

Sewing Technique: Attaching Garment Fasteners

Hook and eyes and snaps are used in clothing construction as a fastener to close a garment. There are several types of hooks and eyes and snaps each designed to serve a particular purpose. Snaps and hook and eyes are small but very strong when appropriately attached. Whether using a general purpose or special purpose hook, a basic blanket stitch method is used to secure the hook and eye to a garment.

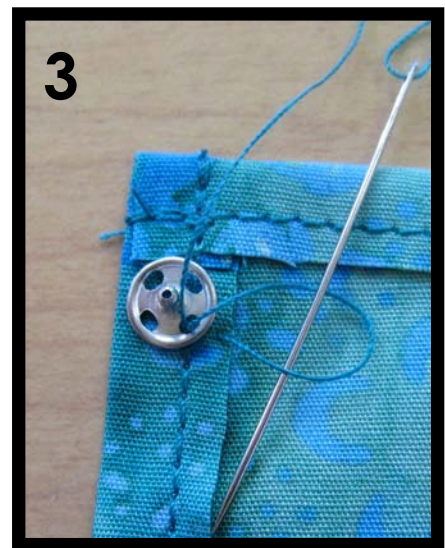
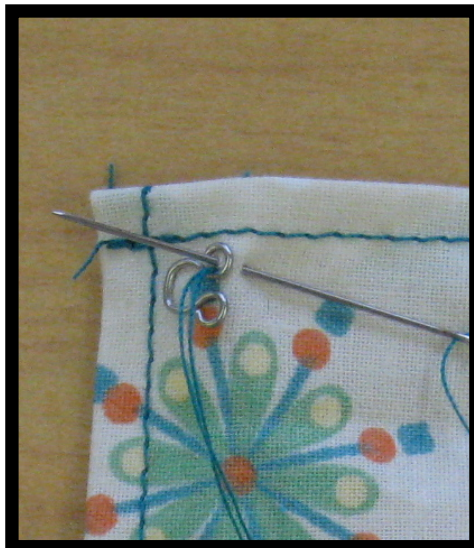
STEP 1: Sewing on snaps and hook and eyes are usually the last step in finishing a garment. When preparing to attach be sure all edges are finished and determine which side of the opening is the overlay and which is the underlay. **NOTE:** The eye is attached to the underlay, while the hook is attached to the inside of the overlay. For this tutorial a sample is only being created.

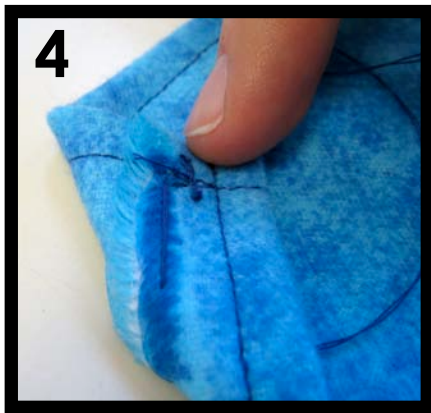


STEP 2: When marking where to place the snap or hook and eye it is essential to double check the placement. One method for ensuring the fasteners line up is to mark the placement by measuring the same distance from the finished edge.



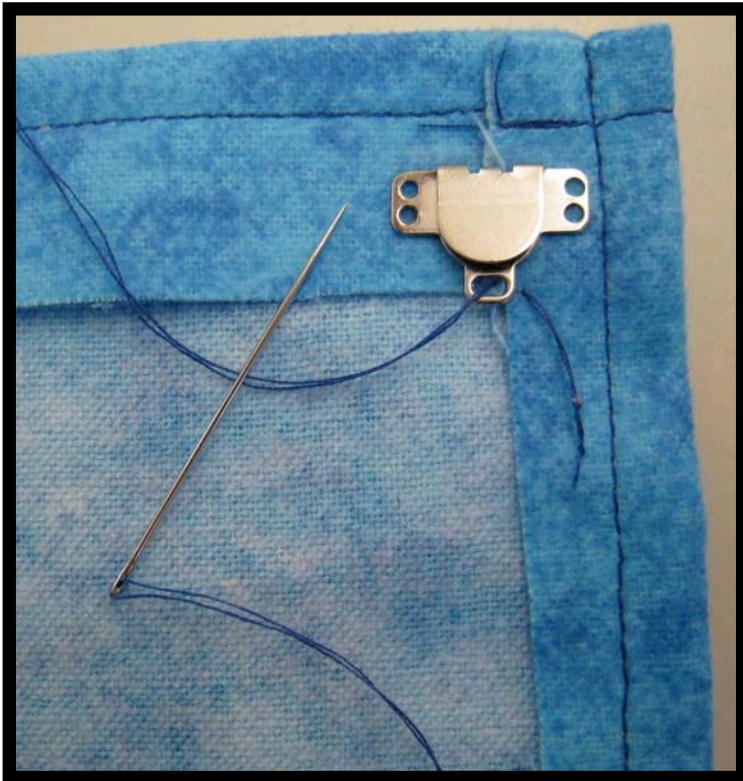
STEP 3: After marking the placement, secure thread to the garment and place the eye or snap directly over desired placement. The first stitch should come from the inside of the garment up through one of the holes of the eye or snap. Next, take a small stitch through the fabric coming back up through the same hole. After the small stitch, the thread will create a loop. The needle will need to pass through the loop. Pull tight to create a knot on the end. Repeat this stitch three times before moving on to the next hole in the snap or eye.





STEP 4: When hand sewing through each hole in the fastener, there is no need to cut the thread. Simply place needle down through the first hole in the fastener and continue on to the next desired hole with a single stitch.

Repeat steps three and four until all the holes in the eye or snap are secure. When finished tie the threads in a knot to keep them from coming undone.



STEP 5: Next, secure the hook (or the opposite side of the snap) to the inside of the overlay. Use the same stitch used to secure the eye. However, be sure when sewing on the hook (or opposite side of the snap) to avoid going through both layers of fabric. This will keep a clean finish and the thread visually hidden from the right side of the garment.

STEP 6: If using the narrow curved hook shown below, it will need to be secured on the curved edge to keep it flat. To do this, first make a small stitch on the underside of the garment just below the hook; then slide the needle in between hook. Next, take a small stitch on the opposite side of the hook and repeat until a sturdy tack has been formed.



The blanket stitch is the most common technique used to attach fasteners of any kind. Below are examples of three types of fasteners that can be applied to a finished garment. **NOTE:** The samples used for this tutorial are only intended to show the technique, not fastener on the finished garment.

Traditional Hook and Eye



Snap



Trouser Hook and Eye



Industry Standards for Well-Constructed Fasteners/Closures

- Fastener suits the design of the garment
- Fastener sits flat, with no puckers
- Fastener keeps garment securely shut without slippage or bulk
- Stitches are neat and secure
- Appropriate thread is used
- Garment fabric is properly reinforced for fastener use
- Fastener is properly sewn with no stitches visible on right side of fabric

References:

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 Cole, J., & Czachor, S. (2009). *Professional sewing techniques for designers*. New York: Fairchild Publications, Inc.

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