



MAKING BOUND BUTTONHOLES

Beautiful buttonholes lend distinction to any garment and the bound buttonhole is the buttonhole of today's fashion. They are the hallmark of a professionally tailored garment. Bound buttonholes are not hard to make if you follow these instructions and do *careful* measuring, *accurate* basting, and *unhurried* stitching and execution of each step.

STEP I.

1. Using tailor's carbon or a lead pencil, mark the center front line on the right front interfacing. If you have not altered the pattern lengthwise, mark the location line of the buttonhole from the pattern. *If you have altered the length of the jacket or coat*, mark new location lines, being sure they are evenly spaced.

2. Make a line the length of the right front interfacing $\frac{1}{8}$ " toward the jacket edge from the center front line.

Measure the width of your button. The width of the button + $\frac{1}{8}$ " = the length of the buttonhole. Mark a line this distance toward the inside of the center front line. These lines mark where the buttonhole will begin and end.

3. Mark with pencil, lines on the interfacing $\frac{1}{8}$ " above and below each location line. These lines mark the approximate width of each buttonhole. If the material is bulky, these may need to be $\frac{3}{16}$ ".

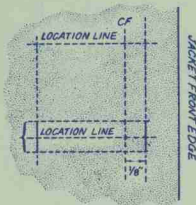
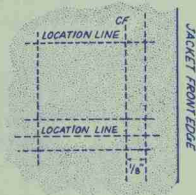
CHECK TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE MARKED

- (1) center front line
- (2) buttonhole location lines
- (3) lines marking width of buttonhole

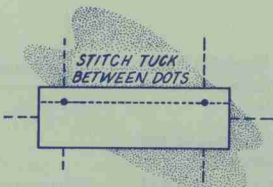
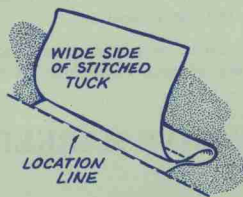
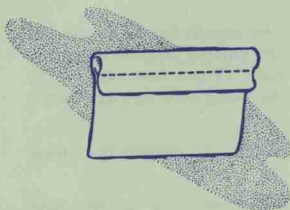
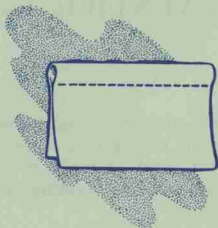
STEP II.

1. With contrasting thread, machine baste (6 stitches per inch) along marked lines so they will show on the right side.

Between the two penciled lines marking the approximate width of the buttonholes, use matching thread and 16 stitches per inch and stitch across *ends*. These small stitches will reinforce the ends and keep them from raveling out. It will be helpful to go back and stitch this area a second time.



STEP III. MAKING BOUND EDGES OF BUTTONHOLES



1. Cut a strip of the fabric $1\frac{1}{2}$ " wide and four times the length of the finished buttonhole. This strip may be on the straight of grain or on the bias.

2. Fold the strip in half length-wise. Using matching thread, stitch a tuck along the fold approximately $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the edge. Accuracy is important. If the material is bulky, the $\frac{3}{16}$ " rule may need to be used here.

3. Cut the tucked strip into pieces twice as long as the buttonhole. You will need two strips for each buttonhole.

4. Trim *one side* of each tucked strip to the same width as the tuck. *This must be done accurately.*

5. Lay the tucked strip along one side of the location line on the right side of the garment. Match the narrow trimmed edge of the strip to the location line. Baste in place. Stitch by placing the machine needle very carefully down at the point where the tuck stitching crosses at the ending line of basting. Lift the presser foot slightly and take two or three stitches in place to anchor the thread.

Stitch tuck to garment, making this row of stitching exactly on top of the tuck stitching. Stop exactly where the marked line crosses your stitching line. Tack thread securely.

6. Baste a strip along the other edge of the location line the same way. Stitch tuck on the other side of location line the same way as the first one.

7. Check the interfacing side of the buttonhole to be sure your stitching lines are straight. *If they are not straight, take out the stitching and restitch.*

1. If the stitching is straight, carefully slash through the center to $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the end. Hold the strips back so you don't cut them. Then clip diagonally in toward the corners to form a small triangle at each end.

2. Turn the strips through to the wrong side and pull them gently from each end to straighten them. The tucks should be touching the center of the buttonhole.

Be sure to bring the triangular ends to the wrong side. With the zipper foot on the machine, stitch back and forth across this triangle, fastening it to the ends of the strips. Do this at both ends. This makes the corners of the buttonhole square and should hold them on the grain.

**Caution: Do Not Catch Front of Garment
In This Stitching**

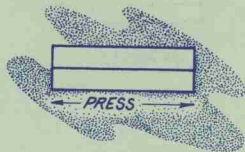
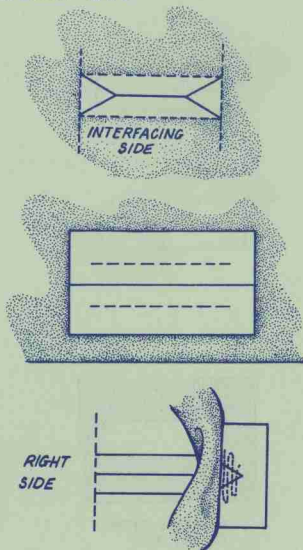
Remove all bastings. Trim or ravel out the interfacing from the narrow section you have cut so the buttonhole will lie flat.

3. Press the buttonhole from the wrong side and the right side. Move the iron along the length of the buttonhole. Use a press cloth.

1. On right side loosely whip edges of tucks together to hold them in place while the garment is being completed.

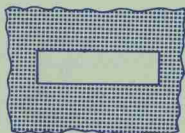
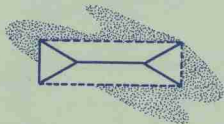
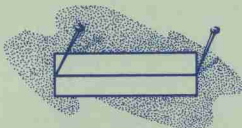
2. On wrong side catch-stitch edges of strips to interfacing.

STEP IV.



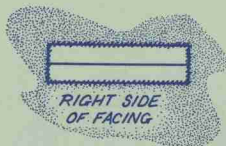
STEP V.

STEP VI.



WRONG SIDE
OF FACING

STEP VII.



1. Stitch the facing to the garment front. Grade the seam and press open. Then roll facing seam slightly toward the inside as it will be when the garment is finished. From the *outside*, stab pin through each end of the bound buttonhole to the facing. Mark these two ends on the facing side by picking up one thread with a straight pin where the point of the marking pin has come through from the front.

2. To finish edges of slash, cut a square of bias lining fabric one inch larger than the buttonhole.

Baste this bias square on the facing buttonhole marking, right sides together. Turn to the wrong side of the facing and stitch using 16-20 stitches per inch forming a rectangle as was done in making the buttonholes.

3. Slash through facing and bias square to within $\frac{1}{4}$ " of ends and clip diagonally in toward the corners as done in making the buttonholes. Turn square to wrong side of facing. Press to form faced slash.

Slip-stitch faced rectangle (slash) around back of bound buttonhole.

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