

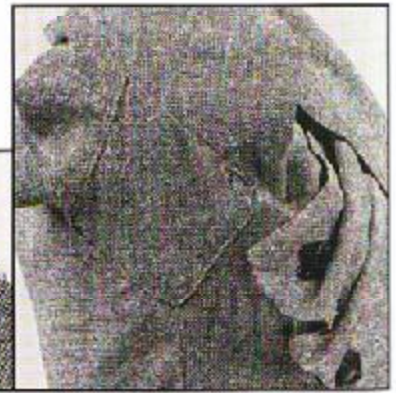
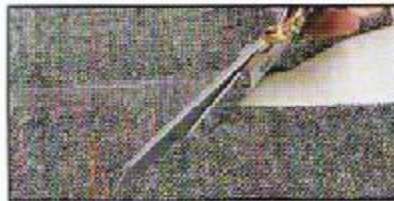
Add a gusset for range of motion

A gusset is a design element located at the underarm of a garment that enables the wearer to completely move her arm. Here's how to apply a gusset at the underarm of a kimono-sleeve-style jacket, as seen in the pattern at left:

1 After stitching the side seam of the bodice and the underarm sleeve seam, slash the inner points at the underarm to about 3 inches into the garment to create the gusset opening. Then, overcast the edges.

2 Turn under the gusset opening edges along the marks and baste. Baste the edges of the gusset to the opening matching the perforated marks.

3 Edge stitch around the gusset, trim the seam allowances to $\frac{3}{8}$ inch, and overcast.

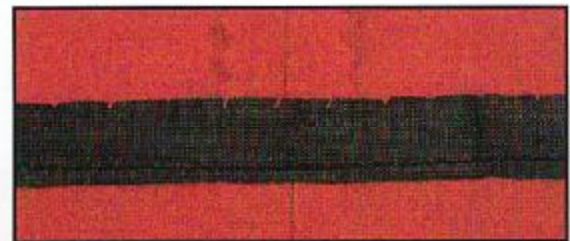


Go for old-school hems and facings

These hemming and facing techniques crop up in many vintage pattern instructions. Here's how to put them to work in your garment:

BIAS FACING

Bias facings provide a narrow finish to neck or armhole edges. To create a bias facing, cut a bias strip about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and, with right sides together, sew one edge to the garment opening. Make slashes in the curved edges so the material doesn't pull. Turn the strip to the inside so the facing strip doesn't show on the outside, then turn under the raw edge of the strip and whipstitch on the strip edge, catching the garment occasionally.



RAYON SEAM BINDING TAPE

Seam binding tape and rayon seam tape were used to finish the raw edges of hems on sleeves, jackets, trousers, and skirts before there were serging machines. The tape is lapped over the raw edge, and machine-stitched along the top edge of the hem. The hem is then turned up, pressed, and hand-stitched through the tape to the garment.

ON THE WEB

For a key to vintage pattern perforations, go to ThreadsMagazine.com.



1940s

Marked by the onset of World War II, fabric goods were limited by U.S. Government mandates. Trouser styles were slimmed down with no cuffs to conserve fabric. To help save paper, pattern companies reissued their patterns with less paper. After the War, the trouser with cuffs reemerged, as did silk and wool goods by the yard.



1950s

This was a time of decadence as reflected in the Parisian influenced fashions, which used many yards of fabric that were manufactured in larger widths than ever before. Sewing for the home flourished. Vogue implemented a special line of patterns highlighting big designer names such as Jacques Heim, Elsa Schiaparelli, and Christian Dior.