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SLEEVE PLACKET MADE SIMPLE

By Sandra Betzina

A tailored sleeve placket found on a man's shirt is a beautiful addition to a woman's shirt or blouse but usually avoided because it is difficult to get perfection on this placket on silks or slippery fabrics. The difficulty arises not in the sleeve placket construction but in getting accurate crease lines with an iron and preventing the sides of the placket from stretching as they are sewn. STEAM A SEAM to the rescue. Another item needed for perfection is an edge joining foot and a good sleeve placket (print out the placket pattern provided). Make sure that your sewing lines are clearly marked on the wrong side of the sleeve and the wrong side of the placket.

On the wrong side of each placket, place a ¼ " strip of STEAM A SEAM even with the cut edge on both long sides of the placket and along the short end on the long side. With the paper on the web still attached, press the product onto the edges. Peel off the paper. Fold in one quarter of an inch to the wrong side of the placket. Press folds in place on either side of the placket. Position the right side of the placket with the folded raw edges facing you, against the wrong side of the sleeve with sewing lines matching. The fat side of the placket is nearest the middle of the sleeve. With small stitches, sew around the sewing lines on the placket, hand walking diagonally 2 stitches on each corner.

Make a long cut through both layers between the stitching lines, angling in toward each corner one half inch from the end of the placket. Clip close into each corner. Press each side of the placket in toward the opening, right next to the sewing lines.

Through the newly cut opening, turn the placket to the right side of the sleeve. On the short side of the placket, pin the fold in the placket so that it just covers the stitching line. Placket must fit exactly into the opening no wider. If your placket seems too wide for the opening, you can either sew the opening a bit wider or peel away the narrow strip of Steam a Seam from the short side of the placket and fold in a bit more so that the placket now fits nicely into the opening. Sew from the top to the bottom of the narrow placket fold. The top stitch foot or the edge joining foot makes it possible to sew evenly close to the folded edge

On the wider side of the placket, pin the fold of the placket so that it just covers the stitching line. Sew up the outside edge, around the end, down the second side until you come to the top of the placket opening. Then, sew across the placket to the opposite side and into a decorative X. The placket is clean finished on top and on the underside of the sleeve.