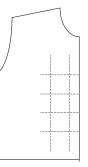# BOUND BUTTONHOLES: ONE-PIECED TUCKED METHOD
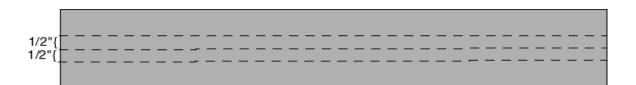
PREPARE GARMENT

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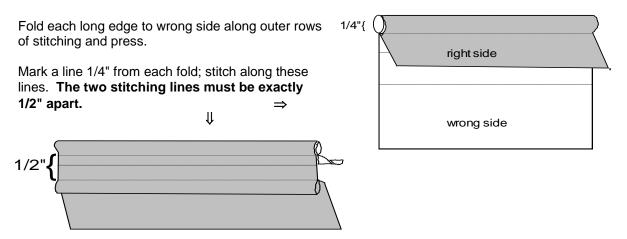
On RIGHT JACKET FRONT machine baste two continuous vertical lines to indicate beginning and end of buttonholes. Following a warp thread can be helpful. Machine baste horizontal lines over buttonhole markings extending stitching well beyond vertical lines. ⇒

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.**   ⇒
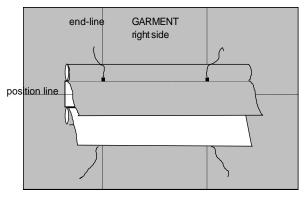
⇓

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.
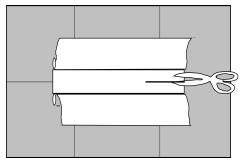**Baste** along center marking. Mark end-lines on strip
with pen.

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
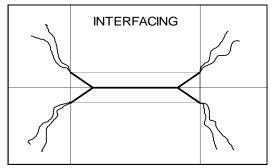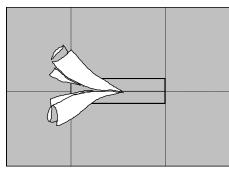and make an extra stitch. **If stitching is not perfect, rip out!**

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
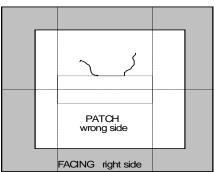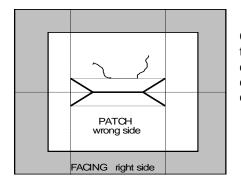end of buttonhole. Trim off thread-ends.   ⇒

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.   ⇒

PATCH
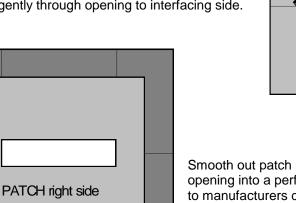wrong side

FACING   right side

PATCH
wrong side

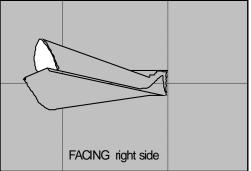FACING   right side

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.
⇒

FACING right side

PATCH right side

INTERFACING

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.