

Shirt Front Cut-on Buttonhole/Button Plackets

I do not use this is type of front placket anymore, but have changed to using a sewn-on placket. The three main reasons I've moved away from using a cut-on placket construction are that it does not allow for the decorative use of different fabrics or fabric orientation (bias, cross grain), it doesn't work well or at all when matching plaids and stripes, and it uses more fabric. I have included the instructions here, however, because it IS a simple way to construct front plackets when not dealing with the above constraints.

- > These instructions were created by reverse engineering a RTW man's shirt, but printed instructions are available. However, watch out in printed instructions for skewing of CF (e.g., one well-known sewing guru has this error in one of her books). The directions below keep CF where it belongs.
- > This placket method may not be appropriate for plaids or some stripes and large patterns. Make a sample to ensure the folds are compatible with the fabric pattern. Also, this method won't work if you want the placket to be on the bias or made of a contrasting fabric.
- > Mens shirts have the buttonholes on the LF. For women, buttonholes can be on either side, though traditionally they are on the RF. These instructions are for LF buttonholes.

Instructions:

- 1 For a 1 3/8" wide button hole placket (the button placket on the other side will be slightly narrower): Cut fabric for RF outboard from CF by 3 1/8"; outboard from LF by 4 1/8". If cutting both fronts at the same time, cut outboard from CF 4 1/8", then remove a 1" strip from RF. BE SURE to label the fronts!
- 2 Cut a strip of interfacing (IF) 1 1/4" wide and as long as the shirt front. (Cut interfacing narrower by an 1/8" or so for thick fabric, to allow for turn-of-the-cloth.)

Left Front (LF)

- 3 WS up, fold outer edge in at 4 1/8". Press. Open fold and apply IF to extension, butting up to FL.
- 4 Keeping WS up, bring extension edge to 1/8" short of IF (more for thick fabric). Press. Fold over again, on top of IF. Press.
- 5 WS still up, fold extension inboard again (on top of LF) on original FL. Press.
- 6 WS up, stitch 1/4" from outside folded edge. Flip folded extension RS down, press from WS, pressing body of shirt away from folded extension.
- 7 Turn RS up and stitch 1/4" from outside edge of placket.

Right Front (RF)

- 8 Finish LF placket first.
- 9 WS up, fold outer edge in 2 1/2". Press.
- 10 With WS still up, open up fold. Bring outer edge to just short of FL and press. Fold on original FL and press all three layers. Lay LF over RF, matching CFs. Mark top stitching line of RF so it will be just covered by LF placket. Top stitch.

Buttonhole Tips - see instructions for Versatile Sewn-on Plackets