

THE PRACTICAL USE OF THE TUCKER

The Parts of the Tucker and Their Uses

A careful study of the Tucker parts and their relation to each other before using this attachment will make its operations quite clear.

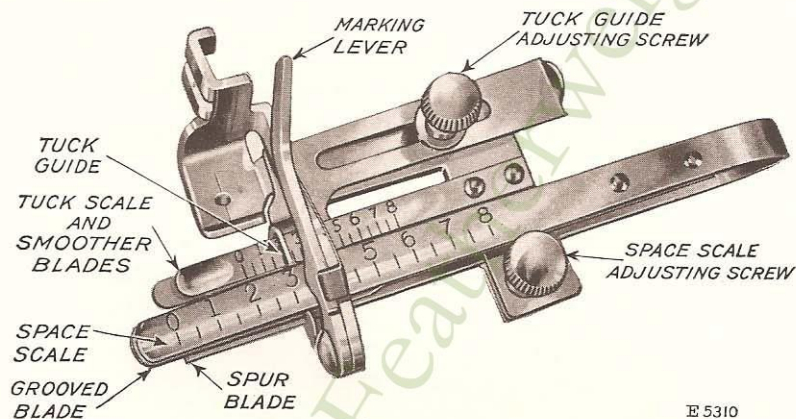


FIG. 159. THE TUCKER AND ITS WORKING PARTS

The Tuck Guide, which is adjustable and may be set for any desired width of tuck.

The Tuck Scale, containing figures which indicate different widths of tucks. The tuck scale also acts as a smoother blade, keeping the tucks of uniform width.

The Tuck Guide Adjusting Screw, by means of which the tuck guide may be set at any point on the tuck scale.

The Space Scale, containing figures on the upper blade which indicate the width of the space between tucks. The middle or **grooved blade** contains a groove into which the material is pressed by the **spur** at the end of the lower or **spur blade**, thus marking the goods for the folding of the next tuck.

The Space Scale Adjusting Screw, by means of which the space scale may be set at any desired point.

The Marking Lever, which presses on the groove blade, marking the material as it passes between the grooved and spur blades.

Where to Oil the Tucker

The only place on the Tucker that requires oiling is the stud on which the marking lever works. See Fig. 160. One drop of oil occasionally is sufficient. Careless oiling will result in oily blades and soiled material. When the marking lever does not move up and down freely it requires oiling. If neglected it may become so dry that it will stay down and cause a drag on the material instead of lifting freely as the mark is made.

To Attach the Tucker to the Machine

Raise the needle bar to the highest point, remove the presser foot from the machine and attach the Tucker in its place. Care should be taken to see that the Tucker is securely fastened to the presser bar and that the needle goes through the center of the needle hole. Note the position of the marking lever, making sure that it is in the lower position and that the needle clamp works on it as the machine sews.

How to Adjust the Scales on the Tucker

The widths of the tucks and the space between them is determined by the adjustment of the scales. Adjustment for width of tuck is made by loosening the tuck guide adjusting screw, which allows you to move the tuck guide to the desired figure on the tuck scale. The tuck guide should be set just over the figure you wish to use. The adjusting screw should always be well tightened.

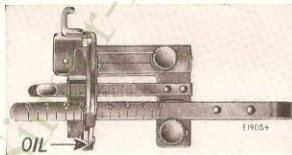


FIG. 160. TUCKER SET AT PIN TUCK AND 2 SPACE

To adjust for the width of space between the tucks, loosen the space scale adjusting screw and move the space scale until the desired figure is directly in a line with the center of the needle hole. You will find a line in front and back of the needle hole to indicate the center.

Before starting to sew, tighten the screw well to prevent the scale shifting when the Tucker is in operation.

The figures on the tuck scale indicate the width of tuck in eighths of an inch, the marks between figures are sixteenths.

The marks on the space scale are double the width of those on the tuck scale, so that when both scales are set at the same figure, blind tucks without spaces between them are made.

To make space between tucks, first set the tuck scale, then move the space scale to the same number and as much farther to the left as you wish to have space. Each number on the space scale represents one-quarter of an inch and each mark between numbers one-eighth of an inch.

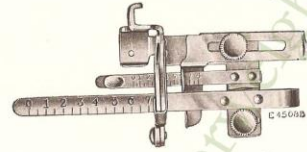


FIG. 161. TUCKER SET AT 6 TUCK AND 6 SPACE

Use the table below to assist you in setting the Tucker.

	TUCK GUIDE	SPACE SCALE
$\frac{1}{8}$ " tucks with no space	1	1
$\frac{1}{8}$ " " " $\frac{1}{8}$ " "	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$
$\frac{1}{4}$ " " " no " "	2	2
$\frac{1}{4}$ " " " $\frac{1}{4}$ " "	2	3
$\frac{1}{2}$ " " " no " "	4	4
$\frac{1}{2}$ " " " $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	4	6
1" " " no " "	8	8

Note Fig. 160, showing Tucker set at a pin tuck and 2 for space; also Fig. 161, Tucker set at 6 for tuck and 6 for space.

The Proper Length of Stitch to Use for Tucking

About 20 stitches to the inch is the average to use for tucking lawn or muslin. However, this is largely a matter of choice. A shorter stitch may be used if desired, but a stitch longer than this is not attractive.

To test for the number of stitches, sew on a double fold of the same material you are going to tuck, mark off one inch with the tape measure and count the stitches.

Do not use an extremely short stitch on taffeta, as it may break the threads in the material and cause it to crack. Never use a long stitch on fine material, for it is liable to pucker unless the tensions are most carefully adjusted.

Always test out the Tucker on a piece of the material you are going to tuck and make sure the tensions and size of tuck are satisfactory before starting to tuck.

Where to Insert the Material to be Tucked

Fold and crease the first tuck for its entire length by hand, insert it in the Tucker from the left, placing it between the grooved blade and the spur blade of the space scale, and between the two blades of the tuck scale. See Fig. 162.

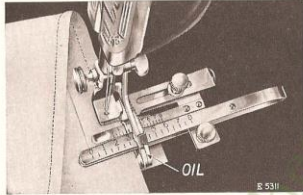


FIG. 162. PROPER POSITION OF MATERIAL IN TUCKER

Care should be taken to see that the material is placed far enough in the Tucker to feed against the tuck guide. Draw the material towards you until the edge is directly under the needle. Lower the presser bar and sew. You will note that the Tucker is now making a mark for the next tuck.

How to Make Even Tucks

When the first tuck is finished, fold the material on the mark made by the spur during the sewing of the first tuck. Insert the folded edge in the Tucker exactly as for the first tuck except that it is important to see that the first tuck is against the inside of the spur. After lowering the presser bar, raise the material slightly and adjust it until the folded edge is just touching the tuck guide and the first tuck is against the spur. This insures the feeding of the material evenly into the smoother blades, where it is pressed flat ready for sewing. Until you are thoroughly familiar with the use of the Tucker always lift the material when starting each tuck to be sure that the preceding tuck is against the spur.

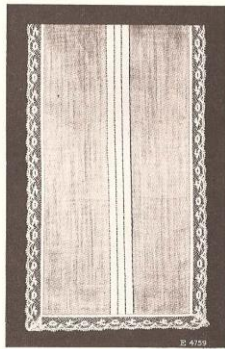


FIG. 163. SAMPLE OF ONE-EIGHTH INCH TUCKS

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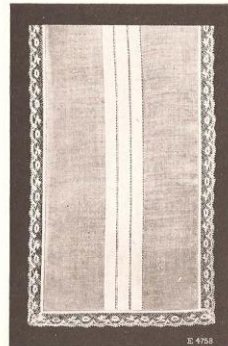


FIG. 164. SAMPLE OF ONE-QUARTER INCH TUCKS

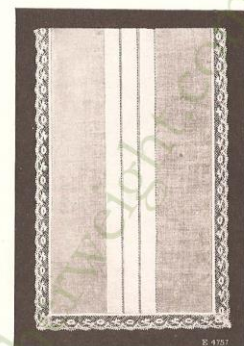


FIG. 165. SAMPLE OF ONE-HALF INCH TUCKS



FIG. 166. SAMPLE OF THREE-QUARTER INCH TUCKS

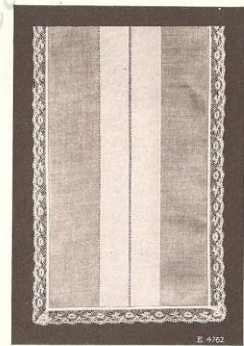


FIG. 167. SAMPLE OF ONE INCH TUCKS

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Tucks must be even to be beautiful and the Tucker will make them so if properly handled. The material should be inserted between the upper and lower blades of the tuck scale. When the material is not placed between the two smoother blades it tends to work away from the guide and uneven tucks are made.

Tucks make very attractive trimming when well made, but to be sure of this result care should be taken to see that all conditions are right. The thread used should match as closely as possible the threads of the material upon which you are sewing and a good needle of the proper size for the thread must be employed. See page 13. The length of stitch should be in proportion to the texture of the material.

How to Tuck Without Marking

As the needle bar descends, the needle clamp strikes the marking lever, pushing it down and pressing the grooved blade against the spur, thus marking the material which passes between them. When no mark is desired, as in making the last tuck, the marking lever may be pulled upward toward the operator, where it is held in place by the spring. In this position it is out of contact with the needle clamp and no mark is made.

This feature is valuable when using the Tucker in connection with a commercial pattern or when tucking heavy material which the Tucker will not mark. When using a commercial pattern, the tuck is folded on the line of perforations and inserted in the Tucker after the Tucker has been adjusted to suit the size of tuck called for on the pattern. The Tucker then acts as a sewing guide and keeps the tuck of even width without basting.

How to Adjust a Tucker that Does Not Mark Properly

If the material is not placed between the grooved blade and the spur, or if the lever is not down in the proper working position, the Tucker will not make a mark.

If the Tucker makes only a faint mark, it is because the spur does not come exactly in the center of the groove. Remove the Tucker from the machine, hold it upside down, press the blades together and observe whether the spur comes exactly in the center of the groove. If not, bend the grooved blade slightly with a pair of pliers until the correct position is obtained.

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How to Tuck Silk or Chiffon

It is possible to tuck silks, such as taffeta, quite as easily as cotton material. Soft materials, such as crepe de chine and georgette, are harder to crease, but may be tucked successfully if a piece of paper is slipped under the Tucker. It is quite necessary that the tensions be properly adjusted before starting to tuck fine materials, as a tight tension will pucker the material and cause the thread to break when the tuck is pressed.

How to Make Fine Tucks and Cross Tucking

When making fine tucks it is quite necessary to use thread of the proper size to suit the material to be tucked. A fine needle, fine thread and a fine stitch are the secrets of attractive tucking. Many ready-made garments trimmed with tucking are unattractive because the thread and stitches are too coarse.

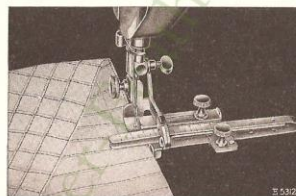


FIG. 168. CROSS TUCKING

When making cross tucking, first decide on the combination of tuck and space you wish to use, and set the Tucker. Tuck the entire piece of material lengthwise, then crosswise over the tucks. See Figs. 168 and 170. Care should be taken to see that the tucks lie in the proper direction before starting to cross the tucks. It is well to press the tucks with an iron before the cross tucks are made to prevent the material from becoming bias as it is tucked.

Attractive cross tucking may also be made by first tucking the material lengthwise and then diagonally across the tucks.

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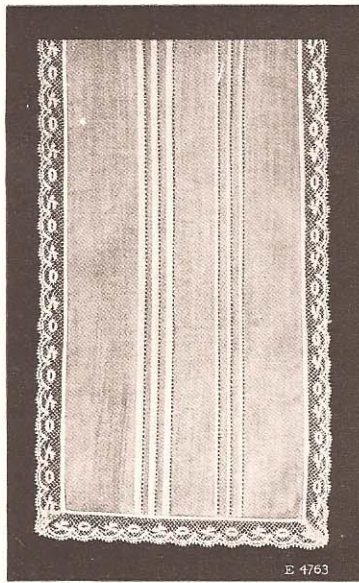


FIG. 169. SAMPLE OF FINE TUCKING



FIG. 170. SAMPLE OF CROSS TUCKING

Suggested List of Practical Uses of the Tucker

- Blouses.
- Gilets and vestees.
- Children's dresses.
- Baby bonnets.
- Collar and cuff sets.
- Aprons.
- Pinafores.
- Cross-tucked bands for trimming.
- Tucked medallions.
- Pin tucks on ruffles.
- Cross-tucked pillow tops.
- Wide tucks for dresses and skirts.
- Tucked bands for blouses and underwear.
- Fine lingerie.