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## EC69-452 Taping and Pad Stitching

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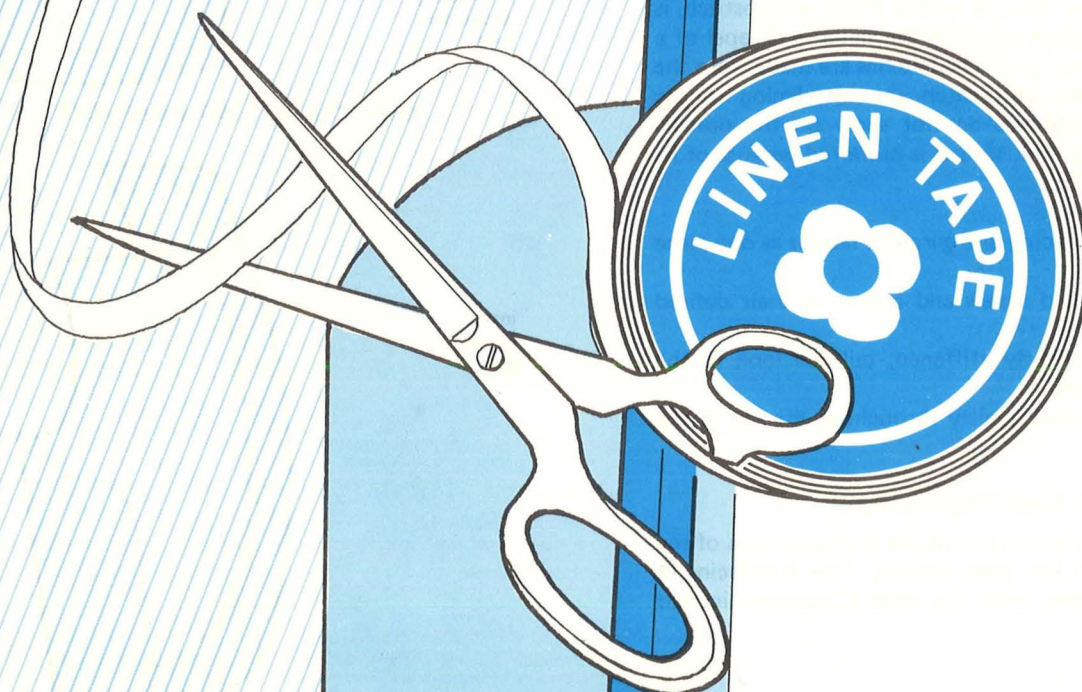
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# TAPING AND PAD STITCHING



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE, UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS,  
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# TAPING and PAD STITCHING

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Fashion features in coats and suits may appear and disappear but qualities of good construction do not change. The well-made tailored garment contains two important features:

A pad stitch used in lapels and collars.

Tape applied to designated areas to retain the tailored features throughout the garment's life.

## WHAT IS TAILORING TAPE? WHY IS TAPE APPLIED?

The tape preferred for use in tailoring is of cotton twill or linen. Rayon seam binding is commonly used when twill or linen tape is not available. The most desirable width is 1/4 inch to 3/8 inch. Preshrinking of the tape before use is necessary.

Tailoring tape is used:

*To stiffen edges* where a flat creased line is desirable, such as the front closing of a suit or coat.

*To hold areas* subject to stretching, such as lapels.

*To strengthen areas* subject to strain, such as armholes or shoulder seams.

*To retain the roll line* of the collar and lapel throughout the life of the garment.

## WHAT IS PAD STITCHING? WHY IS PAD STITCHING USED?

Pad stitching, also called a tailor's stitch or stabstitch, is a series of small stitches made in the collar and lapel of a well constructed suit or coat. The stitches are made from the inside of the garment and catch the interfacing to the outside fabric. The stitches do not show on the outside fabric of the garment. Silk thread is preferred because of its resiliency and strength.

Pad stitching is used:

*To hold* the interfacing and garment fabrics as one piece of fabric.

*To shape* and mold lapels and collars in their desired form.

*To achieve* the slightly stiffened, tailored look of the quality tailored garment.

*To retain* the shaped quality throughout the life of the garment.

## Taping the Front Suit Edge (Illustration 1)

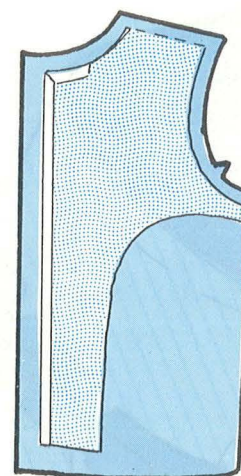
The front edge is taped before the front sections of the suit are stitched to the back section. The interfacing is already on the garment, with the seam allowance trimmed off.

Illustration 1

ends below  
seamline

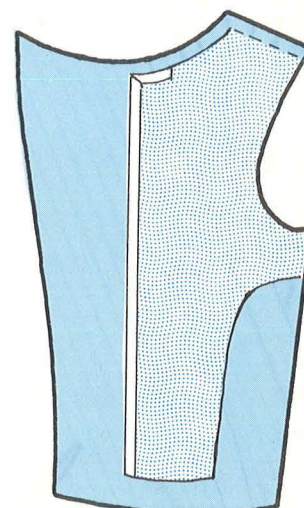
1/8" inside  
seamline

ends about  
3/8" above  
hemline



(a) WITH SEPARATE FACING

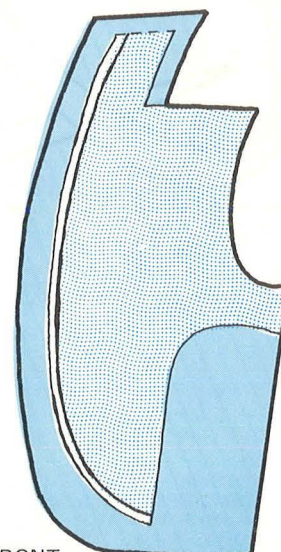
1/8" inside  
fold



(b) FACING CUT WITH GARMENT

Interfacing  
above hem  
fold

inside  
curve  
eased



(c) ROUNDED FRONT  
(CARDIGAN FRONT)



Place the garment flat on a table. Pin, then baste the tape just inside the front seamline edge of the suit. Be sure the line is straight and firm but do not stretch the tape. Ease is necessary if the suit edges are curved.

Edges of the tape are permanently fastened by a small hemstitch or whipstitch. Catch a few threads of the garment fabric on the outside edge. Secure the other edge to the interfacing. Tape is not extended into the seams or hem. The lapel line is defined but the tape usually does not extend around the neck edge.

Coats sometimes require tape around the neck edge because the fabric is often heavier than suit fabric. Coats also receive harder wear than a suit and may need the extra strength of the tape at the neck.

### Marking the Roll Line of Lapels and Collars

The roll line, or breakline, is the line where the lapel and collar roll. The lapel roll line usually ends just above the top button.

After the front and back sections of the suit or coat are assembled, pin or baste on the under collar. Be sure the interfacing has been applied to the under collar. Try on the garment to establish where the collar and lapel will roll. Another person can best mark the lines but the wearer can observe herself in a mirror. The line is pinned, then pencil marked or basted.

### Treatment of the Under Collar

In many cases the collar is removed from the suit once the roll line is marked. In this method, steam press the collar to its desired curve shaped over a rounded, rolled-up turkish towel (Illustration 2a). A collar roll or tailor's ham are excellent pieces of pressing equipment for use in collar shaping.

The collar will be taped and pad stitched before being permanently attached to the main body of the suit.

In other cases, the collar is stitched to the suit and the roll line of the collar and lapel are treated at the same time. (Illustration 2b).

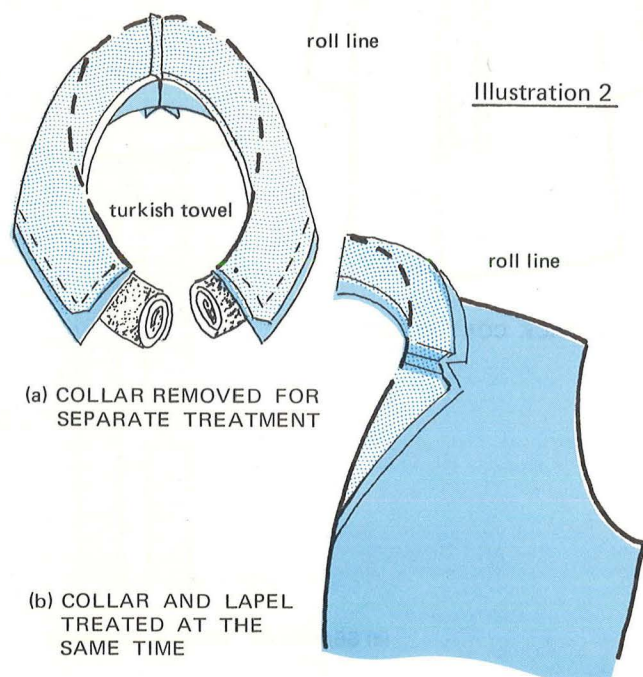


Illustration 2

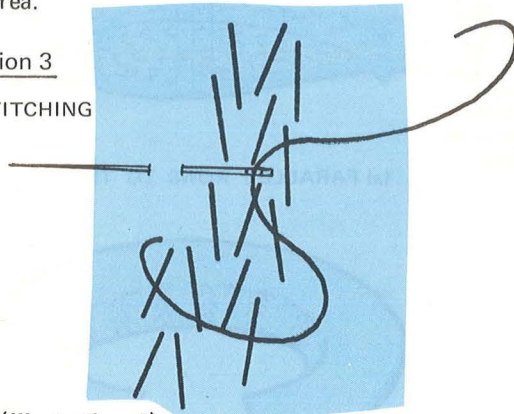
### The Pad Stitch (Illustration 3)

A single thread is used with the pad stitch. No knots are made in the thread. Instead a few short stitches are taken to secure the thread. The stitch is taken in the fabric at right angles to the row. This gives a diagonal effect.

Stitches need not be of a definite length and are firm but not tight. The smaller and closer together the stitch, the firmer the area.

Illustration 3

PAD STITCHING

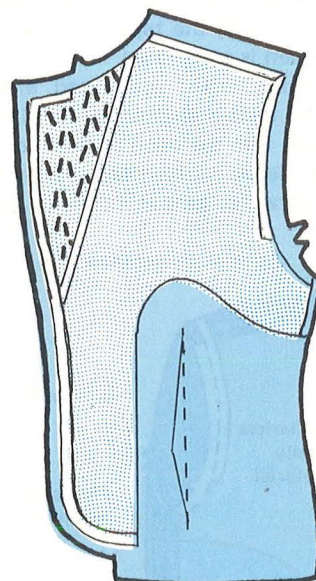


### The Lapels (Illustration 4)

Place the center of the tape along the marked roll line. Using a hemstitch, a whipstitch or a long stabstitch, catch only the interfacing layer to the tape.

Start the pad stitching at the roll line and work parallel to it. Hold the lapel firm with the thumb, the lapel point toward you. Roll the lapel between the second and third fingers as you pad stitch. Rows of stitching will be 1/4 to 1/2 inch apart. Stitches do not extend into seam allowances.

Illustration 4



### Pad Stitching the Under Collar

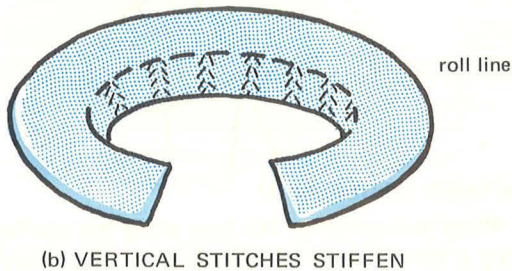
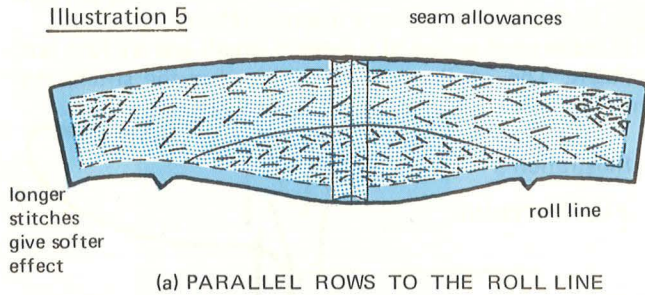
Tape is applied in the same manner and the same pad stitching is used on the under collar as on the lapel. Small, close stitches are taken between the roll line and the inside edge of the collar. Longer stitches are used from the roll line to the outer edge.

Often smaller stitches in the collar points are desirable to give a flat, firm edge. The stitch generally starts at the roll line and runs parallel to it (Illustration 5a). No stitches are taken inside seam allowances.



Vertical stitches from the roll line to the inside of the collar edge give a firm stand-up effect desirable for some designs (Illustration 5b).

Illustration 5

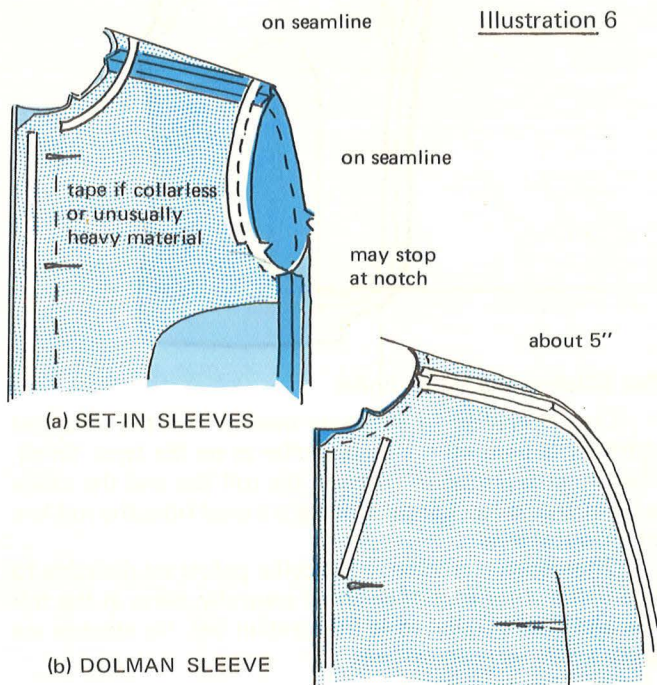


#### Taping Shoulder and Armhole Edges (Illustration 6)

The tape at the armhole edge may be basted in place and stitched in along the seam line as the sleeve is inserted in the garment. If preferred, the tape can be applied by hand after the armhole seam is completed.

The shoulder seams are taped after the garment is assembled. The tape is applied by hand along the seam line. Stitches go only into the seam allowance.

A dolman sleeve is often taped from the neck edge over the shoulder curve for several inches.



#### Other Areas Often Requiring Tape

Often waistlines of dresses or the crotch of slacks will rip out from the stretch and strain on the seam. Tape can be stitched in as the seam is stitched to strengthen these areas. The tape can also be applied by hand on an existing seam (Illustration 7a,b).

Pleats made in heavy fabrics often sag after a period of time. Applying a tape from the neck edge to the top of the pleat will hold the pleat in its original shape (Illustration 7c). The same method applies to the construction of a skirt pleat of heavy fabric.

Seams of heavy fabrics occasionally rip. Other seams may show a tendency to stretch. Hand application of tape over the seam will aid in holding the seam or help to prevent stretching (Illustration 7d).

Illustration 7

