

1956

EC56-412 Belts and Belt Carriers

Gerda Petersen

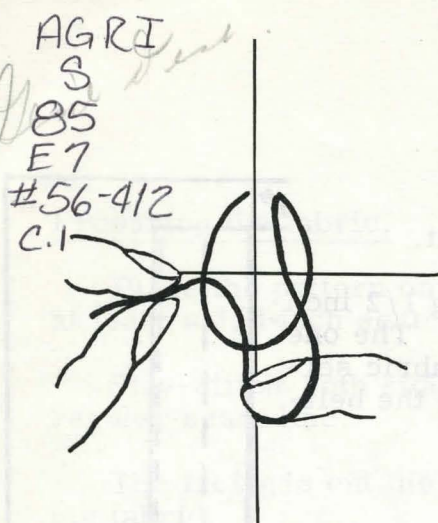
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Keep plates
Belts and Belt Carriers

Gerda Petersen



A well made belt can help give your garment a professional look. It is economical and not at all difficult to make your own belts. This circular explains a method for making two types of belts: the straight tailored belt and the shaped or contour belt.

Tailored BeltsPreparing the fabric for straight or tailored belts.

The length of the belt should follow the lengthwise grain of the fabric and should be cut exactly on the grain. It is desirable to cut the strip to include the selvedge on most fabrics.

The length of the strip of fabric to be used for the belt should be the length of the waist measurement plus 5 to 7 inches to allow for a lap and for a seam at the buckle.

The width should be $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the width of the belting if the selvedge is included. If it is impossible to cut a strip along the selvedge, add at least $\frac{1}{4}$ inch more to the width.

The belting or stiffening.

A number of kinds of belting or stiffening for belts are available in most department stores. Check the label to be sure the belting is washable or dry cleanable, depending on the type of care you wish to give your garment and belt.

Grosgrain ribbon may be used for stiffening if a softer type of belt is desired. The ribbon should be shrunk before it is stitched into the belt. Some cotton beltings may also require shrinking.

Cut the strip of belting $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches shorter than the strip of fabric.

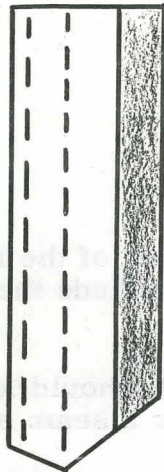
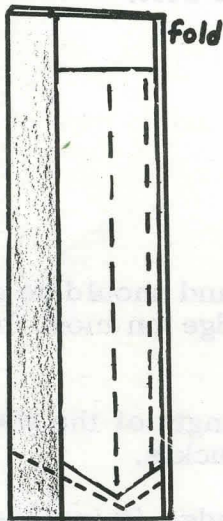
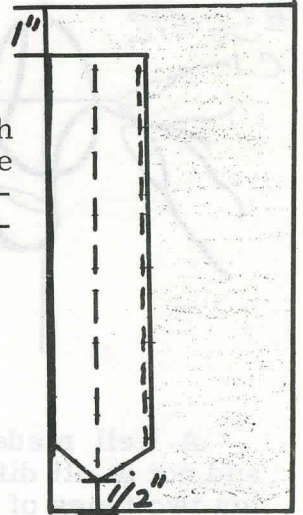
The width of belting should be selected to fit the buckle. If the fabric is heavy, the belting will need to be at least $\frac{1}{8}$ inch less than the buckle opening.

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Making the belt.

1. Shape the one end of the belting. Avoid a very sharp point.
2. Place the belting on the wrong side of the fabric, allowing $\frac{1}{2}$ inch at one end for a seam and 1 inch at the buckle end for a fold. The one lengthwise edge of the belting should be placed exactly on the fabric selvedge. If there is no selvedge, press a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch fold and place the belting edge on the fold.

Stitch toward the points on the center of the belting.



3. Next stitch on the edge away from the selvedge.

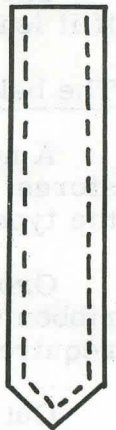
4. Fold the fabric with right sides together along the stitched edge. Stitch around the points of the belting (but not too closely) and taper toward the raw edge.

5. Trim the seam around the point. Turn the belt with the seam enclosed.

6. Fold the raw edge under the selvedge and pin in place.

7. Top-stitch the selvedge edge, then around the point and down the other side.

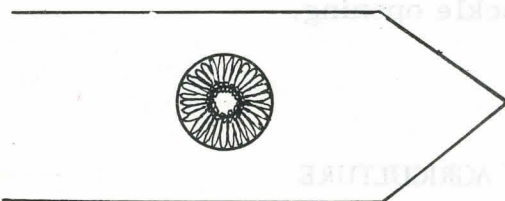
8. If a belt without top stitching is desired, the selvedge could be stitched over the raw edge with hand stitches.



Making eyelets.

1. Punch holes through the belt with a stiletto (or a large darning needle or orange stick).

2. Buttonhole-stitch around the edges with the purl set either on the inside or outside of the eyelet. Shape the eyelet as you work by pulling the stitches tightly and inserting the stiletto now and then.



Shaped or Contour Belts

Preparing the fabric.

Place the pattern on the true grain as indicated by pattern markings. Be sure there is at least a 3/8-inch seam allowance

Stay-stitch both sides of the belt on the sewing machine about 1/8 inch outside of the regular seam line.

The facing is cut the same as the top and may be of either self-fabric or a suitable lining fabric.

Preparing the stiffening.

A stiff interlining will be needed to provide a firm edge. This interlining may be of permanently finished crinoline, tailoring canvas, or one of the non-woven interfacing.

Trace your belt pattern on firm paper. Cut off the seam allowance.

Trace this belt pattern on the interlining. Then cut, following the inner edge of the traced line so that the interlining will be smaller than the stay-stitched outline on the belt and facing.

Preparing to stitch.

Place the interlining on the wrong side of the fabric, fitting it inside the stay stitching. Clip the seam allowances of the belt around the curves. Press the seam allowances sharply over the edges of the interlining. Catch-stitch the raw edges of the belt to the interlining if the interlining is flexible enough to permit it.

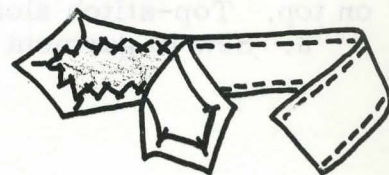


Trim 1/16 inch off the edge of the firm paper pattern and place on facing. Press seam allowance of the facing, clipping when necessary, over the pattern.

Stitching.

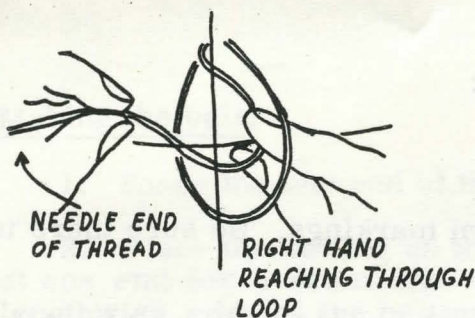
After removing the paper pattern from the facing, place the facing against the wrong side of the belt, pinning the edges together with pins at right angles. The folded edges of the facing should be just inside the edges of the belt.

Top-stitch for a tailored effect or slip-stitch facing to the belt by hand.



Belt Carriers or Keepers

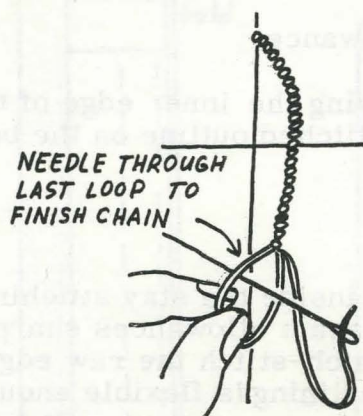
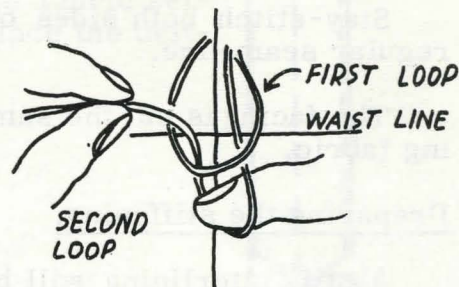
Belt carriers are needed to keep a belt in position over the waistline seam. These are usually made about 1/8 inch longer than the width of the belt and are placed on the side seams half above and half below the waistline. The carriers should be made of thread that matches the garment. Button hole twist will give better service than sewing thread. Narrow cords of self-fabric, inserted in the side seams, will outwear the thread guards but will also be more noticeable.



Chain-stitched belt carrier.

1. Knot a double thread. Take two short backstitches through the side seam allowance and bring the needle through to the right side at the point planned for either the upper or lower end of the belt carrier.

2. Take a tiny stitch through the seam and draw the thread up, leaving about a 2-inch loop. Hold the needle end of the thread between your left thumb and finger. With the thumb and first finger of your right hand, reach through the loop and take hold of the thread, pulling it through to make a new loop. Keep pulling the second loop until the first loop is pulled tight. Continue making loops until you have a chain a little longer than the width of the belt.



3. Bring the needle through the last loop and fasten the chain to the side seam.

Fabric carriers.

Fabric carriers are often used on coats, bathrobes and skirts.

1. Cut a strip of fabric $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inch wide and $\frac{3}{4}$ inch longer than the width of the belt.

2. Fold the long raw edge one third to the inside. Fold selvedge edge on top. Top-stitch along both long edges.

3. Sew to garment with ends flat.

