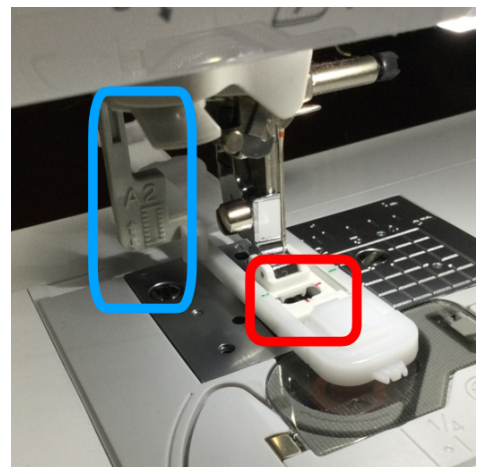

Supplies

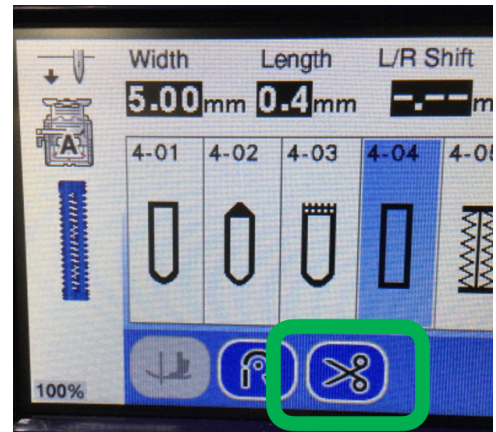
- o Automatic Buttonhole Foot or Decorative Stitch foot
- o Stabilize fabric with interfacing in the case of garment buttonholes or with appropriate embroidery stabilizer for the project
- o Dream Weave Fusible in white or black for knit or lightweight fabrics
- o Best Press 2
- o All-purpose or Embroidery thread
- o All-purpose thread or embroidery bobbin thread in bobbin
- o Optional: fine thread wound on bobbin
- o Sharp scissors or buttonhole scissors
- o Straight pin
- o Fray Check brush on or with fine tip

Standard Buttonhole

From the buttonhole menu, choose the type of buttonhole you want to use. Check the Operation Guide or the help screen in the machine for descriptions of the type of buttonholes included with your machine. Move the slider on the back of the buttonhole foot “A” to the size of the button or opening for the pocket. Attach the foot to the shank and pull down the buttonhole lever. The button does not have to remain in the slider. See photos for orientation of foot and location of buttonhole lever (blue box). When the buttonhole is finished sewing, raise the presser foot lever and pull the fabric back and towards the left to avoid tweaking the foot. The foot will snap back into the correct position to complete the next buttonhole.



Mark the location of the buttonhole on the fabric. The machine will stitch the buttonhole towards the back. Place the red crosshairs in the opening of the foot (red box) to the mark nearest you. If you want the machine to automatically clip the threads at the completion of sewing, select the scissor button (green box) on the screen of the machine to program that function.



Corded Buttonhole

Keep a buttonhole from stretching out by stitching over an added “cord”. The buttonhole foot has a post in the rear and slots in the front of the foot to attach a thin cord. Attach the cord to the bottom of the buttonhole foot as shown in the picture. This is easier with the foot removed from the machine. Stitch over the top of the cord. A twelve or lighter weight thread in a color that matches closely is a good choice. You can make your own matching cord by twisting together four lengths of the sewing thread that you will be using the bobbin winder on the machine as shown in the video. After stitching the buttonhole, remove the fabric from under the foot and the cord from the foot. Pull the cord ends to match the size of the buttonhole. Secure the ends to the back by using a hand-sewing needle to bring them to the back. Tie the ends with a square knot and clip the ends close to the knot.

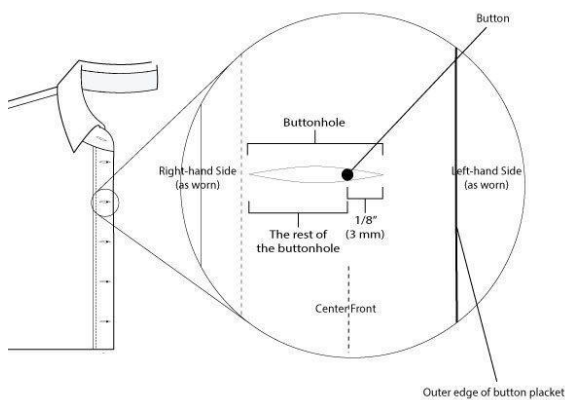


Sizing an Automatic Buttonhole or 4-Step Buttonhole

When using the automatic buttonhole foot the correct size buttonhole is automatically created by using the sliding measure on the back of the foot. Open the slider and place the button in the slider or use the slider to measure the diameter of the button. The button does not need to remain in the slider while stitching. Some buttons are too large for the automatic buttonhole foot. Use a four-step buttonhole stitch or machine embroidery to make a buttonhole for a larger button. When making a buttonhole using a four-step process, the direction and size of the buttonhole needs to be marked on the fabric. Measure the button. The buttonhole should be about 1/8” larger than the diameter or width of the button. The size of the buttonhole is the size of the actual opening the button will slip through. Add about 1/4” to a very large (+1 1/2”) or very thick button. An electronic machine will recommend the appropriate foot for the four-step buttonhole stitch.

When placing and marking buttons for either the automatic buttonhole foot or using a four-step buttonhole, the buttonhole will be created by first stitching toward the back of the foot. When marking buttonholes, place a mark on the fabric at the very front of the buttonhole placement. The front of a keyhole buttonhole is the location of the keyhole. Position the fabric under the foot with the beginning under the cross hairs of the automatic foot or in the center of the decorative stitch foot. When making a four-step buttonhole the operator needs to change to the next part of the buttonhole. Clearly mark the length of the button to easily see it while stitching.

When placing vertical buttonholes on a shirt placket, always place the buttonhole in the exact center of the placket unless a different placement is a deliberate design choice. Space the buttons according to the pattern or create your own spacing depending on the number of buttons used. If the garment has minimal ease, place a button directly on the area of the most pull such as the bust. Special buttonhole gauges are available to evenly space buttons. Alternately, use a strip of paper or ribbon the length of the placket and fold to find a close approximate measurement for marking the buttons and buttonholes. Remember that the buttonhole itself, (especially in the case of a large button) will take up some distance in the measurement. The button should rest in the center of a vertical buttonhole.



Horizontal buttonholes are spaced the same way, but the distance to the edge of the garment is important. The button will not rest in the center of the buttonhole, but about 1/8" in from the buttonhole opening closest to the edge of the garment. For shirt size buttons, use the place on the front of the automatic buttonhole foot where the plastic and metal meet. This distance should be greater for larger buttons. Place the larger button on the front of the garment and check the distance in by eye before

marking the buttonhole start point.

Prepare for a Perfect Buttonhole

Look for the following when using an automatic buttonhole foot.

- o When using an automatic buttonhole foot, check that the lever is pulled all the way down (actually the machine will remind you if it is not) and **behind** the front stop on

the left side of the foot. The stops on the side of the foot will push the lever to indicate the size of the buttonhole to the machine.

- o Check that the foot is touching fabric under the entire length of the foot and nothing will bump into the buttonhole lever except the stops on the side of the foot.
- o Slow down a bit. Use the speed slider on the machine or avoid “flooring it” with the foot pedal. This gives you a chance to see if the foot is caught in the middle of the process and avoid a build up of stitches.
- o Always interface the fabric when creating a buttonhole. Generally, the interfacing is between the two layers of fabric. When making a buttonhole in a single layer of fabric, consider a corded buttonhole and stitch over heat away or wash away stabilizer. Knit fabrics benefit from a fusible interfacing such as Dream Weave Fusible by Floriani to keep the fabric from stretching under the pressure of the foot. Add temporary body to fabric with spray on starch or Best Press 2 and see the results in a better looking buttonhole.
- o If the fabric has uneven thicknesses, such as a seam allowance the foot may not feed properly. The fabric can lift from the feed dogs and the foot will just stop moving causing a buildup of stitches. Watch the foot as it sews and gently help it along if necessary or create even layers during construction with additional interfacing in these areas. Some buttonhole feet have an under plate to stabilize the fabric and compensate for uneven layers.
- o Sew a test buttonhole on a similar scrap of fabric. Use standard weight (30wt. or 40 wt.) thread in the needle. Sometimes a thinner thread of the same color in the bobbin makes a less bulky buttonhole. Very thick threads, such as buttonhole twist, are designed for hand sewing buttonholes.
- o Adjust the settings of the buttonhole if necessary. Most can be adjusted in the width of the zig zag and the length of the zig zag. The pressure of the foot and the tension settings can also be easily adjusted to achieve better results. Select a machine needle appropriate to the fabric. Certain knits may want a stretch needle and some microfibers may benefit from a very sharp needle. Needle information is widely available both on needle packages and needle manufacturers websites.
- o Before cutting the center slit of the buttonhole, use Frey check along the inside of the buttonhole and avoiding any other part of the fabric. Allow to dry. When cutting the slit, use sharp scissors and place a pin across the end of the buttonhole to avoid cutting through. Use a punch to open the area of a keyhole buttonhole to accommodate the shank of the button.