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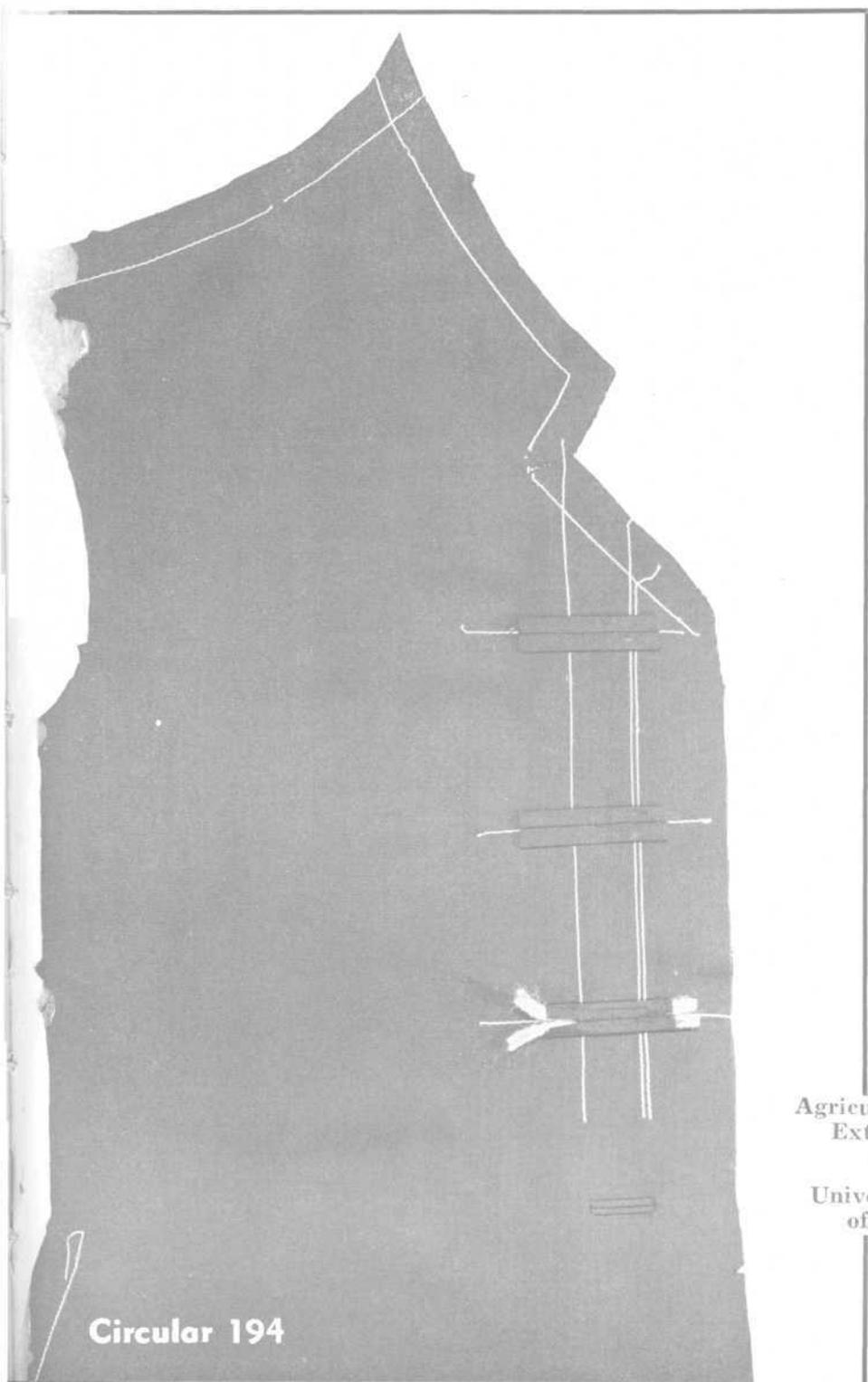
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# KING BOUND BUTTONHOLES



**Circular 194**

Agricultural  
Extension  
Service

University  
of Arizona

## What Makes a Good Buttonhole?

- Correct size
- Accurate marking
- Even folds on both edges
- Ends well fastened
- Straight stitching
- Evenly spaced on garment

University of Arizona  
College of Agriculture Agricultural Extension Service  
Chas U Pickrell Director  
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College of Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture co operating  
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# Making Bound Buttonholes

By  
Helen L. Church  
Extension Clothing Specialist

Buttons and buttonholes are key marks of quality in dressmaking. They serve as fasteners and offer decorative detail as well.

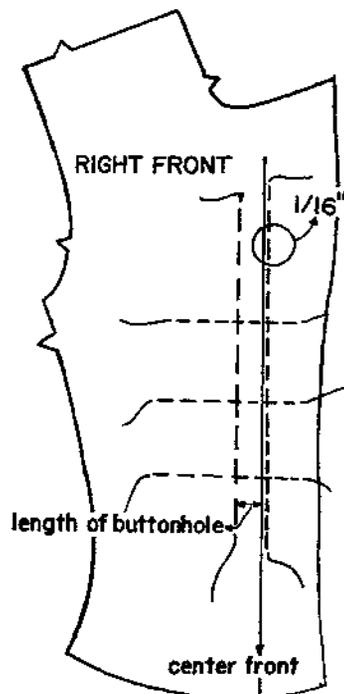
Bound buttonholes are used on garments having a semi-tailored effect. They are easily made if you will follow one simple slogan: "Be accurate." To do this you will need to follow closely your ruler and markings.

## Marking the Buttonhole

1. The pattern will have markings to indicate your center front. Be sure that this marking is transferred to your fabric. A tracing wheel and dressmaker's carbon will put these on the back side of your fabric. (See drawing at right.)

2. Now measure the diameter and thickness of the button. This

will be the finished length of the buttonhole.



3. Ordinarily, you already will have basted a center front marking on the garment, unless the fabric is too delicate and machine needle marks will show. Now place another basting line  $1/16$  to  $1/8$  inch from the center front toward the outside edge of the garment. (See drawing on page 3.)

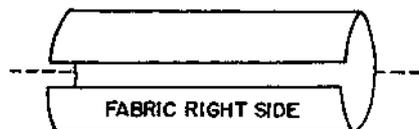
This forms one end of the buttonhole. Now, with the measurement for the finished buttonhole, measure away from the outside edge and make another basting line.

4. Now at intervals where buttons are to be placed, make a perpendicular line to the two center front lines. Note that you will extend this marking beyond the two parallel lines at least 2 inches on either side. (See drawing on page 3.)

## Making the Buttonhole

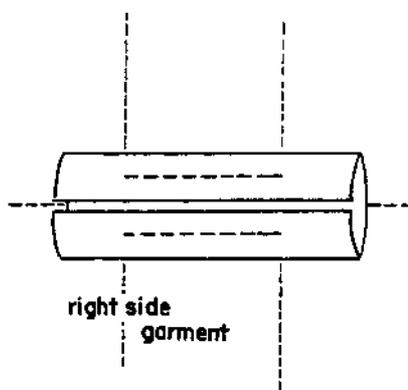
5. Cut one strip of material 1 inch wide and 1 inch longer than the buttonhole. Be accurate in measuring. Heavy coating material will need to be a little wider. Experiment with the fabric before you decide on the width.

6. Fold the long edges to the center of the strip and press on the lengthwise grain. (See drawing below.)



7. Pin and baste the right side of the strip to the right side of the garment, matching the center of buttonhole piece to the basting line.

8. Set the machine for small stitches—16 to 18 stitches per inch. Then stitch  $1/8$  inch from the folded edges or in the middle of the fold to the ends of the buttonhole. (Look at the drawing below.) Count the



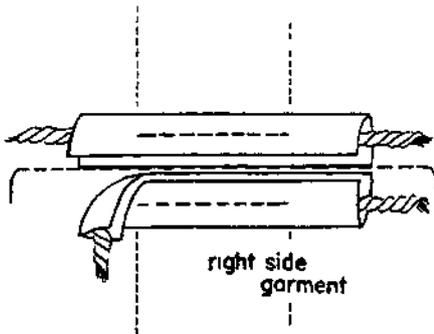
number of stitches so you can make the next buttonhole the same size.

Now note the lines of stitching. Are they straight and even? If not, this is the time to rip them out and put them in the way you want them. Once past this step, you'll find it difficult to correct earlier mistakes.

9. Next, remove the buttonhole tracing and bastings, but not the outside guide lines.

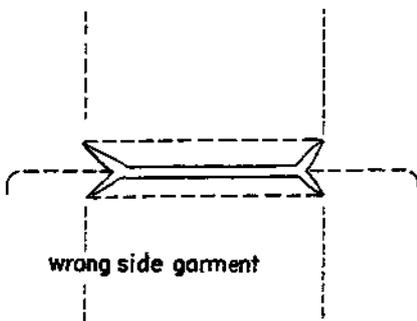
10. Fasten the ends of the machine stitching by making the machine needle repeat the stitch in the same hole for at least 3 times.

11. Cut the buttonhole strip the full length following the center line where the raw edges meet. (See drawing below.)



You will want to cord the edge on lightweight materials, and you may wish to do so on others. To do this, pull a yarn through the casing with a crochet hook.

12. Cut the buttonhole from the back side of the fabric to within  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch of each end. (See drawing below.)

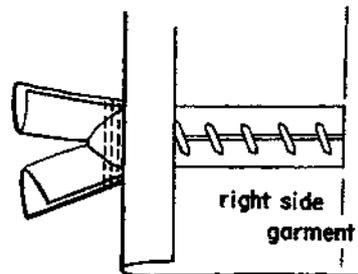


13. Notch diagonally to the corners of the buttonhole forming a "V" at each end. Avoid cutting beyond the guide lines. Cut only through the garment, not the buttonhole strip.

14. Turn the strips through the slashed opening to the "wrong" side of the garment.

15. Now **Press**. If fabric is wool use a press cloth and do a good job. Don't skip this process.

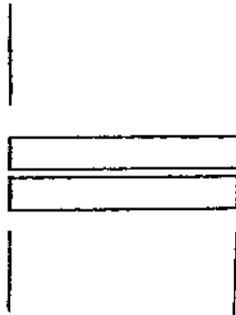
16. Close the buttonhole on the right side with an overcasting stitch. (See drawing below.)



17. Stitch across the triangular sections at each end, forming square corners. It may be necessary to stitch across here several times. (See drawing above.)

18. Remove bastings and tracings and press. Your buttonhole should be  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in width. If you folded and stitched accurately, the

pieces forming the buttonhole should fill the rectangle (See drawing below)



### **Finishing the Back**

The facing always covers the back of the buttonhole. Now to

finish the opening in the facing

19. Put in two pins — one at either end of the buttonhole — through the facing

20. Cut on the grain line, one straight line from pin to pin

21. With your needle, turn back edge and fell the cut edges to the buttonhole

22. At the ends, overhand several stitches to prevent raveling

23. And finally, press again with all bastings removed