

SEWING FASTENINGS ON GARMENTS



HAVING to replace fastenings during the life of a garment is extremely annoying to a woman. Barring accidents, well-sewn-on fastenings usually will last as long as the garment. Fastenings which gape open, edges which turn back to expose hooks or domes, or a row of buttons which should fall at the centre front but does not quite do so are sources of dissatisfaction to the wearer. This article by Edith G. McNab, Rural Sociologist, Department of Agriculture, Dunedin, offers the home dressmaker some advice on the handling of these details.

ALL fastenings—buttons, domes, or hooks—are sewn on doubled or faced material, never on single material. Buttons may be used as fastenings anywhere except where a very flat, inconspicuous closing is desired. Then either domes or hooks and eyes may be chosen, domes being used when no great strength is required (for example, in sleeve plackets) and hooks where the fastening is likely to be subjected to some strain (for example, in side plackets for skirts and dresses).

No matter which kind of fastening is chosen, the spacing must be such that no gaping will occur. It may vary from only an inch or so between fastenings in a placket to several inches apart for the front closing of a coat. Domes and hooks are placed near the edge on the wrong side, but far enough back from it to be invisible from the right side; if they are placed too far from the edge, the edge will be likely to turn back.

The size of the fastenings must be related to the kind of closing desired and the weight of the fabric. For lightweight materials the smaller sizes of domes or hooks are suitable. A single strong thread should be used for

buttonholing on hooks or domes, and finer thread for sewing tiny fastenings on to very lightweight materials.

Following are detailed instructions for securing each type of fastener:—

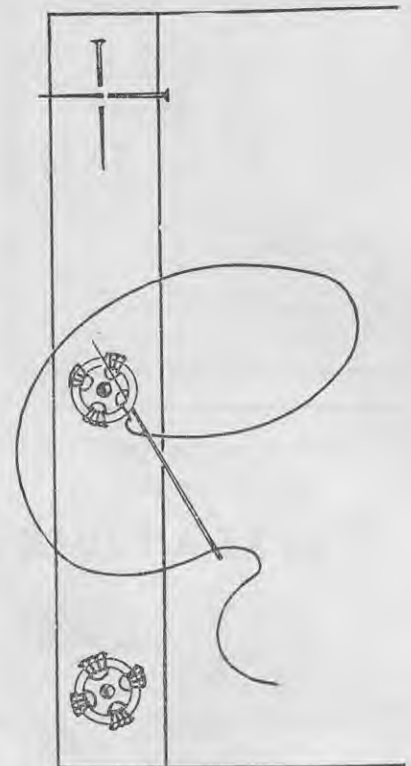
Domes (Snap Fasteners)

Mark the positions of the domes, using pins or tailor's chalk. If the fabric is light and the pins tend to drop out, cross each with another pin.

Sew the ball parts on the upper portion of the placket by several buttonhole stitches into each hole. No stitches should show through to the right side of the garment. After sewing on the ball parts, close the opening correctly and mark the corresponding positions on the right side of the under part of the placket. Sew the sockets on this underlap with each socket directly over the mark, again using buttonhole stitches.

Hooks

Sew hooks on the upper side of the closing, about $\frac{1}{4}$ in. back from the edge. Make at least five or six buttonhole stitches into each rounded end, then slip the needle between the two pieces of material and bring it out at



Buttonhole stitch is used to sew on domes.

Heading photograph by Jack Welsh and Sons.