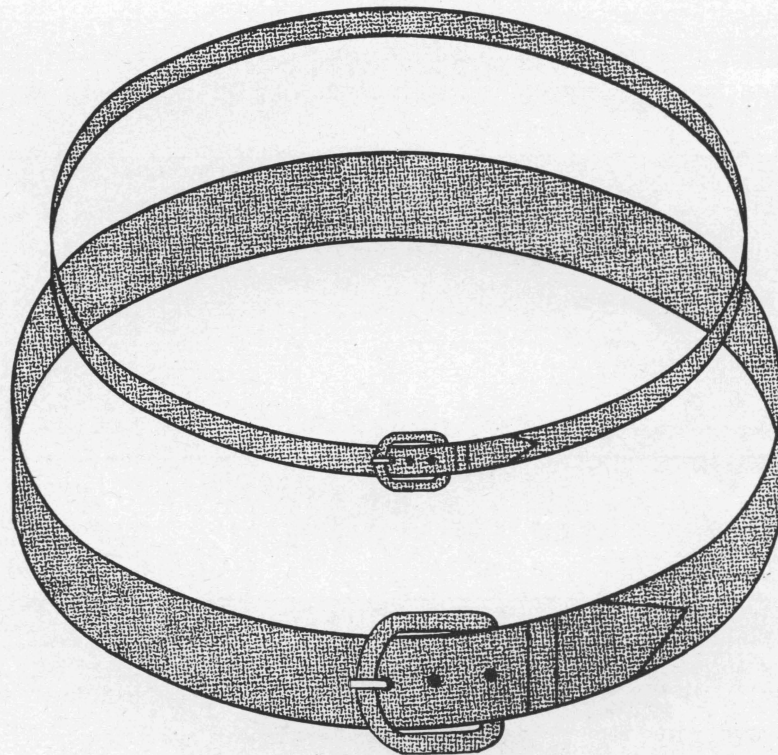


Make Your Own

BELTS

and

BUCKLES



TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
G. G. GIBSON, DIRECTOR, COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

Make Your Own BELTS and BUCKLES

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Texas A. & M. College System

Follow This Method for Belts . . .

Your belt is an important accessory. If it is well made and the correct type for your figure proportions, it will add a professional touch to your costume.

A narrow belt tends to diminish the waistline, while a wide one tends to increase it. A belt of contrasting material tends to decrease the height of the figure and increase the waistline measurement.

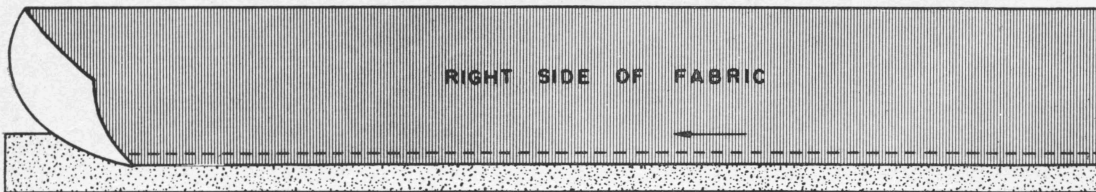
If you are tall and slender, yet well proportioned, you may choose a wide belt of self or contrasting material. If you are thin and short, you may choose a narrow belt of self or contrasting material. If you are short and stout, you will want to wear a slightly narrow belt of self material.

Study your figure proportions and select the best type belt for you. A belt $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inch wide of self material is a safe choice for most figures. This width may be increased or decreased according to figure proportions, fashion and design of garment.

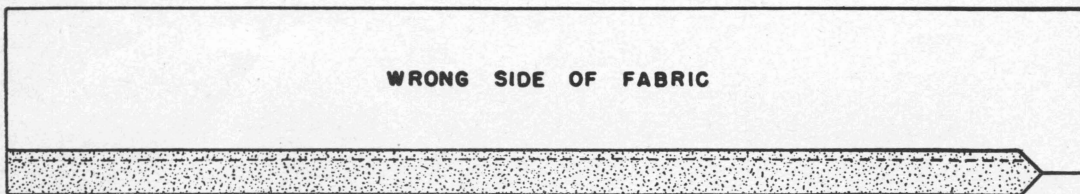
To hold their shape, belts should be interfaced with permanent-finish belting. Cotton belting should be pre-shrunk.

Step 1. Shrink and press belting for interfacing of belt. Cut belting 6 inches longer than waist measurement and desired width of finished belt.

Step 2. Cut a lengthwise strip of fabric twice the width of finished belt plus 1 inch for seams. Cut it 6 inches longer than waist measurement.



Step 3. Place selvage edge of fabric over belting, overlapping $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Hold fabric taut, but do not stretch, and stitch along edge of fabric. This line of stitching is used to hold fabric smooth and firm while the belt is being made.



Step 4. Point one end of belting, cutting away seam allowance.

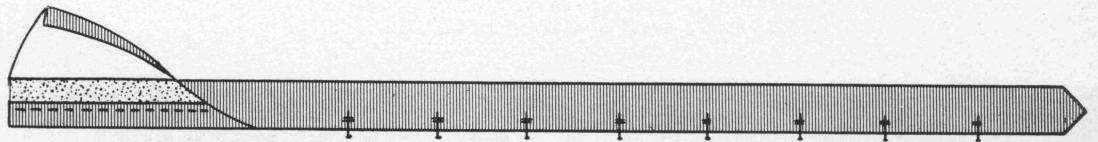


Step 5. Fold fabric over both edges of belting and turn under $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch along cut edge of fabric. Press.

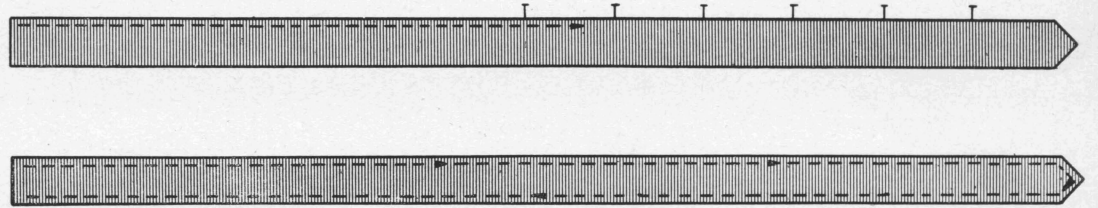


Step 6. Fold fabric back from underside of belting to top side, and at pointed end stitch fabric along-side edge of belting. Trim seam to about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch.

Step 7. Turn folded edge to right side. Pin folded edge of fabric in position and baste if necessary.



Step 8. Begin stitching from straight end of belt on top side and stitch $\frac{1}{8}$ inch or less from edge, pivoting needle at corners and pointed end. Stitch around entire belt, removing pins as you approach them. If top stitching is not desired, free edge may be hand sewn on underside of belt.



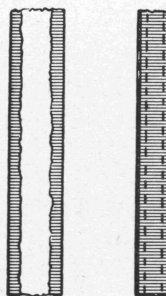
Step 9. Mark position for three eyelets 1 inch apart, with first one 2 inches from pointed end of belt. Punch and work eyelets using buttonhole or satin stitch. If lightweight belting is used, the eyelets may be made with a buttonhole attachment, using a $\frac{5}{16}$ -inch template.



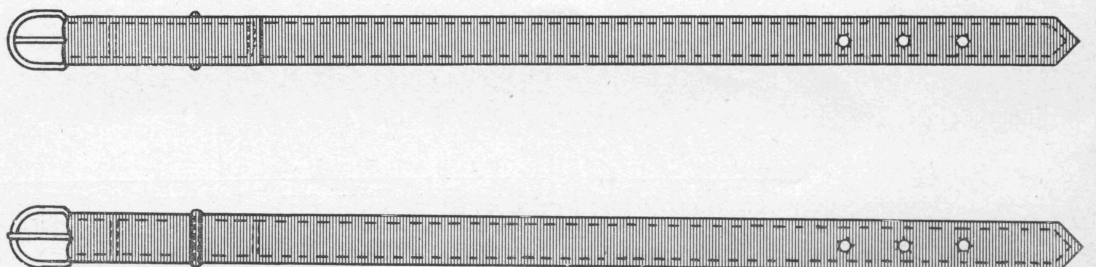
Step 10. Adjust belt to waistline with buckle in position. Fold under straight end of belt. Mark a 1-inch line in center of belt extending $\frac{1}{2}$ inch either side of fold for buckle. Machine stitch around mark; then cut along mark and overcast or buttonhole the edges. The buttonhole attachment may be used for this slot. Use the $\frac{13}{16}$ -inch template or the size of the buttonhole that fits easily over the base of buckle tongue.



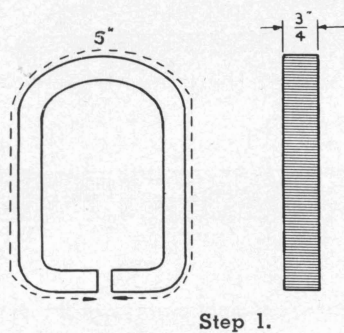
Step 11. If a half buckle is used (see instructions page 4 for covering a half buckle), make a belt guide. For this guide, cut a lengthwise strip of fabric $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wide, with the length $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the belt width. Turn in $\frac{1}{8}$ inch along both lengthwise edges. Fold strip in center, and edge stitch on both sides. If top stitching is not desired, hand stitch free edges. Fold guide over belt and fasten ends together.



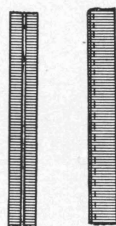
Step 12. Fold end of belt back over buckle. Machine stitch across belt close to buckle. Fasten loose end beyond guide securely with overcast or machine stitching.



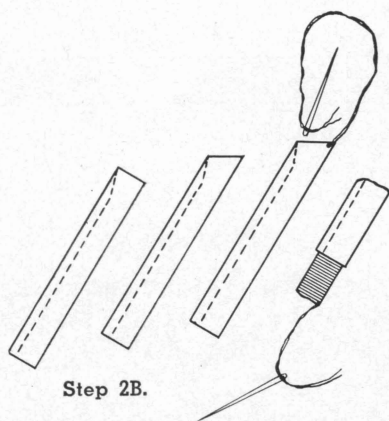
Follow This Method for Buckles . . .



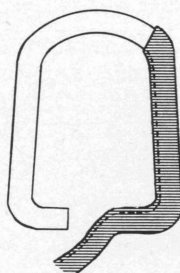
Step 1.



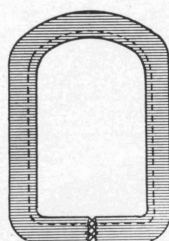
Step 2A.



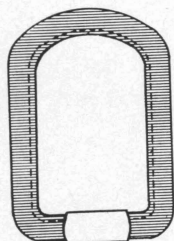
Step 2B.



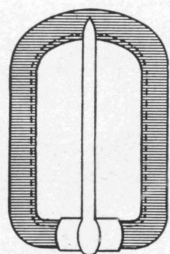
Step 3.



Step 4.



Step 5.



Step 6.

Choose a size of buckle according to the belt width you desire. A good choice of buckle is an aluminum wire frame. This type of buckle is completely washable and rustproof and is satisfactory for any style of garment. The buckle frame can be re-used. If the belt fabric is sheer, use double thickness on the buckle so that the buckle will not shine through.

Step 1. Cut a true bias strip of fabric $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wide and approximately 5 inches long, or measure your buckle for distance around.

Step 2A. Fold strip in half lengthwise; press lightly. Fold edges to center line, leaving a very small space between the two edges. Fold in center and edge stitch on double fold side to form a tube.

OR

Step 2B. Fold strip in half with right sides together. Using 20 stitches per inch, stitch $\frac{3}{16}$ inch from folded edge to form a tube. At the end of strip, slant stitching out to cut edges. Cut wide end of tubing to form a point at folded edge.

Thread a coarse needle with a double thread. Fasten thread securely to point at wide end of tubing. Put eye end of needle through tubing and pull thread through to turn. If fabric is extra heavy, some of the seam allowance may need to be cut away before turning the tubing.

Step 3. Spread buckle apart slightly and thread fabric tubing onto the wire frame with stitched edge to inside.

Step 4. When tubing covers wire frame completely, trim off any excess fabric at the ends and press wire frame back into original position. Secure ends of tubing with hand-tacking.

Step 5. Some buckles of this type are equipped with a small metal clamp. Spread clamp apart and place one end over open end of buckle. Cover teeth of pliers with scotch tape or fabric to prevent roughing. Close clamp with pliers.

Step 6. Place tongue over open end of buckle frame or clamp and frame and press in position with pliers.