

Research on Typical Craftsmanship of Silk Cheongsam

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Abstract.: Cheongsam is a typical traditional costume in China, and the handmade craftsmanship has also become a national intangible cultural heritage, whose inheritance and development are an important task facing we face today. Based on the induction and analysis on the main part of the characteristics of Cheongsam technics and taking advanced custom silk cheongsam as an example, the method of the combination of graphics and texts has been taken to conduct detailed analysis and description on the typical process and details of the processing carried out for making , placket, collar, and fancy buttons during the process of cheongsam, aiming to explore the inner essence and traditional cheongsam value, inherit and carry forward the traditional culture, and provide reference for the making, design and fabrication methods of modern Chinese clothing.

Key words: Silk cheongsam; typical; craftsmanship

1 Introduction

The cheongsam has undergone thousands of years of accumulation and metamorphosis of evolution, and has become the most representative clothing of the China women. The academic circle pays great attention to the research on this dress, but this is mainly concentrated on the aspects including the history of culture, cheongsam style and fabric pattern and so on, so there will be rare detailed analysis and comprehensive discussion on the techniques for production cheongsam. The production process of cheongsam has always been regarded as a very difficult process, especially the advanced customization of silk cheongsam, which would be using traditional craft and the precise cutting and fine handmaking all needs highly skills.

However, cheongsam in modern society is no longer acting as daily wear and the demand is greatly reduced, thus resulting in the declining of personnel of traditional Chinese dress sewing technology. Therefore, to study the process changing characteristics and the typical method for making the main parts of the cheongsam in different periods could better contribute to inherit and carry forward the national culture and improve the innovative design and creation of the traditional dress of cheongsam so as to continue to lead the fashion trend.

2 The making process of cheongsam

The production process of cheongsam had been continuously changing with the evolution of the cheongsam style, but its essence has always been extended in addition that the production process became more sophisticated with the increasing demand of people for the quality of clothing, especially advanced custom silk cheongsam. The rich texture of silk fabric has character like drape, and is soft, delicate, soft luster, thus the first choice for making cheongsam fabric, but it is also easy for silk to take off, so in the production process, especially that the typical processes including the making of lapel, collar, and fancy buttons, etc., must all be carefully crafted.

placket is an important part of the design for the modelling of cheongsam and is mutually echoing with the collar and fancy buttons, thus highlighting the overall harmonious beauty of romantic charm of. Cheongsam placket (the front of a Chinese garment with buttons on the right) is a functional and decorative cloth and could be divided into cardigan, half cardigan and false cardigan.

Cardigan cheongsam could be divided into the two types of single cardigan and double cardigan cardigan. Single cardigan could further be divided into straight and round cardigan collar and lapel of the other. Cardigan cheongsam generally refers to a right single cardigan with the front bodice divided into two parts by cardigan, namely the placket piece and the under closure piece. The under closure piece is connected to the back piece at shoulder seam and side seam, while the placket and the under closure is connected and fixed by fancy button, so it is convenient for people to putting on or taking off and is both beautiful and comfortable.

Cheongsam placket fabrication process includes two types: piping and no piping two. In the placket having piping, the piping of placket I usually a net seam. First, the interior material should be fixed together with false seam, and then one side of the roll having been finished will be aligned to the opposite line with the sewing seam as 0.4~0.5cm, after which the rolling strip will be flipped and packed completely so as to use a hidden stitch to make the rolling strip to be solid with the interior liner of the clothes. The length of the rolling strip of placket is related to the process for making the collar and the slit under the hemline. The longest rolling strip may cover the lines on the collar, the edge of the placket, slit, and the width of the hemline.

If the edge of the placket is a fur seam, when sewing the rolling strip, one side of the rolling strip should be aligned and seamed to the net seam of placket, then

cut off the surplus seaming edge for further step of production. This kind of production method could prevent thread to be dragged from the cloth materials and is easy for the rolling piece of the sewing seam and the turned packed seams, as shown by Figure 1. Usually during making placket having no rolling edge welt will usually be stuck to silk lining at first and then be sewed to the surface of the large placket. Then the sewed part of the welt should be cut off so as to form a high bottom layer and reduce the thickness of the sewed edge. The production of under closure is comparatively easier, which is to first seam the frong, middle, and bottom sewed part of the materials of under closure and then they will be sewed to the inner material of the side seam of the back piece and the side of the shoulder seam.

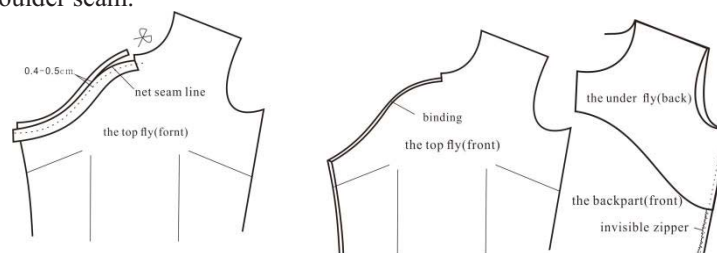


Fig.1 Cardigan fur seam binding craftsmanship

Placketsimplifies the fabrication process of cheongsam, and it is one of the commonly used methods for making modern cheongsam. There are also two kinds of methods for making placket front. One is to use invisible zipper for the side seam of the front and back piece of the clothing with the placket using to realize opening and closing. Another kind of method is to design the invisible zipper to be sewed on to the middle of the back seam. The method for making the previous one is corresponding to the technics for making a whole piece of collar while the collar of the latter one must be divided into a left and right piece so as to be convenient for being put on and taken off from the one wearing it.

Taking the style of placket front with the hidden zipper designed to the side seam, the length of the hemline could be shortened to the the point about 5 ~ 6cm away to the armpit. First the interior part of the hemline should be right opposite to each other, then they should be aligned to the shoulder seam and the collar, that is, to be sewed from the bottom end of the collar to the lower opening seam of the hemline to the net seam point of th side seam, then it will be turned to the surface for being ironed to be flat. When installing the invisible zip, the right seam on the front and back piece of the clothes should be sewed from the point about 1 cm above the ending of the slit to the point of the ending of the zipper, then use iron to quickly flatten the zipper teeth, and one side should be seamed to the placket while the other side should be seamed to the side seam of the back piece.

When suturing epimeron zipper, the zipper side and the side seam of the rear piece should be seamed together, then the zipper should be clapped to the middle of the back piece and the under closure surface for another seaming. After installing the invisible zipper, treatment of rolling and front placket should be conducted again on the welt of the placket.

The production craftsmanship for cheongsam with fake cardigan is more simple, and is now one of the commonly used methods of making cheongsam. The placket is no longer having the function of being convenient for being worn or taken off, and it is mainly for decoration and beautification. There are also two types of methods for false cardigan production. The first kind of method is that the front piece is still divided into two pieces including placket and under closure; while another kind is that there is only one piece of front piece, which shows a type of placket through methods like rolling or stitched pearls instead of really having broken seams. The functions of being put on or taken off of the cheongsam could be realized through the installation of invisible zipper on back piece of clothes in both of the two methods. Therefore, when this kind of placket is being made, the collar structure and production mode will be changed accordingly.

The first kind of false cardigan making process includes the following steps: first, make piping for the placket and then get the piping and the under closure net seam arc line aligned, after which falling seam will be left at the piping or fixed by hidden needle in piping at the seams or hoods BLING hemming stitch so as to make the front piece form a whole piece (see Figure 2). The second kind of false cardigan is to seam the piping onto the placket position on the front piece or sew pearls according to the shape of the placket, etc.

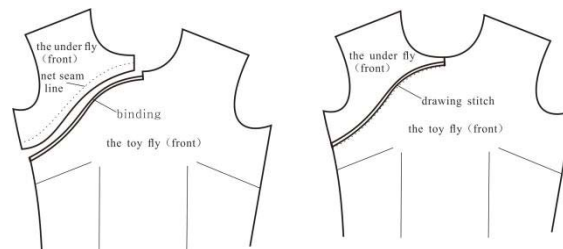


Fig.2 A false cardigan sewing craftsmanship

Collar is one of the essence of cheongsam. According to the characteristics of production process it can be divided into detachable collar and die collar, or it can also be divided into a half collar and a whole-piece collar etc.. To make or stitch a collar requires very skilled technology, such as that the collar should be able to stand up into a shape of circular arc, and the connection point should be flat and smooth, especially in the region of the side neck.

A changeable collar is a craftsmanship commonly used by traditional cheongsam, and it is removable and needs to be made separately, and then it should be connected to the collar of the clothes in the method of manual sewing and stitching[3]. The making steps are as the following: in negative net joint collar sticky resin lining, and then on the top layer of sticky hair sewn silk lining, hot lining from the middle to both ends of collar began ironing, ironing collar ends to collar up into the shape of arc, in order to make more accord with human body neck collar form.

Collar with oblique wire cutting, slightly shorter than the length of the collar, collar slightly tight collar. Then the general surface and collar mouth is relatively

suture, trimmed collar seam, turn to the front of the collar ironing clothes, piping, as shown in Figure 3 (a) shows. The clothes with the neck and front piping, finally will make good use of dark collar pin is fixed on the clothes collar included inside Figure 11 piping, (b) and (c) shown in. This process is more suitable for the production of cheongsam.

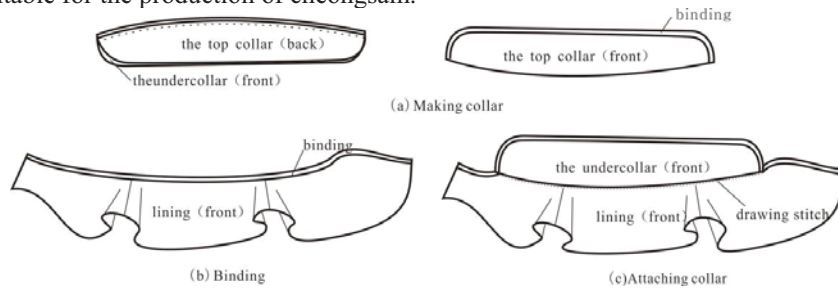


Fig.3 Detachable collar sewing craftsmanship.(a) Making collar;(b)Binding;(c)Attaching collar

Die collar is not removable, a collar and collar half way making common. A collar made with detachable collar both have different similarities. The preparation steps are: first to roll collar generals, generals and under the surface of collar and clothes sewn together in the face of the neckline, trim neckline seam high bottom; then under the collar on the net in general sewing ironing and inward collar roll collar and cover alignment at both ends of the seam allowance stitch fixed collar and collar; roll a package to general sewing collar included fixed on, and in general under the collar included fixed joint.

Under the half collar with piping fabrication process is complex, needs to be piped in under the collar. Production steps: first general surface on the net ironing neckline seam, and then roll the side and under the collar net seam fold ironing alignment suture, then the collar reverse distance collar wool seam at about 0.5cm, the left half generals erected to sew, so as to give a certain amount of turning. Again, this is a general surface rolling, as shown in Figure 4 (a) shows. Are general surface, collar and clothes in the corresponding suture, but both sides of the collar before about 3cm suture, leaving space, convenient collar roll into both ends, as shown in Figure 4 (b) and (c) shown; finally put the collar and collar is sewing, will roll a flip, bag foot, with a felling joint will roll fixing strip and the collar, and sealed the left mouth part.

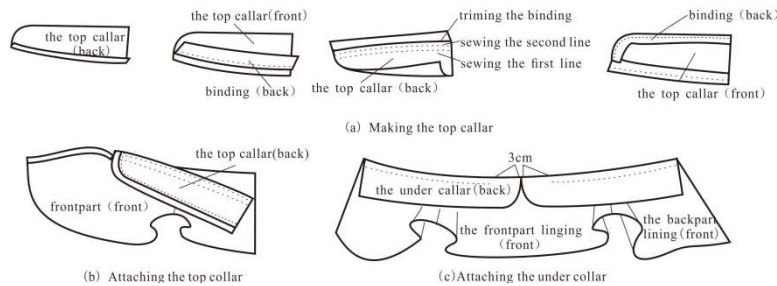


Fig.4 Non-removable collar(half collar) sewing craftsmanship.(a)Making top collar;(b)Attaching top collar;(c)Attaching under collar

Cheongsam's buttons are very unique, its decorative even more practical. Buttons commonly used in cheongsam collar and lapel department, some models in the slits department and cuffs also has a button. Delicate, exquisite handmade Pankou, add a touch effectiveness as cheongsam, concentrating the wisdom of the Chinese nation, reflects the Oriental charm. Pankou dress style very much, there is a common word buckle, buckle, butterfly, Pipa gourd buckle, also has a decorative plate making process is relatively complex flower clasp.

Two kinds of decorative disc solid and hollow. Solid flower refers to the center is full of loop style, hollow flower refers to internal hollow or filler embedded in the internal style. The hollow disc solid disc flowers and internal hollow flower production process is relatively simple, mainly the use of tweezers or pliers have been designed in accordance with the drawings folding buckle with dark flower shape, the flower type included needle joint fixed joint fixed by glue and. Hollow plate embedded filler flowers, flower production base is processed on the disc in the hollow. Such as the use of beads or stone as filler flower, silk fabric with hand put flowers in the hollow needle fixed negative plate, as the stone beads or bottom filling beads in the hollow parts with hand needle fixation or filling drilling [4]. The use of cotton as a filler of the disc, the production process is slightly different. Be opposite into the cloth from the hollow disc flowers, and then stuffed with cotton into the tweezers, as shown in Figure 5, the liquid glue glass sealed cotton yarn, and the excess glass yarn trim away. The plate buckle fastener is clamped or Tuo flower head tail, hand needle be included.



Fig.5 Fancy button making

3 Conclusion

After the first half of the twentieth Century the evolution, has become China cheongsam female classic clothing unique national style and characteristics of various elements and cheongsam has been basically stable, the handmade craft has become one of the national intangible cultural heritage. Leading the trend of consumption in fashion Couture today, in order to make the traditional cheongsam fabrication process can continue, we need every one of professional clothing seriously learn the essence of traditional cheongsam silk production process, transmission process development exquisite cheongsam, continuous improvement and innovation, make China silk cheongsam more sense of the

times, more delicate and beautiful.

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