

1970

## EC70-465 The Set-In Sleeve

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# the SET-IN SLEEVE

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# THE SET-IN SLEEVE

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The custom look in clothing construction is achieved by careful attention to details and by adherence to high standards of construction. The sleeve should be smoothly molded and show no fullness, tucks or gathers if work has been done correctly.

The cap of the set-in sleeve is designed to be larger than the armhole of the garment. The sleeve can then be molded and shaped to fit the shoulder area and to cap smoothly over the top of the arm.

*Where Is the Fullness to Be Eased?* Sleeve fullness to accommodate arm fullness lies on each side of the top mark of the sleeve cap unless the pattern indicates otherwise. No ease is taken for an area of about two inches over the top of the shoulder (Figure 1).

*Easing Out the Fullness.* Transfer all markings from the pattern piece to the sleeve as soon as the sleeve is cut. The ease stitch usually is taken before the underarm seam is stitched in the one-piece sleeve. Sleeve seams of the two-piece sleeve should be stitched and pressed before the ease stitch is made. Seam allowances may be trimmed to about 1/4 inch in bulky fabrics at the crossing point of the ease stitch in the two-piece sleeve before the ease stitch is taken (Figure 1b).

Using a lengthened stitch, run a row of machine stitching on the 5/8 inch seam line over the sleeve cap between notches. The ease stitch may also be done by hand, using short basting stitches. Leave about an inch-long tail at the beginning and ending of the stitching to aid in pulling the ease stitches.

Many persons prefer to add a second row of stitches about 1/8 inch inside the first ease stitching line. Addition of the second row of stitches sometimes aids in easing closely woven or lightweight fabrics (Figure 1). Stitch on the right side of the fabric because easing will be made on the wrong side and bobbin thread pulls more readily than the top thread.

Once the easing has been done, stitch and press the sleeve seams. Then turn the garment wrong side out, the sleeve right side out. Slip the sleeve into the garment, matching notches, underarm seams and the mark at the top of the sleeve with the shoulder mark (Figure 2).

Pull the tails of the ease stitch and distribute the fullness evenly through the ease areas. Use a fingernail or a pin to be sure that no apparent tucks or gathers will show outside the seam line.

FIGURE 1a

This diagram illustrates the top portion of a sleeve cap. A dashed line represents the 5/8" seamline. The area between the shoulder point and the seamline is labeled "Ease Area". The top center of the cap is labeled "No Ease". A bracket on the left side indicates "1 or 2 Rows" of stitching.

FIGURE 1b

2-Pc. Sleeve

This diagram shows a two-piece sleeve with the ease stitch taken. The top portion is labeled "Trimmed Out Before Ease Stitch Taken". The bottom portion is labeled "Stitched Before Ease Stitch Taken".

FIGURE 2

This diagram shows a sleeve inserted into a garment. The sleeve is shown with the ease stitch and the seam line. The garment is shown with the shoulder mark and the underarm seam.

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Insert a pin in the sleeve at right angles to the stitching line and wind the thread ends around the pin to prevent the ease thread from slipping during the shrinking process and final stitching. Finish pinning in the sleeve to be sure that the rest of the area fits smoothly.

**Shrinking Out Sleeve Fullness.** Remove the sleeve from the garment, being careful not to redistribute the ease. Place the sleeve cap, right side out, over the end of a sleeve board, tailor's ham or ironing board (Figure 3).

Steam is used to shrink out the fullness in ease areas. Most fabrics require the use of a press cloth to protect the fabric. Place the press cloth upon the sleeve cap. Cheesecloth or similar loosely woven fabric is dampened and placed over the press cloth to supply the steam. A dry iron is used to supply the heat. The double-faced press cloth of wool and muslin works particularly well with wools. (Figure 4a).

The iron, pointed toward the raw edge of the sleeve cap, should be lifted up and down carefully during the shrinking process. Be sure the sleeve is well positioned before beginning. Once the shrinking process begins, the area being steamed will stretch if it is moved about while damp. Be careful to press no more than 1/2 inch past the stitching line into the sleeve or unwanted gathers will show. Fullness will show in the seam allowance, but the sleeve itself should show no puckers or gathers. Allow the sleeve to dry before further handling.

A steam iron may be used with loosely woven fabrics which shrink readily and do not have a tendency to shine. Hold the steam iron about 3 inches above the areas of fullness and allow the steam to penetrate (Figure 4b). The fullness may be manipulated with the fingers while the fabric is damp to help along the molding. Repeat this procedure until the shrinking process is completed, and the sleeve cap retains the molding. Allow the sleeve to lose its dampness before finishing the construction process.

**Stitching Sleeve into the Garment.** Pin or baste the sleeve into the garment, matching all necessary points. Place the garment on the sewing machine, sleeve side up. The ease line on the sleeve serves as the guide for the final stitching (Figure 5).

Begin at the underarm area and stitch carefully around the sleeve with the regular length of stitch used for all garment seams. None of the ease thread should show on the right side of the sleeve when finished. The seam may be reinforced by adding a second row of stitching just inside the first row of stitching. This extra row may be used all the way around or just at the underarm area.

FIGURE 3

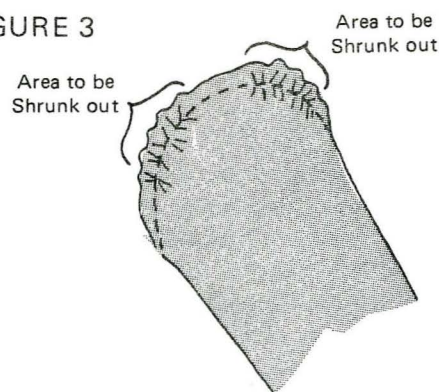


FIGURE 4a

Dry Iron

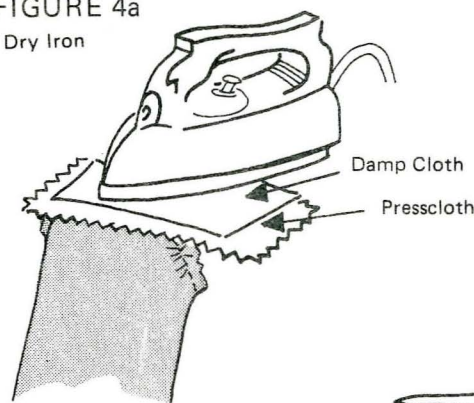


FIGURE 4b

Steam Iron

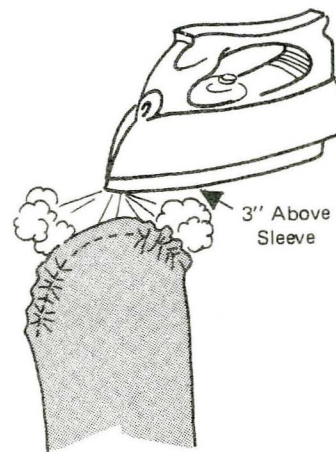
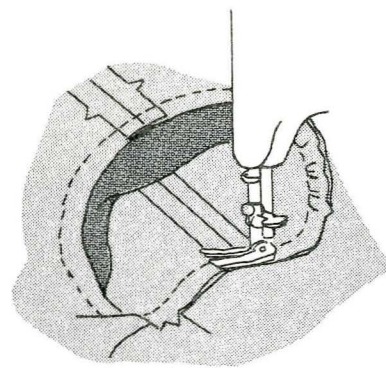


FIGURE 5





Trim the seams to  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch. Grading of the seam may sometimes be necessary, depending upon the fabric. Notch or clip into the underarm area between pattern notches (Figure 6). The sleeve will be more comfortable and lay more smoothly. Seams are usually not pressed open, but are turned toward the sleeve when finished. Lightly steam press the seam toward the sleeve. The kind of garment or fabric will help indicate if the pressing is done on the right side or wrong side.

Practice and care will enable you to mold and set in a sleeve with custom dressmaking results.

FIGURE 6

