

1970

## EC70-464 Follow that Grainline

Jane Speece

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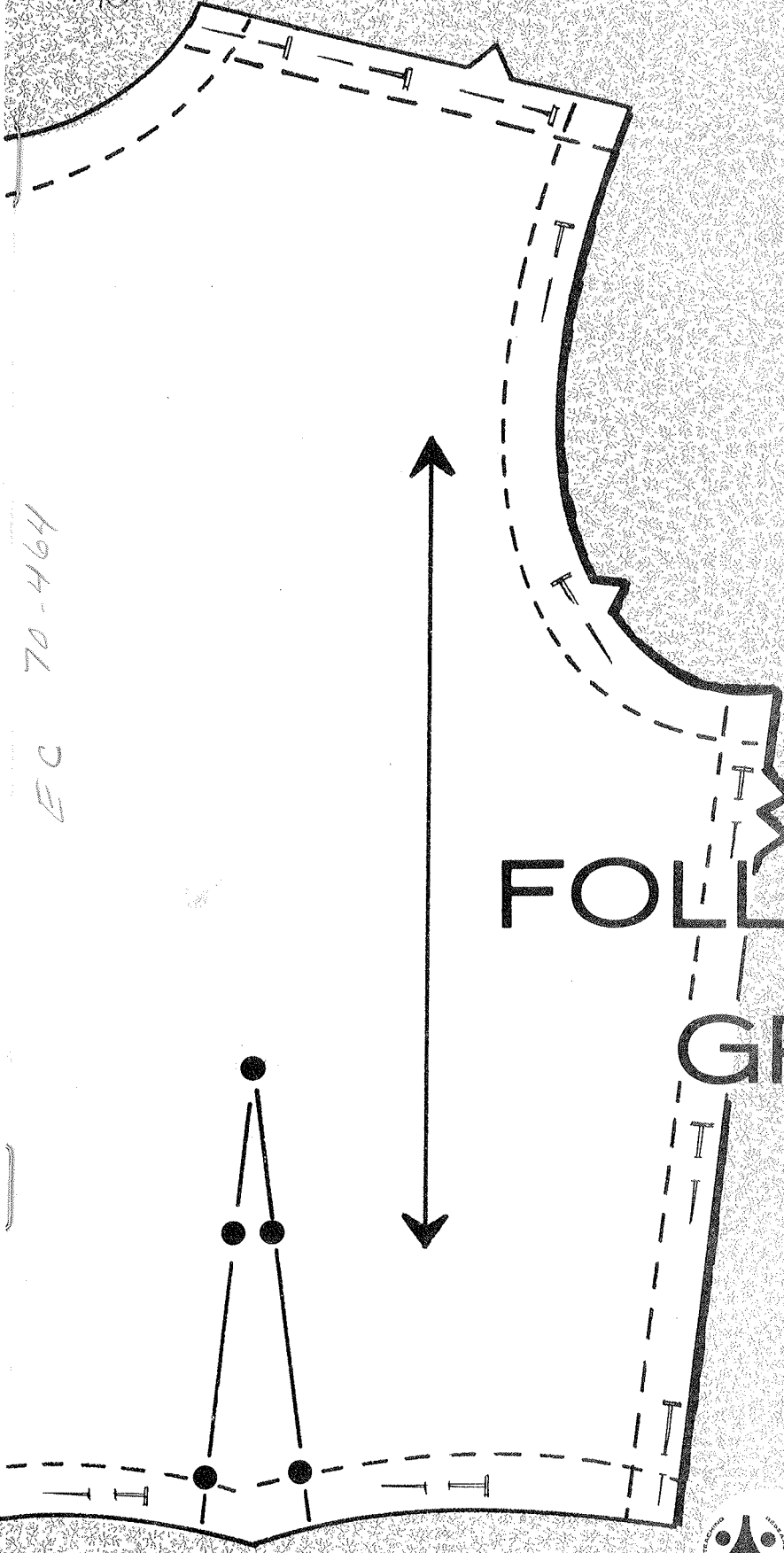
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# FOLLOW that GRAINLINE



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# FOLLOW THAT GRAINLINE

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Extension Specialist (Clothing)

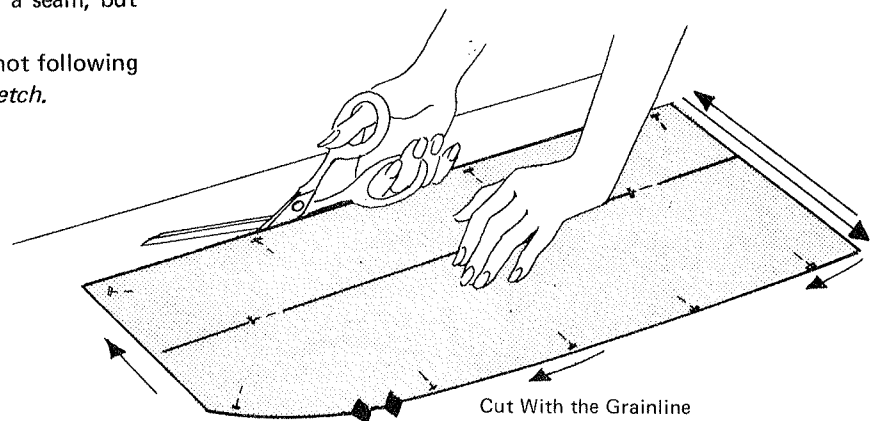
Have you ever finished a garment and found that the neckline had a gap or a bulge where it did not belong?

Or have you discovered that when you began to sew two garment pieces together that one was longer than its mate?

Or have you carefully basted and stitched a seam, but felt the final result somehow did not look right?

The probable cause of these problems was not following the grainline as you worked, thereby causing *stretch*.

FIGURE 1



## Cut and Press with Grainline

The first step for good construction is to cut out the pattern piece following the grain (Figure 1.) Often the pattern will indicate the direction by arrows. When construction procedures indicate that pressing is needed, follow the grainline with the iron.

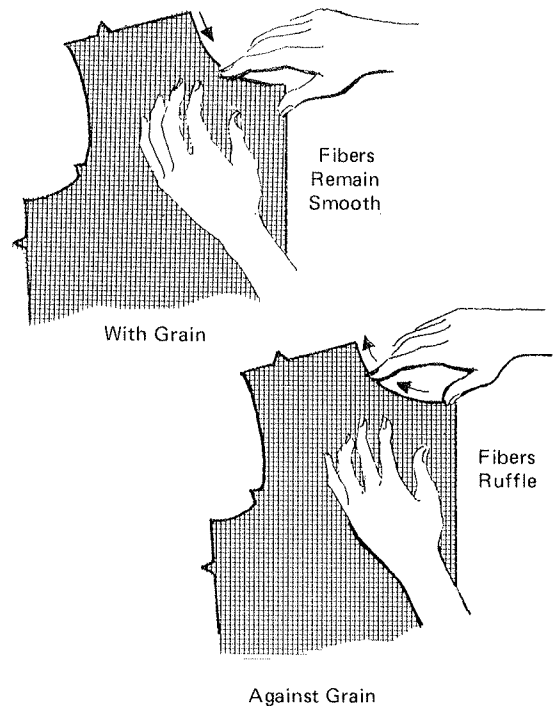
## Staystitching

The lengthwise and crosswise threads of the fabric need to be held in place along the curved areas of the garment, which may stretch as they are handled. A stitching line is needed to keep these areas in place. This procedure is called staystitching.

Staystitching should follow the grain. Run your finger along the slanted or curved edges to determine the right direction. If the fibers ruffle up, you are moving against the grain. If the threads stay in place, you are moving with the grain, and this is the direction the staystitching should follow (Figure 2).

FIGURE 2

Find the Grainline

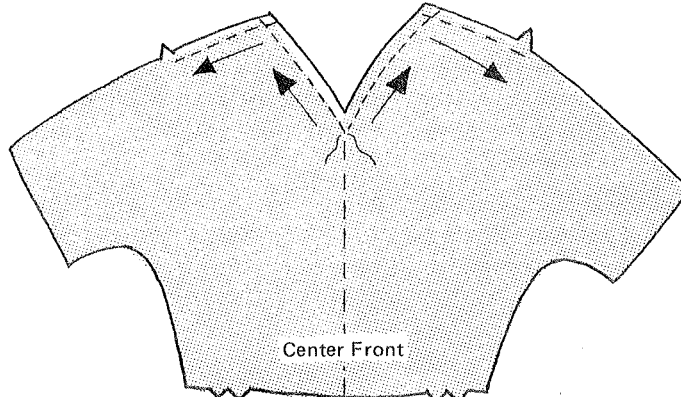
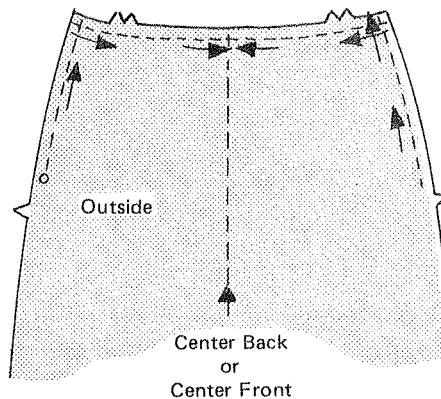
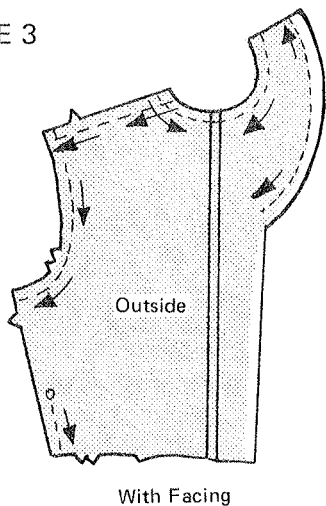


Staystitch the garment pieces as soon as the paper pattern is removed. Usual areas to be staystitched and the general direction of stitching are indicated in Figure 3.

*Where to Stitch.* The regular length stitch to be used for staystitching unless the pattern indicates otherwise. Staystitching remains in the garment so matching color of thread should be chosen. Do not turn or pivot at corners. Stitch to the edge, remove the garment from the machine, and clip the threads close to the edge before beginning a new line of stitching.

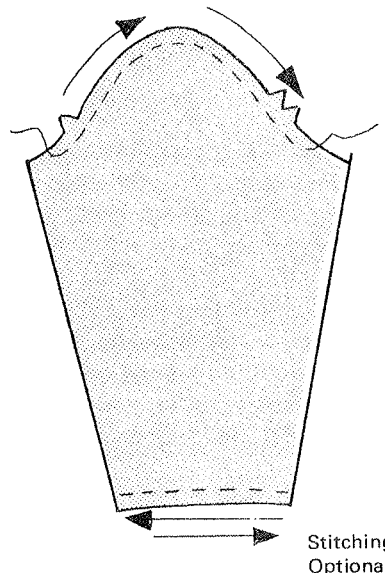
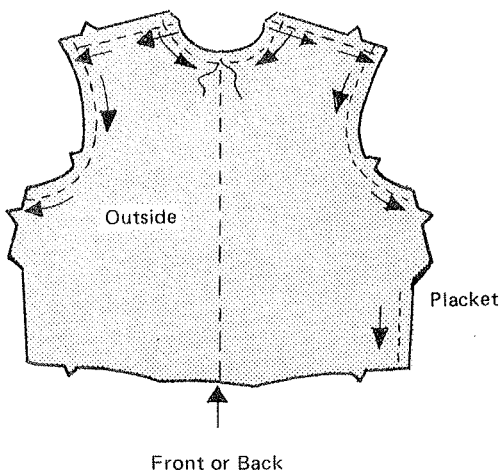
Unless the pattern calls for stitching on the exact seamline, staystitch about 1/8 inch inside the seam line in the seam allowance. Long bias seams, such as in a circular skirt or raglan sleeve, are stitched only along the placket or shoulder areas. The seams need to stretch as the fabric stretches in these long seams.

FIGURE 3



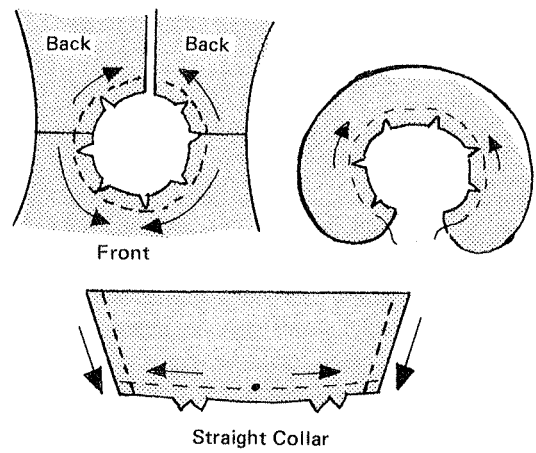
*Set-In Sleeves.* The sleeve is cut larger than the armhole and needs to be eased in. The staystitching follows the 5/8 inch seamline so that it may be used as the ease stitch. The stitch is lengthened and one inch tails are left to allow the fabric to ease readily. The staystitch at the lower edge of the sleeve is optional. Staystitch on the right side of the sleeve. The bobbin thread pulls more readily (Figure 4).

FIGURE 4



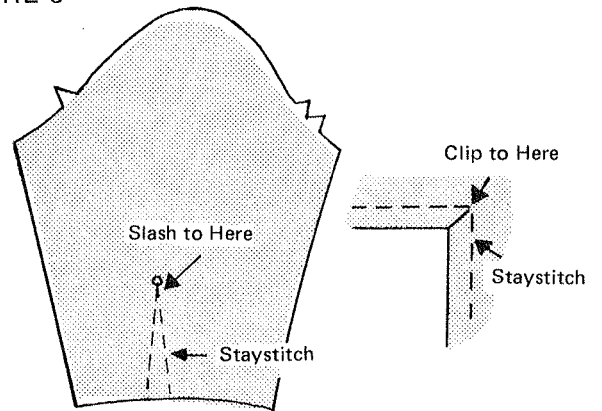
*Collars.* Often staystitching along the 5/8 inch seamline of a circular collar and neckline will give a better fit. Notching both the collar and the neckline before stitching them together will give a straight line instead of a curved line to follow for the final stitching. The convertible or straight collar is staystitched at the neckline and ends (Figure 5).

FIGURE 5



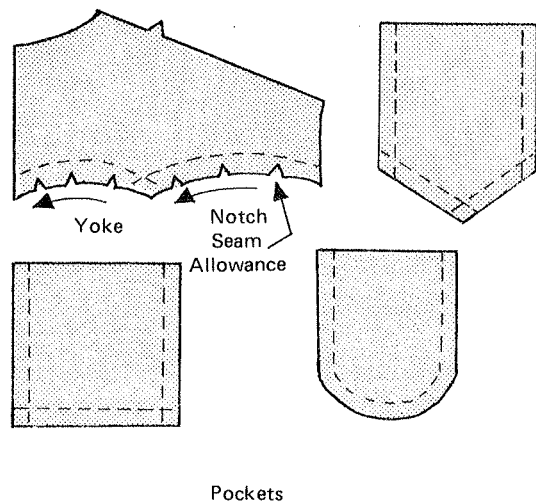
*Slashed or Clipped Areas.* Pattern pieces often indicate "slash or clip to here" at certain construction points, such as gussets, sleeve laps and corners joined to other garment pieces. Staystitching strengthens the area and indicates the final stitching line for many seams (Figure 6).

FIGURE 6



*Pockets, Flaps and Yokes.* Staystitching on the 5/8 inch seamline allows the sharp turning of corners and prevents stretching of the bias areas (Figure 7).

FIGURE 7



### Directional Stitching for Seams

Direction of stitching for the final seams is important. The same general rules apply to stitching the final seams as apply to staystitching the garment pieces (Figure 8).

Directional stitching need not be followed when:

1. Bodice and skirt are stitched together.
2. Sleeve is stitched into the garment.
3. Stitching lines are parallel to the straight grain of the garment.
4. True bias edges are cut.
5. A surface has been reinforced by interfacing or a similar control.

Following that grain through all construction processes will help you achieve that perfect product.

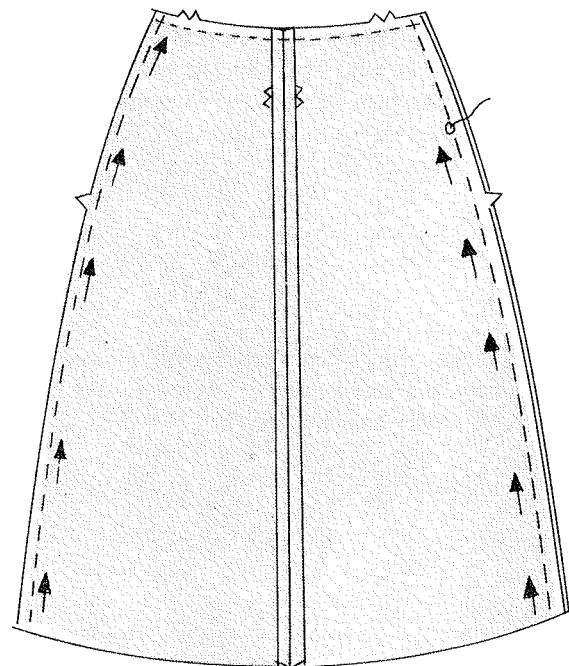
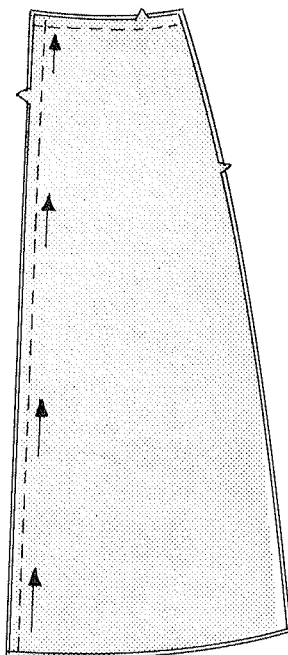
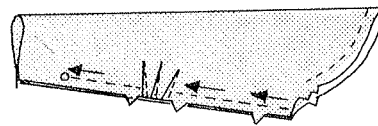
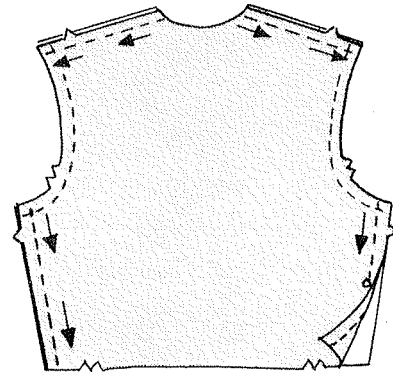


FIGURE 8

Final Directional Stitching