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LININGS AND UNDERLININGS

by Lois M. Gotwals, Extension Clothing Specialist

Linings and underlinings can make the difference between a quality or mediocre garment. In moderately priced, ready-to-wear garments, these features are often eliminated due to the spiraling costs of materials and labor. However, home sewers can increase the quality of their home-sewn garments by adding linings and underlinings.

A lining is a separate piece of fabric which is sewn together and attached near the completion of a garment. It gives a finished appearance to the garment since it covers all seams and construction details. A lining protects the outer fabric from abrasion during wear, prevents stretching of loosely woven fabrics, preserves the garment's shape, and reduces wrinkling. Garments typically lined are jackets, vests and some skirts and pants.

An underlining is attached to the outer fabric prior to the assembly of the garment and the two fabrics are handled as one. Seams are visible on the inside of the garment. The purpose of an underlining is to give body and retain the shape of the garment. Sometimes garments are underlined to make the outer fabric opaque so that inner construction does not show through to the right side. Garments typically underlined are straight skirts, some pants, bodices of wool and silk dresses, and garments sewn of lace or sheer fabrics. Sometimes garments, such as coats and jackets, are underlined as well as lined.

SELECTION OF LINING FABRICS

Lining fabrics should not affect the fit or characteristic of the outer fabric. Therefore, lining fabrics are usually softer and lighter in weight than the outer fabric and have comparable drapeability. Smooth, slippery lining fabrics will slide more easily over other apparel and are desirable for coats and jackets. Technically, a lining should be as durable as the outer fabric. However, this may not be possible if one

expects the garment to give five to ten years of wear. A lining should also be resistant to abrasion, seam slippage and wrinkling. Opaque linings hide construction details and are desirable for coats and jackets.

Linings should require the same care as the outer fabric. If the garment is to be machine laundered, a washable lining fabric must be used. In this case, it is desirable to preshrink the outer fabric and lining before cutting the garment. Garments which will be dry cleaned require dry cleanable linings.

Color is a determining factor when choosing lining fabrics. Linings which match the outer fabric are usually desirable if the garment is to be worn over different colored blouses and sweaters. Jackets which match dresses or costumes may need a printed or striped lining or one of a contrasting color which adds interest to the outfit. Linings for lightweight garments should not show through or change the color of the outer fabric. Garments of white or light colored fabrics may need to be underlined before lining so that the construction details and the lining fabric do not shadow through to the right side.

HOW TO LINE GARMENTS (SEPARATE CONSTRUCTION)

Many better dresses are fully lined and skirt linings have become an essential part of a tailored garment made of better fabrics. Jackets and coats are lined using a different method than the one given in this leaflet.

Cut the lining from the regular pattern pieces unless separate lining patterns are included. Be sure to cut the lining on the same grainline as the outer fabric. If using the skirt pattern, cut the lining about 3/4 inch longer than the hem fold line (Figure 1). If the center back or center front seams are cut on grain, these seams may be omitted from the lining to eliminate bulk.

Partial linings for skirts are cut so that they extend below the seat area, stopping above the pleat or vent. Partial linings in straight-fitted skirts may be cut on the crosswise grainline so that the stronger, lengthwise thread goes around the hipline.

Mark the pattern details such as darts and pleats on both the outer fabric and the lining.

Construct the garment according to the instruction on the pattern guide sheet. A skirt or dress should be fitted and pressed with the zipper sewn in place before the lining is attached. However, waistbands, collars and facings are attached after the garment is lined. Sew and fit the entire lining to the point where you are ready to join the bodice and skirt of a dress or attach the waistband on a skirt. Press darts in the lining toward the side seams (darts in the outer garment are pressed toward the center) to help eliminate bulk. The skirt or dress lining will be worn with the right side next to the body. Therefore, if there is a side opening, leave the opposite side open in the lining for a zipper.

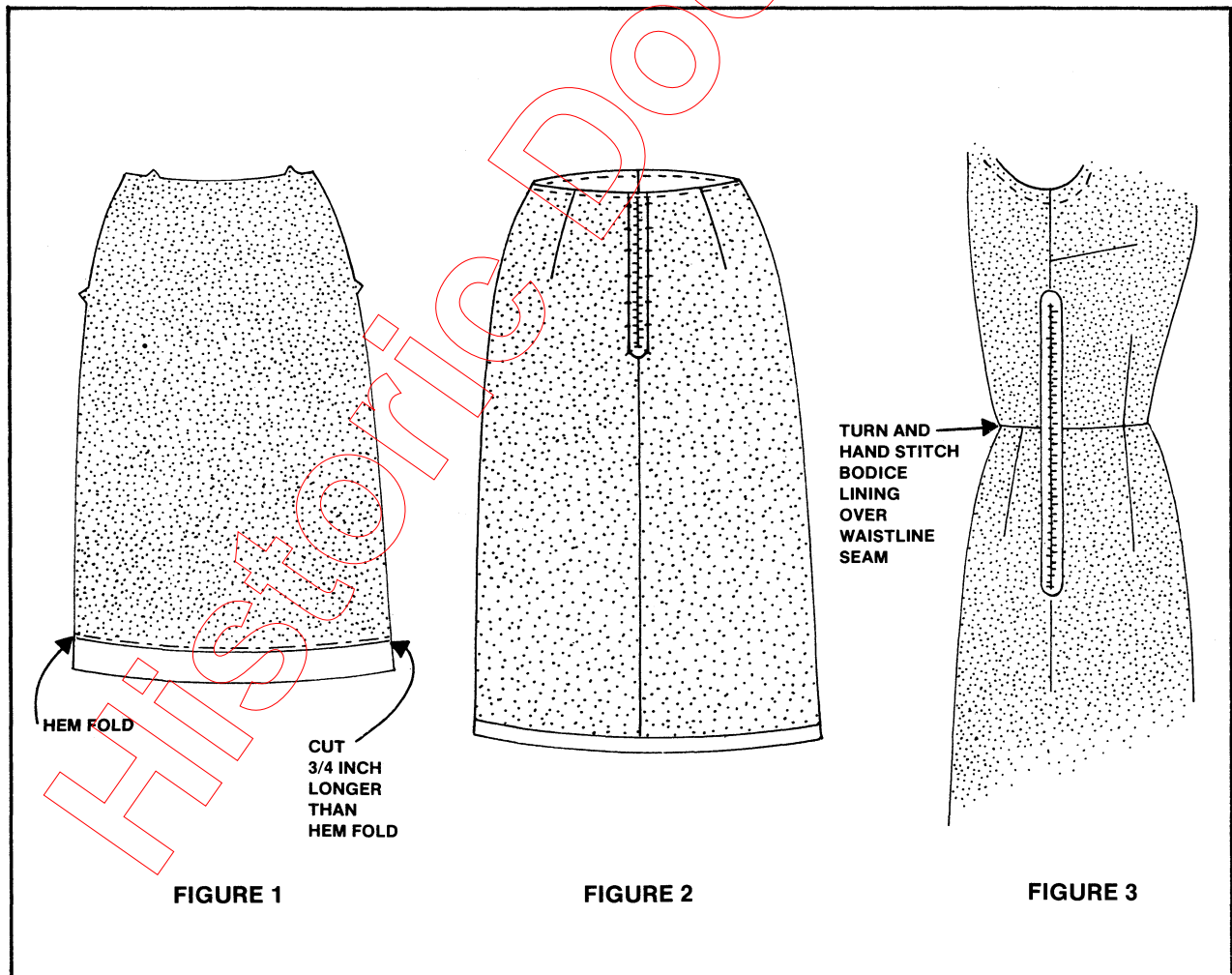
With the wrong sides together, pin the lining to the garment matching the seams, darts and other

construction details. When lining a skirt, staystitch the lining to the outer fabric around the waistline (Figure 2).

When lining a dress, machine staystitch the bodice lining to the garment around the neckline and armholes. Staystitch the skirt lining to the waistline seam beginning and ending as close to the zipper as possible. Turn under the bodice waistline seam allowance of the lining and handstitch over the waistline seam. This will enclose all seams.

Turn under the seam allowance of the lining around the placket opening to expose the zipper teeth. It may be necessary to clip the lining seam allowances at the ends of the zipper. Hand sew all edges of the lining to the zipper tape. Use small stitches and be sure that no long threads are exposed which may catch in the zipper teeth (Figure 3).

Hem the skirt of the outer garment and the lining separately for best results. The finished lining hem should be 1 to 2½ inches wide and about 1/2 to 1 inch shorter than the length of the skirt. For sleeves and trouser legs, the lining should be hand hemmed over the outer fabric.



HOW TO UNDERLINE GARMENTS

Cut woven underlining on the same grainline as the outer fabric. Nonwoven underlining can be cut in any direction if the stability is the same in every direction. Unless separate pattern pieces are included for the underlining, use the regular pattern with the following changes.

To decrease bulk, the underlining should not be turned up with the hem. Therefore, cut the underlining so that it extends just to the hem fold line (Figure 4).

To partially underline a skirt, extend the underlining fabric below the seat area, stopping above the pleat or vent (Figure 5).

Underlining does not usually extend into a cut-on or extended facing. End the underlining at the fold line and sew in place by hand (Figure 6).

Mark the pattern details on the underlining only, unless the design is very intricate or if the outer fabric is very bulky. If the latter is true, mark both the underlining and the outer fabric. Transfer pattern details to the right side of the outer fabric, after the two layers are fastened together.

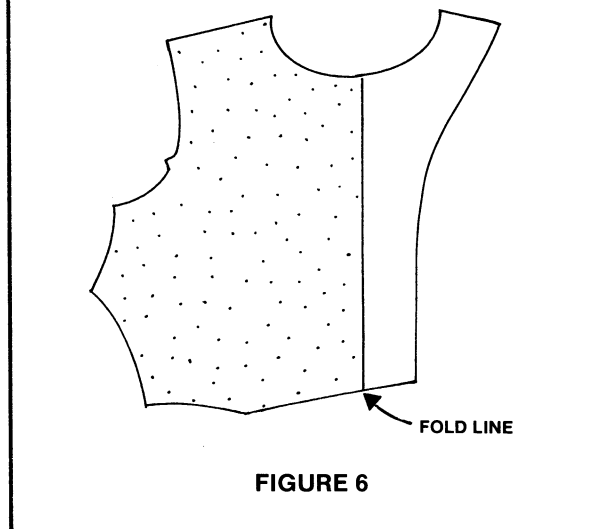
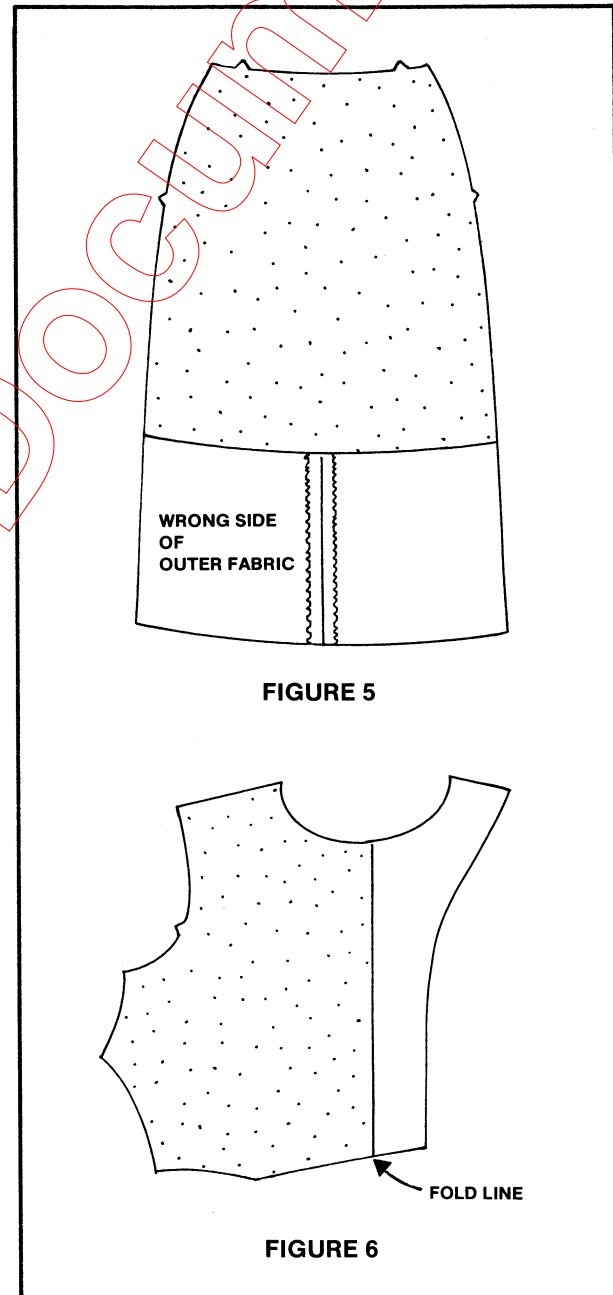
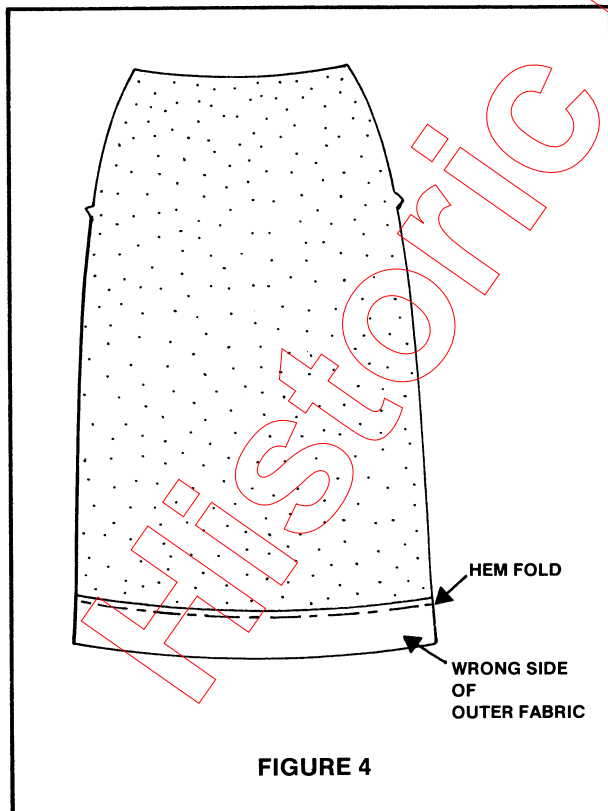
Hem partial underlinings before attaching to the outer fabric with a narrow machine stitched hem or zigzag the raw edge. Full length underlinings are not hemmed since they are enclosed in the hemline.

To attach underlinings, lay the garment pieces flat on the table, wrong side up. Place the underlining pieces on top of the corresponding garment pieces with the wrong sides together. Match center portions

and smooth out wrinkles or bubbles. Remember that the underlining was not cut to extend into the fold of the hem or into cut-on facings. Do not force the cut edges together if it seems obvious that the irregularities were made when cutting. Pin all edges of the two fabrics together.

Staystitch or glue (use fabric glue) the two fabrics together in the seam line. When staystitching, use a 1/2 inch seam allowance and the regular stitch length (10 to 12 stitches per inch). Use directional stitching (Figure 7).

If the outer fabric puckers, machine baste or closely pin the underlining to the outer fabric. After the garment is stitched together, the basting threads can



be removed, leaving one row of machine stitching holding the four layers of fabric together.

Darts may be stitched by one of these two methods:

(A) Mark the darts on the underlining fabric only. After the two fabrics are fastened together, machine baste along the center line of each dart. Extend the basting stitches a short distance beyond the point of the dart to hold the fabrics together and to prevent shifting (Figure 8). Fold and stitch the dart as though working with one layer of fabric (Figure 9). Remove the center basting threads.

(B) When sewing with bulky fabrics, mark the darts on both the underlining and the outer fabrics. Darts are stitched in each fabric before the two fabrics are fastened together. To further reduce bulk, press darts on the underlining fabric in the opposite direction of those on the outer fabric.

If the garment has soft pleats, baste stitch the underlining to the skirt through the pleat lines. Finish assembling the garment, treating the two fabric layers as one.

Hem the garment by turning the outer fabric over the underlining. Hand stitch the hem to the underlining, catching the outer fabric every four or five stitches to prevent the hem from rolling.

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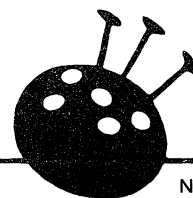
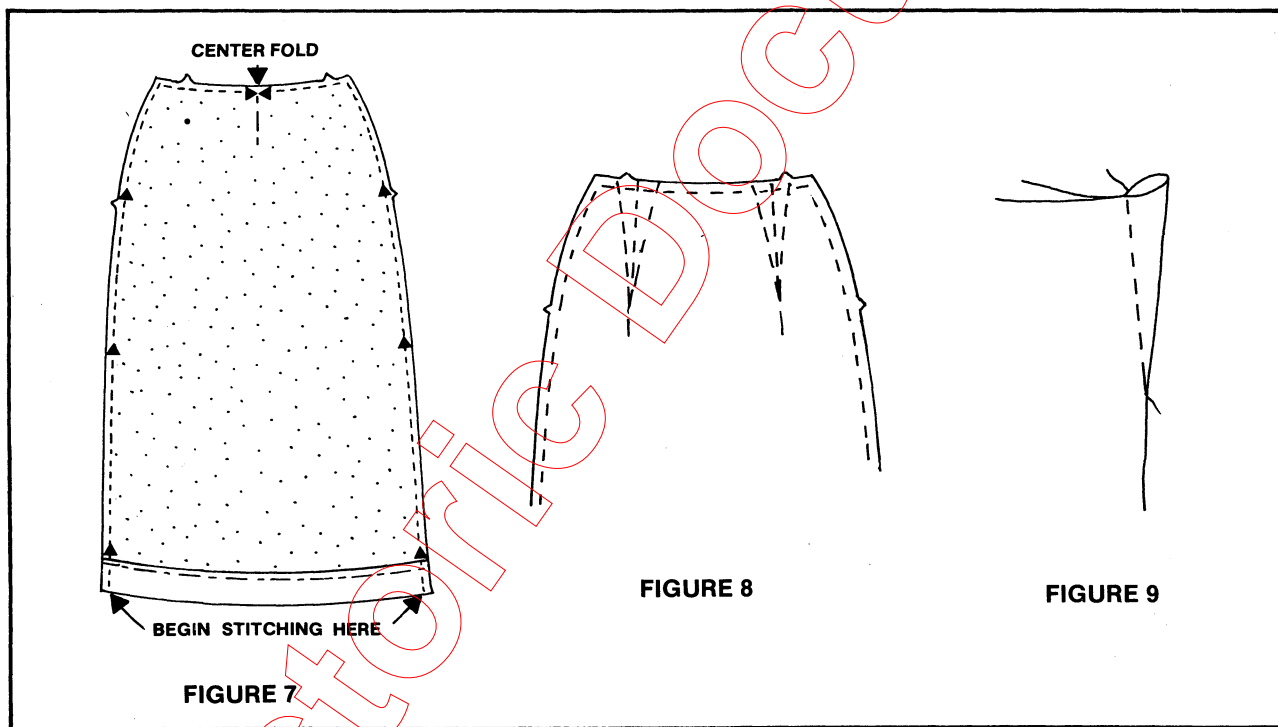
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