

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Extension Publications

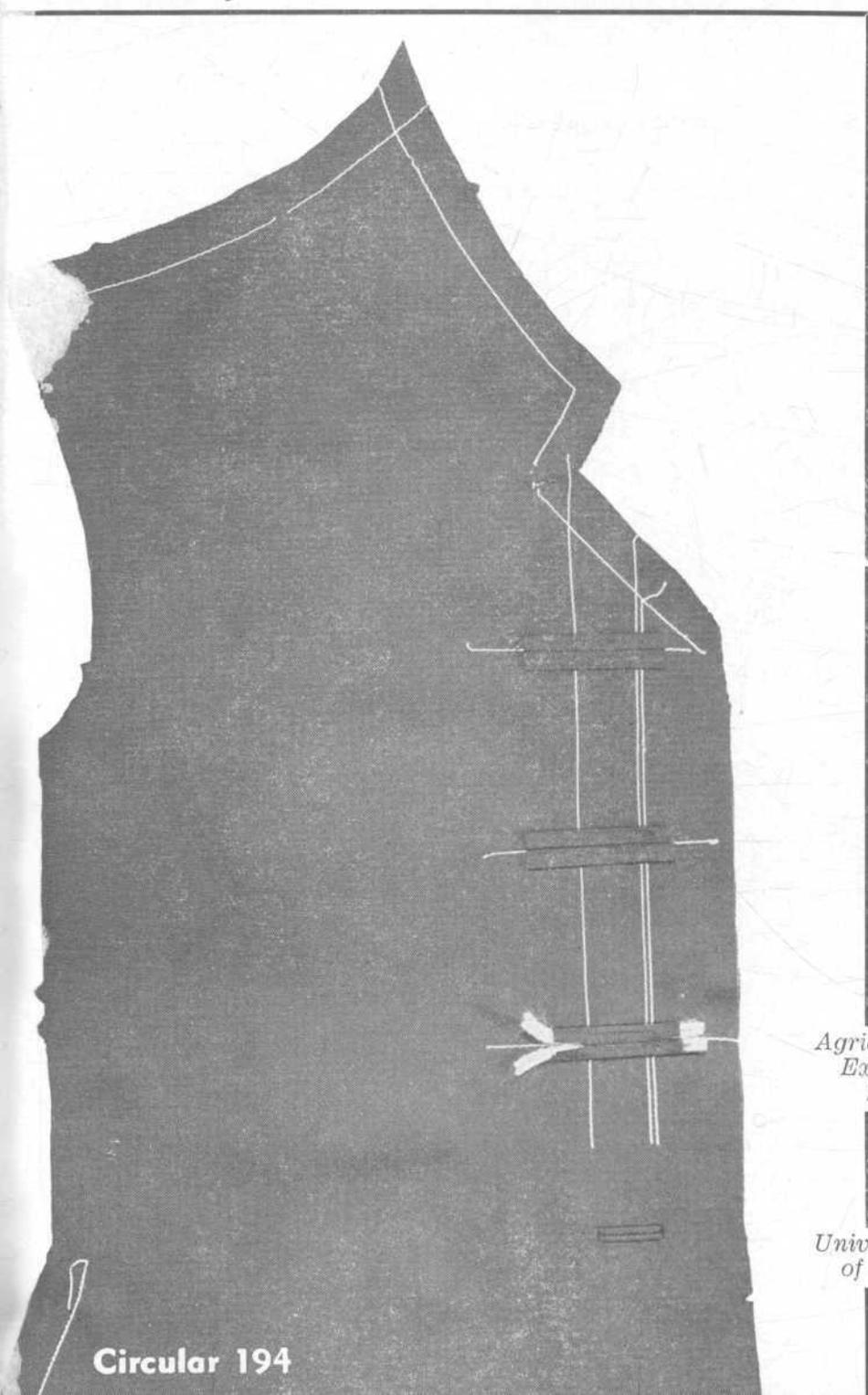
The Extension Publications collections in the UA Campus Repository are comprised of both current and historical agricultural extension documents from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at the University of Arizona.

This item is archived to preserve the historical record. This item may contain outdated information and is not intended to be used as current best practice.

Current extension publications can be found in both the UA Campus Repository, and on the CALS Publications website, <http://cals.arizona.edu/pubs/>

If you have questions about any materials from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences collections, please contact CALS Publications by sending an email to: pubs@cals.arizona.edu

Making Bound Buttonholes



*Agricultural
Extension
Service*

*University
of Arizona*

Circular 194

What Makes Good Buttonholes?

Correct size.

Accurate marking.

Even folds on both edges.

Ends well fastened.

Straight stitching.

Evenly spaced on garment.

Press as you make.

University of Arizona
College of Agriculture, Agricultural Extension Service
Chas U Pickrell, Director

Co-operative extension work in agriculture and home economics, the University of Arizona, College of Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture co-operating Distributed in furtherance of the Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914.

5M—Revised October 1958—Circular 194

Making Bound Buttonholes

By Helen L. Church

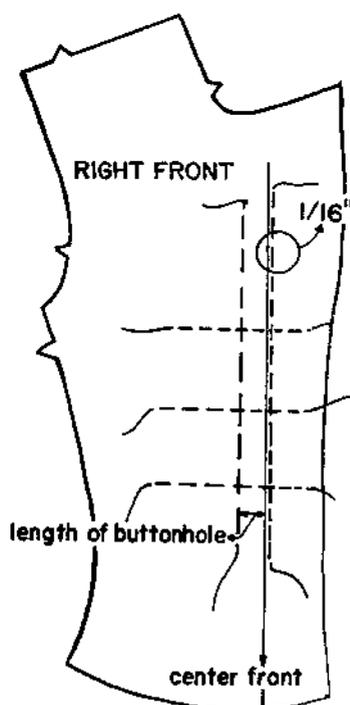
Extension Clothing Specialist

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. Machine baste by setting your machine for long stitch. Use contrasting thread.

3. Now measure the diameter and thickness of the button. This will be the finished length of the buttonhole.

4. Ordinarily, you already will have machine 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. Also see cover)

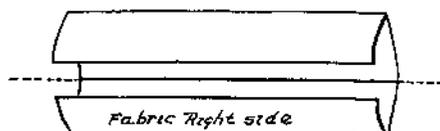
This forms one end of the buttonhole. Now, with the measurement for the finished buttonhole, measure away from the outside edge and make another basting line.

5. Now at intervals where buttons are to be placed, make a perpendicular line to the two center front lines. Machine baste these 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

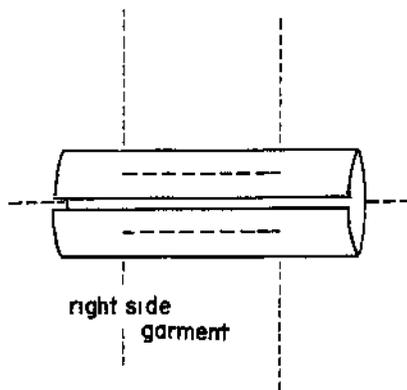
6. Cut one strip of material 1 inch wide and 1 inch longer than the buttonhole. Be accurate in measuring. Heavy coating material will need to be a little wider. Experiment with the fabric before you decide on the width.

7. Mark center of strip by folding and lightly pressing. Now fold long edges to the center of the strip and press.



8. 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.

9. 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.



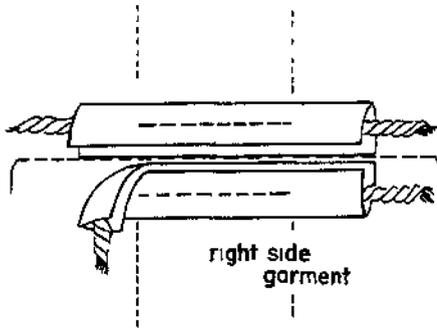
Now note the lines of stitching. Are they straight and even? If not, this is the time to rip them out and put them in the way you want them. Once past this step,

you'll find it difficult to correct earlier mistakes.

10. Fasten the ends in line with perpendicular bastings by making the machine repeat the stitch in the same hole 3 or 4 times.

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

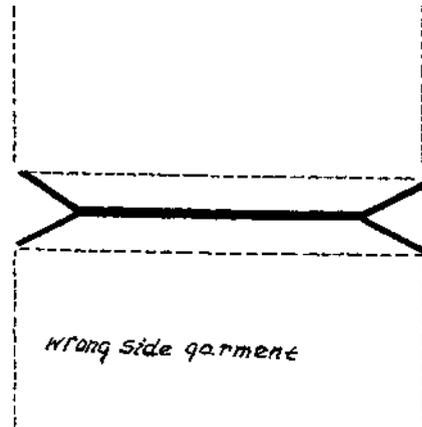
12. Cut the buttonhole strip the full length following the center line where the raw edges meet. (See drawing below.)



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.

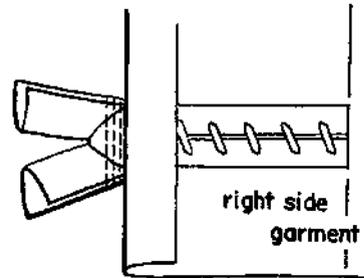
13. Cut the buttonhole from the back side of the fabric to within 1/4 inch of each end. (See drawing at top of next column.)

14. 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.



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

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



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

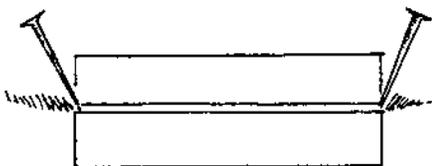
18. Stitch across the triangular sections at each end, forming square corners. It may be necessary to stitch across here several times. (See drawing above.)

19. Remove bastings and tracings and press. Your buttonhole should be 1/4 inch in width. If you folded and stitched accurately, the pieces forming the buttonhole should fill the rectangle.

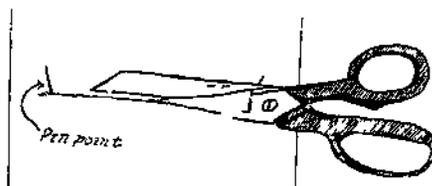
Finishing the Back

The facing always covers the back of the buttonhole. Now to finish the opening in the facing:

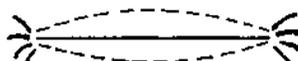
1. From the right side of the buttonhole, put 2 pins straight down into facing at ends of buttonhole. (See drawing below.)



2. Turn to back of facing, cut on grain line from pin point to pin point. (See drawing below.)



3. With your needle and thread turn back edge and fell the cut edges to the buttonhole.



4. At the ends take 3 or 4 over-casting stitches since you can not turn the edges back.

5. Give the buttonholes a final pressing after all bastings are removed.

ON THE COVER is the right front of a suit jacket with buttonholes shown in various stages of completion.