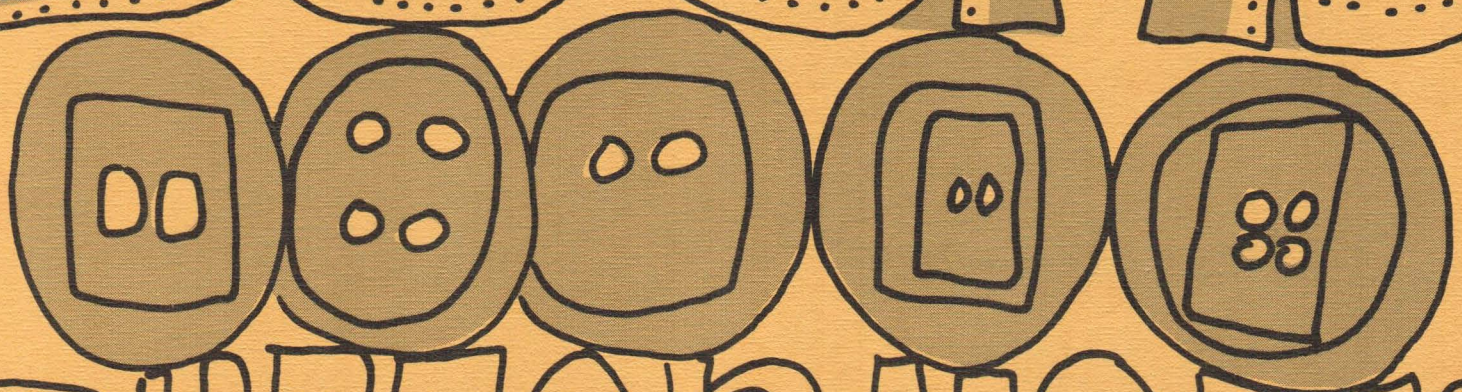
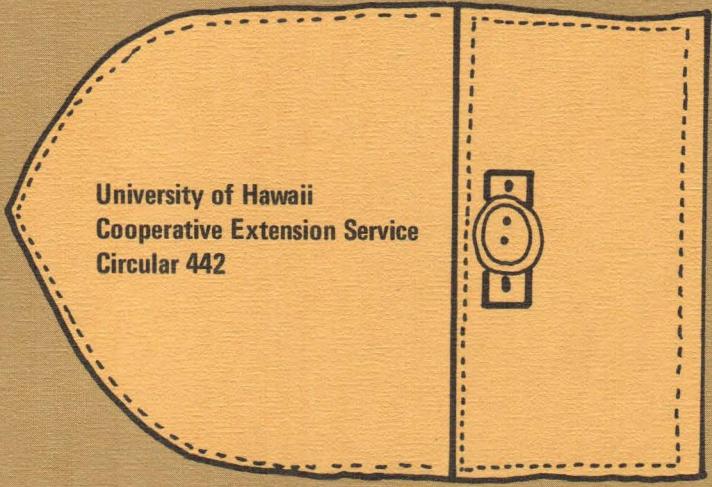
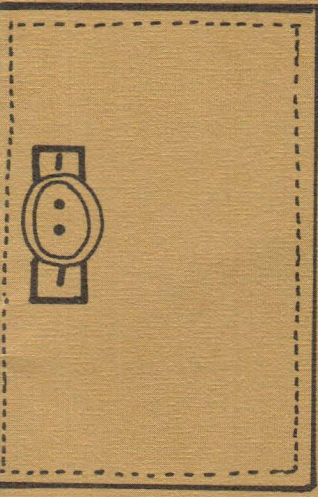


BOUND



BUTTON HOLES



University of Hawaii
Cooperative Extension Service
Circular 442



THE BOUND BUTTONHOLE is a slightly revised and expanded version of Home Economics Circular 442, by Gertrude P. Harrell. Revisions and additions were made by Phyllis McOmer, Extension Specialist in Clothing at the University of Hawaii.

THE BOUND BUTTONHOLE

The term "bound buttonhole" is used for any fabric-finished or piped buttonhole. Bound buttonholes are made after the garment is cut out and marked and before seams are permanently joined together. The garment is marked the same way as for any other type of buttonhole. Precision in every step—careful measuring, accurate pinning, unhurried stitching, accurate basting of folds—is insurance for success.

1. Marking the Buttonhole

Begin by marking buttonhole on wrong side of garment with tracing carbon and wheel (Fig. 1). When fabric resists tracing carbon or when using interfacing, mark horizontal and

vertical buttonhole lines with tracing carbon on the interfacing, pin the interfacing to the garment, and baste-mark through to the right side of fabric. A bound buttonhole is usually

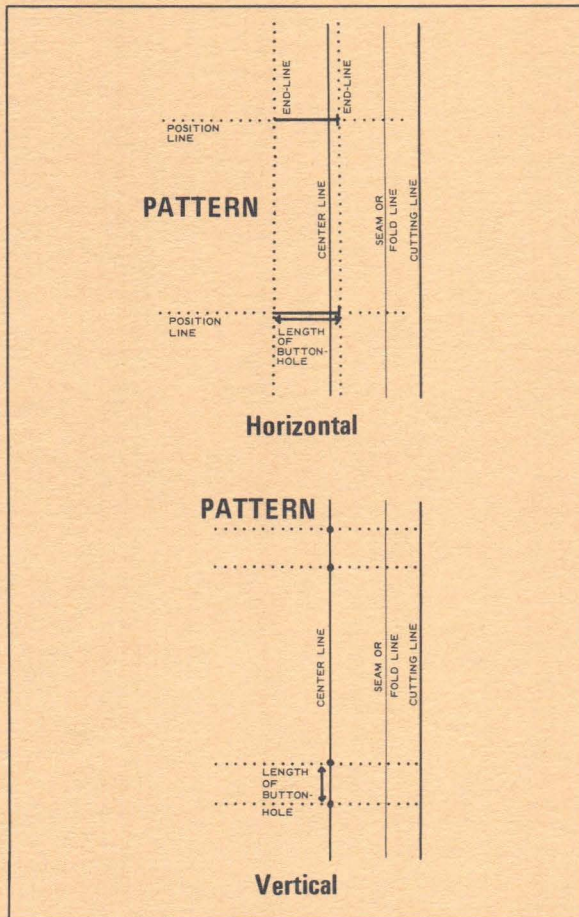


Figure 1

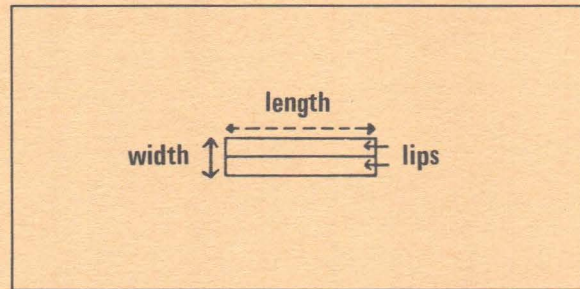


Figure 2

rectangular and has lips of even width meeting in the center. Every buttonhole must be exactly on grain, especially where straight grain and design of fabric are visible (Fig. 2).

A finished buttonhole is usually 1/4 inch wide, with each lip 1/8 inch wide. In thin fabrics the buttonhole may be a little narrower, and in heavy fabrics a little wider. The narrower a buttonhole is for the type of fabric, the better looking it is. The length of the buttonhole is determined by the diameter plus the thickness of the button. Carefully choose and test reinforcement in a test buttonhole. A press-on fabric may be used to reinforce loosely woven fabrics.

A test buttonhole is essential to check size and handling of fabric.

II. Cutting and Stitching

- Cut a rectangular strip for each buttonhole on true bias, 2 to 3 inches wide and 2 inches longer than the finished buttonhole. When using a knitted fabric it is wise to test for the most "give" in the fabric. The greatest flexibility in most knitted fabrics is crosswise, not on the bias.
- Mark each end of the buttonhole with pins on wrong side of garment (Fig. 3).
- Place center of bias patch over the space between pins on the right side of garment with right sides of fabric together.
- Pin patch to the garment at corners.
- Stitch on wrong side of garment using a very small stitch (20 stitches to the inch). Start stitching in center of long side of buttonhole to corner, pivot fabric on the needle. Count same number of stitches across both ends and continue around the rectangle, overlapping the beginning stitches about 1/4 inch (Fig. 4).
- Stitch all buttonholes before taking next step or changing length of stitch on the machine. Check lengths and space between each buttonhole before cutting.

III. Turning the Patch

- Using tips of a small, sharp scissors, carefully cut the center of the buttonhole to 1/4 inch from each end. Cut from center line to the four corners. Corners must be cut to the line of small stitches (Fig. 5).
- Pull patch gently through the opening to wrong side of garment (Fig. 6).
- Check corners to see if patch will lie flat and opening forms a perfect rectangle.
- Press seamline back on garment using point of iron. Press crease in patch beyond each end in line with stitching (Fig. 7).

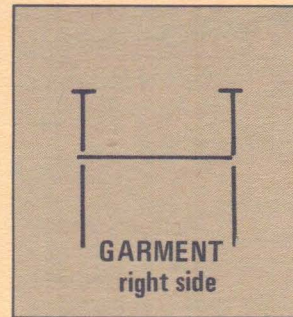


Figure 3

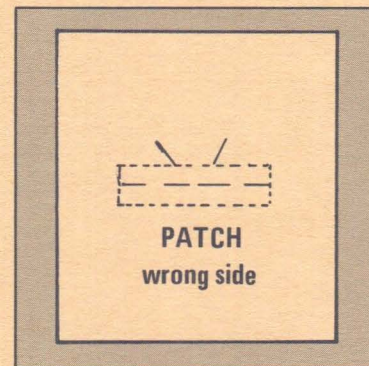


Figure 4

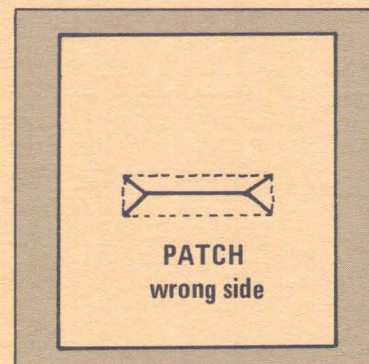


Figure 5

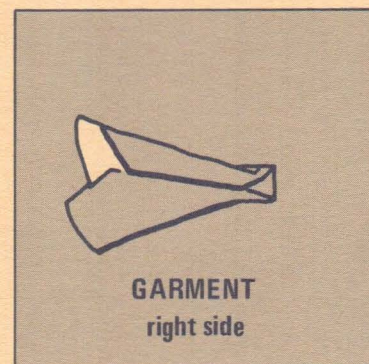


Figure 6

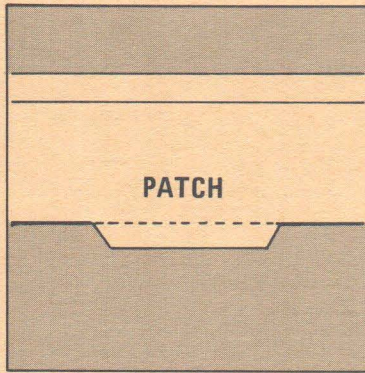


Figure 7

IV. Cording and Finishing

- Cut two pieces of small cord for each buttonhole approximately the same length as patch.
- Hand-baste cord in bias fold, working from right side. Baste on patch as near as possible to garment line. Place cord in other side from the wrong side and continue basting from right side. Catch both corded edges together making sure the buttonhole will lie flat (Fig. 8).
- Cut ends of cord off even with ends of buttonhole.
- Pin pleats in both ends of patch approximately 1/2 inch from ends of buttonhole (Fig. 9).
- Stitch rectangle again but with regular size stitches (10 to 12 stitches to the inch). Place patch down on machine and fold garment back across ends. Stitch seam down to patch. Pivot at corners

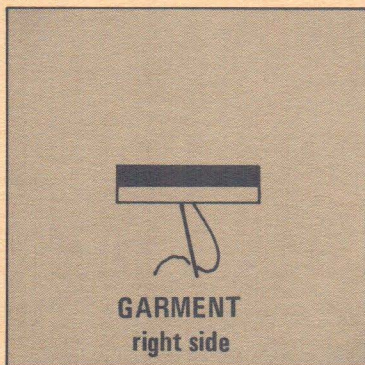


Figure 8

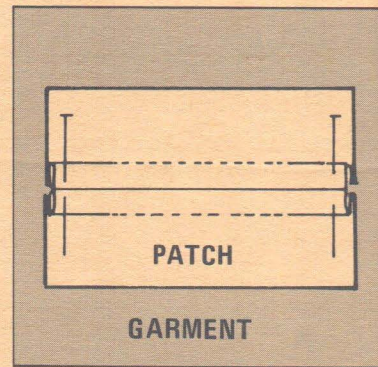


Figure 9

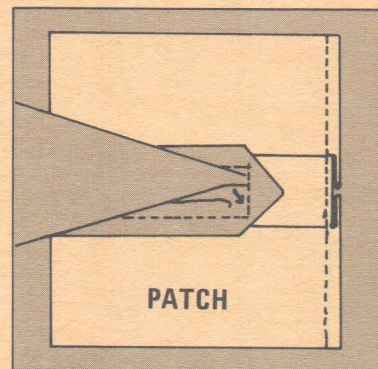


Figure 10

until all four sides are stitched. Stitch across pleats approximately 1/4 inch from end of buttonholes (Fig. 10).

- Trim patch leaving 1/2 to 3/4 inch material around buttonhole.

V. Facing the Buttonholes

Facing the buttonholes is one of the last finishing details in a garment and is done on the facing side. Choose one of the following methods according to fabric and location of buttonholes.

METHOD (1) (Fig. 11)

This is the simplest method and is used when the garment is to remain closed and facing is not seen.

- Pin facing to buttonhole on all four sides.
- Mark ends and center line of buttonhole by sticking pin through from right side of buttonhole.
- Cut facing from pin to pin. Remove pins and cut an additional 1/8 inch on each end.
- Turn cut edges under and hand-stitch to patch.

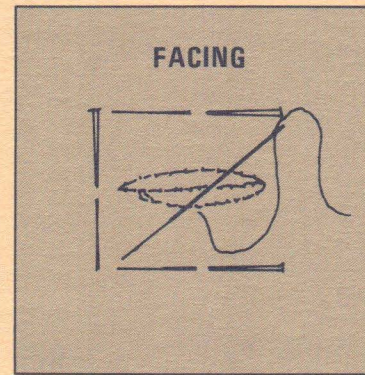


Figure 11

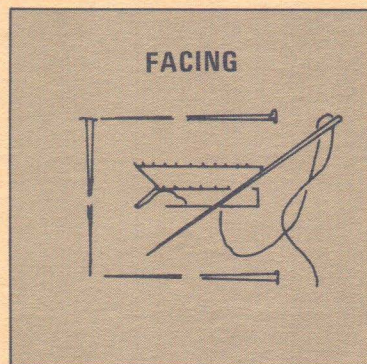


Figure 12

METHOD (2) (Fig. 12)

This method is used when fabric is firm and small fold can be turned satisfactorily. This finish may be used when facing will be seen at least part of the time.

- Pin facing to buttonhole on all four sides.
- Mark corners of buttonhole by sticking pins through each corner.
- Cut facing on center line and to each corner pin the same as the buttonhole (Fig. 5).
- Turn edges under and hand-stitch to patch.

METHOD (3) (Fig. 13)

This method is used when facing side needs to be the same as original buttonhole and fabric is loosely woven and/or stretchy.

- Place tracing carbon paper between facing and garment with colored side next to facing.
- Check the smoothness of garment on facing.
- Trace the exact size of the buttonhole on facing.
- Place and pin patch (straight or bias) on right side of facing over each marking with right sides of fabric together. Note: Patch may be of thin material to prevent bulkiness; patch of the same color as garment is preferable.
- Stitch with small stitches and cut the same as original buttonhole (Fig. 4 and Fig. 5).
- Turn patch to wrong side and press patch firmly back on facing. Trim to 1/4 inch all around.
- Pin facing to garment.
- Slip-stitch the faced rectangle to the bound buttonhole.

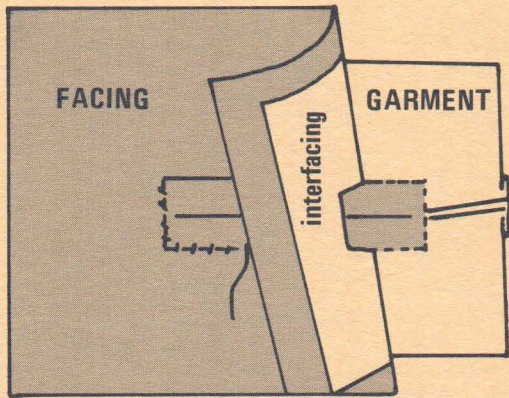


Figure 13

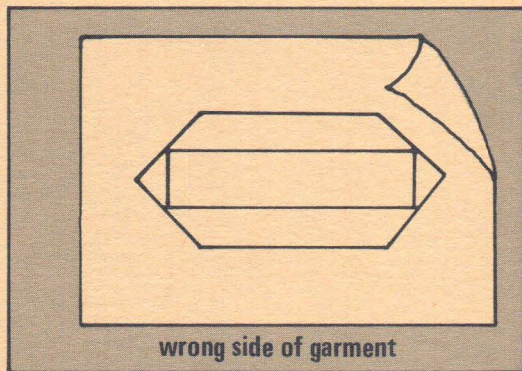


Figure 14

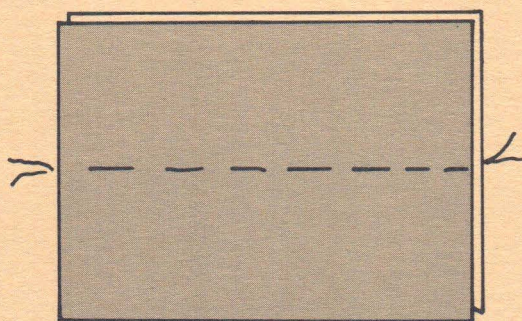


Figure 15

METHOD (4) Window method

- Mark buttonhole lines as described for strip method (Fig. 1).
- Cut a piece of organza or lightweight fabric the same color as garment, about 1½ inches wide and 1 inch longer than the buttonhole markings.
- Center the strip and baste it over buttonhole markings on right side of fabric.
- Stitch using a very small stitch (20 stitches to the inch). Start stitching in center of long side of buttonhole to corner, pivot fabric on the needle. Count same number of stitches across both ends and continue around the rectangle overlapping the beginning stitches about ¼ inch (see Fig. 4).
- Using tips of a small, sharp scissors, carefully cut the center of the buttonhole to ¼ inch from each end. Cut from center line to the four corners. Corners must be cut to the line of small stitches (see Fig. 5).
- Pull patch gently through the opening to wrong side of garment (see Fig. 6). Press seam and organza away from opening, forming a "window." Make sure that the organza does not show from outside; this is the size of the finished buttonhole. Remove basting (Fig. 14).
- Cut two straight pieces of the garment fabric 1½ inches wide and 1 inch longer than the buttonhole. Cut the pieces on the bias (except for knitted fabric, which can be cut on the crosswise grain).
- Press each piece in half, lengthwise. Open each piece and with right sides together, machine-baste them together along the pressed fold (Fig. 15).
- Refold each piece, wrong sides together; press. Place basted piece over "window" on wrong side of garment with seam at the center. Pin at ends (Fig. 16). Turn away garment from buttonhole,

exposing seam. Using 15 to 20 stitches per inch, stitch over previous stitching through seam, organza, and basted pieces on long edges, extending stitching to end of piece (Fig. 17).

- Stitch across each “triangle” through organza and pieces; press (Fig. 18). Facing the buttonhole is the same as the strip method (see Fig. 11 OR Fig. 12 OR Fig. 13).

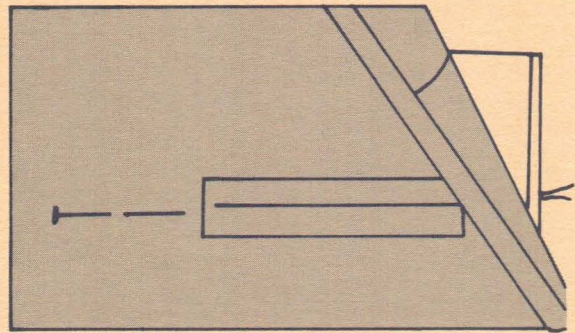


Figure 16

VI. Decorative Bound Buttonholes

Various shapes and sizes of bound buttonholes can be used to enhance the design of the garment. Another color and/or textured material may be introduced. These are appropriate where a few (1 to 3) large buttons are used. Care must be taken not to overdo decorating by this method.

If the method described earlier has been mastered, various shapes can be made using the same principle.

Steps (Fig. 19)

1. Draw design carefully and accurately on wrong side of garment. This may be done individually or traced on wrong side. For tracing, place carbon under garment with right side up. Pin desired pattern on garment and use tracing wheel or bone marker. Cutting lines may also be included in the pattern.
2. Use a large true bias patch, pinning it on right side of garment with right sides of fabric together. Patch should be four times line CD and 2 inches longer than line AB in Fig. 19.
3. Stitch around drawing, using 20 stitches to the inch, starting at the middle of a side and overlapping ends of stitches about 1/4 inch.
4. Cut through center of design from end to end. Cut from center line to other two corners.
5. Pull patch gently to wrong side and check corners for good angles.

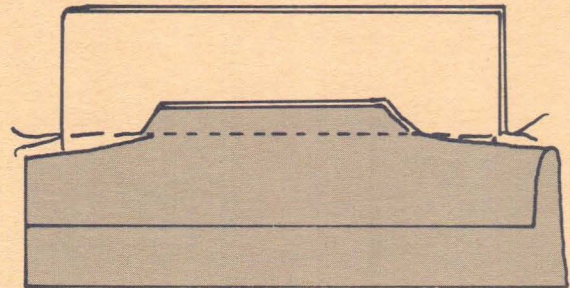


Figure 17

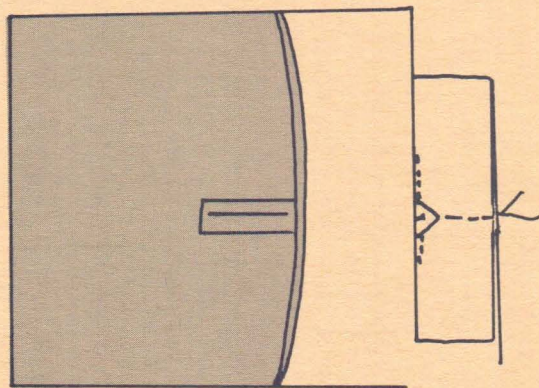


Figure 18

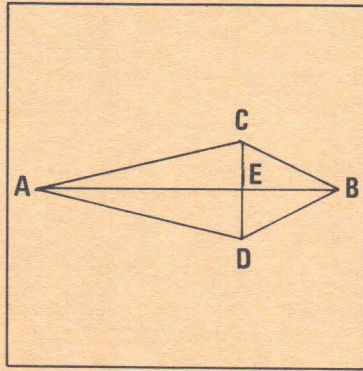


Figure 19

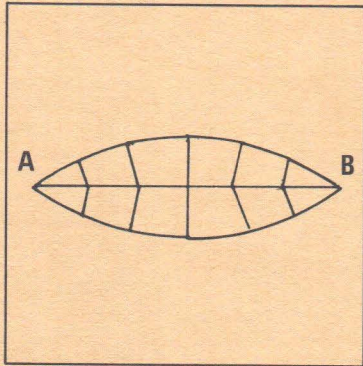


Figure 20

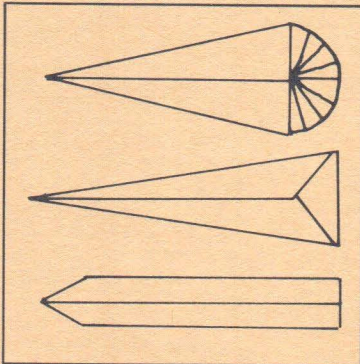


Figure 21

6. Press seam to garment on all four sides.
7. Working on a flat surface, place wrong side of garment down.
8. Work the bias line of patch up to line AB (Fig. 19) as one lip. Pin. Repeat on other side. Press folded edges AB with iron, being careful not to leave pin marks on fabric.
9. Use a straight strip of material or a tape for staying bias patch. A selvage from thin material is excellent. Strip is a fraction wider than from DE and 1 inch longer than AB (see Fig. 19). Cut 2 strips for each buttonhole.
10. Place selvage edge of strip from A to B in fold of patch. Pin and baste on patch by hand as near as possible to garment. Catch the lips together checking to see that the AB line is perfectly flat.
11. Stitch on all four sides with regular stitches. Place wrong side of patch down on machine and stitch seam and strip to patch.
12. Pin and stitch across pleats in patch.
13. To complete buttonhole facing, follow method 2, page 4.

The shape in Fig. 20 is treated exactly as in Fig. 19 except in slashing just after step 3. Follow each step from 5.

Fig. 21 shows other shapes to start you on your own original designs.

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