

Extension Home Program

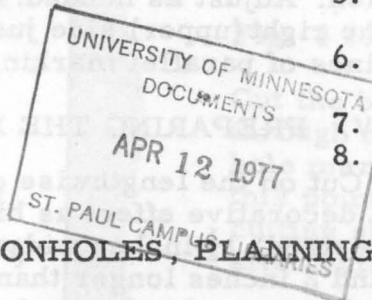
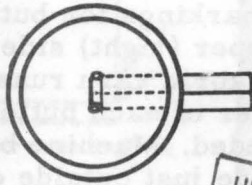
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CONSTRUCTION DETAILS - BOUND BUTTONHOLES

Buttonholes and suitable buttons often serve as a decorative feature for a garment. The term "Bound Buttonholes" serves to distinguish the buttonholes finished with cloth from the machine or hand-worked. Cloth-finished buttonholes are known as bound, corded, or piped, according to the treatment of the edges of the buttonhole. It has been found that the lips of the buttonholes are flatter, thinner and neater if the seam is pressed away from the opening before forming the lips (pipings or folds). The piped buttonhole is outlined here because it is easy for the average person to make, has strong ends and corners, and is one of the most satisfactory of the cloth finished buttonholes.

Standards for well-tailored buttonholes are:

1. All in line with one another.
2. All are same length.
3. Finished width totals 3/16-inch or less.
4. Both folds "lips" are the same width, $\frac{1}{2}$ of 3/16-inch.
5. Folds meet along center of buttonhole slash.
6. Yarns of folds fabric exactly match garment fabric.
7. All corners square and firm.
8. Ends of folds machine stitched from wrong side.



I. PLACING BUTTONHOLES, PLANNING LOCATION AND SIZE

Buttonholes are made in the side of the garment that laps, the right for women's, the left for men's garments. Buttonholes placed horizontally may extend as much as 1/8-inch beyond the center line to allow for the shank of the button. Actually the amount should be $\frac{1}{2}$ the width of the shank. The length of the buttonhole should be the width of the button, plus its thickness.

Buttonholes are placed vertically in the exact center of a vertical band. Buttonholes are placed far enough back from the edge of the garment so that the edge of the button is about $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch from the garment edge. The top button on a garment should have the same amount of clearance at the top edge. The buttonhole is placed on the front of a cuff. When a belt is used on a garment with buttons, the belt takes the place of a button and the buttons are spaced evenly above and below.

Except on very firm fabric, an interfacing fabric is needed to re-enforce and strengthen the button and buttonhole areas of the garment. To test the effect, put the garment fabric over the edge of the possible interfacing fabric and observe the effect in terms of suitable firmness and body. The interfacing fabric should be light in weight, smooth, and firm. For medium weight fabrics, light weight muslin, organdy, lawn, and percale are all possibilities. Observe carefully that no off-color area results. The interfacing material should be Thoroughly Shrunk. It should be cut and marked exactly like the garment area that it re-enforces.

II. MARKING LOCATION AND SIZE

Mark buttonhole positions accurately along a yarn on the underside of firm fabric or on interfacing material, if used.

Make two lines of markings or basting parallel to the center front or back marking. The outer row should be about 1/8-inch beyond the center front. The distance between the lines depends on the size of the button. Make crosswise lines for each buttonhole position following the grain-line carefully. (Fig. 1.)

III. APPLYING THE INTERFACING

If an interfacing is used, place the wrong side of the garment front to the upper side of the interfacing so that the center front markings coincide accurately. Pin securely. Next insert a pin from the interfacing side of each end of crosswise markings for buttonhole positions. From the upper (right) side observe to see that the same fabric yarn runs from one pin point to the other of each buttonhole position. Adjust as needed. Machine baste from the right (upper) side just outside of the two lines of parallel markings.

IV. PREPARING THE BUTTONHOLE STRIP

Cut on the lengthwise of the material (unless a decorative effect as bias of check, etc. is desired) 1 1/2-inches wider than the buttonholes and 2 inches longer than buttonhole area. Buttonholes may also be made of patches. Position strip right side to right side center over center of buttonholes. Be sure crosswise grain of strip matches crosswise grain of garment at buttonhole positions. Pin lightweight fabric but baste bulky fabric to exact position at buttonholes, because of tendency to slip out of place.

V. CONSTRUCTION STEPS

From the underside stitch (20 stitches per inch), (Fig. 2.) to mark the exact buttonhole line. Stitching should follow a fabric yarn on upper side.

From the underside, machine baste (6-8 stitches per inch) a line 3/16-inch wide (use wider toe of machine foot), each side of the buttonholes should extend about 1/2-inch longer at ends. (Fig. 3.)

Mark lines the length of the buttonhole exactly halfway between the buttonhole stitching and bastings. (Fig. 4.)

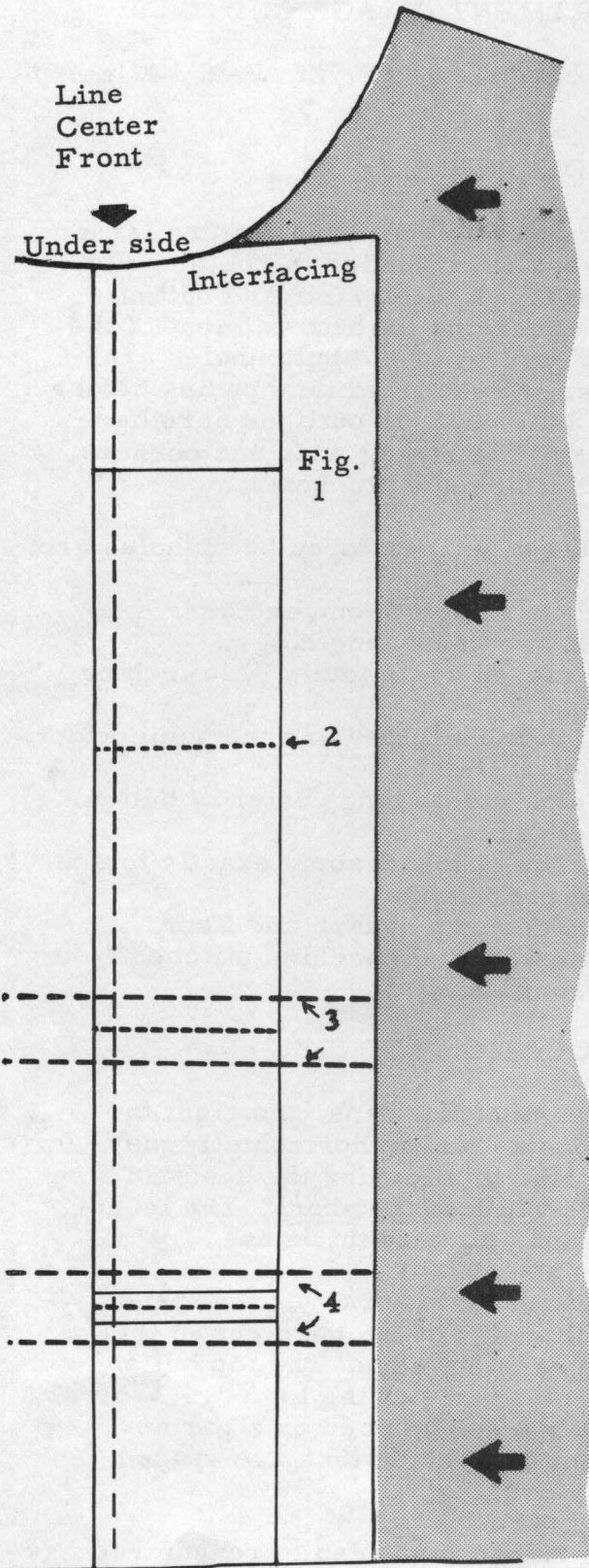


Diagram above is for 1 inch buttonholes. Allow 1 3/8 inch at left of Line of Center Front for front edge finish.

From the upper side cut buttonhole strip halfway between bastings. (Fig. 5.)

Fold "patches" of fabric back over basting toward buttonhole line and press, or press with fingers (Fig. 6.) or baste and press bulky fabric.

From the underside stitch (20 stitches per inch) the exact length of the buttonhole on the lines marked at each side of the buttonhole-tie threads leaving only $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch ends. (Fig. 7.) for outside.

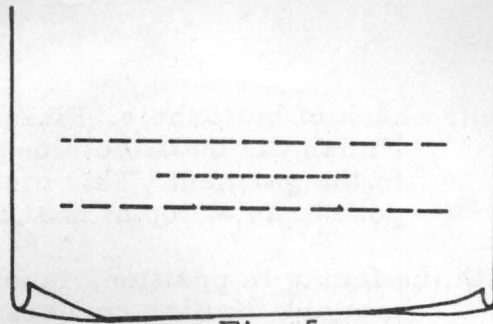


Fig. 5

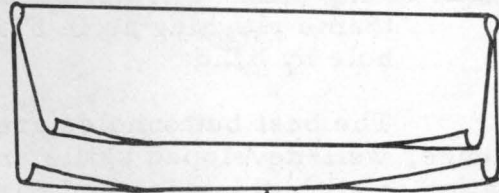


Fig. 6

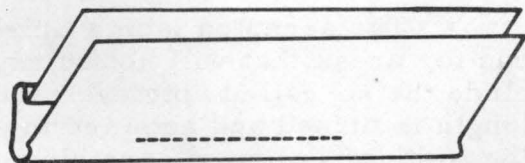


Fig. 7

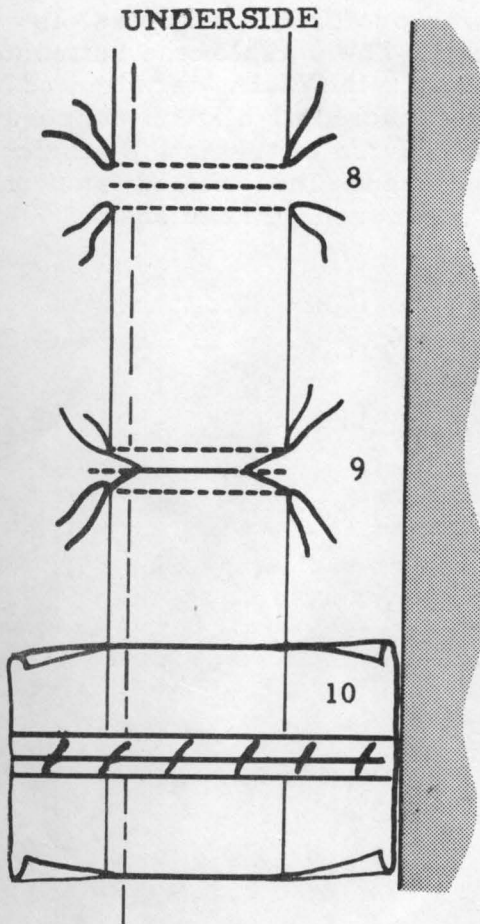


Fig. 8 for underside.

Cut the buttonhole. From the upper side cut through material and piping exactly on buttonhole marking to $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch from each end. From this point cut diagonally to each end, without cutting stitch. (Fig. 9.) shows underside after cutting. Remove machine bastings.

Turn and overcast. Turn through opening to underside. Work buttonhole smooth with fingers, turning the seam and piping fabric away from the buttonhole.

Overcast "lips" of buttonhole together. (Fig. 10.)

Stitch the ends of buttonhole across the base of the triangle to hold the lips of the buttonhole together and to make stronger. Remove bastings. (Fig. 11.)

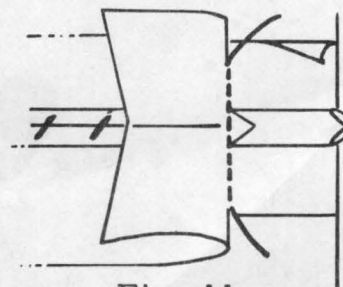


Fig. 11

Finish back of buttonhole. Finish, after trimming piping, to $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch of edge.

Finish the buttonhole on the underside after the facing has been stitched to the garment. This method may be used where the underside is exposed, as at top of coat facing.

With the facing in position, insert a pin through each corner of the buttonhole to mark similar corners on the facing.

Slash facing similar to buttonhole (through the center, diagonally to corners). (Same slashing as in Fig. 9.) Turn raw edges in and hem them to buttonhole by hand.

The best buttonholes are made when one is not tired. They require patience, well-developed skills and a high degree of accuracy. Marking exact location of all buttonholes and carrying out each step of the process in turn up to the cutting step will shorten the time involved as well as make for uniformity.

The accepted facing finish is given above. However, two practical methods for areas that will not be exposed, used by some professional tailors, include the 'so-called "pig eye" and "buttonholed" edge. The slash of the buttonhole length is turned and hemmed in as an oval; in the latter the facing is trimmed the width of 1 yarn at each side of the slash and buttonholed or blanket stitched - always use the professional tailor's "safe to make" device of trying the fabric and finish on a buttonhole before making on your garment. Buttonholes function and show off best when buttons are sewed on with a generous thread shank.

