1965

Buttonholes and Pockets: Clothing Leaflet 9

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Well made buttonholes and suitable buttons may serve as decorative feature for dresses, coats and suits. "Bound buttonholes" is a common term, often used to distinguish buttonholes finished with cloth from the worked buttonhole. The kinds of cloth-finished buttonholes are the bound, corded, and piped.

The directions outlined here are for making piped buttonholes. The piped buttonhole is easy to make, has strong corners and a neat, flat-edge finish. It is one of the most satisfactory of the cloth-finished buttonholes.

**PIPED BUTTONHOLES**

**Placing of buttons and buttonholes.** Buttonholes may be placed crosswise or lengthwise on the garment. The size of the buttonhole equals the diameter plus the thickness of the button. Usually buttons are placed on the center front or center back line of a garment. Buttonholes are planned far enough back from the edge of the garment so that the edge of the button is about 1/4" from the garment edge. Another measure is 1/3 the width of the button from the garment edge.

**How to mark location.** Make two rows of basting parallel to the center front or back marking. The outer row should be about 1/8" beyond the center front to give room for the shank of the button. Distance between the lines depends on the size of the button. Make crosswise bastings for each buttonhole. Follow grainline carefully when placing markings.

**Prepare the piping material.** Material for the piping may be cut on the straight or bias. Cut a piece 2" wide and 1" longer than the buttonhole marking for each buttonhole. If there are several buttonholes cut a strip for piping two inches longer and one inch wider than the marking for the row of buttonholes. Mark the buttonholes on the piping with thread, chalk or pencil.
**Baste and stitch.** Baste piping strip or pieces over the markings on garment with right sides together. Stitch around buttonhole marking. Small stitches will make a neater buttonhole. Begin in center of one long side. Make square corners by keeping needle in material while lifting presser foot to turn. Make same number of stitches across each end. Three or four stitches or 3/16" is a good width for most buttonholes. Count the stitches along the sides and ends to insure more even corners and accurate width.

**Cut and trim.** Cut on the marking line through the piping and garment to within 3/8" of the ends. Then cut diagonally to each corner, leaving a triangle at each end. Pull the piping piece through to the wrong side. Crease back the triangles exactly on the edge of the facing. Press firmly.

**Shape the piping.** Turn the seam away from the slash. Fold the piping to the center of the opening to form two folds of equal width. This forms an inverted pleat at the ends on wrong side. Baste along each side of the fold but not at the ends so triangles are left free. Use diagonal basting to hold the edges together on right side. Press.

**Tack piping in place.** Turn to wrong side and stitch by hand or machine across each end, catching the inverted pleat and the triangle. Stitch close to original stitching at ends.

**Hand stitch piping along sides** to the original seam, but not through to the outside of the garment. At the ends catch the center of the inverted pleat to the base of the triangle.

Remove all except diagonal bastings and press carefully. Trim piping on all sides to within 1/4" of the stitching line.

**Facing.** Pin or baste hem or facing over the back of the buttonholes. Push a pin through from the right side at each end of the buttonhole to mark the cutting line. Cut the facing at each buttonhole. Turn the raw edges under and hem to the garment by hand.
POCKETS

Pockets may serve two purposes - usefulness and decoration, or both. The shape, size and location of pockets are important to the garment design. Pockets attract the eye, so their placing should be carefully planned. The kinds of pockets commonly used are patch, piped, and welt pockets.

**Piped pockets.** Piped pockets are made in the same way as piped buttonholes, except that the material for the piping is cut twice the length of the finished pocket, plus 1 1/2" to 2" in both length and width. Mark the pocket line on the garment. Place piping strip over marking, right sides together, with 1 or 2 inches of material extending above the marking. Or the piping strip may be creased in the center and the center crease laid on the pocket marking.

Stitch a rectangle around pocket marking. The stitching may be from 1/8" to 1/4" from the pocket marking. Count stitches to keep ends the same width. Cut the pocket opening the same as for the buttonhole. Pull piping to wrong side, stitch ends and turn material to form pocket. Baste and machine stitch around edges of pocket. No stitching shows on the right side. Trim, press, and overcast pocket edges.

**Welt Pockets.** The same method may be used for making a simplified welt pocket. For this pocket the piping from the lower edge is extended to the top of the pocket opening to form the welt. The pocket opening is cut - the piping turned to the wrong side as for the piped pocket. After the welt has been shaped the stitching of the piping or welt is completed as above.
Patch Pockets. Many variations in shape, finish, and size are possible. The beauty of the pocket depends on accurate cutting, retaining the shape, and a smooth finish. Be sure patch pockets are cut on the grain and placed on the garment in relation to grain.

Raw seams at corners can make patch pockets unattractive. The following method of making a patch pocket eliminates raw seams and stitching across the top of the pocket.

Allow at least one-half inch seam on pockets with square corners.

Turn the hem of the pocket to the right side of the pocket. Then turn up one-fourth inch. Stitch across the ends of the hem.

Turn the hem to the wrong side of the pocket, slip stitch or hem on the sewing machine. This hem may be made twice as wide and one-half of it allowed to become a flap. Turn and crease the side and lower seams. Open creased seam at the corners and cut away corner for miter. Allow one-fourth inch below corner for miter seam.

Crease seam for the miter.

Slip stitch edges of miter together. The pocket may be stitched to the garment with one or two rows of machine stitching or it may be slip-stitched by hand.

The lower edge of the pocket may be curved. To remove the extra material on the seam at the curve, clip notches from the seam.

This pocket may be lined for wool garments. Cut the lining same shape as the pocket. A hem will not be necessary. Lay right side of lining to the right side of pocket. Stitch the two together, allowing space on one side for turning. Trim away extra seam, turn and press. Slip-stitch the open space together.