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G93-1125 Lining a Jacket or Coat

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G93-1125-A
(Replaces HEG81-136)



Lining a Jacket or Coat

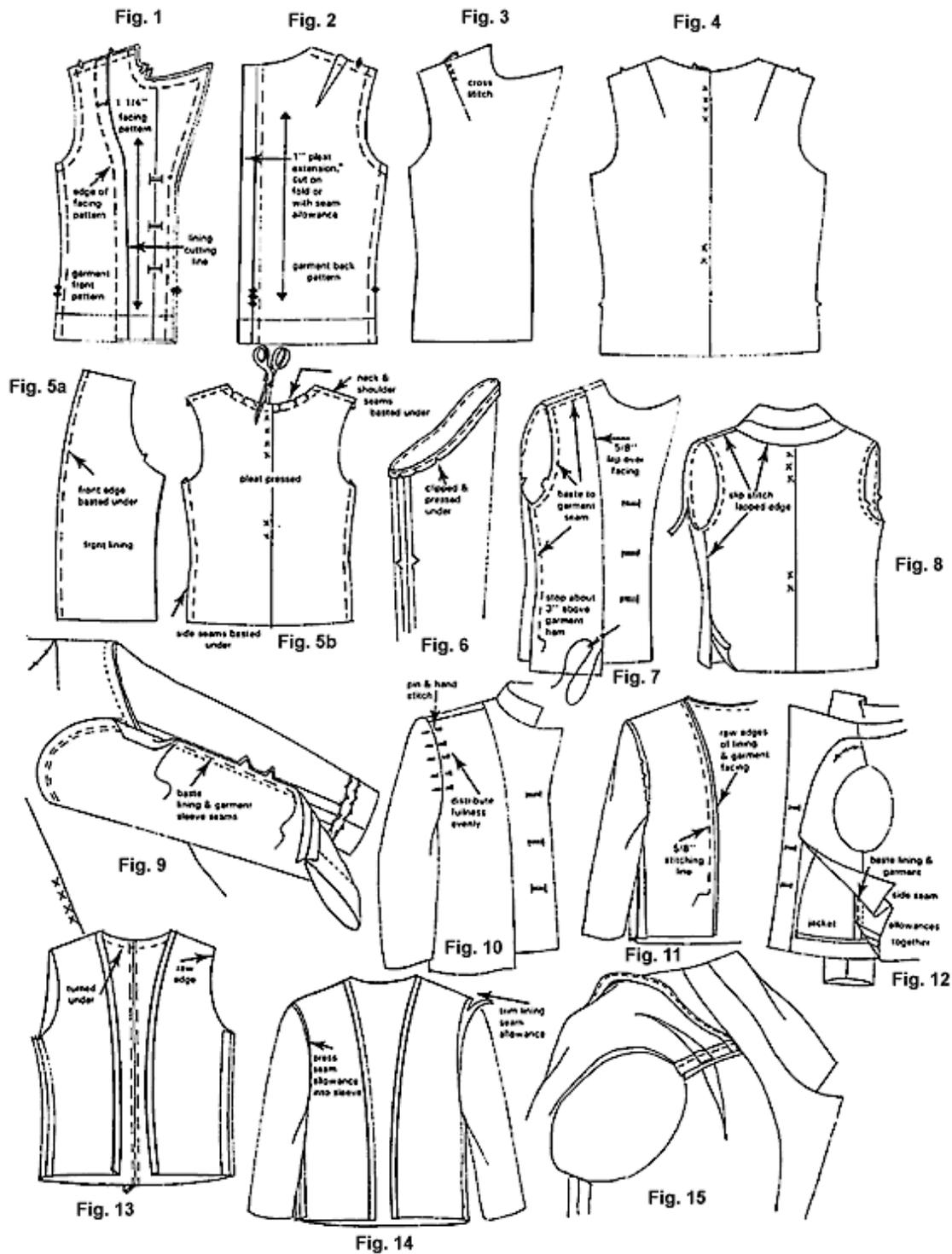
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The purpose of a lining is to add to the comfort of the wearer; preserve the shape of a garment or add body to it; and conceal construction details and raw edges of fabric, thus giving a finished appearance to the inside of the garment. A neatly applied lining usually adds to a garment quality.

The fabric and style of the garment may influence whether a lining should be used. Woven fabrics are more frequently lined (to conceal raw edges) than knit fabrics. If a woven fabric coat or jacket is not lined, give seam allowances and facings a special treatment so the garment will have a nice inside appearance when it is removed. It is most satisfactory to line a garment when instructions (and pattern pieces) are included with the garment pattern. While many "unlined" jackets can be lined, the design of many others (with pleats, tucks, or special seaming) make it difficult to add a lining. Check the pattern carefully before attempting to line an "unlined" garment.

A variety of fabrics are available for linings. The necessary characteristics of a lining fabric are: lightweight and pliable (so it won't dominate the other fabric), soft and smooth to touch (for comfort), slick enough to slide easily on and off the body, and a firm weave to withstand wear. The lining fabric should be compatible in weight, feel, and care requirements to the fabric of the outer garment.



Figures 1 through 15.

Most patterns include either separate lining pattern pieces or instructions for cutting the lining from the regular pattern. If no pattern pieces or instructions are included, a simple jacket or coat can be lined by using the front, back and sleeve pattern pieces. To determine the lining placement around the facing, lay the front pattern over the facing, matching front seamlines (*Figure 1*). Draw a cutting line on the pattern 1 inch from the facing edge toward the center front. Use the same procedure to determine the back neck

cutting line. Cut the sleeve lining using the sleeve pattern.

A pleat must be included in the back of a coat or jacket for easier movement (do not use a pleat in a bulky lining fabric). Allow an extra inch on the fold of the center back or the back seam line for the action pleat (*Figure 2*). Any alterations made to the garment must also be made to the lining pattern.

The lining is generally constructed in the same manner as the garment, with these exceptions: a front shoulder dart is machine stitched about 2 inches from the wide end only. An alternate method is to baste, press, and then hand sew the dart with a cross stitch, catch stitch, or featherstitch, 1 1/2-2 inches from the wide end (*Figure 3*). Waistline darts may be treated the same as shoulder darts or converted to ease. Back neckline or shoulder darts are treated as a tuck or are eased, rather than being machine stitched.

The center back pleat is basted and pressed (usually to the left) the full length of the garment. The top 2 inches of the pleat are stitched at the neckline, using a cross stitch, catch stitch, or feather stitch. Use one of these stitches or a 1/2 inch hand seam bar tack to fasten the pleat at the waistline (*Figure 4*). If a vent is included in the pattern, the pleat should be turned in the same direction that the vent is pressed.

Three main methods are used to insert a lining in a coat or jacket: 1) handsewing; 2) machine sewing; or 3) a combination of hand and machine stitching. Certain basic procedures are followed in all three methods.

- Lining pieces are stay-stitched (some areas will need to be clipped later) before assembly is begun.
- An ease thread is stitched over the cap of the sleeve. The underarm sleeve seam is stitched and pressed.
- The center back seam (if there is one) is stitched and pressed.
- All darts are pressed and hand stitched, or converted to tucks or ease.
- If the garment will be machine washed and the fabric ravel easily, all seams are finished.

Lining by Hand Stitching

The hand method of lining a suit or coat is sometimes necessary to fit an intricately designed or radically altered garment, or to handle a heavy fabric. This often gives a more professional appearance to a garment.

Preparing the Lining. The edge of the front section (which attaches to the garment facing), back side seams, back shoulder seams, and back neck seam are turned under on the seam lines and pressed or basted. These seams and front side seams are finished if the fabric ravel excessively and the garment will be machine washed. Curved areas are clipped or notched inside the seam allowance for ease (*Figure 5*). The armhole seam and hems are left raw.

The sleeve seam is stitched and pressed, the sleeve cap is eased, and the sleeve's curved edge is turned under 5/8 inch and basted or pressed (*Figure 6*).

Inserting the lining. Turn the garment wrong side out and put it on a padded hanger or dress form. The front facing should be tacked at the shoulder seams and the garment hem should be completed. Press the garment carefully.

Place the lining front over the garment, wrong sides together. Pin the lining in place over the seam allowance of the front facing, slightly easing in fullness at the bustline. Pin the lining to the shoulder and side seams before trying it onto check the fit. When the fit is perfected, hand stitch the lining to the front to the garment using an invisible slipstitch or a small whip stitch. Leave about 3 inches up from the

garment hem unstitched at the lower lining area. This will be finished with the hem. Baste the lining to the shoulder, armhole, and side seams (*Figure 7*).

Lap the finished side and shoulder seams of the back lining over the raw edges of the lining front. Pin the neck into place over the back facing. Try on for fit. Again use a hand stitch to secure side, shoulder and neckline seams. Baste the lining armhole to the garment. Trim the lining armhole to 3/8 inch or so that it is even with the garment armhole (*Figure 8*).

Turn the sleeves of the garment and the lining inside out. Fasten the lining sleeve to the garment sleeve with long loose stitches in the seam allowance (*Figure 9*). Pull the lining sleeve over the garment sleeve, with wrong sides together. Pin the sleeve lining in place so that the armseye seam lines match. Adjust ease over the cap of the sleeve. Stitch by hand, using a small whip or hemming stitch, which is stronger than a slip stitch (*Figure 10*). If shoulder pads were used, catch the lining only to the bodice lining at the armhole. Stitching into the shoulder pad will cause tautness that might show on the right side of the garment.

Lining by Machine Stitching

Attaching a lining by machine stitching is very common in mass-produced garments. It is often more practical than delicate hand sewing for children's wear and sportswear. Bulks fabrics are best sewn by machine rather than by hand--seams are stitched and pressed open, thus reducing bulk.

Preparing the Lining. Prepare darts as for hand sewn lining. Machine stitch and press side and shoulder seams. Stitch and press the sleeve seam. Finish all seams if the garment will be machine washed and the fabric ravel easily. Insert the sleeve lining into the bodice lining, stitch twice and trim the seam to 3/8 inch. Before attaching the lining to the garment, hem and press the garment. Do not tack the facing to the shoulder seams or to the hem.

Inserting the Lining. With right sides together, match center back, shoulders, notches, and bustline of lining and garment. Machine stitch with a regular 5/8 inch seam allowance, stopping about 3 inches from the lower edge of the garment (*Figure 11*). Clip curves, grade the seam and press it toward the lining. If the hem is to be left loose, it must be completed before the machine stitching can be completed (see the section on hemming). Side seams of the garment and lining should be tacked together (use a basting stitch or loose whip stitch) for about 4 inches (*Figure 12*). Lining and garment sleeve seams should also be tacked together in the seam allowance.

Combination Machine and Hand Insertion

The combination method is more commonly used than the completely hand sewn lining. In this method, the body of the lining is assembled by machine and then attached to the garment by hand. Sleeves can be hand or machine stitched to the lining.

Preparing the Lining. Join back and front sections by machine stitching; press and finish seams if needed. Turn under the front and back neck (along seam line), where the lining joins the garment facing. Press or baste. Clip or notch curves if needed (*Figure 13*). Stitch, press and finish the sleeve seam. If the sleeve is to be machine stitched to the body of the lining, complete that step. Use two rows of stitching, then trim to 3/8 inch (*Figure 14*).

Complete the garment hem, press, and tack the facing at shoulders before proceeding.

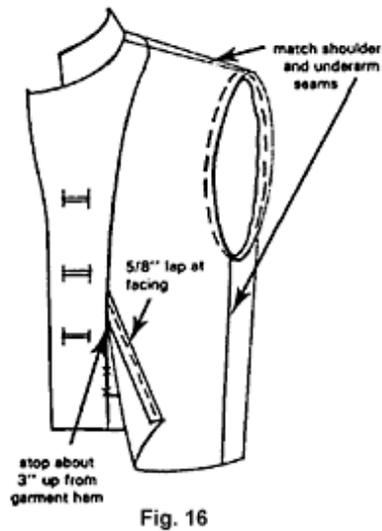


Fig. 16

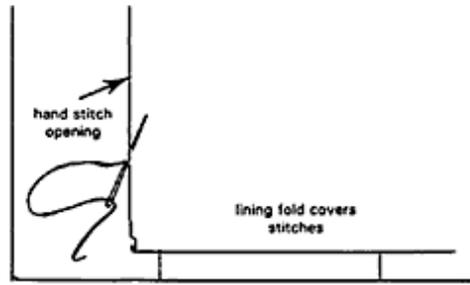


Fig. 19

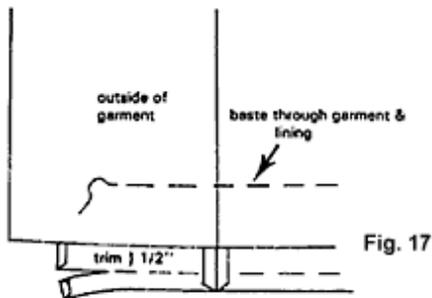


Fig. 17

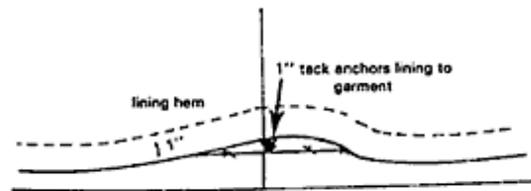


Fig. 20

Figures 16, 17, 19, 20.

Inserting the Lining. Turn the garment wrong side out and place it on a padded hanger or dress form. Place the lining over the garment, wrong sides together. Beginning with the back section and shoulder seams, match lining and garment shoulder seams. Use long hand stitches to hold these together (*Figure 15*). Repeat at side seam, joining front seam allowances of lining and garment side seams. Hand stitch several inches below the arm hole. Pin the lining to the remainder of the garment, matching center backs, notches and bustlines. The lining should overlap facings by 5/8 inch so that seamlines match. Hand stitch with an invisible slip stitch or small hem stitch. Leave about 3 inches unstitched at the lower edge of the garment (*Figure 16*). If the sleeve is to be hand inserted, baste the lining to the garment at the armseye, then trim the lining seam to 3/8 inch. Attach the sleeve lining as described under "Hand Sewn Lining" (*Figure 10*).

If the sleeve lining has been attached to the lining bodice, treat the sleeve as indicated in "Lining by Machine Stitching."

Hemming the Jacket or Coat Lining

The hem in the lining of a jacket or coat is usually sewn by hand. It can either be attached to the garment hem (most common on jackets) or left loose from the garment (most common on coats).

Lining Hem Hand Stitched to Garment. Place the garment on a padded hanger or dress form. If you wish to put the garment on yourself, a friend can assist with the marking. Pin and/or baste the lining to the garment about 3 inches above the garment hem. Do not pull or force the lining, but allow it to fall naturally. Trim the raw edge of the lining so it extends 1/2 inch below the jacket (*Figure 17*). Turn up 1/2 inch along the cut edge of the lining; pin or baste. Place the edge of the lining 1 inch above the lower edge of the garment. Slip stitch the lining to the hem allowance along the lining fold (*Figure 18*). The center back pleat should be folded and sewn into the hem.

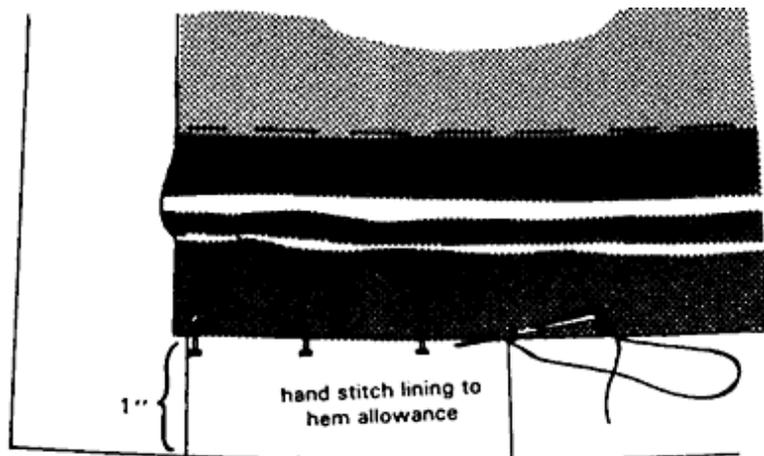


Figure 18.

Press the fold of material down to cover the handstitched hem edge. This fold then forms an ease pleat along the lower edge of the lining. Finish hand stitching the lining front to the facing (*Figure 19*).

Hem the sleeves in the same manner, forming an ease pleat along the lower edge of the lining.

Loose Hem. Coats usually have free-hanging linings. The lining hem generally

ends about 1 inch above the lower edge of the coat. The lining hem can be finished by hand or machine, as any hem would be done. French tacks or chain tacks are used to anchor the lining to the garment at the seams (*Figure 20*).

File G1125 under: TEXTILES, CLOTHING AND DESIGN

C-14, Construction

Issued April 1993; 5,000 printed.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Elbert C. Dickey, Director of Cooperative Extension, University of Nebraska, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

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