Errata: KK-4202 Man's Waistcoats Single-Breasted c. 1790 - 1815

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Information regarding Button-holes was not included in the Sewing Techniques section of the early copies of the pattern. For more information on Button-holes, please see The Workman's Guide to Tailoring Stitches and Techniques, published by Kannik's Korner. The following is adapted from same.

Comments on Button-holes

Button-holes on men's garments are either functional or non-functional. On waistcoats, they are most often functional. Ends of button-holes vary, and may be rounded at the button strain end (nearest the edge of the garment) and square at the opposite end, rounded at both ends, or square at both ends. Button-holes should be stitched with strong thread, known as button-hole twist, made of silk, linen, or sometimes cotton. It is highly recommended to *make a sample button-hole* using the same fabrics as the garment - it is time well spent!

Basic worked button-holes are described in The Lady's Guide to Plain Sewing [Book I], page 23.



Button-holes are often stitched first and then cut open. This method gives a very nice finish on the face of the garment, and yet still gives a strong button-hole. Each button-hole should be marked out carefully. Begin stitching at the end away from the edge of the garment, securing thread at the back of the work. Take up the cloth with the needle from

the garment, securing thread at the back of the work. Take up the cloth with the needle from the outer edge of the marking toward the centerline. Each stitch must be taken deep enough to go through all the layers of cloth. Make stitches as close as possible to each other, and very even. The 'pearls' or knots of the stitches can be placed at either the inner edge or outer edge of the button-hole. At the end of the hole, either make radiating stitches to round the end; or end stitches at the markings, rotate the work, make a bar tack over the end, and continue across the second side, making a bar tack at the beginning end, or rounding again. On the second side of the hole, be sure the stitches lay just separate from the first row, always taking up the stitches from the outside of the hole markings toward the center. When completed with stitching, end off at back of work with a few back-stitches, or stitches run under the button-hole stitches. Use very sharp small pointed scissors to carefully cut the center of the button-hole the desired length. When pressing over button-holes, it is good to use a heavy pressing cloth to prevent them from being crushed.

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