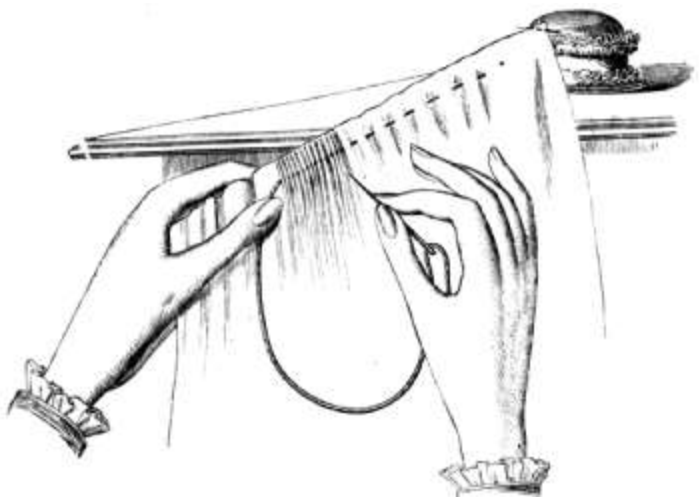
Widow Maker's Crafternoon

EPISODE 116 · CRAFT GUIDE

Stroking Gathers

Gathers look tidy or look tortured. One stroke of a needle decides which.



From Encyclopedia of Needlework (de Dillmont, 1886) · public domain

"Draw, stroke, run a second line, and even it all out."

1. **Draw Up and Fasten**
   Draw your gathering thread up tight, then wind it fast around a finger of your left hand to hold the tension.

2. **Stroke the Gathers**
   Take a strong needle and stroke down the gathers so they lie evenly side by side. As you stroke each one, push it under your left thumb, and support the fabric at the back with your other fingers.

3. **Run the Second Thread**
   Run a second thread in about one or two centimeters below the first, to fix the gathers in place. Take up five or six gathers at a time as you go.

4. **Even the Threads**
   Draw both threads perfectly even, so the gathers sit straight along the line of the thread.