



8

BASIC TAILORING

A tailor is a person who cuts and sews fabrics to make garments. Sewn garments can further decorated be with embroidery also. Can you imagine stitching without needle and thread? Or cutting without scissors? No it is impossible. Do you have any idea of the steps involved in dress

making. Garment construction involves many steps like cutting, stitching and finishing

etc. so we require many tools and equipments. In this lesson you will learn about the tools used in sewing and some basic hand stitches - both the basic stitches and some decorative stitches



OBJECTIVES

After studying this lesson, you will be able to;

- identify and list the different tools used for hand stitching and embroidery;
- use the basic hand stitches to sew and repair garments;
- work and use the decorative stitches to decorate an item of clothing; and
- appreciate the scope of basic tailoring.



Notes

8.1 MEANING OF TAILORING

Tailoring is the art of designing, cutting, fitting, and finishing clothes. A tailor depends upon his tools. He requires a few tools. They are- a pair of scissors, a sewing machine, a measuring tape, a sharp needle, a thimble on his middle finger, some thread reels and balls, and an iron press. A tailor is someone who sews, joins, or finishes clothing or other items. They may create new pieces of clothing from patterns and designs or alter existing garments to fit customers better. Tailoring includes the following activities:

- Measuring clients to ensure that clothing will fit properly
- Cut and measure fabric according to a pattern or design
- Sew clothing by hand, using a needle and thread or with sewing machines
- Finish and decorate the garments using trimmings and embroidery

A basic knowledge of stitching/ hand stitching with needle can help us to handle small repair like tears, loose/lost buttons or hooks. You could also decorate and make a simple dress look expensive and beautiful by embroidering it.

8.2 TOOL OF SEWING

Every craft requires its specific tools and equipment. Let us list and study some of the basic tools of stitching by hand.

- **Scissors**—You will need them to cut your fabric and thread.

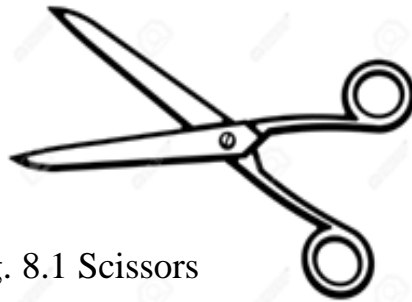


Fig. 8.1 Scissors

- **Measure Tape**—You will need them to take measurements.



Fig. 8.2 Measure Tape

- **Needles and Threader**—Needles are used to sew and embroider. They are available in different sizes (Numbers). They are chosen in accordance with the thickness of the fabric. The threader helps make the threading of the needle easy and quick.



Fig. 8.3 Needles



Notes



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- **Thimble**—The thimble is worn on your middle fingertip to protect it while you push your needle.

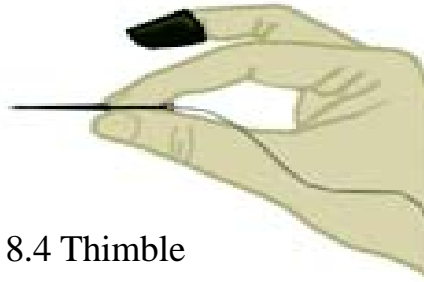


Fig. 8.4 Thimble

- **Threads**—You can't sew without threads! The most used are cotton or polyester

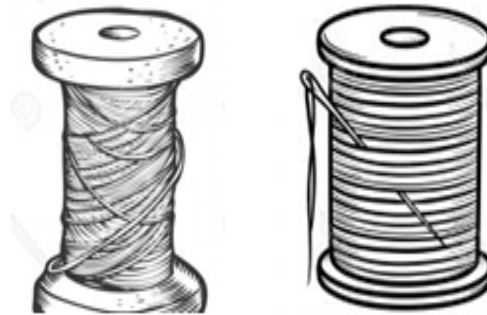


Fig. 8.5 Threads

- **Rulers**—They are used for taking straight measurements



Fig. 8.6 Rulers

- **Iron and Water Sprayer**—Pressing while sewing makes the sewing neater and easier. The Sprayer is used to moisten the fabric to be ironed to help give a neat finish



Fig. 8.7 Sprayer & Iron

- **A Seam Ripper**—It is used to cut/rip out seams, to open buttonholes etc.



Fig. 8.8 Seam Ripper

- **A Tracing Wheel**—It is used to transfer pattern markings to the fabric by leaving a fine imprint on smooth fabrics.



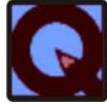
Fig. 8.9 Tracing Wheels



Notes



Notes



INTEXT QUESTIONS 8.1

Study the table given below and fill in the columns as required.

Tool	Use/Purpose	Sketch
Scissors		
Measuring tape		
Ripper		
Needle		
Threader		
Tracing wheel		
Sprayer		

8.3 BASIC HAND SEWING SKILLS

1. Correct way of holding the needle

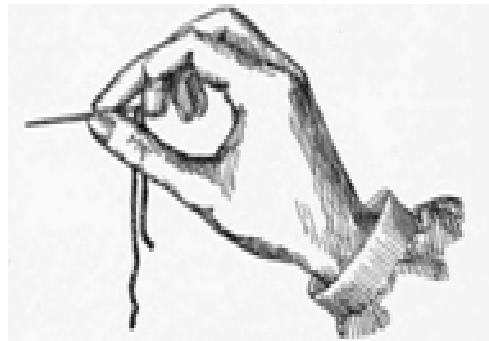


Fig. 8.10 Holding the Needle

Hand sewing needles are available in all kinds of shapes and forms. In most cases, the larger the size number, the smaller the needle. Finer needles are used with thin or delicate fabrics while heavier needles are used with thicker fabrics.

2. Threading the needle



Fig. 8.11 Threading (a)

There are tips and tricks that can help make threading a needle less difficult. For example, place a white background behind the needle to make it easier to see the eye and thread. Cut the thread with sharp scissors (to prevent frayed ends) at a 45-degree angle. Be sure to stiffen the thread using water, saliva, or wax. If you still have difficulty, use a needle threader.

Threading the needle with a needle threader.

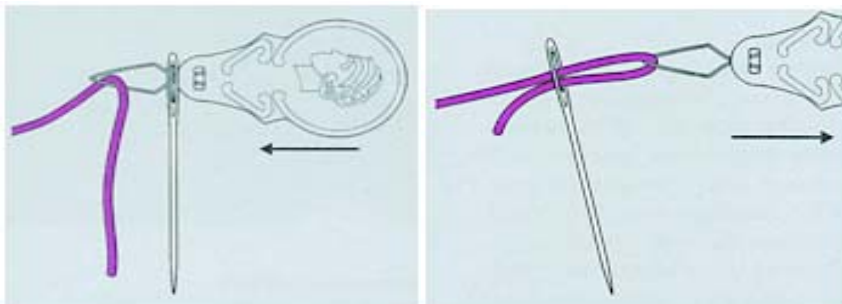


Fig. 8.12 Threading (b)

Hold both the needle threader and needle in one hand, while keeping the loop of wire on the needle threader through the eye of the needle. Insert your thread through the loop of wire on the needle threader. Pull the thread through the loop so that you have a tail of least a few inches in length.



Notes



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3. Thread-end Knot Tying Instructions



Fig. 8.13 Knot Tying

1. Place the end of the thread on your pointer finger, holding it in place with your thumb.
2. Wrap the thread around your pointer finger a couple of times.
3. Using your thumb, slide the thread loops towards the end of your pointer finger. The loops will wrap around each other as they travel toward the end of your pointer finger.
4. Slide the loose knot to the end of the thread, then tug on the thread to tighten the knot.

8.4 BASIC HAND STITCHES

1. Running Stitch

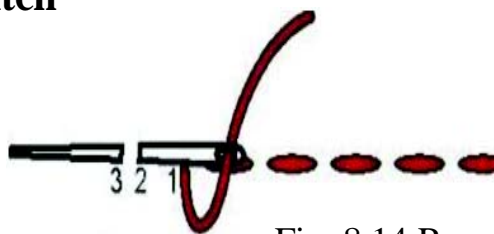


Fig. 8.14 Running Stitch

The running stitch is the most basic of the hand sewing stitches, and has many variations. It's used for gathering, mending, and tucking. Depending on its use, you can either knot your thread or take a couple of back stitches to lock it into place. In its longer form, it becomes a basting stitch.

Bring your needle through the fabric from the back (wrong side). Once the knot hits the fabric, make a stitch to the left or right. Bring the thread back up and repeat.

**Notes**

2. Basting Stitch

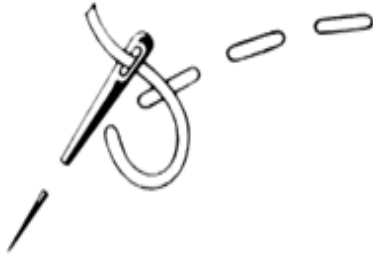


Fig. 8.15 Even Basting

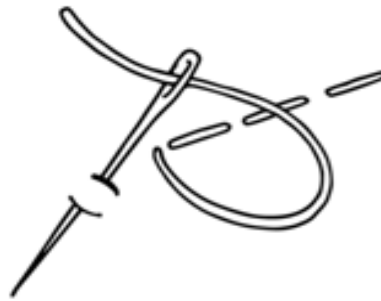


Fig. 8.16 Uneven Basting

Use the same technique as the running stitch, but make longer stitches (between 1/4 inch and a 1/2 inch).

3. Backstitch

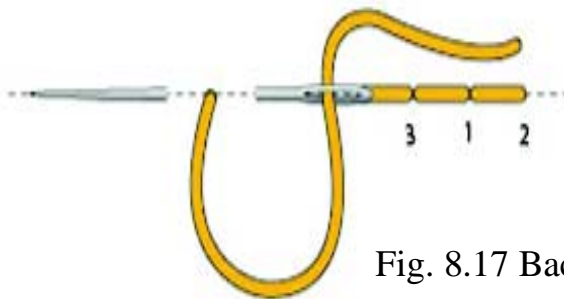


Fig. 8.17 Backstitch

Before sewing machines, all clothes were stitched using backstitches.

Working from left to right, take a small stitch, then insert the needle at the end of the previous stitch, bringing it out beyond the point where the thread emerges. Continue, always inserting the needle in the end of the previous stitch.



Notes

4. Hemming

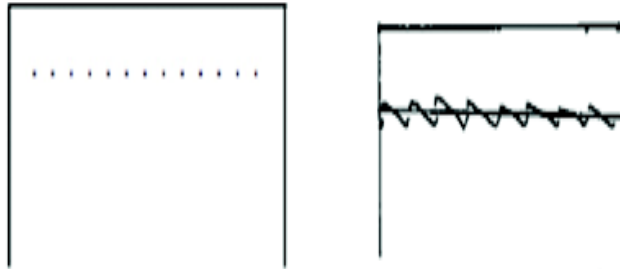


Fig. 8.18 Hemming

Fasten thread. With needle pointing to the left (right), take up a very small bit of the garment fabric just above the fold of the hem. Try to make your stitch very small as it will be visible from the right side. Pull up thread. Move the needle a bit to the right (left) - about 1/4" to 1/2". Take up a small amount of the hem fabric with the needle still facing to the left (right). Continue to complete hem.

5. Catch stitch (Cross-Stitch)

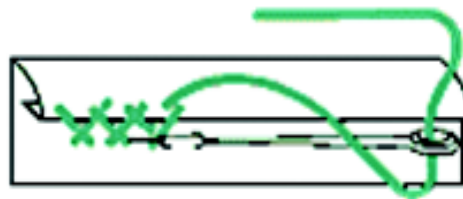


Fig. 8.19 Catch Stitch

You can use this stitch to finish hems with fabric that doesn't fray.

Working from left to right, take tiny stitches on the hem, and then on the garment. Keep the stitches loose and even. They will appear as crosses on the wrong side and small stitches on the right.

6. Slip Stitch

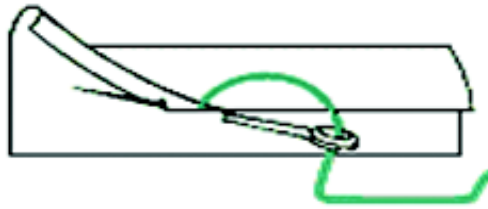


Fig. 8.20 Slip Stitch

This is a tidy and almost invisible, when it's done right, and with care on both sides. Bring the needle through the fold of the hem and pick up a thread of fabric at the same point. Make the stitches about a 1/2 inch apart and fairly loose.

7. Blanket Stitch (Buttonhole Stitch)

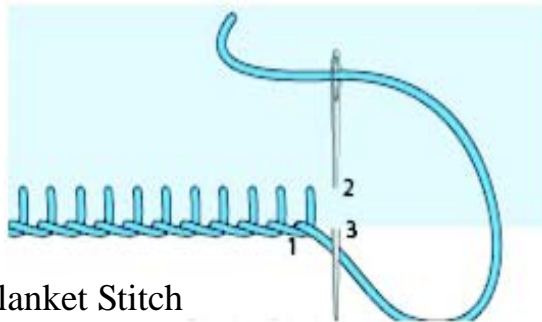


Fig. 8.21 Blanket Stitch

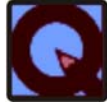
Fasten the thread on the wrong side of the fabric, then with the right side facing upward, insert the needle from back to front through the fabric 1/8 inch from the edge. Wrap the working head around behind the eye end of the needle, then behind the point. Pull the needle through, bringing the knot to the fabric edge. Continue, making closely spaced stitches and knot.

The eyelet version(See above) is worked in a circle, with the wrapped edge to the inside. This blanket stitch variation has at least a 1/4 inch spacing between stitches.

Notes



Notes



INTEXT QUESTIONS 8.2

Fill in the blanks

1. The larger the size number, the ----- the needle
2. ----- is used for gathering, mending, and tucking
3. Before sewing machines, all clothes were stitched using ---

4. ----- is a tidy and almost invisible, when it's done right,
and with care on both sides.
5. The eyelet version is worked in a circle, with the wrapped
edge to the-----.

8.5 DECORATIVE STITCHES

1. Stem Stitch

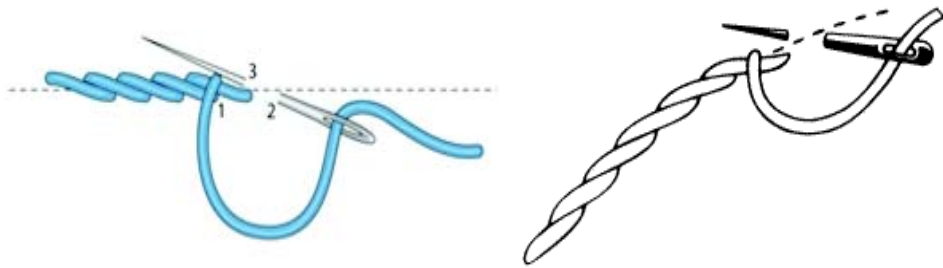


Fig. 8.22 Stem Stitch

This stitch got its name from being used to create flower stems and it is good for working curved lines.

Start by creating one straight stitch forward. Then, bring the needle and thread up underneath the fabric, but instead of going through the center of your initial stitch, go just to the side of the stitch.

2. Satin Stitch

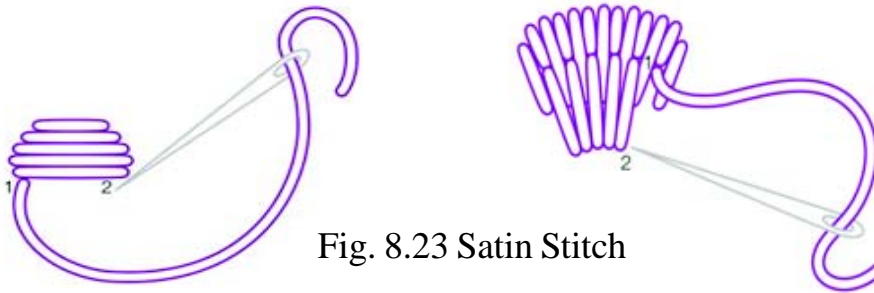


Fig. 8.23 Satin Stitch

When you're filling in leaves, it's likely you want the design to have a smooth appearance. This stitch adds a nice raised texture, and gets the job of filling the big area quickly.

First, draw out the shape you want to fill to use as a guide. With your needle and thread, create one stitch that extends from one end of the shape to the other.

Bring the needle up again just next to the opposite side of the initial stitch. Keep the stitches close to one another, as required to fill the pattern or design you are working with.

3. French Knots

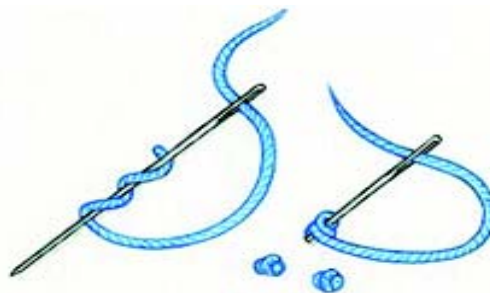


Fig. 8.24 French Knots

First, bring the needle and thread up through the fabric. Then wrap the thread around the needle twice. Hold the end of the thread taut and bring the needle down just next to the space where it came through the fabric.

Keep holding the thread taut as you pull the needle through. You can vary the size of your French knots by wrapping the thread around the needle anywhere between one and three times.



Notes



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4. Chain Stitch

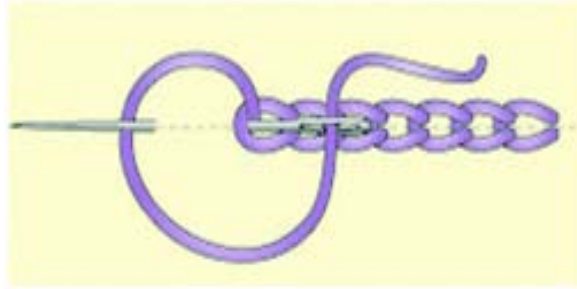


Fig. 8.25 Chain Stitch

First, pull your needle and thread up through the fabric, then insert it going down right beside where you first came up. Don't pull the thread all the way through the fabric; allow it to form a loop. Bring the needle up through that loop (this holds it from being pulled all the way through the fabric) and pull.

To make the next chain stitch, place the needle either directly in the hole you just stitched, or close to it, and pull through to create another loop. Again, don't pull the thread completely through the fabric. Pull the needle up through the loop to hold it and pull.

Repeat the steps to continue the chain. When you reach the end, create a small stitch over the loop to secure it.

5. Lazy Daisy

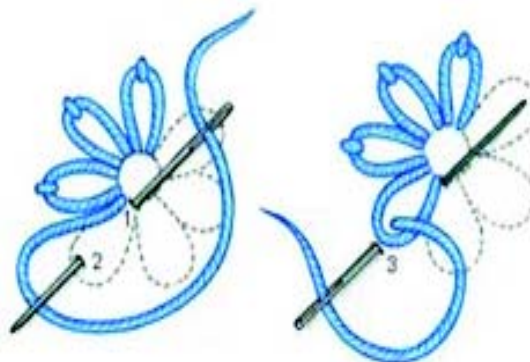


Fig. 8.26 Lazy Daisy

This variation of the chain stitch is often referred to as the "detached chain stitch" or "lazy daisy." Just like the chain stitch, take your needle and thread and create a stitch, but before you pull the thread all the way through the fabric, allow it to form a loop. Bring the needle up through that loop in order to tether it from being pulled all the way through the fabric.

Create a small stitch over the top of the loop. Space out the next loop or use the stitch to create a daisy. Continue as desired.

6. Feather Stitch

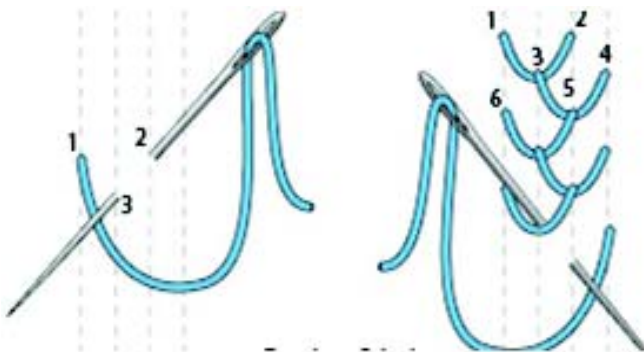


Fig. 8.27 Feather Stitch

Another way to work the chain stitch is the feather stitch, which uses the second stitch to fasten the loop of the previous one. This particular chain variation works well when you want to cover more space.

Start by bringing the needle and thread up through the fabric and creating a straight stitch. Don't pull the thread all the way through; allow a loop to form and bring the needle up through that loop.

Space the next stitch over in the opposite direction from the previous stitch. Create another loop by not allowing the thread to go completely through the fabric. Pull the needle up through the loop and repeat on the opposite side.



Notes



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7. Cross Stitch

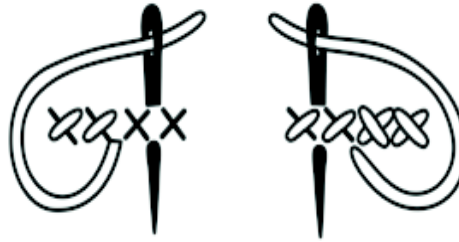


Fig. 8.28 Cross Stitch

- Bring the needle up in the bottom left hole, reinsert it at the top right to create a diagonal stitch.
- Bring the needle back up directly below its current position, in the next hole down. Take it back through the fabric in the diagonal hole to the right. Continue in this way across the row.
- To complete the stitches on the journey back, bring the needle up in the bottom right and take it back down through the top left hole to make the cross.

8. Herring Bone Stitch

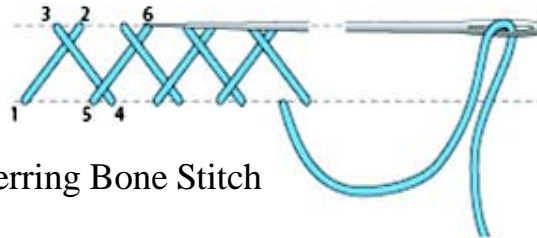


Fig. 8.29 Herring Bone Stitch

When working this stitch, mark parallel lines using a pencil.

Working left to right, bring the needle through the fabric at the lower left (point 1) and work a stitch diagonally to the upper right (point 2).

Bring the needle up again to the left of the insertion hole (point 3), and then work a stitch diagonally to the lower right (point 4).

Come back up to the left of this (point 5), which becomes the new point 1, so you are ready to repeat to the end of the row.

8.6 BASIC STITCHING SKILLS

1. Working Button Holes and Attaching Buttons

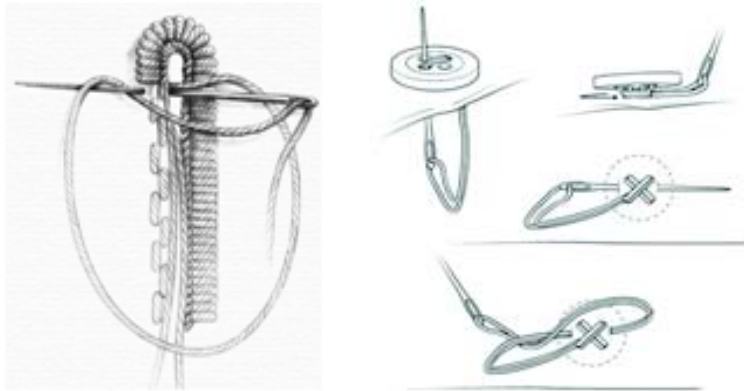


Fig. 8.30 Button Holes

Attaching buttons

Two important factors to keep in mind are:

- Button placement
- Button attachment technique

For a flat button, start by sewing an "X" on the fabric where you want to place the button. Sew up and down through the holes in the button several times. On the final pass, bring your needle and thread only up under the button. Wrap the thread tightly around the base of the button a few times. Pass the needle through this bundle a time or two. Then bring the needle back to the back side of the fabric. Stitch through the stitches to form a loop and make a knot.

A buttonhole should be long enough so the button can slip easily through the hole without strain or excessive wear. Normally length of the buttonhole should be equal to the diameter of the button plus thickness of the button (if a button is of a round shape one).



Notes



Notes

- Decide upon your buttonhole placement. Mark your fabric with a common pin.
- Measure the size of your button
- Cut a tiny slit in your fabric
- Stitch around the opening of the buttonhole. Using double thread, stitch a tight blanket stitch. Place one stitch close next to another

2. Attaching hooks and eyes

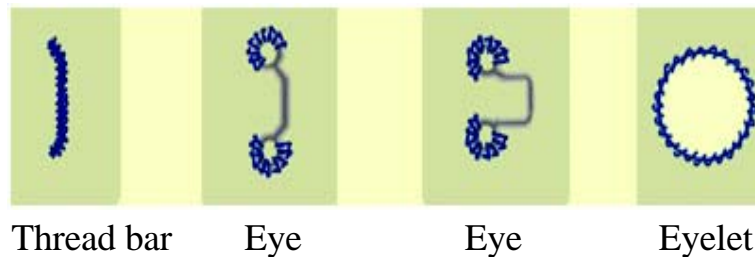


Fig. 8.31 Hooks & Eyes

Step-by-Step Instructions for Sewing the Hook

1. Thread a hand sewing needle and knot the thread. Use a double thread unless the fabric is very thin.
2. Sew the holes on the end of the hook to the fabric using simple in and out loops of thread or with a buttonhole/blanket stitch. A minimum of six pieces of thread on each part of the hook and the eye is advisable. More or less can be used depending on the strength of the thread.
3. Sew the neck of the hook to the fabric to keep the hook laying on the fabric.
4. Sew a couple of tack stitches to end the sewing.
5. Knot the thread and cut the thread.



Step-by-Step Instructions for Sewing the Eye

1. Lay the garment flat and position the eye so the garment lies flat with the eye in the hook.
2. Sew the metal loops to the fabric in the same manner that you sewed the hook.
3. On a loop eye, sew the loop down to the fabric at the end of the fabric, if the loop exceeds the edge of the fabric.

Eyelets are small round holes punched in the goods and worked around over and over.

Making the Thread Bar

1. Thread a sewing needle with a double or single thread, depending on the weight of the fabric.
2. Fasten the thread at the desired end of the eye location.
3. Create a loop by bringing the needle down into the opposite desired end of the eye.
4. Repeat to have four to six strands of thread bar.
5. Bring the needle to the top of the fabric, at one end of the bar.
6. Wrap the thread bar, creating a thread loop that the thread is brought through, similar to a blanket stitch, repeating to cover and secure the thread bar.
7. After covering the entire thread bar, fasten the thread at the end of the thread loops.

3. Attaching Snap Buttons



Fig. 8.32 Snap Buttons



Notes

A snap fastener (also called press stud) is a pair of interlocking discs commonly used in place of buttons to fasten clothing. A circular lip under one disc fits into a groove on the top of the other, holding them fast until a certain amount of force is applied. Stitch through the holes at the edges of the snap using simple loops or blanket stitch.

8.7 SAFETY PRECAUTIONS AND TIPS

when working with needles, pins and knitting needles:

- Keep needles and pins at a certain place (a special box, cushion, etc.), do not leave them at the workplace, never take the needle, pins in your mouth and do not stick them in the clothes.
- Keep your eyes on the needle.
- Be safe while ironing.
- Make sure your nails are trimmed and hands washed.
- Use appropriate cutting tools.
- Handle scissors with caution.

8.8 JOB OPPORTUNITIES

After completing the course one can get employment in garment manufacturing unit or get self employed by opening a tailoring shop or work at home.

Wage employment : Can get employment as cutter/tailor/checker/designers in garment manufacturing industries/tailoring shops/tailoring units in govt. sector of public sectors like jails /hospitals etc. can get employments as instructor in educational institutes.

Self employment : Can open his/her own tailoring shop or can do tailoring work at his/her own house or can take up orders work from factories.

**Notes****INTEXT QUESTIONS 8.3**

State whether true or false

1. For working of Herringbone stitch, mark parallel lines using a pencil.
2. Never take the needle, pins in your mouth and do not stick them in the clothes.
3. Eyelets are big square holes finished at the edges
4. A buttonhole should be much bigger than the button
5. Repeat to have one to two strands for making the thread bar

**WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT**

- Meaning of Tailoring
- Tools of sewing
- Basic Hand Sewing Skill
 - o Correct way of holding the needle
 - o Threading the needle
 - o Threading the needle with needle threader
- Basic hand stitches
 - o Running Stitch
 - o Basting - Even and Uneven

CLASS-V



Notes

- Back Stitch
- Hemming
- Catch Stitch
- Slip Stitch
- Blanket Stitch
- Decorative Stitches
 - Stem Stitch
 - Satin Stitch
 - French Knot
 - Chain Stitch
 - Lazy Daisy Stitch
 - Feather Stitch
 - Cross Stitch
 - Herringbone Stitch
- Basic Stitching Skills
 - Attaching Buttons and Working Buttonholes
 - Attacing Hooks and eyes
 - Attaching Snap Buttons
- Safety and Precaution ant tips
- Job Opportunities

**TERMINAL QUESTIONS**

1. List the activities included in tailoring
2. Explain the method of making the following stitches:
 - i. Back Stitch
 - ii. Catch Stitch
 - iii. Slip Stitch
 - iv. Blanket stitch
3. List any five decorative stitches you have learnt. Against each write where you can use it to embroider a dress
5. Explain the procedure of attaching hooks and eyes
6. What precaution will you take to be safe while stitching?
7. What are the job opportunities available to you after doing this course?

**Notes****ANSWERS TO INTEXT QUESTIONS****8.1**

Tool	Use/Purpose	Sketch
Scissors	To cut fabric and threads	
Measuring tape	To take measurements	
Ripper	To cut/rip out seams	
Needle	To sew	
Threader	To thread the needle	
Tracing wheel	To transfer the design	
Sprayer	To misten fabric for ironing	

CLASS-V



Notes

8.2

1. smaller
2. running
3. back stitch
4. slip stitch
5. inside

8.3

1. True
2. True
3. False
4. False
5. False