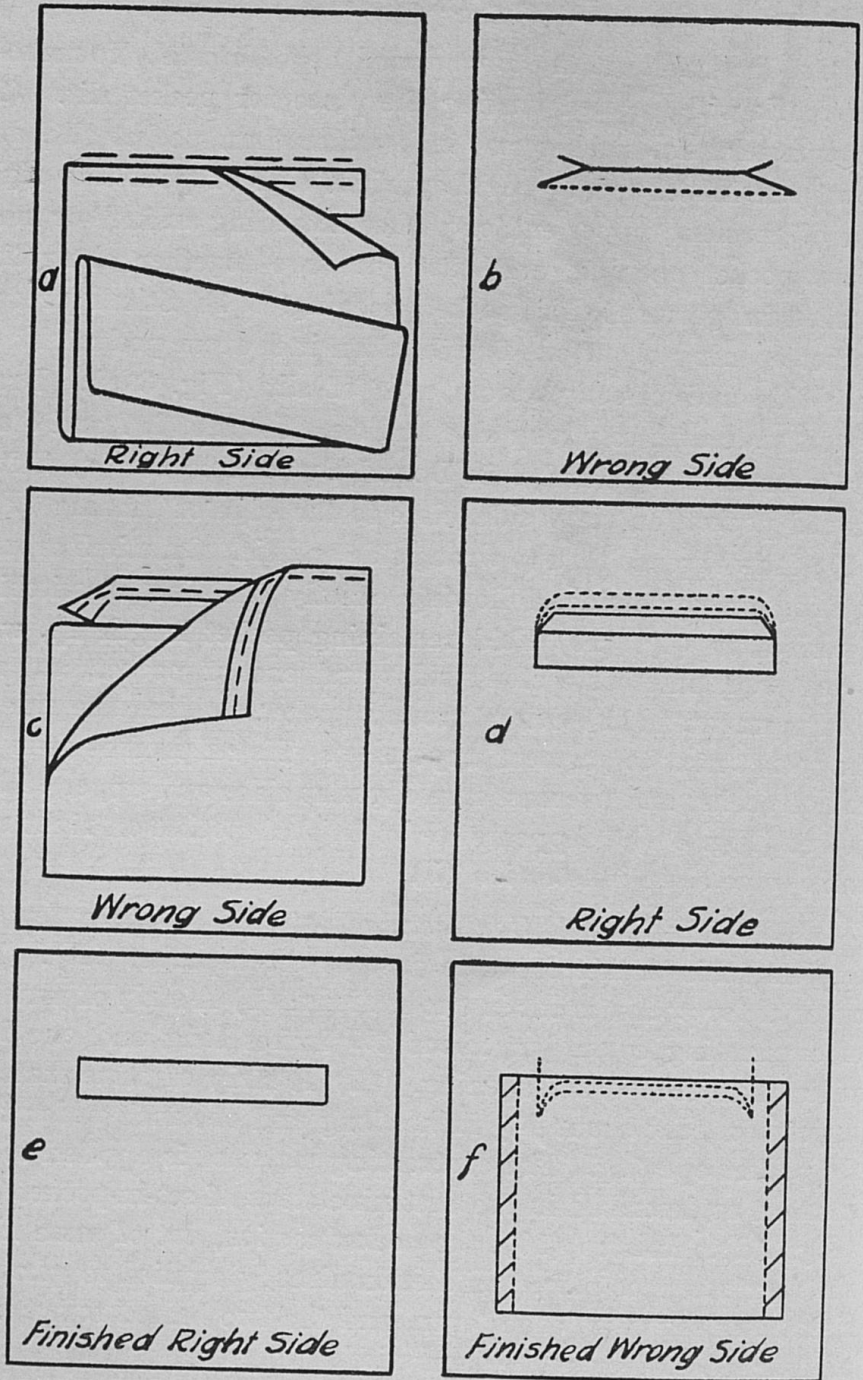


Fig. 4.—Method of making lap pocket.



*Lap Pocket.* (A) The Lap may be of the same material as garment or of a material of contrasting color. It is finished complete before the pocket is begun.

To Make.—Cut the piece for the lap twice the width desired for the finished lap, plus one-half an inch for seams, and the length of pocket opening, plus one-half an inch for seams. Fold thru middle lengthwise, right sides together, baste and stitch across ends. Tie off thread ends, turn to right side, press evenly on lines of machine stitching and baste. If garment is of heavy material, as coating or woolen suiting, the lap should be lined with a light-weight material, as silk, to avoid bulkiness. In this case a fold is turned in and basted along the ends and one side of the lap, and the lining is then turned in and slip stitched to it. An interlining of tailors' canvas or crinoline may be used to give firmness to lap.

For the pocket, cut a strip of material one inch wider than the pocket opening and about nine inches long. Lay the finished lap, right side down, on the garment, with its raw edge up and even with the line of basting marked thru pocket opening. Baste to position. Lay one end of pocket strip, right side down, on pocket lap, end of strip even with raw edge of lap and extending an even distance beyond each end of lap. Baste, then stitch about one-fourth of an inch from the pocket opening, the exact length of pocket lap and opening (Fig. 4 a). Draw threads thru to wrong side and tie. Cut thru garment on lines indicated in illustration (b). Turn pocket thru to wrong side and crease on line of machine stitching. Turn under upper edge and sides of slash and baste a single fold. Turn a one-fourth inch fold, to right side, across the end of pocket strip and baste. Now turn the pocket strip up so that it extends about one-fourth of an inch above folded edge of slash, edges even at sides, and baste (Fig. 4 c). From the right side stitch the two folded edges together, keeping very close to edge at ends of slash (Fig. 4 d). Turn lap up to position and baste, taking care to cover rows of machine stitching at ends of slash (Fig. 4 e). Baste to position, then turn to wrong side of garment and sew securely, by hand, across end of lap, taking care that stitches do not go thru to

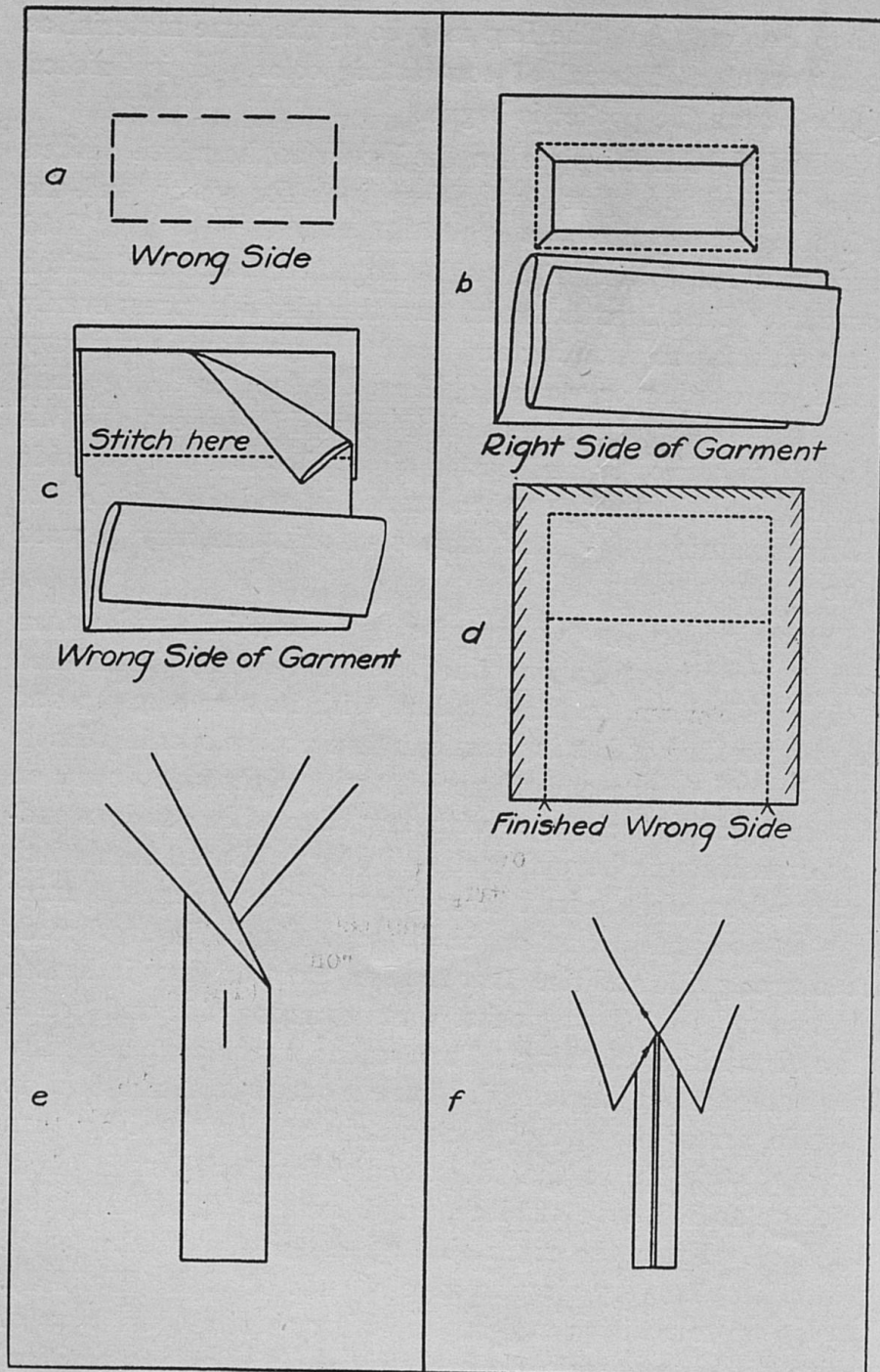


Fig. 5.—Lap pocket using bound buttonhole method. a, outline of lap on wrong side of garment. b, pocket strip stitched to place and cut ready for drawing thru to wrong side. c, wrong side of garment, with pocket strip drawn thru opening, folded to form lap and stitched across lower edge. d, wrong side of finished pocket. e, and f, lapped and bound neck openings made by bound buttonhole method.



right side of lap. Seam pockets together at sides and overcast raw edges (Fig. 4 f).

*Lap Pocket (B) Bound Buttonhole Method.* To make—(1) Mark with pencil or guide basting, on wrong side of material, the position and size of finished lap (Fig. 5 a). (2) For pocket and lap, cut a strip of material, lengthwise of cloth, one inch wider than length of finished lap and about three times longer than desired depth of pocket. (3) Place right side of this strip to right side of garment letting it extend one-half inch above and at each end of pocket lap. Baste, then stitch around all four sides on line marking outline of lap. (4) Cut away material, leaving one-fourth inch seam allowance on all sides, and slash at corners as shown in Fig. 5 b. (5) Draw pocket material thru to wrong side, crease along line of machine stitching and then fold to form pocket lap, as shown in Fig. 5 c. (6) Baste pocket strip to seam at lower edge of opening and stitch on under side covering first line of stitching (Fig. 5 c). (7) Turn remaining length of pocket strip up to form pocket, and with edges even baste along sides and upper edge, but not thru garment. (8) Stitch, holding side of pocket next to garment uppermost, covering first line of stitching at top and ends of lap (Fig. 5 d). (9) Finish by tying off threads and overcasting edges of seams.

Various styles of pockets and bound buttonholes are used on tailored and semi-tailored garments, but the ones described herein should meet all the needs of the home dressmaker. They are easily made and durable, and when carefully constructed and well placed add much to the attractiveness of an otherwise plain garment.

#### NECK OPENINGS

The bound buttonhole method may also be used to advantage in short openings at front of neck of tailored blouses and dresses.

A *bound opening* is made in the same way as the bound pocket illustrated on pages 2 and 4, except that the slash is left

f lap  
eady  
ocket  
dge.  
ings

open at the neck, and that the edges of binding are turned under on the wrong side and hemmed down by hand to the line of machine stitching (Fig. 5, f).

A *lapped opening* like that now used on many tailored blouses may be made in the same way as the lap pocket described on page 11, with the following exceptions: (1) The slash is left open at the neck; (2) The material for lap is placed and folded so as to form a lap from each side of opening instead of from one side; and (3) Edges of lap are turned under and slip stitched along line of machine stitching at sides, or else extend back on each side to form a facing. See Fig. 5, e.