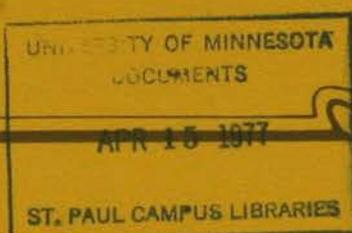


MN 2000
FH M-35

Fasten up



FASTENERS

Almost everything you sew will have some kind of fastener. The kind of fastener you use will depend on where it is used, the type of garment, and the look you want to create. You might choose to use buttons and buttonholes, snaps, hooks and eyes, a self closing tape fastener, or a zipper. If you are going to use a zipper, you will find help in "Zip, Zip, Zip," 4-H M-31. For the others, read on!

SELECTING BUTTONS

Choose your buttons when you buy your fabric and pattern. Some things you'll want to consider are:

- Size— Be sure the button size is the same as your pattern suggests. If it is different, the distance between the center front and the fold line of the garment may need changing.
- Color— Do you want the buttons to match your fabric, blend with it, or contrast in color? You need a big piece of fabric to check color.
- Design— Buttons should compliment the fabric design. With plain fabric and a simple style in a garment, you may want a button with an unusual shape or lots of design. Plain buttons are usually best for a fabric with lots of design.
- Weight— A heavy button will look best on heavy fabric. A fine, lightweight button will look best on a lightweight fabric. If the button is too heavy it may make the garment sag.

This archival publication may not reflect current scientific knowledge or recommendations.
Current information available from University of Minnesota Extension: <http://www.extension.umn.edu>.

BUTTONHOLES

Buttonholes may be made using an attachment with your sewing machine or using a zigzag stitch. As you make buttonholes, try to have them:

- in line with each other
- all the same length
- of appropriate stitch width for the fabric weight and thickness (wide zigzag for heavy fabrics, narrow for lightweight fabrics)
- of a thread color that blends into fabric well unless buttonholes are intended as trim

PLACEMENT

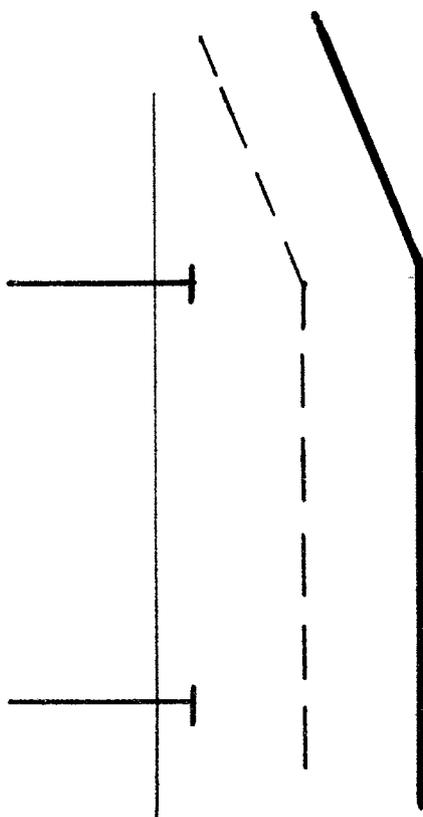
Patterns usually show where to put buttons and buttonholes. Use these markings unless you have altered the pattern. If you have changed the length of the pattern you will need to respace the buttonholes so the distance between the buttons is the same.

If you change the size of button for the pattern you may need to change the pattern some. The distance from the center front to the fold or seam line should be at least equal to the radius of the button plus 1/4 inch. If you change your pattern be sure to change the facing too.

When the garment is buttoned, the buttons should be on the center front line. So that this will happen, the buttonhole has to extend about 1/8 inch beyond the center line to allow space for the shank of the button. For the button to fasten easily, the length of the buttonhole should be equal to the diameter of the button plus the thickness of the button.

Mark the buttonhole placement on your garment with hand basting or chalk. You need to mark three lines. First make a crosswise marking for each buttonhole exactly on the grainline. Then make a vertical marking at each end of the buttonhole.

As you make the buttonholes be very careful to follow your markings accurately. Ripping out buttonholes is very difficult and it damages the fabric.



MAKING MACHINE-WORKED BUTTONHOLES

Machine-worked buttonholes can be made using a buttonhole attachment for your sewing machine or using a zigzag stitch. Button and buttonhole areas usually need interfacing for strength and reinforcement. The interfacing should be cut and marked exactly like the garment.

Each sewing machine and/or attachment has its own special instructions for making buttonholes. Read the instructions very carefully. Then make a sample buttonhole using a scrap of your fabric and the interfacing you used in your garment. Be sure to make it using two layers of fabric and one of interfacing. Check the sample buttonhole to be sure you are using the right length buttonhole for the button. Also look to see if you need to change the width of the zigzag stitch or the distance between the two rows of stitching to make the buttonhole look better.

After all of the buttonholes are made, cut them open through the center. Be careful not to cut any of the buttonhole stitches. Cutting is easiest if you make a tiny hole with a seam ripper or the point of scissors and then cut open with scissors.

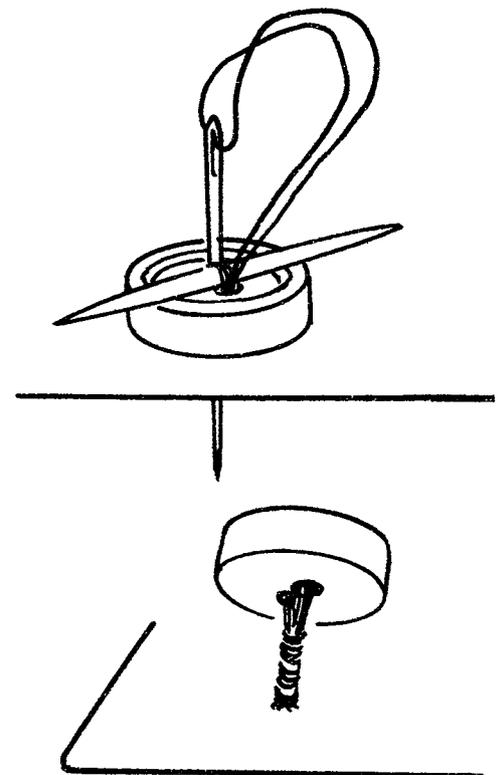


SEWING ON BUTTONS

To be sure to get buttons in the right places, pin the garment together as it should overlap. The two center lines should be right together. Mark the place for each button by sticking a pin through the buttonhole at the end of the buttonhole nearest the fold line. The button will then be sewn on the center line right beside the pin.

A button needs a shank to allow the buttonhole to close smoothly when it is fastened. If the button doesn't have a shank, you will need to make a thread shank. On very heavy fabric the shank needs to be longer than on lightweight fabric. It should be long enough to let the button rest on top of the buttonhole.

To sew on the button, use a double thread. Fasten the thread to the fabric with several small stitches on the right side where the button will be placed. Bring the needle up through one hole of the button and back down through the other hole and fabric. To make the shank put a toothpick or bobby pin under this stitch on top of the button. Make several stitches through the fabric and button. Remove the pick or pin and pull the button up. Wrap thread around the threads several times to form the shank. Stick the needle through the fabric near the shank and fasten the thread ends with two or three small stitches.

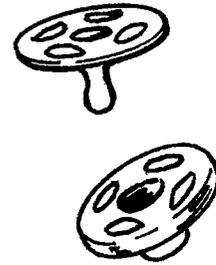


SNAPS

Snaps are used for fasteners when there is not much strain on the clothing. The size you use depends on the weight of your fabric and the amount of strain on the opening. Snaps should be sewn on so that the stitches are neat and durable but don't show on the outside of the garment.

Sew on the ball part first. It usually goes on the upper side of the garment. To sew it on you can use one or two threads. A single thread is less apt to tangle. Fasten the thread by taking two or three small stitches where the snap will go. Put the snap in place and pull the needle and thread through one of the holes at the edge of the snap. Sew through all four holes using either a buttonhole stitch or overhand stitches being sure to only sew through the facing and interfacing so that it does not show on the right side. Fasten the end of the thread with two or three stitches.

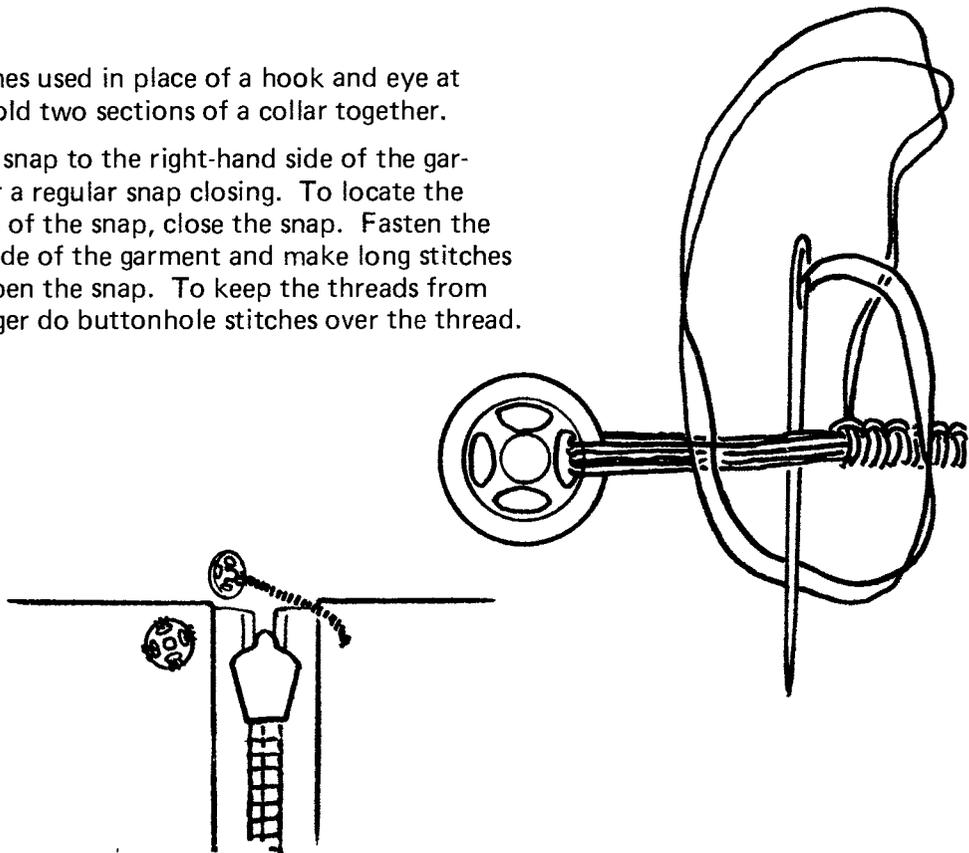
Mark the position of the socket part of the snap by pressing the ball part of the snap into the other part of the garment or by putting a pin through the snap. Sew it down with the same kind of stitch you used on the ball part of the snap.

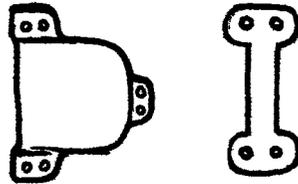


DANGLING SNAP

A dangling snap is sometimes used in place of a hook and eye at the top of a zipper or to hold two sections of a collar together.

Sew the socket part of the snap to the right-hand side of the garment just as you would for a regular snap closing. To locate the right place for the ball side of the snap, close the snap. Fasten the thread into the left-hand side of the garment and make long stitches through one hole only. Open the snap. To keep the threads from tangling and make it stronger do buttonhole stitches over the thread.





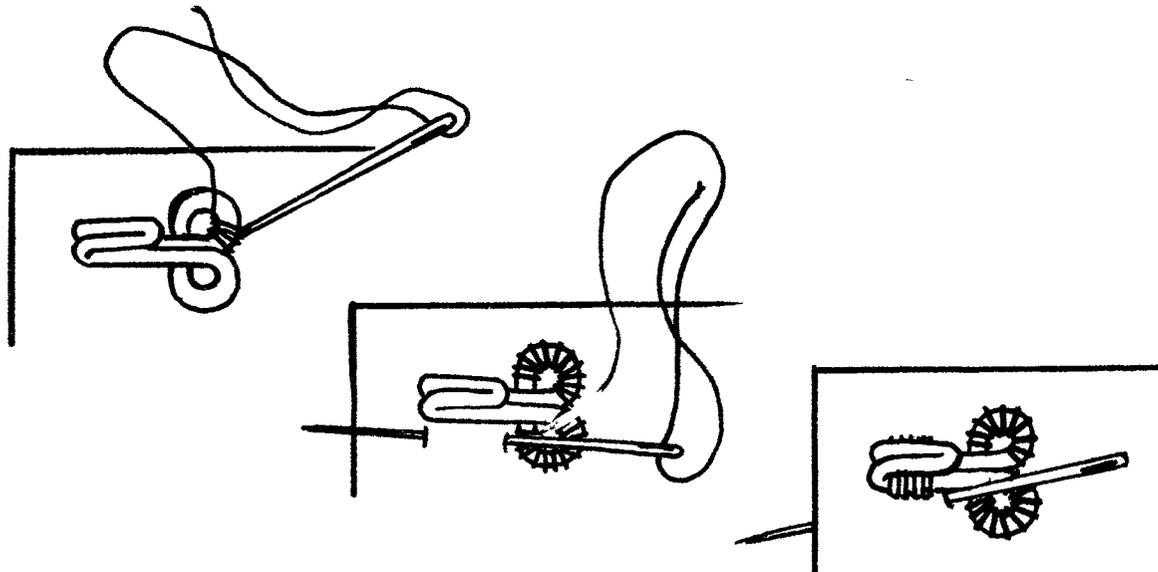
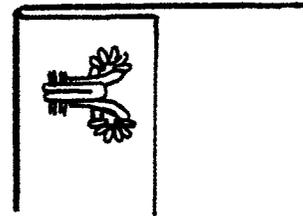
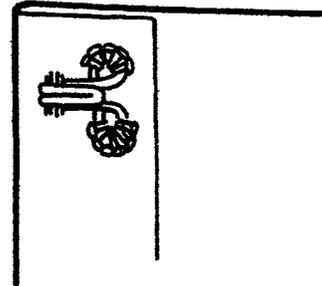
HOOK AND EYE

A hook and eye can be used as a fastener where you want something that does not show on the outside of the garment. It will take care of more strain than a snap. Hooks and eyes should be sewn on with stitches that are neat and durable but don't show on the outside of the garment.

Select the size of hook and eye that is intended for the place you are using it. There are small ones for places like necklines and large stronger ones for waistlines.

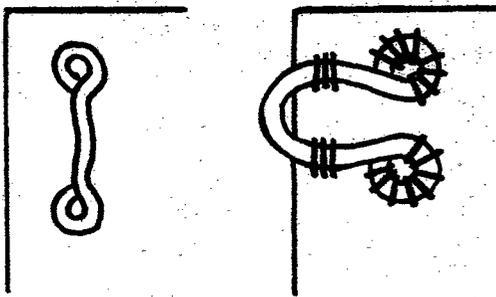
The hook is put on the underside of an overlap and the eye is put on the top side of the underneath part. There are two kinds of eyes—round and straight. The straight eye is used when edges overlap and the round eye is used when the edges just meet.

Put the hook back far enough from the edge so that it will not show when it is fastened. Sew the hook on at both of the loops using either a buttonhole or an overhand stitch. Be sure the stitches don't show on the right side of the garment. When both loops have been fastened down put the needle through the fabric to the hook end right where the metal curves back. Sew about four stitches around the underneath part of the hook.





To sew on the eye put it on the fabric so that the hook will fasten smoothly. The center of the straight eye should be under the curved end of the hook and the holes should open toward the opening. Sew through both holes using the same stitch you used on the hook part. If you use a round eye, the round part should just barely hang over the edge of the opening so that the edges meet when the hook and eye are fastened.



SELF CLOSING TAPE FASTENERS

Self closing tape is available in long strips or in small shaped pieces. It comes as two tapes. One tape has loops and the other has tiny hooks that fasten into the loops by pressing them together. Self closing tape is used in place of snaps or zippers.

The tape is cut to the size you need and usually is sewn on with the sewing machine. When placing it on a garment face the hook tape away from the body. Place both tapes $\frac{1}{8}$ inch to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from outer edges so they won't show on the outside of the garment. Be sure the tapes overlap exactly. Stitch around all 4 edges of the tape. If you want to keep the stitching from showing, the tape can be sewn on by hand or be sewn to the facing only.

Developed by Lois Ingels, extension specialist, textiles and clothing

The information given in this publication is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no indorsement by the Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service is implied.

Issued in furtherance of cooperative extension work in agriculture and home economics, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Roland H. Abraham, Director of Agricultural Extension Service, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101. We offer our programs and facilities to all people without regard to race, creed, color, sex, or national origin.