



BETTER BUTTONHOLE BUREAU

- Buttonholes are placed on the right front of women's clothing; in men's clothing, they are always placed on the left front.
- Buttonholes placed at right angles to the finished edge hold the buttons more securely when fastened.
- Buttonholes in shirts and blouses are usually placed parallel to the finished edge, except for the neckline button, which is horizontal.
- Generally, the pattern indicates the position for the buttonholes and recommends the size of buttons that are best for a particular design. If an adjustment is made in the length of the bodice, some changes will be necessary in the placement of the buttonholes.
- To position buttonholes:
 1. Mark for a buttonhole at the fullest part of the chest.
 2. Mark for the neckline (or uppermost button) and the waistline.
 3. Space for the number of buttonholes required between these points.
- Horizontal buttonholes should extend 1/8 inch to the left of the center front line because the buttons are sewn on the center front line of the opposite side.
- Vertical buttonholes should be placed along the center front line of the garment.
- Buttonholes should all be the same length, evenly spaced, and an even distance from the front edge of the article. Locate the buttonholes so that a margin of cloth about 1/4 inch wide shows when the garment is buttoned.
- The buttonhole length is determined by adding the width and the height of the button together, or the width plus 1/8 inch.
- Always make a test buttonhole on a scrap of the same fabric first, including your interfacing and facing. This allows you to be sure of the buttonhole size and give before working on the actual garment. Cut the buttonhole open carefully and check to be sure your buttons go through easily.
- When you have finished stitching your buttonholes, cut through the center between the rows of stitching, using the points of your scissors.
- Follow the instructions in your sewing machine operator's manual for making buttonholes. If you are not familiar with the machine, do several practice buttonholes before working on a garment.