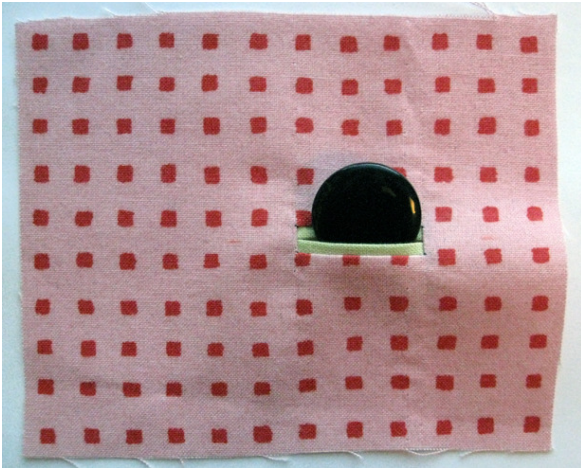


Simplified bound buttonholes

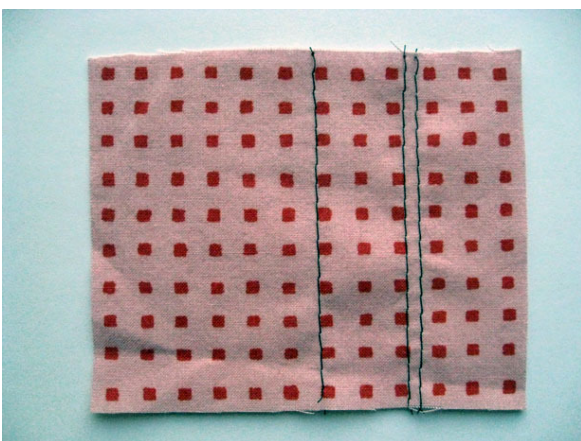
By: frk.bustad

<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/simplified-bound-buttonhole>



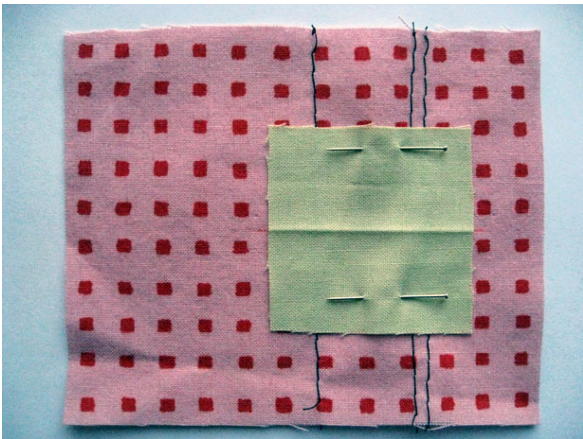
Bound buttonhole is often seen as a huge challenge, but it gives that little extra to a garment. I've found a technique that makes you have full control throughout the making, and making the success rate higher. A bound buttonhole should not be wider than 6 mm (1/4"), so each inset is 3 mm (1/8"). You should also sew all the buttonholes at once, finishing the same detail on each buttonhole before moving on to the next detail. Apparently that's the trick to get them identical! There's different ways of marking up the buttonhole, but marking both edges and the centre front with machine basting is convenient. This technique is of course dependent on your fabric, and you shouldn't use it if the stitches will show after you've pulled the thread out. Hand basting with silk thread will be better for fine fabrics. If the fabric is very thin, you should probably reinforce the patch (and just around the buttonhole opening?) with organza or interfacing. You should do a test-buttonhole on the same type of fabric before you start slashing into your garment!

Step 1 — Marking the buttonhole



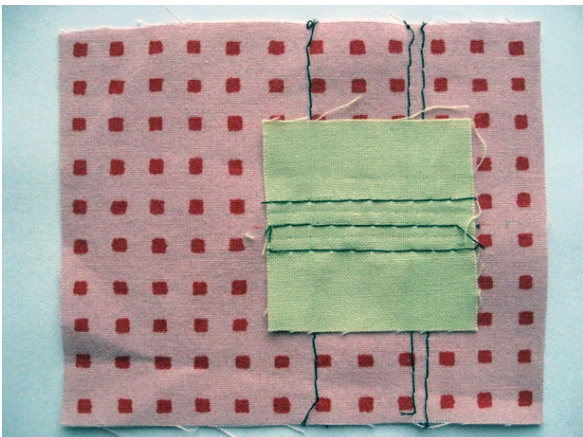
Mark both edges and the centre front of the buttonhole with machine basting, or use hand basting and silk thread if the fabric is fine and the machine basting will show after you've pulled the thread out.

Step 2 — Localizing patch



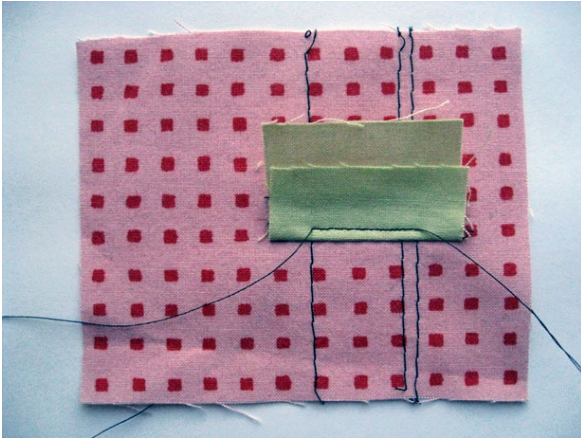
Lay the patch (5 cm (2") wider and 2.5 cm (1") longer than the buttonhole), right sides together, on the top of the centre line of buttonhole. Pre-crease the patch with your fingers to get the centre line of this.

Step 3 — Machine basting guiding lines



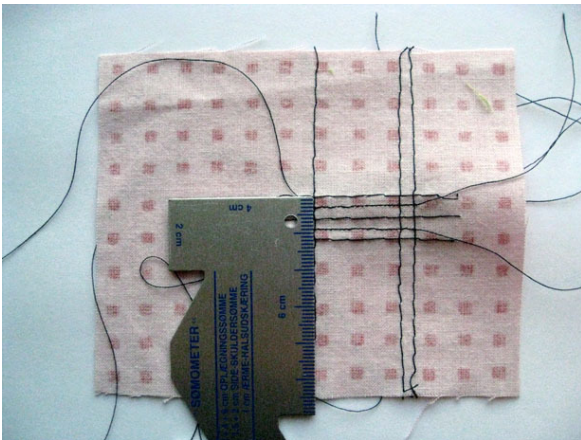
Machine baste along the centre line. Then machine baste exactly 6 mm (1/4") on each side of the centre line.

Step 4 — Making the insets



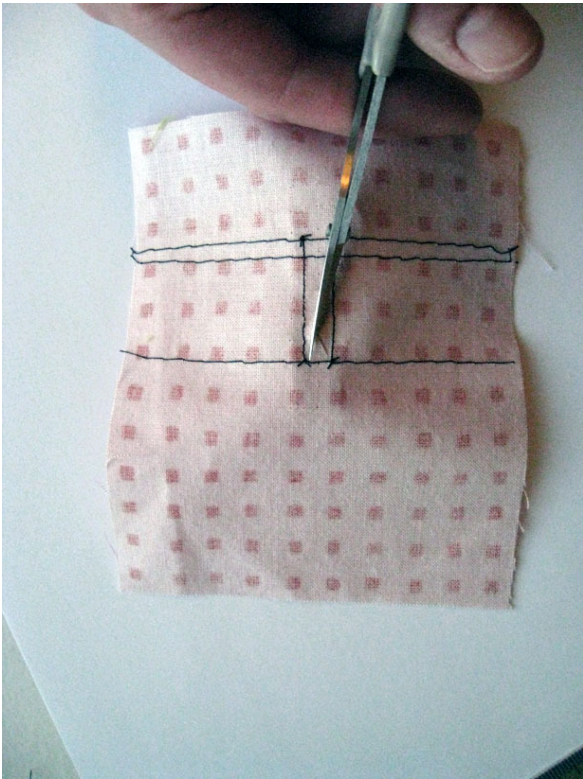
Fold the patch along the 6 mm (1/4") machine baste marking and press with your fingers. Sew (without backstitch, leaving the thread ends long enough to tie) exactly 3 mm (1/8") from the fold, starting and ending at the marks for buttonhole edges. Use small stitch length, and do not cross the marked buttonhole edges! Repeat on the other side.

Step 5 — Checking the accuracy of your stitches



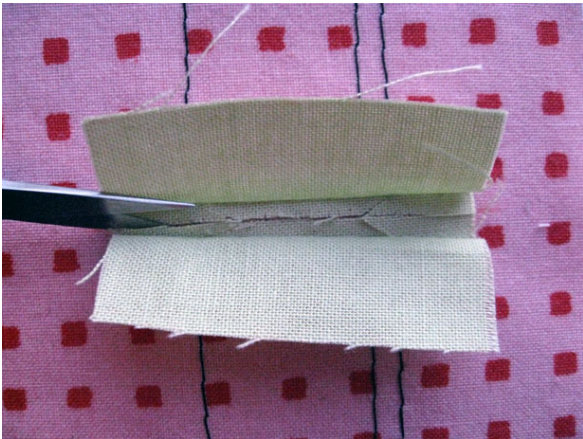
On the wrong side, you'll see 5 rows of stitches. Measure the distance between each row, controlling that there's 3 mm (1/8") between each row. If not, I would advise you to start over again... If you've been patient and accurate, you can now tie the threads, and remove the machine basting.

Step 6 — Cutting open the buttonhole



Slash along the centre line of the buttonhole from the wrong side, stopping 6 mm (1/4") from the corners, and then cut diagonally into the corners. Be careful not to cut the stitching or the patch!

Step 7 — Splitting the patch into actual insets



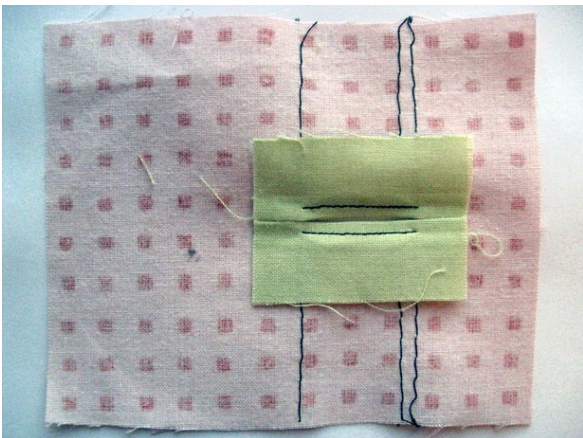
Cut across each ends of the patch, forming two individual strips on each side of the buttonhole.

Step 8 — Folding the insets



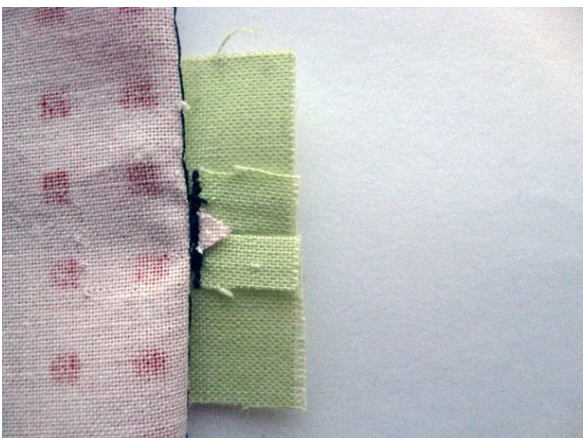
Fold the strips through the opening towards the wrong side and baste the folds together avoiding the outsides of the buttonhole (oops, I didn't do this! I would make sure to do this though, as this helps the garment keeping the grain).

Step 9 — How the wrong side should look



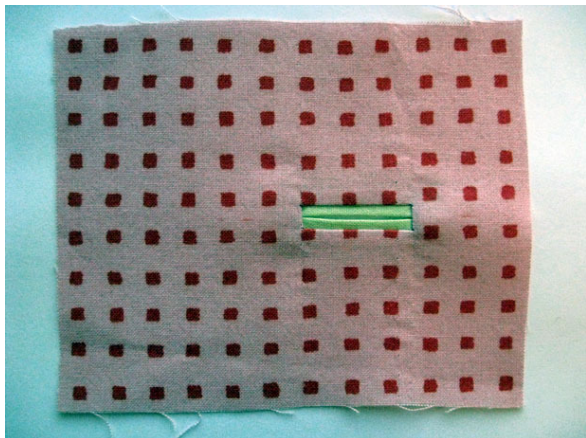
This is how the wrong side after folding should look.

Step 10 — Fastening the insets



Place the garment with right side up and fold over the buttonhole so the triangle at the short side of the buttonhole shows. Stitch along the edge over the triangle fastening this to the strips. Repeat on the other side. Trim edges of inset on wrong side to 6 mm (1/4").

Step 11 — The finished bound buttonhole, and tips for the facing



Ta-ta! The final bound buttonhole should then look like this! Neat, isn't it? If you're using facing, you should pin or baste the facing around the buttonhole, then place pins through all four corners of each buttonhole. Mark the corners of the buttonholes on the right side of the facing. Remove the pins, and stitch with a short stitch length between the markings. This should form a rectangle the same size as the bound buttonhole. Cut through the facing and clip diagonally into the corners. The raw edges should then be turned in along the stitching, pressed, and sewn to the buttonhole.

BurdaStyle

Simplified bound buttonholes