5. CHAINSTITCHING

a word about single-thread chainstitching

Single-thread chainstitching looks like regular straight stitching on top, but is a series of interlocking loops on the underside of the fabric. The stitches are produced by the needle thread alone — so you do not need a bobbin thread or a bobbin. Because the stitches are formed by a single thread, the interlocked loops unravel easily. The entire line of stitching can be removed with just a pull on the thread end. Also, the loop formation of the stitches makes them less taut than regular straight stitches. That's what makes chainstitching flexible.

where to use chainstitching

Here are a few of the many sewing jobs for which you will find chainstitching useful. Pages 41 and 60 show you how chainstitching can save you time and work.

- Basting —
  Trial seams for fitting
  Construction guidelines
  Zipper openings, linings, and interfacings

- Stay-stitching to preserve garment shape during assembly

- Fastening removable trimming —
  Fur collars
  White collars and cuffs

- Hemming curtains and draperies that may need to be altered

- Sewing temporary tucks to extend the life of —
  Children's clothes
  Curtains and linings that might shrink

- Making welting for corded seams, tubular cording for trimming and button loops

- Attaching hem tape

- Making stay chains to anchor linings or to hold belts or shoulder pads in place