

Hem Stitching and Drawn-Thread Work - Hem stitching is a fancy method of stitching hems, and is much employed for handkerchiefs, aprons, teacloths, etc., as well as for the foundation of many drawn-thread work patterns. Drawn-thread work is a combination of hem stitching and embroidery. It can be worked conjointly with almost any fancy stitch. Hem stitching is worked in various ways, the following German method perhaps being the easiest.

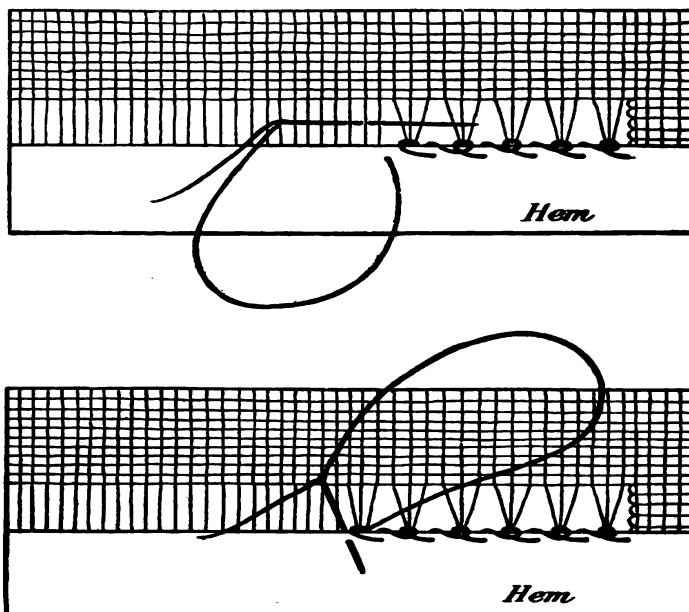


FIG. 16—(a) First process ; (b) Second process.

However, before the hem stitching can be done the hems require to be turned down, and, if corners occur, they are arranged in one of two ways. The first is as in an ordinary handkerchief where the hem stitching is carried through the hem to the outside edge. In this small pieces of the underneath portion of the hem must be cut away (Fig. 17) so that they may be less bulky and easier to work.

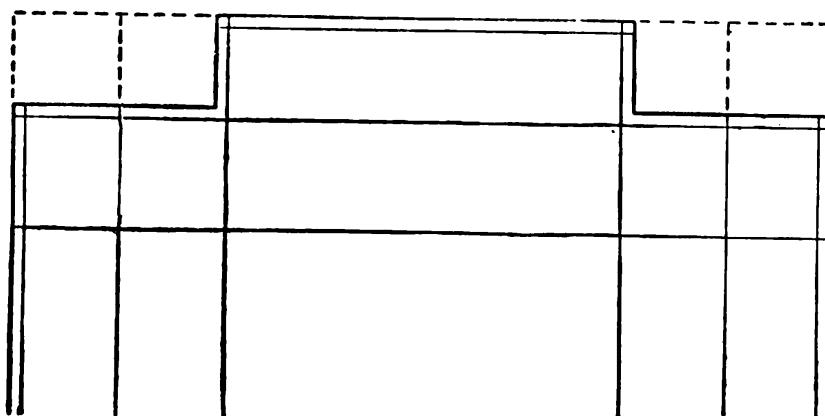


FIG. 17—Corners of Hems.

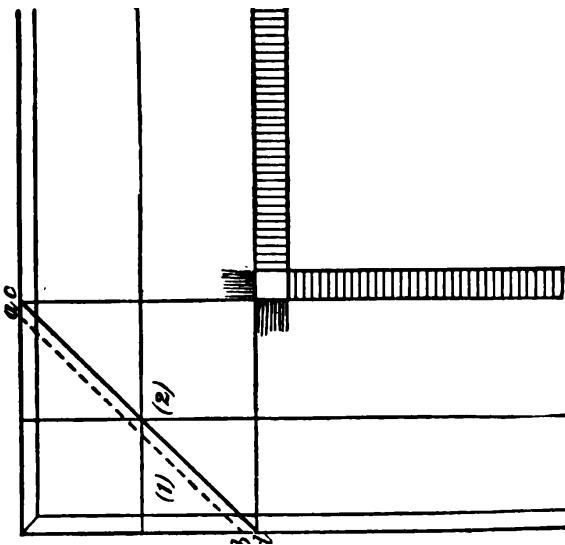


FIG. 18—(1) Portion of corner cut away as far as *a-b*; (2) Fold into two and sew *c d* together.

In the second kind the hem stitching is only taken to the inside of the hem and not through it (Fig. 18). The hem is turned back on to its wrong side, and the corners sewn together diagonally down the centre; then the superfluous material is cut away, the seam flattened, and the hem turned back to its normal position, when both sides should lie quite flat, with a slanting seam down the centre of the corner. The number of threads drawn out for hem stitching varies according to the quality of the material, two or three being sufficient for a fairly coarse linen; if the latter kind of corners are used, the threads for drawing out should be cut a little distance (about half an inch) from the corner, and the short ends thus left drawn out and tucked away under the hem.

The stitch is then worked on the wrong side, the hem (which is better tacked just to meet the drawn threads) being held towards the worker and resting along the left forefinger and thumb, with the remaining material steadied with the other three fingers. Beginning at the right side, the cotton is first secured by a small hemming stitch, brought round to the left, and the required number of threads taken up on the needle from the left hand to the right. When the needle is drawn through, the cotton will be round the threads; the stitch is completed by drawing the cotton rather tightly and taking an ordinary hemming stitch to the left through the fold of the hem only, just beyond the threads which have been previously drawn together.

The number of threads taken together for each stitch generally corresponds to the number originally drawn out, but this again varies according to the nature of the material and the pattern desired.