CHAPTER 6
THE RUFFER

The Parts of the Ruffer and Their Uses
It is necessary to become familiar with the Ruffer before it can be used successfully. Select the Ruffer from the set of attachments and compare it with Fig. 122. Note the names and uses of the principal parts, as follows:

F—Adjusting Finger—the part which regulates the width or size of the pleats.
G—Separator Guide—the guide on the underside of the Ruffer, containing slots into which the edge of the material is placed to keep the heading of the ruffle even; also for separating the material to be ruffled from the material to which the ruffle is to be attached.
H—Ruffling Blade—the upper blue steel blade with the teeth at the end to push the material in place up to the needle.
J—Separator Blade—the lower blue steel blade without teeth, which prevents the teeth of the ruffling blade coming into contact with the feed of the machine, or the material to which ruffle or piping is to be applied.

Lines 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 (Fig. 122) indicate where the material is to be placed for various operations, as follows:
Line 1—the proper position for the material to which the ruffle is applied.
Line 2—the material to be gathered.
Line 3—the ruffling for the ruffle.
Line 4—the strip of piping material.
Line 5—the edge to be piped.

Refer to this illustration when inserting the material in the Ruffer.

Oilings the Ruffer
The Ruffer requires an occasional oiling of all working parts to prevent them from sticking. A drop of oil at each point indicated in Fig. 123 is sufficient. If possible, sew on a waste piece of material after oiling to prevent your garment from becoming soiled. If the Ruffer does not plait evenly a drop of oil may remedy the trouble.

Attaching the Ruffer to the Machine
Raise the needle bar to its highest point and remove the presser foot. Attach the ruffer foot to the bar, at the same time placing the fork arm outside the needle clamp. Turn the balance wheel slowly by hand to see that the needle comes down in the center of the needle hole.
To Adjust the Ruffler for Gathering

The adjusting finger (F, Fig. 124) is not intended for gathering and should be moved toward the operator or away from the needle, as shown in Fig. 124. Raise the adjusting lever (E, Fig. 124) and move it to the left so that the projection (D, Fig. 124) will enter the slot marked “4” in the adjusting lever (C) when the lever is released. The ruffling blade will then move forward and back once at every stitch. Insert the material to be ruffled between the two blue blades, following the line 2 in Fig. 122. Draw the material slightly back of the needle, lower the presser bar and continue to sew.

To make fine gathering, shorten the stroke of the ruffling blade by turning the adjusting screw (C, Fig. 124) upward, also shorten the stitch. To make full gathering, lengthen the stroke of the ruffling blade by turning the adjusting screw (C) downward; also lengthen the stitch. By varying these adjustments, many pleasing varieties of work can be accomplished.

Inserting the Material in the Ruffler and Making a Plain Gather

For ruffling or gathering, the adjusting finger should be released or turned toward the operator. Insert the material in the Ruffler between the two blue blades following line 2, Fig. 122. Pull the edge of the material to be gathered forward until it is slightly past the needle, lower the presser bar and sew, see Fig. 124. The fullness of the ruffle is determined by the position of the adjusting screw. To decrease the fullness turn the screw up. To increase the fullness turn the screw down.

The length of stitch also has an effect on the gathering. A short stitch will make a fine gather, while a coarse stitch will increase the fullness and make the plait longer.

How to Test the Ruffle for Fullness

It is often necessary to adjust the Ruffler for a certain fullness, but because the length of stitch affects the fullness as well as the position of the adjusting screw, it is impossible to have an indicator on the Ruffler to determine the amount of fullness that will be taken up. In addition, some materials take up more fullness than others with the same setting of the stitch and adjusting screw. It is therefore necessary to experiment with a small piece of the material to be ruffled if the correct amount is to be gathered. For example, if the fullness of a ruffle is to be one and a half, take a six-inch piece of material and gather it into a four-inch space.

How to Slide the Gathers on the Thread

Another convenient way to gather is to loosen the upper tension on the machine. This will allow the gathers to slide on the thread to fit the desired space the same as in hand gathering.

When gathering in this way, it is necessary to leave a long thread when taking the material from the machine so that the gathers may be adjusted as desired. It is also well to use a strong upper thread so that there will be no danger of breaking it when sliding the gathers.

Making a Ruffle and Sewing It to the Garment at One Operation

After having tested and adjusted the Ruffler for fullness, place the material for the ruffle in the Ruffler between the two blue blades and insert the garment to which it is to be attached under the separator blade following line 1, Fig. 122. Proceed as for plain gathering, guiding the material lightly so that it will not feed away from the feeding guide. See Fig. 126.
PRACTICAL WAYS TO FINISH THE RUFFLED SEAM

Finishing a Ruffle with a French Seam

Place the garment and the material for the ruffle in the Ruffler as previously explained, with the wrong side of the material to be ruffled facing the wrong side of the garment. After sewing the ruffle to the garment in one operation, trim the seam close to the line of stitching and turn the seam to the wrong side of the garment. Stitch in position with the presser foot. See Fig. 128.

A Facing May be Added at the Same Time the Ruffle is Made

First insert the material for the ruffle in the Ruffler between the two blades and the garment under the separator blade, as directed for sewing the ruffle to the garment in one operation. Place the material for the facing in the Ruffler, following line 4, Fig. 122.

The facing may be straight or bias material. If the facing is to be on the wrong side, place the right sides of the garment and the ruffle together. See Fig. 129.

Finishing a Ruffled Seam with Binding

Make the ruffle and sew it to the garment in one operation, then trim the seam close to the edge. Remove the Ruffler and attach the Binder to the machine. Select a suitable material to use for binding the seam and insert it in the Binder. Place the edge of the ruffled seam in the Binder and bind as shown in Fig. 130.

The seam may be bound on the right side of the garment if desired and then stitched flat as shown in Fig. 131.

Applying Rows of Ruffles to a Garment

Rows of ruffles may be stitched to a garment at the same time the material is ruffled by placing the garment under the Ruffler and the material for the ruffles between the blades, as shown in Fig. 132. The position on the garment for the ruffles may be indicated by a bastin thread or a chalk mark.

The edges of the ruffles may be hemmed with the foot hemmer or pleated with the SINGER Hemstitcher. The addition of a narrow lace edge is often attractive.

Tuck Shirring

Tuck shirring is made by folding a tuck in the material and inserting the folded edge in the Ruffler as for ordinary gathering. Insert the edge of the fold in the guide to keep the heading of uniform width. See Fig. 133.

The heading of the ruffle is the width of the material from the guide edge to the stitching. When using the heading guide in the separator blade holder, this amount is approximately one-quarter of an inch. If a narrower or wider heading is desired the material must be care-
fully guided by hand without using the slot in the heading guide. It is well to fold and baste the material before starting to shirr. This trimming is attractive on soft materials such as net or chiffon. A strip of paper under the Ruffler will insure perfect work on soft materials.

**Piping a Ruffle**

It is only possible to pipe a ruffle one and one-quarter inches in width or narrower without using the shirring plate. The material for the ruffle is placed in the Ruffler between the two blades and carried through with the finished edge of the ruffle to the right of the attachment. See Fig. 134. The edge to be ruffled is inserted in the guide from the right side to keep the heading even.

The material for piping must measure about one-quarter of an inch wide when folded in the center and is usually cut on the bias. The piping must be placed in the Ruffler following line 4, Fig. 122, with the folded edge of the piping to the right. The material to be piped should be folded on the edge and inserted in the Ruffler following line 6, Fig. 122.

Folded piping may be purchased in a variety of attractive colors.

**Puffed Ribbon**

Puffed ribbon makes a most attractive trimming and may be of one-inch ribbon or wider. Adjust the ruffer for the desired fullness and insert the edge of the ribbon in the Ruffler as for plain gathering. After gathering one edge, place the other edge in the Ruffler and gather in the same manner. A loose up tension may be used to allow the pulling up of the ribbon to the desired length. See Fig. 135.

Puffed ribbon makes very attractive trimming for couch pillows.

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**Adjusting the Ruffler for Plaiting**

For plaiting, the adjusting finger F should be set into position under adjusting screw. The projection D should be placed in the slot marked 6 or the slot marked 12 in the adjusting lever E. The adjusting screw C on the Ruffler must be turned down as far as it will go when plaiting. To make the plait further apart, lengthen the stitch on the sewing machine. To make them closer together, shorten the stitch.

**Materials that May be Plaited with the Ruffler**

Any material with dressing, such as burl, organza or taffeta, may be successfully plated with the Ruffler. Softer materials may be plated but the plait will not be flat unless they are very well pressed. In the case of georgette or soft net it is impossible to press the plait by hand so that they will stay in position. Materials for plaitings should be finished on one edge with a narrow hem or by piping with the SINGER Hemstitcher.

**Plaiting and Sewing to the Garment in One Operation**

Plaiting may be made and sewn to the garment in the same manner as ordinary ruffling. The garment is placed under the blades and the material to be plaited between the two blades. See Fig. 138.

Attractive plaited trimmings for organdy dresses may be applied in the same manner as rows of ruffles. See Fig. 132. It is necessary to test out a small strip of the material to be
plaited before applying it to a garment in one operation, to determine how many yards of plaiting material will be required for the garment.

If you find after testing out the material that more is required than you had estimated, the machine may then be set for a longer stitch. This will increase the space between the plait and fewer plait will be required for the trimming.

Each plait should be pressed flat with the finger as it is made. If it is necessary to run the machine very slowly when doing this, but with a little practice it is quite easy done. The plait should be pressed in with a warm iron after taking the work from the machine.

Facing the Plaited Ruffle

A facing may be added at the same time the ruffle is made and attached to the garment by placing the material for the facing in the Ruffler following line 3, Fig. 122. When a facing is applied in this manner the surplus material is trimmed from the heading of the ruffle, the edge of the facing is turned under and stitched flat to the garment, Fig. 140 shows how to sew the facing in position.

Plaited Lace or Ribbon

Ribbon and lace that have a little dressing can be plaited successfully with the Ruffler if one inch or more in width. When plaiting lace, however, it is necessary to place a strip of paper under the Ruffler. See Fig. 131 and note especially the paper under the Ruffler. Ribbon is plaited in the same manner, but paper is not required unless the ribbon is very soft.

Rosettes of Plaiting

Rosettes of plaited ribbon or silk for trimming dresses or fancy articles for use in the home are very easily and quickly made with the Ruffler. Ribbon of $\frac{3}{4}$" or more in width, and with sufficient body to hold a plait, may be plaited with the Ruffler. The plaiting is then sewn to a circle of grosgrain, using the presser foot. See Fig. 142.

Plaited Bands for Trimming

Bands of plaiting may be made with the Ruffler by first plaiting a strip of material, then pressing the plaited strip flat with a warm iron and sewing them in position with the presser foot, as shown in Fig. 143.
If lace insertion is to be applied to the edge of the plaited band, it should be stitched to the right side, the surplus material turned to the wrong side of the band and a second row of stitching added to keep it in place. See Fig. 144.

To Adjust the Ruffler for Group Plaiting and Gathering

The Ruffler can be adjusted for group plaiting by lifting the adjusting lever, E, Fig. 145 and moving it to the right so that the top of the projection, D, rests on the small slot indicated by the star on the adjusting lever. This should be done at the points where you wish to make the space between the plait

The Ruffler will then stop and plain stitching will be made.

When the desired distance has been made, adjust the lever, E, so that the projection, D, rests in either the slot marked "6" or the slot marked "12." By alternately making groups of plaited and plain spaces, as shown in Fig. 145, very attractive work can be produced.

Suggested List for Ruffling or Plaiting Projects

Lingerie.
Petites and bloomers for children.
Dresses.
Puffing for trimming.
House dresses.
Blouses.
Tea aprons.
Collar and cuff sets.
Gilts and vestments.
Plaiting or ruffling for overskirts, underskirts and flounces.
Plaited ribbon for hats.
Puffing for baby bonnets.
Ruffles for pillow tops.
Puffing for pillow tops.
Puffing or plaiting for children's hats.
Curtains.
Bedspreads.
Dressing table covers.
CHAPTER 7
SINGER
FASHION AIDS

The sewing machine that is equipped with all attachments and Fashion Aids permits the home-sewer to add every new fashion touch or finish demanded by swiftly changing modes, not only widening her scope in the choice of styles but, adding, as well, professional license to the completed garment.

The time required to apply finishes by hand is greatly shortened by using the Fashion Aids. With an underbraid, an entire garment may be beaded in a few hours. Another good example is the buttonhole attachment, with which a buttonhole may be made in a few seconds.

In addition to the time and labor involved in hand finishing, the result is often discouraging when the garment is completed, for unless one is an expert with the needle, the garment will carry the homemade look so undesirable to the average woman. Work done with the Fashion Aids has that tailored finish found on the professionally-made garments.

On the following pages are described the most commonly used special attachments, a complete list being given on pages 120 and 121.

THE SHIRRING PLATE

The Purpose of the Shirring Plate

In Chapter 6 you were shown how tuck shirring could be done with the regular ruffler, but when rows of flat shirring at a distance from the edge of the material are to be made with the Ruffler, the separator blade on the Ruffler is removed and the Shirring Blade must be used.

To Attach the Shirring Plate to the Machine

Fasten the Shirring Plate to the bed of the machine with the attachmentthumbscrew as shown in Fig. 147. The prong of the Shirring Plate should fit into the hole in the throat plate, and the blue blade should be in line with the needle and feed dog.

The Shirring Plate is attached to all family machines in this manner with the exception of the Nos. 127 and 129, where the Shirring Plate must be placed around the throat plate and held in position with the slides.

To Prepare the Ruffler for Shirring

Remove the separator blade from the Ruffler by loosening the screw at the right side of the attachment sufficiently to release the separator blade holder to which the under-blade is attached. Do not remove this screw but loosen it only enough to release the separator.

Attach the Ruffler to the machine in the usual manner and you will note that it is now possible to insert a wide piece of material under the Ruffler from either side.

Preparing the Material for Shirring

Fold the material where the rows of shirring are desired and press with a warm iron. It will then be possible to follow each crease with the needle to keep the rows of shirring straight. See Fig. 148.

The Ruffler and Shirrer in Operation

Insert the material to be shirred between the Ruffler and the Shirring Plate, lower the presser bar and sew. See Fig. 149. It is advisable to test the Ruffler on a small piece of the same material that you desire to shirr in order to make the proper adjustment of the Ruffler and the stitch for fullness. Shirring may be done with a loose upper tension if you desire to slide the gathers on the thread to fit a certain space.

Box Pleating with the Ruffler

For box pleating, the Shirring Plate is attached to bed of machine as shown in Fig. 147. The separator blade is removed from Ruffler as for shirring. The Ruffler is attached to machine in the usual manner.
The adjusting finger of the Ruffler is moved forward, into position, under the adjusting screw and the adjusting screw turned down as far as it will go. The adjusting lever is gently placed over projection at slot marked "12" and the stitch regulator is set for a very long stitch.

The material is first inserted into the Ruffler from the right side, (under the arm of machine) with edge in heading guide of Shirring Plate and between the two blue blades. Proceed the same as for regular plaitsing. Through this operation, deep, widely separated plaits will be accomplished.

The Shirring Plate is removed from the machine, the separator blade restored to the ruffler and the stitch regulator set for a shorter stitch. The material is now reversed; the edge being inserted at the left side of the ruffler under the first guide of separator blade and between the two blue blades.

The first stitch must be taken immediately at the fold of first plaits, so that the reversed plaits may be formed just along side the next fold, thus forming a box plaits.

When first attempting this operation, it is well to go slowly and count the stitches, testing on a short piece of material until the correct length of stitch adjustment is attained.

Box plaitsing is very effective for collars and cuffs, children's clothes, curtains, pillows, etc.

The Shirring Plate is not a part of the regular set of attachments, but is sold as an extra Fashion Aid.
Plaitings are Attractive on Panels of Organdie

Just a touch of daintiness to a panel, a pocket or a collar will often make a garment finished in appearance. Plaiting lends itself well to any curve or corner and when finished on each edge with a dainty picot the effect is perfect.

Material that is cut crosswise of the goods will hold the plait longer and curve more gracefully than if cut lengthwise. If the plait is creased down with the finger as they are formed by the Ruffler it will be very easy to press them with a warm iron when the plaiting is completed.

The edge of plaiting is also attractive when finished with a narrow hem made with the Foot Hemmer and to which a narrow lace edge has been applied at the same stitching.

If a picot edge is planned, fold the material crosswise the width of the plaiting desired. Baste through the crease and have it hem-stitched, then cut through the center of the hemstitching. This will give a picot on each side of the plaiting.