BERNINA Accessory Spotlight

Buttonhole Basics

Created by Susan Beck

BERNINA Buttonhole Presser Feet

Standard Buttonhole Foot #3/3C for manual buttonholes

Buttonhole Foot with Slide #3B - measuring foot for manual buttonholes

Automatic Buttonhole Foot #3A for programmed buttonholes
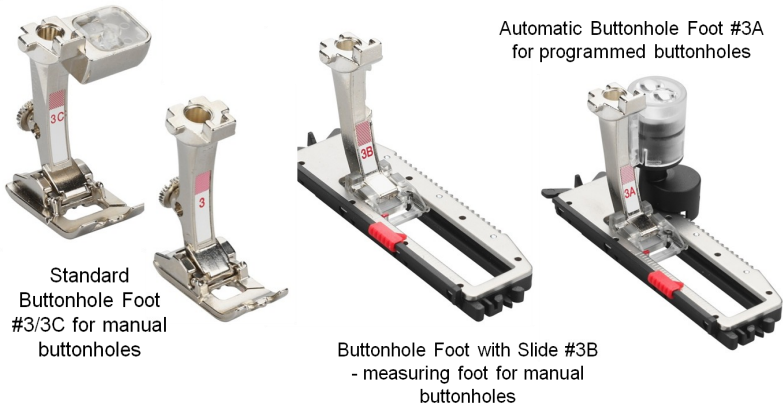
Buttonhole Stitching Tips

Always start with a sample buttonhole made on scrap fabric, the same as the project. If making automatic repeatable buttonholes, a successful test will program the desired size in the machine and you will know that all of your project buttonholes will be the same.

Use the On/Off button (no foot control) for making automatic buttonholes. The machine will complete each buttonhole and then stop. No need to worry about completing the cycle or accidentally stopping in mid-cycle.

Use tear-away stabilizer on the back of the buttonhole and water soluble stabilizer on the top. Stitch the buttonhole through the stabilizer and then remove the excess. *Note: These removable stabilizers are in addition to interfacing required for the project.*

Before cutting the buttonhole, add seam sealant down the center. Let dry and then cut the opening.

Cut the opening using a Buttonhole Cutter. Place the wooden block under the buttonhole and position the cutter in the slit. Press down to cut through the layers, creating an opening.

Buttonhole Size and Spacing Tips

The end of the buttonhole should be just past the garment's center front so that the buttons will line up along the center.

The top buttonhole is placed below the neckline a distance that equals half the width of the button plus 1/4".

The bottom buttonhole should be 3"– 4" from the lower edge of a skirt or dress, but not sewn through the hem.

Buttonholes are generally placed no closer than 5/8" from the edge of a garment.

Horizontal or Vertical? You Decide.
- Vertical are easier to button.
- Horizontal do not distort as easily as vertical.
- Vertical have to be used in some areas such as shirt plackets because horizontal won't fit.
- Horizontal take more stress & are more secure.
- Vertical are easier to coordinate with button placement; horizontal have to have precisely placed buttons.
- Some shirts have vertical buttons except the last one because it takes more stress.

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