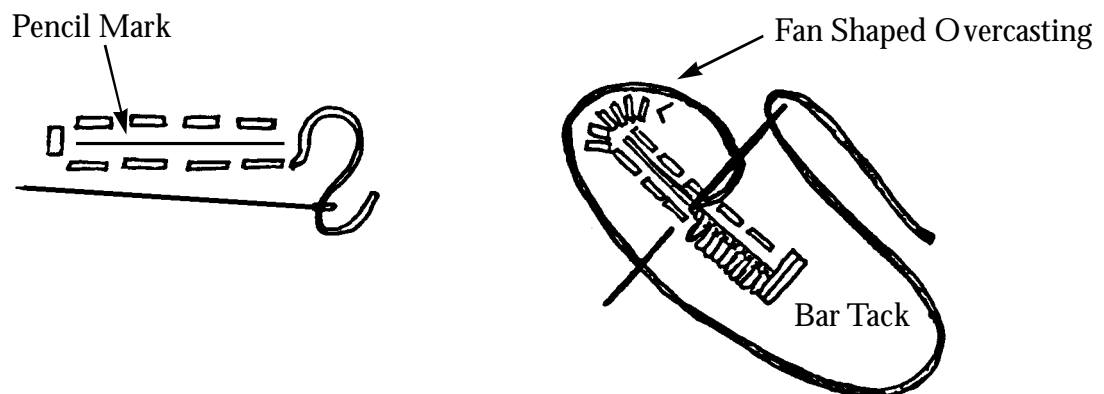


Suggested Method for Making Worked Button Holes #135

A thread button hole is also called a worked button hole. In 18th Century sewing, a handworked button hole is a must; and when properly done, the button hole is a great source of satisfaction and will last longer than a machine button hole.

1. Mark each button hole with pencil.
2. Using #40 or #50 mercerized cotton thread, baste around each button hole, before you cut.
3. After you have marked the button hole, basted around the place to be cut, and made the cut, your next step is to overcast the cut edges so they will not ravel. Overcasting also provides “body” for your button hole stitch.
4. The needle is inserted under the edge of the button hole to whatever depth seems desirable and the thread brought under the point of the needle as shown.
5. Button hole stitches are taken close together, so that you cannot see the fabric showing between the stitches, but they do not overlap. The depth, or bit, of the stitches is determined by the size of the button hole and the type of fabric used. Naturally, a large button hole on a heavy fabric will have stitches which go deeper into the material than those in a tiny button hole on a lightweight fabric.
6. The end of the button hole which bears the greater strain should be finished with a group of stitches worked fanshape. (This is the end which has the button pulling against it.) Make a bar tack, as shown, at the opposite end.



NOTE: Use strong linen thread to finish gaiter button holes.

From: *Making a Continental Marine Uniform*

