

1973

## EC73-412 Belts and Buckles

Gerda Petersen

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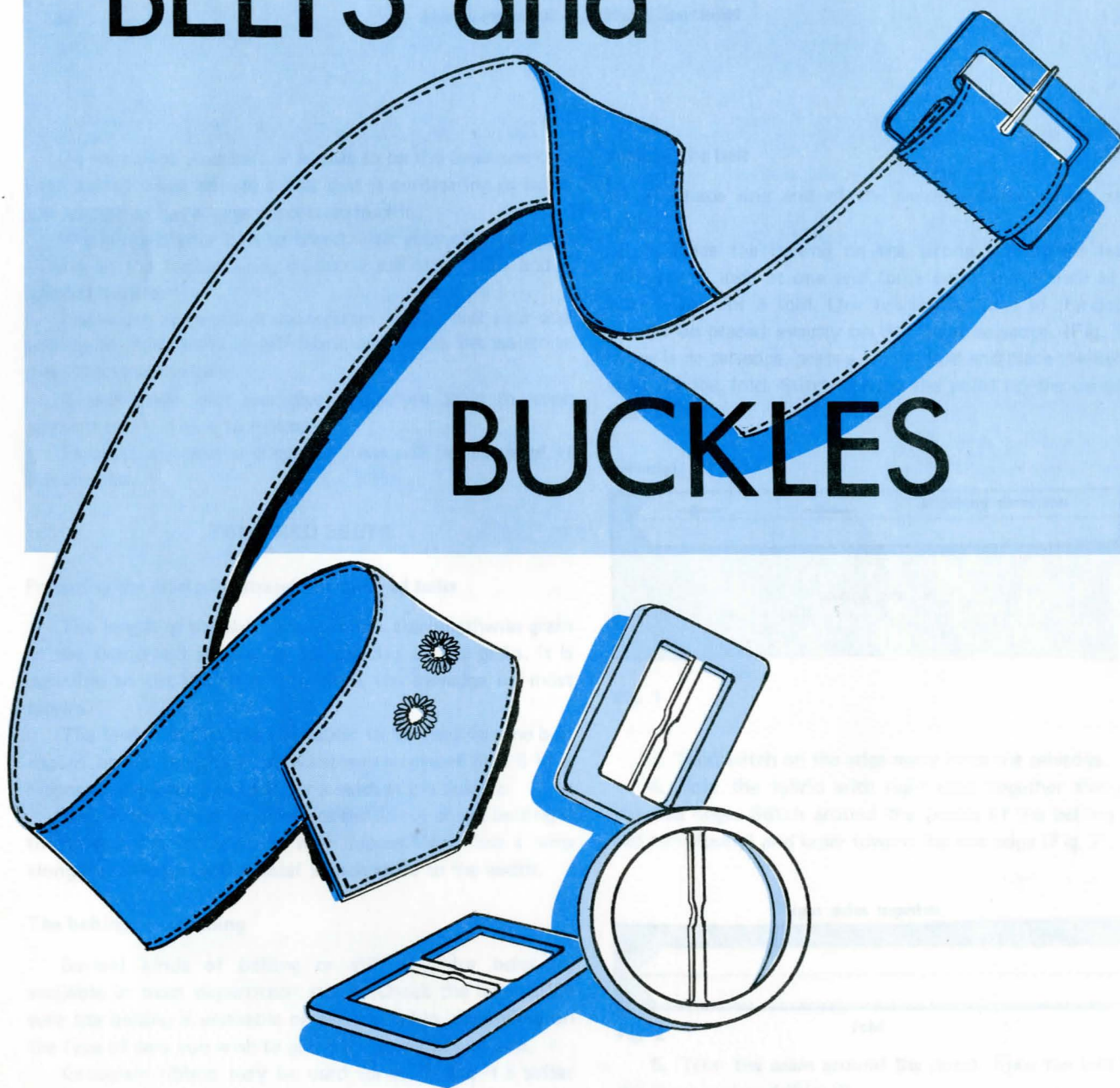
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# BELTS and

# BUCKLES



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# BELTS and BUCKLES

Gerda Petersen - Clothing Specialist

Do you want your belt or buckle to be the focal point in your outfit? Then choose a belt that is contrasting in color and texture or has a large decorative buckle.

If you want your belt to blend with your outfit or stay quietly in the background, choose a self-fabric belt and a covered buckle.

The width of your belt depends on fashion and your size and figure. Wide belts of self-fabric emphasize the waistline more than narrow belts.

A well-made belt can give a couture look to your garment and it is easy to make.

Tailored, contour and corded belts will be discussed in this circular.

## TAILORED BELTS

### Preparing 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

Several 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 a 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.

### Making the belt

1. Shape 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. One lengthwise edge of the belting should be placed exactly on the fabric selvedge. (Fig. 1) If there is no selvedge, press a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch fold and place the belting edge on the fold. Stitch toward the point on the center of the belting.

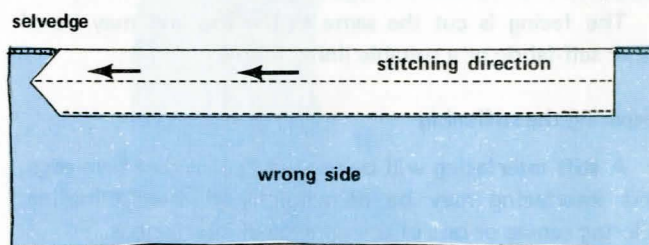


Fig. 1

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 (Fig. 2).

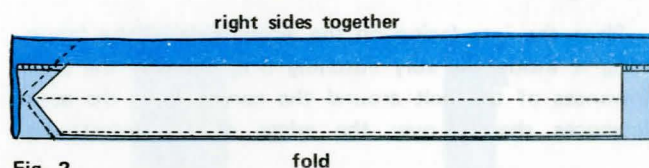


Fig. 2

5. Trim the seam around the point. Turn the belt with the seam enclosed (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3



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

7. Topstitch the selvedge edge, then around the point and down the other side (Fig. 4).

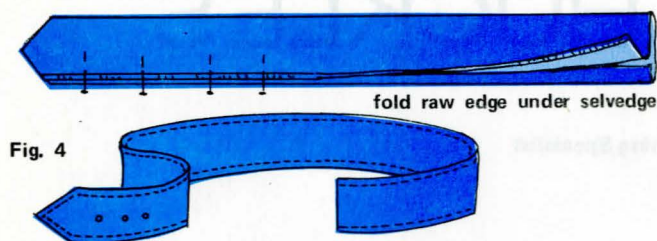


Fig. 4

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

## 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  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch seam allowance.

Stay-stitch both sides of the belt on the sewing machine about  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch outside 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 interfacing will be needed to provide a firm edge. This interfacing may be permanently finished crinoline, tailoring canvas or one of the nonwoven interfacings.

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

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

### Preparing to stitch

Place the interfacing on the wrong side of the fabric, fitting it inside the stay stitching (Fig. 5). Clip the seam allowances of the belt around the curves. Press the seam allowances sharply over the edges of the interfacing.

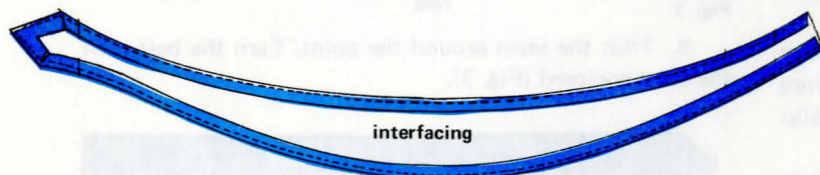


Fig. 5

Catch-stitch the raw edges of the belt to the interfacing if the interfacing is flexible enough to permit it (Fig. 6).

Trim  $\frac{1}{16}$  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 (Fig. 6).

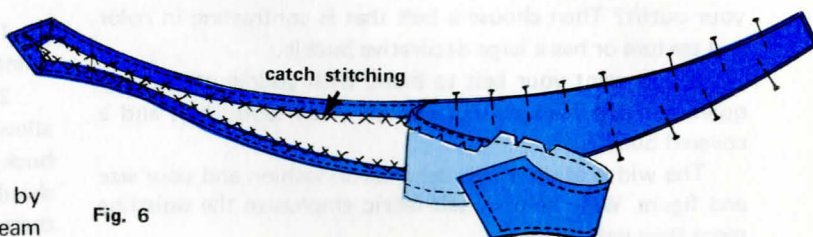


Fig. 6

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

## EYELETS

Belts usually require 3 eyelets one to 2 inches apart to allow for adjustments of the belt. Metal eyelets may be purchased in a package. Then follow instructions on the package. Thread eyelets are more suitable for fine or delicate fabrics. Following is a suggestion for making eyelets with thread:

1. Punch holes through the belt with a stiletto (or a large darning needle or orange stick).
2. Use a buttonhole stitch around the edges with the purl set either on the inside or outside of the eyelet. (Fig. 7) Shape the eyelet as you work by pulling the stitches tightly and inserting the stiletto now and then.

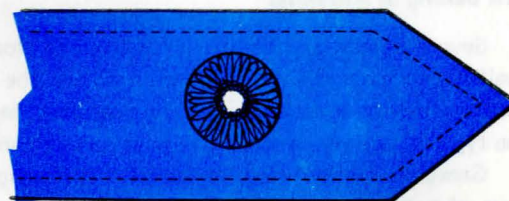


Fig. 7 buttonhole stitch



## BELT CARRIERS OR LOOPS

Belt carriers or loops 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. Buttonhole 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 (Fig. 8). 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 (Fig. 9). 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 to the wrong side of the garment. Fasten the chain securely to the side seam (Fig. 10).

### Fabric carriers

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

1. Cut 2 strips of fabric 3/4 to 1 inch wide and 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. Topstitch along both long edges.

3. Sew to garment with ends flat (Fig. 11).

If preferred stitch a tube and turn it right side out instead of using the selvedge and top stitching. Press it flat.

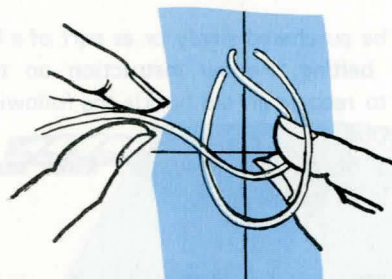


Fig. 8 right hand pulls thread through loop

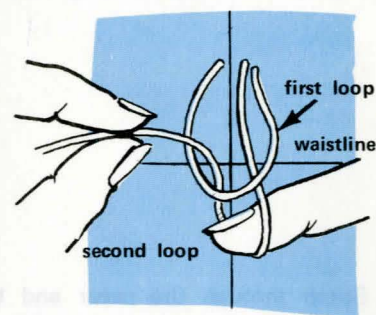


Fig. 9

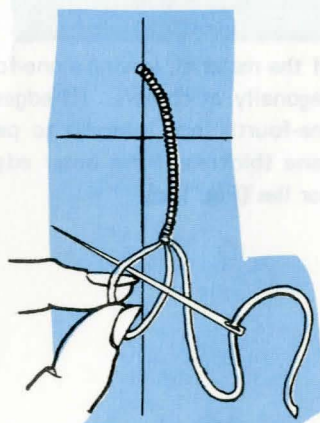


Fig. 10 needle through last loop to finish chain

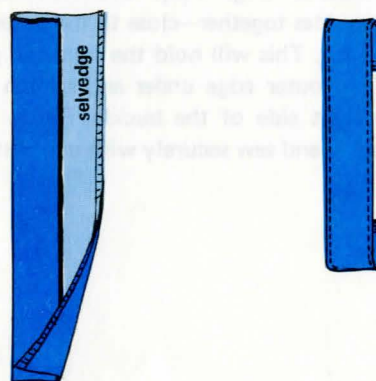


Fig. 11

## THE COVERED BUCKLE

The buckles may be purchased singly or as part of a kit which also contains belting. Follow instruction on the package. If you wish to recover an old buckle the following suggestions will help you:

1. Trace the size of buckle on paper. Make seam allowance one-fourth to an inch (Fig 12).

2. Baste the paper pattern to two thicknesses of material having right sides together (Fig. 13a).

3. Stitch through the paper and two fabric thicknesses along the pencil line which marks the inside edge of the buckle (you will stitch one large rectangle). Fasten threads securely (Fig. 13b).

4. Trim out the center of the material, leaving a one-fourth inch seam. Snip seam diagonally at corners. (If edges are circular, snip seam at one-fourth inch intervals to permit turning.) Slash through one thickness from outer edge to center line where center bar lies (Fig. 13c).

5. Remove bastings and paper pattern. Turn material right side out. Fit it on the buckle, turning edge of right side to wrong side of buckle (Fig. 14a). Baste through both thicknesses—wrong sides together—close to the outer edge of the buckle (Fig. 14b). This will hold the fabric in place for the next step. Turn outer edge under and stretch material tightly over the right side of the buckle. Pin in place to wrong side of buckle and sew securely with overcast stitches (Fig. 14c).

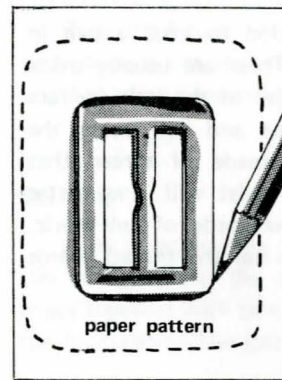


Fig. 12

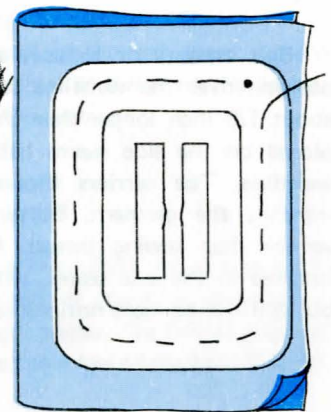


Fig. 13a basting

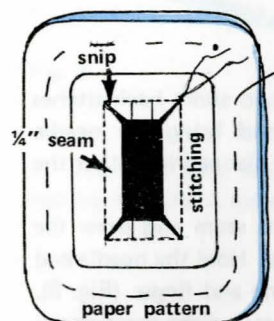


Fig. 13b

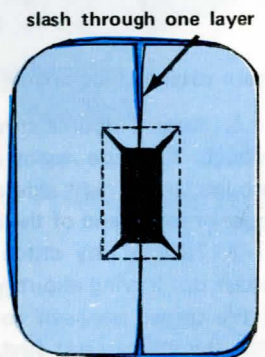


Fig. 13c

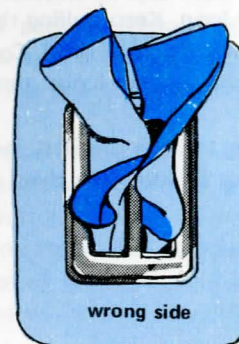


Fig. 14a

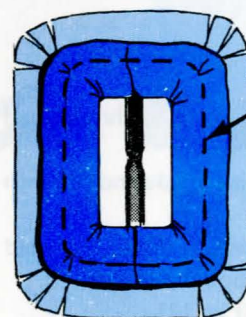


Fig. 14b

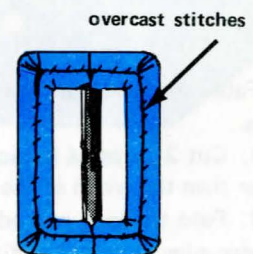


Fig. 14c



## CORDED TIE BELTS

Cord tie belts may be worn singly or sometimes three harmonizing colors may give an interesting effect.

To determine the length needed, tie a string around your waist. Cut it at the length you like best. Use this as a guide.

You will need a cable cord or a soft upholstery cord depending on the thickness you prefer. Shrink the cord before making the belt.

Fabric for the belt is cut on the true bias. To decide width of fabric needed, fold a square corner of the fabric over the cord. Fasten the 2 layers of fabric together with a pin so the cord is enclosed. Cut  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch beyond the pin, depending on the thickness of cord (Fig. 15). Open the piece of fabric. The width between the two parallel edges will be the width of strip needed.

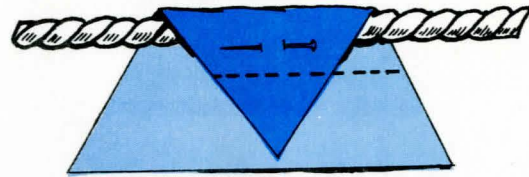
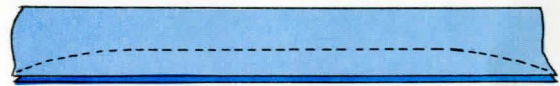


Fig. 15



Fold fabric strip in half lengthwise, with wrong side out. For ease in turning later, begin (and end) stitching in a funnel shape (Fig. 16). Then make a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch seam, stretching strip as you stitch.

Turn tubing and insert cord in one operation.

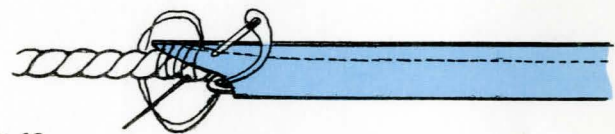


Fig. 16

Thread needle with a short length of "Heavy Duty" thread doubled, wind tightly around cord end and take a stitch through cord. Do not cut thread. If working with a bodkin or a tapestry needle, sew cord end to bodkin or needle before turning tubing.

If you use a loop turner, catch cord end securely to hook together with point of funnel before pulling turner back through tubing.

Finish the end of the tie with a fabric knot, a tassel, large beads or other article of interest.

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