

Tailoring: Bound Buttonhole Variation of Tuck Strip

There are many methods for making a tailored bound buttonhole. Experiment to find a method that works best for you and your chosen fabric.

The term “bound buttonhole” is somewhat of a misnomer. “Bound” buttonholes actually have “piped,” rather than “bound” lips.

Standards:

A well-constructed bound buttonhole:

- has 1/8-inch lips that meet in the middle.
- is 1/4 inch in width and long enough to comfortably accommodate the button.
- is on-grain (lengthwise or crosswise).
- is a perfect rectangle.

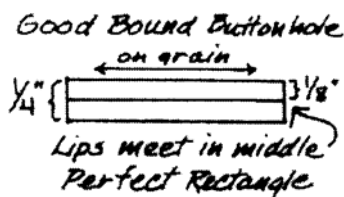


Figure 1

Variation of Tuck Strip

This method tends to work well on most fabrics. Apply interfacing to the wrong side of garment where buttonholes will be constructed. Continue by marking all buttonhole positions with basting lines. In addition, mark the garment's center front and each end of the buttonhole. (Figure 2)

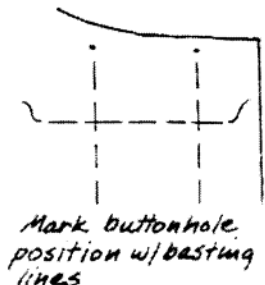


Figure 2

Step 1:

Cut a strip of fabric 7/8 to 1-inch wide and 1 inch longer than the buttonhole size. Crease the strip in the center. Bring cut edges to the center crease and press again. (Figure 3)

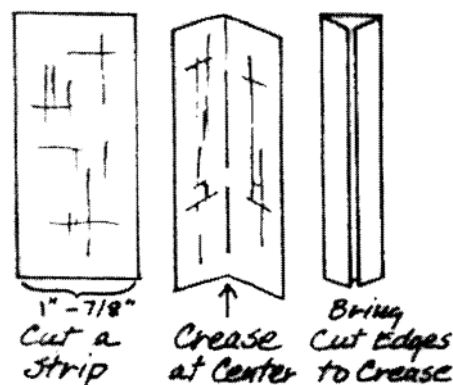


Figure 3

Step 2:

Match the crease to the horizontal line, centering so that 1/2 inch extends on each end. Baste the strip into place on the right side of the garment. (Figure 4)

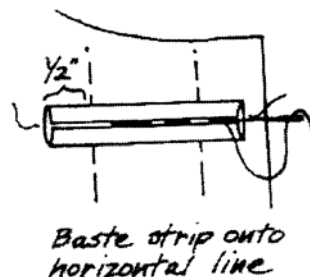


Figure 4

Step 3:

Stitch a rectangle, $\frac{1}{8}$ inch from each fold to make the lips of the buttonhole and across each end. (**Hint:** Begin and end the line of stitching along one of the long lines to be stitched.) (Figure 5)

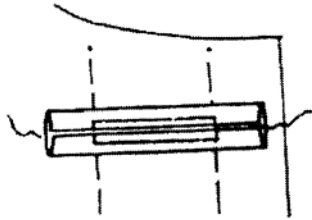


Figure 5

Check both right and wrong sides for grain, length, and width. The total width measurement of the lips should be no more than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch. If cording or yarn is to be added, insert now. (Figure 6)

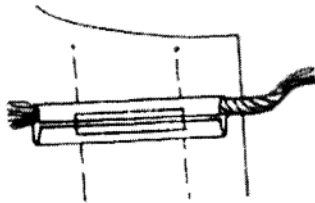


Figure 6

Step 4:

Cut the strip through the center (it is easier to do so from the wrong side), stopping $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from each end. Cut diagonally to each corner. (Figure 7)

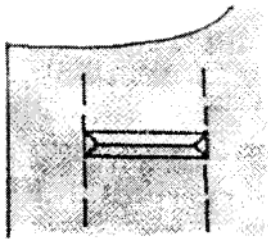


Figure 7

Step 5:

Pull the strip to the wrong side. (Figure 8) Straighten and adjust the lips. Press using a press cloth.

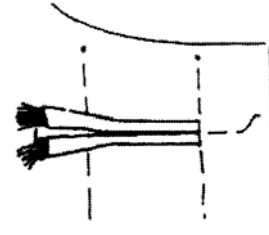


Figure 8

Step 6:

On the right side, baste the lips together. (Figure 9) Press.

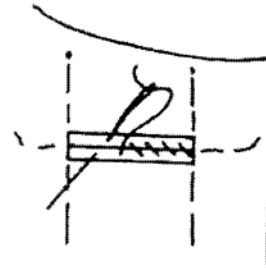


Figure 9

Finishing Buttonholes

Step 1:

Attach the garment facing piece to finish the buttonholes. With the buttonhole facing you, stick four straight pins marking each of the corners of the buttonhole. Insert two additional pins at each end marking the center of the buttonhole. Carefully flip the garment over to the facing side.

Step 2:

Using a marking pen, carefully mark the center line of the buttonhole. (Figure 10) Cut on this line to within $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of the end.

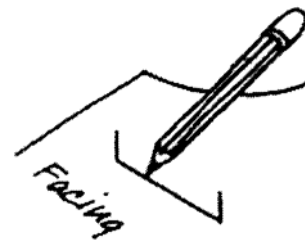


Figure 10

Step 3:

Diagonally cut toward each corner stopping approximately 1/8 inch from the corner pin.(Figure 11)



Figure 11

Step 4:

Fold the facing under, exposing the lips. With single thread, hand stitch the

facing to the edge of the lips and outer edges of buttonhole, using a very fine hidden stitch or whip stitch. (Figure 12)

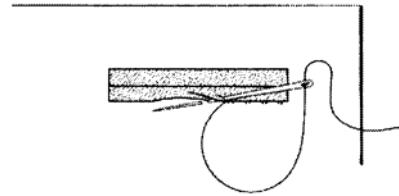


Figure 12

Summary

Bound buttonholes are time-consuming and tedious. However, when done correctly, they add quality and value to a garment.

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