BOUND BUTTONHOLES: ONE-PIECE TUCKED METHOD

PREPARE GARMENT

Buttonholes are traditionally put into the RIGHT FRONT of women’s garments. Bound buttonholes are always made after markings are completed before any seams are sewn. Stay-stitch garment piece first. Fuse a small rectangle of interfacing to the wrong side of RIGHT JACKET FRONT over each area to receive a buttonhole.

On RIGHT JACKET FRONT machine baste two continuous vertical lines to indicate beginning and end of buttonholes. Following a warp thread can be helpful. Machine baste horizontal lines over buttonhole markings extending stitching well beyond vertical lines.

PREPARE STRIP

Cut a long strip of Ultrasuede® or other appropriate fabric 4” x [length of buttonhole + 1” x number of buttonholes, including a test buttonhole]. (Buttonhole length is usually determined by diameter of button + thickness of button). Do not cut it into individual pieces at this time. Machine baste a row of stitching lengthwise down the exact middle of the strip. Make two more rows of machine basting, each 1/2” from center line. STITCHING MUST BE EXACT!

Fold each long edge to wrong side along outer rows of stitching and press.

Mark a line 1/4” from each fold; stitch along these lines. The two stitching lines must be exactly 1/2” apart.

Cut prepared long strip into individual pieces (length of buttonhole plus 1”) for each buttonhole. Make test buttonhole on scrap fabric. On garment, do not make each buttonhole separately: complete one step on all, then next step on all, etc.
MAKING THE BUTTONHOLES

Pin prepared strip to outside of garment section, right sides together, placing center mark on position line, ends extending 1/2” beyond each end-line. **Baste** along center marking. Mark end-lines on strip with pen.

Stitch strip (20 stitches to inch) as shown: **start and finish at end-lines**; follow 1/4” markings; leave 3” thread-ends.

Check: On both right side and interfacing side, stitching lines must be on grain, 1/2” apart, extending exactly to end-lines. If necessary, pull out a stitch or two, or thread end into a needle and make an extra stitch. **If stitching is not perfect, rip out!**

Pull thread-ends to interfacing side. Knot close to fabric, but do not trim off. Remove basting from strip.

Cut strip in two through entire length of center line. Be careful not to cut garment.

Cut buttonhole opening from interfacing side, through interfacing and garment fabric: start cutting at center and stop 1/4” from each end-line; then cut into each corner as far as possible without clipping stitching. Be careful not to cut strips.

Put strips gently through opening to interfacing side. Flatten strips and see that lips meet.

Place garment section on machine right side up. Fold one edge back as far as end of buttonhole, exposing strip-end with tiny triangle lying on top. Holding thread-ends taut, **stitch back and forth across base of triangle** at end-line. Repeat on other end of buttonhole. Trim off thread-ends.

Remove basting threads from garment. Press finished buttonhole.
FACING THE BUTTONHOLES

Bound buttonholes are finished on the facing side after facing is completed and pressed. Cut a rectangular patch of fusible woven interfacing and pin securely with right sides together to the facing over the area backing the bound buttonhole. From outside of garment, stick a pin through each corner of buttonhole. On facing, transfer pin markings to interfacing patch creating a rectangle slightly larger than the bound buttonhole.

Stitch patch (20 stitches to inch) around entire marked rectangle slowly and carefully, as follows: begin at center of one long side, pivot on needle at corners, count same number of stitches along both short sides; when finishing, stitch over beginning stitches. Check stitching: if it is not perfectly on grain, rip out.

Cut buttonhole through all thicknesses: start cutting at center and stop 1/4" from ends. Then cut into each corner as far as possible without clipping stitching.

Put patch gently through opening to interfacing side.

Smooth out patch (especially corners), forming opening into a perfect rectangle. Fuse according to manufacturers directions.

Slip stitch rectangular opening in facing to wrong side of bound buttonhole.

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