

1972

## EC72-431 Reinforcing Readymades

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# Reinforcing READYMADES

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TAKE TIME TO SAVE TIME

A stitch in time may save nine—or ninety or even more.

Check the construction of ready-to-wear garments. Many purchased garments are made of quality fabrics but are not durable because of careless construction. A few simple reinforcements will make them last longer, save some mending, and improve the garment's general appearance.

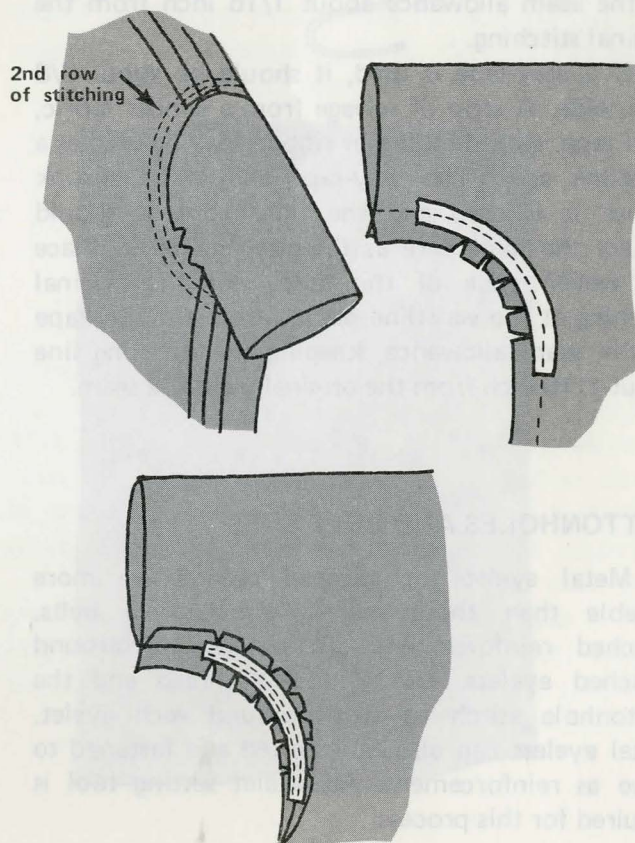
The extent of reinforcements you make on ready-mades should be determined by the cost of the garment, the durability of the fabric, and the expected life of the garment. Also, take into consideration your sewing skill and the value of your time and energy.

## SLEEVES

Sleeves often rip because of strain in that area. Set-in sleeves may be reinforced by adding a second row of stitching to the original row. Make the second stitching line in the seam allowance about 1/16 inch from the original seam line.

Raglan and kimona sleeves usually need greater reinforcement through the curved underarm area than a second row of stitching can provide. A strip of bias fabric, bias seam binding or bias tape can be stitched on top of the original seam line. Use smaller stitches than usual to provide stretching qualities for your thread. Notch or clip into the seam to allow the curve to lie smoothly.

Another possibility is to center the tape or binding over the open seam allowance. Baste along the seam line, then stitch the tape by hand or machine just outside the original stitching line in each of the seam allowances.

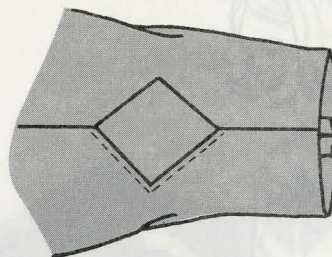


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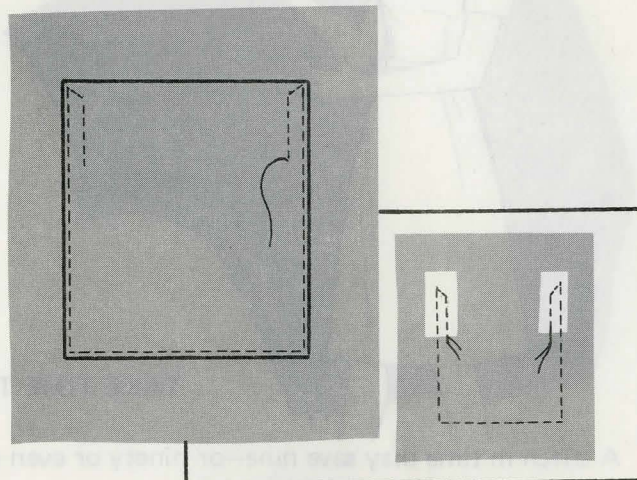


Sleeve gussets of casual and sport clothes occasionally pull. The gusset can be strengthened by edge stitching with matching thread on the outside of the garment. Press gusset seams toward the garment and stitch as close to the gusset seam as possible.



## POCKETS

Upper corners of pockets will rip or tear unless they are stitched securely. To reinforce corners place a piece of soft fabric or tape on the inside of the garment in line with the pocket corners. Restitch the pocket corners close to the stitching line with matching thread.

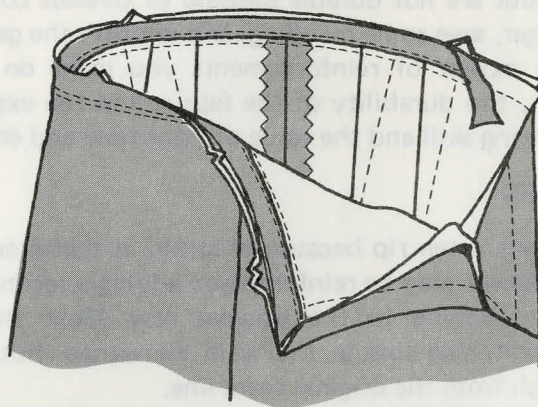


## WAISTLINE SEAMS

Durable construction at the waistline of a dress results from either a double stitching or from the use of a stay-tape at the waistline seam. Either of these reinforcements can be made on ready-made dresses.

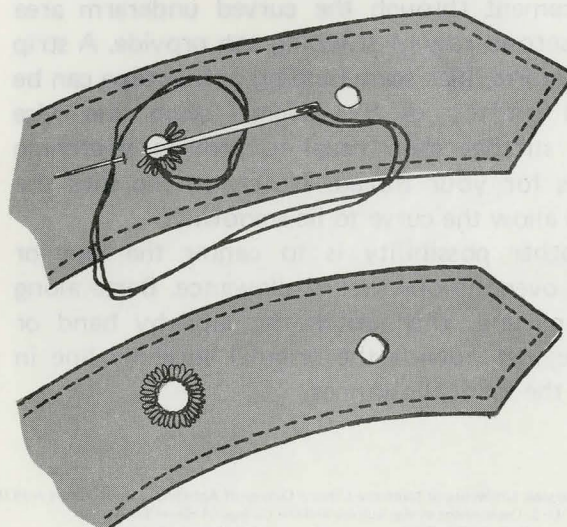
If a second row of stitching is preferred, place it on the seam allowance about 1/16 inch from the original stitching.

If a stay-tape is used, it should be about 3/8 inch wide. A strip of selvage from a similar fabric, twill tape, seam binding or ribbon may be used as a waistline stay. The stay-tape should be shrunk before it is used and the fiber content should require the same care as the garment fabric. Place the woven edge of the tape near the original stitching at the waistline seam. Stitch the stay-tape to the seam allowance, keeping the stitching line about 1/16 inch from the original waistline seam.



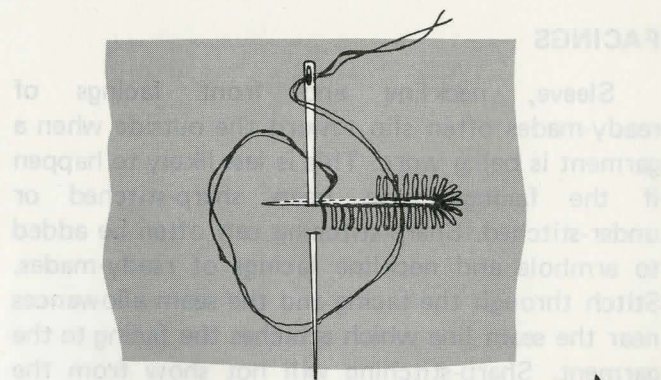
## BUTTONHOLES AND BELT EYES

Metal eyelets or stitched eyelets are more durable than those merely punched in belts. Stitched reinforcement can be worked around punched eyelets. Use a double thread and the buttonhole stitch to work around each eyelet. Metal eyelets can also be inserted and fastened to serve as reinforcement. An eyelet setting tool is required for this process.





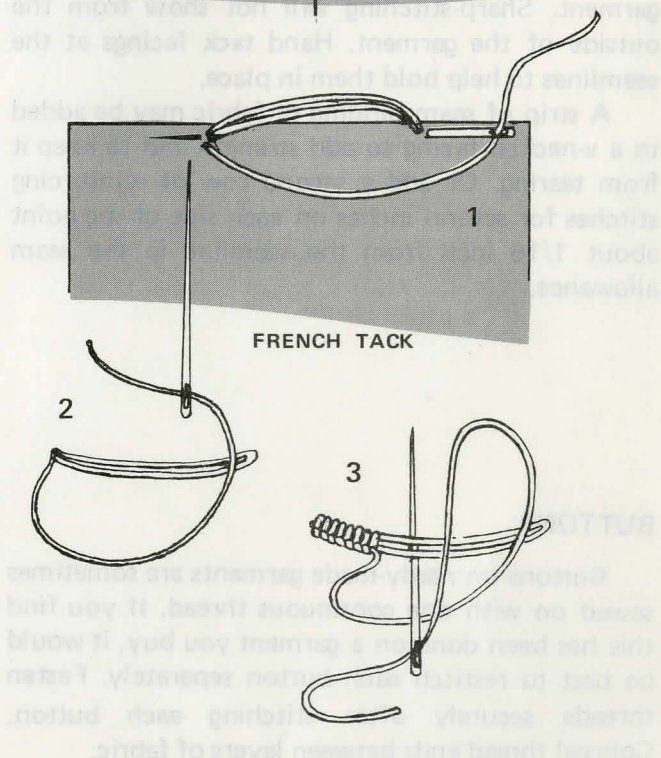
A reinforcement stitch around buttonholes is not always necessary, but it may improve the appearance and durability of machine-made buttonholes on purchased garments. Using a single thread of matching color, work the buttonhole stitch around the buttonhole starting at a point of least strain. Take only a few stitches at the ends of the buttonholes. Draw each stitch in firmly to help hold the edges of the buttonhole close together. Be sure to fasten thread ends securely.



## NECK FASTENERS AND BELT CARRIERS

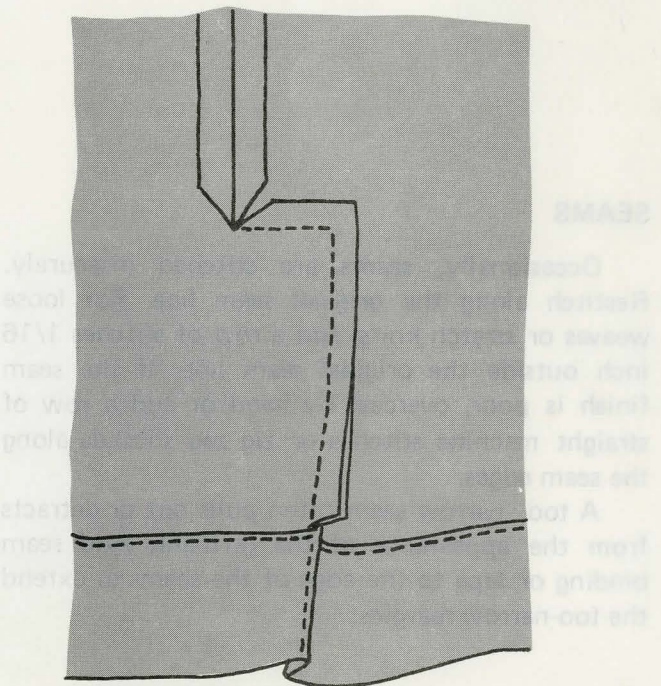
Thread-constructed belt and fastening loops are often broken or not secured properly. The loose ends can be drawn to the inside with a crochet hook and secured to the seam allowance with several firm hand stitches.

Occasionally, the loops need replacing or strengthening. For a stronger, snag free loop try a French tack.



## KICK PLEATS

The fold formed by the pleat on the inside of a skirt is difficult to press into a sharp crease at the hem because usually a seam allowance is enclosed. To form and keep a sharp crease, machine stitch along the edge of the crease the depth of the hem. This stitching will not show when the garment is worn.

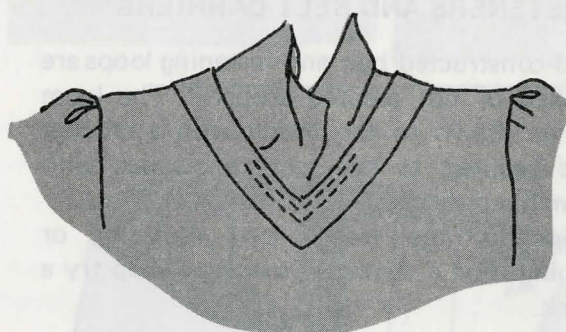
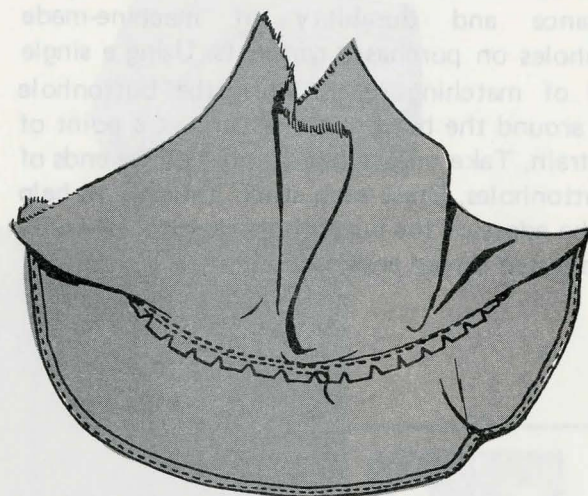




## FACINGS

Sleeve, neckline and front facings of ready-mades often slip toward the outside when a garment is being worn. This is less likely to happen if the facings have been sharp-stitched or under-stitched. Sharp-stitching can often be added to armhole and neckline facings of ready-mades. Stitch through the facing and the seam allowances near the seam line which attaches the facing to the garment. Sharp-stitching will not show from the outside of the garment. Hand tack facings at the seamlines to help hold them in place.

A strip of seam binding of fabric may be added to a v-necked facing to add strength and to keep it from tearing. Or add a second row of reinforcing stitches for several inches on each side of the point about 1/16 inch from the seamline in the seam allowance.



## BUTTONS

Buttons on ready-made garments are sometimes sewed on with one continuous thread. If you find this has been done on a garment you buy, it would be best to restitch each button separately. Fasten threads securely after stitching each button. Conceal thread ends between layers of fabric.

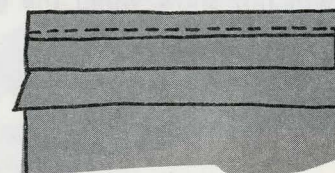
## SEAMS

Occasionally, seams are stitched insecurely. Restitch along the original seam line. For loose weaves or stretch knits, add a row of stitches 1/16 inch outside the original seam line. If the seam finish is poor, overcast by hand or add a row of straight machine stitches or zig zag stitches along the seam edges.

A too narrow seam often pulls out or detracts from the appearance of the garment. Add seam binding or tape to the edge of the seams to extend the too-narrow margins.



Add a row  
of stitching



Add seam tape  
to widen seam