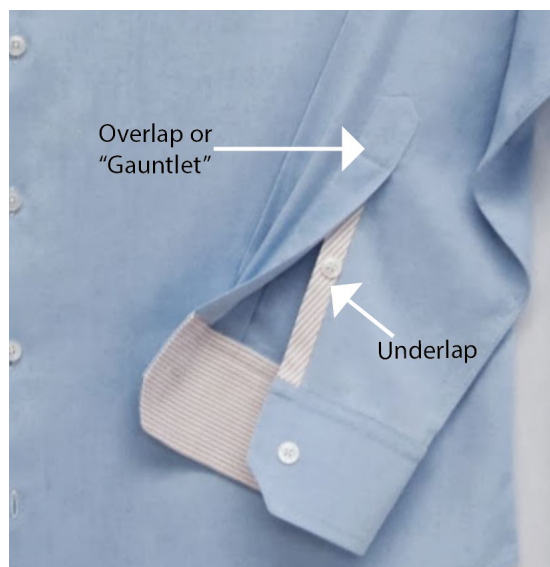


Sewing professional looking sleeve plackets

The term “Placket” is used a lot in garment making, and can become confusing since there are many different types, each with different methods of construction. Essentially a placket is a piece of fabric that neatens the edges of an opening in a garment. They are used in an area of a garment that is fitted to the body and requires an opening in order to get the garment on and off, eg:- a neckline, a waistline, or a fitted sleeve. I’m going to talk about sleeve plackets as these are often considered the trickiest type to master. Once you practice though, sleeve plackets are really satisfying and add polish to your garments

Anatomy of a sleeve placket

Sleeve plackets are essentially 2 pieces of fabric that wrap around the raw edges of the opening at the lower edge of a fitted sleeve. They are usually applied to classic tailored shirts rather than a loose blouse sleeve styles. The same method can also be used at the front of a shirt-dress that opens partially at the neckline.

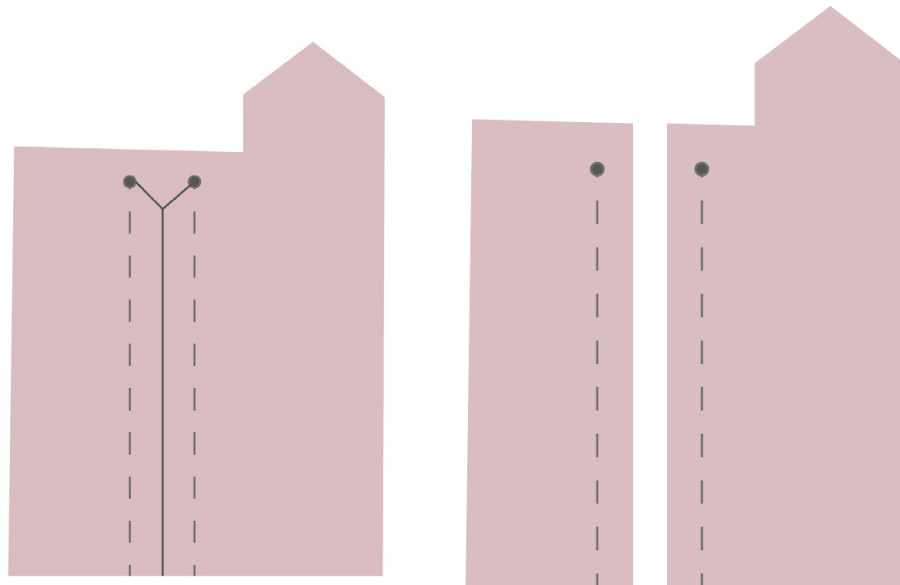


- **Overlap-** This is the piece of fabric seen on the outside of the sleeve once the opening is closed, often referred to as the sleeve “gauntlet” in fashion industry and traditional shirt making. This section of the placket is the widest usually 1”/2.5 cm and it extends beyond the opening. It is often shaped with a peak at the top but can also be squared across. Buttonholes if required are applied to this part of the placket. The overlap is always laid onto the widest part of the sleeve
- **Underlap-** This side of the placket is only visible when the opening is undone. It’s narrower than the overlap, usually 1/2”/1.25 cm and is sometimes referred to as the sleeve “binding”. Buttons are applied to this section of the placket. The underlap is always laid onto the narrow part of the sleeve
- **Sleeve opening-** Usually between 5-6 inches long.

There are 2 main methods to apply sleeve plackets.

Either- its applied as 2 separate rectangles of fabric: - *method commonly used in fashion production.*

Or- as a single shaped piece of fabric: - *method most commonly used in home sewing.*



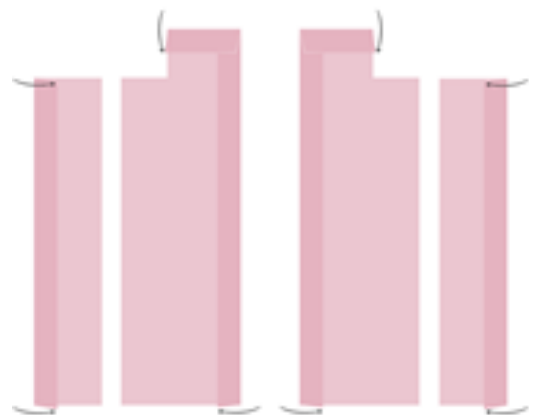
- Both methods can have either a peaked or square top depending on pattern design.
- For both methods it's crucial to pay strict attention to seam allowances and to transfer pattern markings onto both placket and the sleeve.
- For both methods it's helpful to pre-press the folded edges before stitching to sleeve

Basic sleeve placket method

NB- Whilst this method illustrates the application of 2 fabric sections, the exact same method is used for the one-piece application.

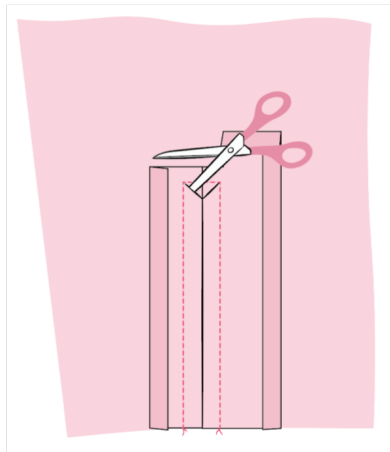
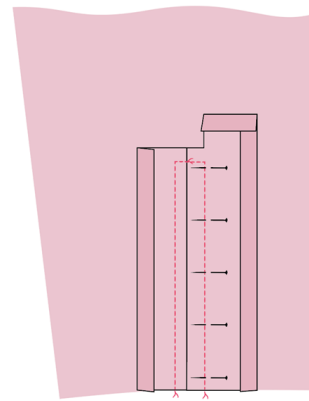
Step 1 -Press under the allocated seam allowance to the wrong side of the longest edge of each overlap, and on one long side of the underlap as shown. Then press the top edge of in same way as shown

NB- The underlap is placed on the narrowest side of the sleeve; the overlap goes on the opposite side (where there's more fabric to the side)



TIP- Ensure your pieces are mirrored at this stage, so you have a left and right side

Step 2 -Lay the sleeves with the wrong side facing up. Place the placket piece/pieces wrong side up on top of sleeve, matching up all pattern markings/stitching lines. Pin in place and stitch along marked lines from the sleeve hem to first circle, across the top to second circle and then back to hem. Use the seam allowances as per your pattern instructions

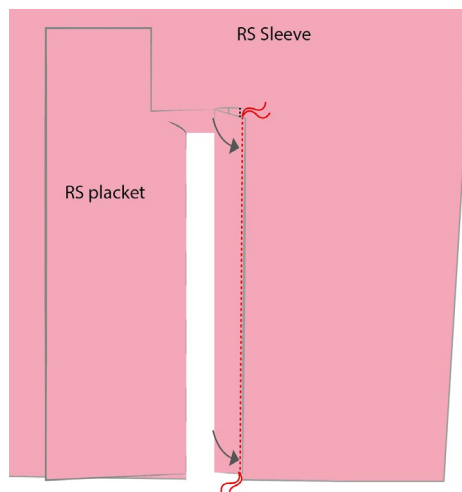
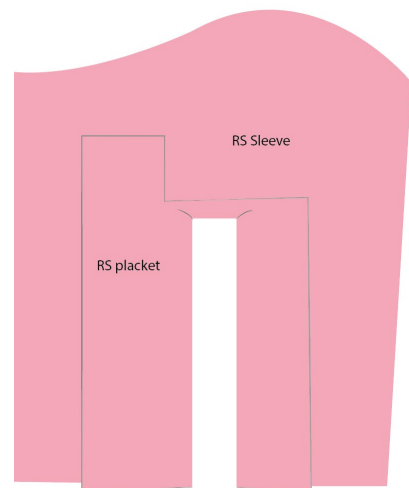


Step 3 - Cut along centre of the stitched box from the bottom, to aprox 1 cm below the upper stitched line.

Then cut from the centre towards either side of the stitched edges to form a Y-shape.

NB- Cut right up to stitched corners but not through them.

Step 4 -Pull the placket piece through onto the right side of the sleeve. Press the rectangular hole flat, paying attention to corners.

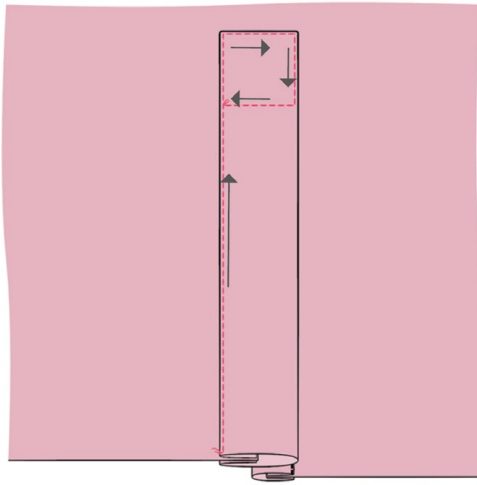
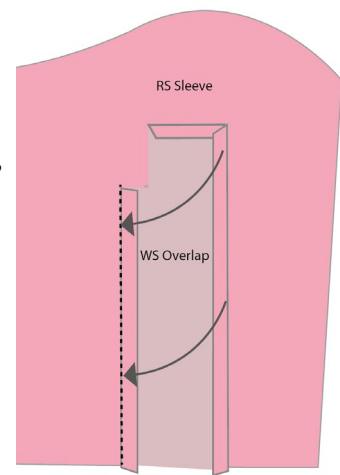


Step 5 -Lift up the underlap and press it and the seam allowance away from the sleeve, ensuring you don't un-press the previous folded edge.

Now wrap the underlap around the seam allowance so the pre-pressed edge sits just over the stitching. Press in place ensuring it's an even width, pin and then edge stitch in place close to the pre-folded edge.

Tip- Since this is the right side of your sleeve, make sure stitching is even and not too far from pressed edge

Step 6 -Lift up the Overlap and press it and the seam allowance away from the sleeve, and over the top of the underlap. As before, ensure you don't remove the previously folded edges. Now wrap the underlap around the seam allowance so the pre-pressed edge sits just over the stitching. Press in place ensuring it's an even width.



Step 7 -The underlap should now be completely hidden by the overlap. Place a pin a fraction above the top of the sleeve opening. This will give a horizontal stitch guide for the edge stitching. Pin in place, including the top and the short side above the opening. **NB-** if your placket has a peaked top, you'll need to press the final side of the tip at this point, ensuring it's centred and symmetrical.

Edgestitch as shown, start at the bottom, across the top, down the side, pivot at the pin guide and finish when you reach your first line of stitching.