

Installing the Linings

In this module, you will learn how to install the lining assemblies you've worked so hard on. This will use the higher end method of construction, to give us much more control over our work. The linings are secured in more locations, giving the strength necessary to support the heavy quilting.

Installing the Forepart Lining and Facing

The first step in installing the facing is to run three rows of shirring stitches along the neck edge. We're trying to avoid putting a dart here, to give a cleaner appearance to the finished lapels. Tie the three threads together at one end, and draw from the other end of the threads.



Place the neck area over a tailor's ham and shrink out the excess fabric that forms. This may take a few passes, so don't worry if it doesn't happen all at once. Even afterwards, you're likely to still have a bit of excess, which is okay.



Lay one half of the coat down on the table, wrong side up. Place the corresponding lining assembly on top. The inlays of the lining and facing should line up with the seam allowances at the waist, and overshoot the front edge and top by $\frac{1}{4}$ inch or more.



Aligning the Facing

One of the most important steps while installing the facing is making sure it is properly lined up with the coat. Since this is a double breasted coat with a cut on lapel, our life is made slightly easier. We simply have to line up the seam running up the middle of the facing with the seam on the center front of the coat. I usually start by inserting a pin through both seams to make sure they are aligned, and starting my basting stitches. Every two or three stitches, reinsert the pin to make sure things are still lined up. Basting should continue in this manner until just before you reach the roll line.



The area above the roll line needs to be aligned, but not in the same manner. It needs to still be free to manipulate with the hands later on. Instead of basting, place a pin near the top, right in the seam lines of the facing and forepart.



After this is complete, check your coat to ensure the lining is in the proper position. It should reach all the way to the armscye, and over to the side body seam. If there is a little shortness, it is acceptable, and will be taken care of when basting the lining to the forepart.

Securing the Facing

A series of basting stitches will be used to hold the facing in its exact position. Turn the coat over so that the right side is facing up. Be careful to support the lining and armhole as you're doing so, in order to avoid any stretching. Starting a little above the waist seam, about one inch from the edge of the coat. Baste from this point up until just below the roll line.



Baste precisely along the roll line, again staying about 1 inch from the edge of the coat along the front. Baste right to the edge of the neck.



Roll the lapel over into its finished position, and make a row of basting stitches parallel to the roll line as shown. It's important to have the lapel in its finished position, because the length of the outer cloth is greater than the inner cloth, which must be accounted for.



Baste along the outside of the lapel, and across the top, from the bottom of the roll line to the top. Stay about an inch from the edge of the coat, as you'll be folding the facing under and need some space to work with.



Still holding the lapel in position, baste from the corner of the lapel, towards the roll line, meeting at right angles. Baste just a little beyond the roll line.



Securing the Lining

Carefully turn the coat back over so that the lining side is face up. Making sure to keep a neutral tension on both the lining and coat, baste from just above the waistline, up along the edge of the facing. As you get towards the top, ease the excess fabric in as you go. Continue basting until about two inches from the top of the shoulder.



At this point, if you carefully put your hand underneath the coat, supporting the shape (you may want to wear an oven mitt), carefully shrink out any remaining excess. If you left a large enough inlay, you may be able to distribute the ease so that less shrinking is necessary here. Be patient.

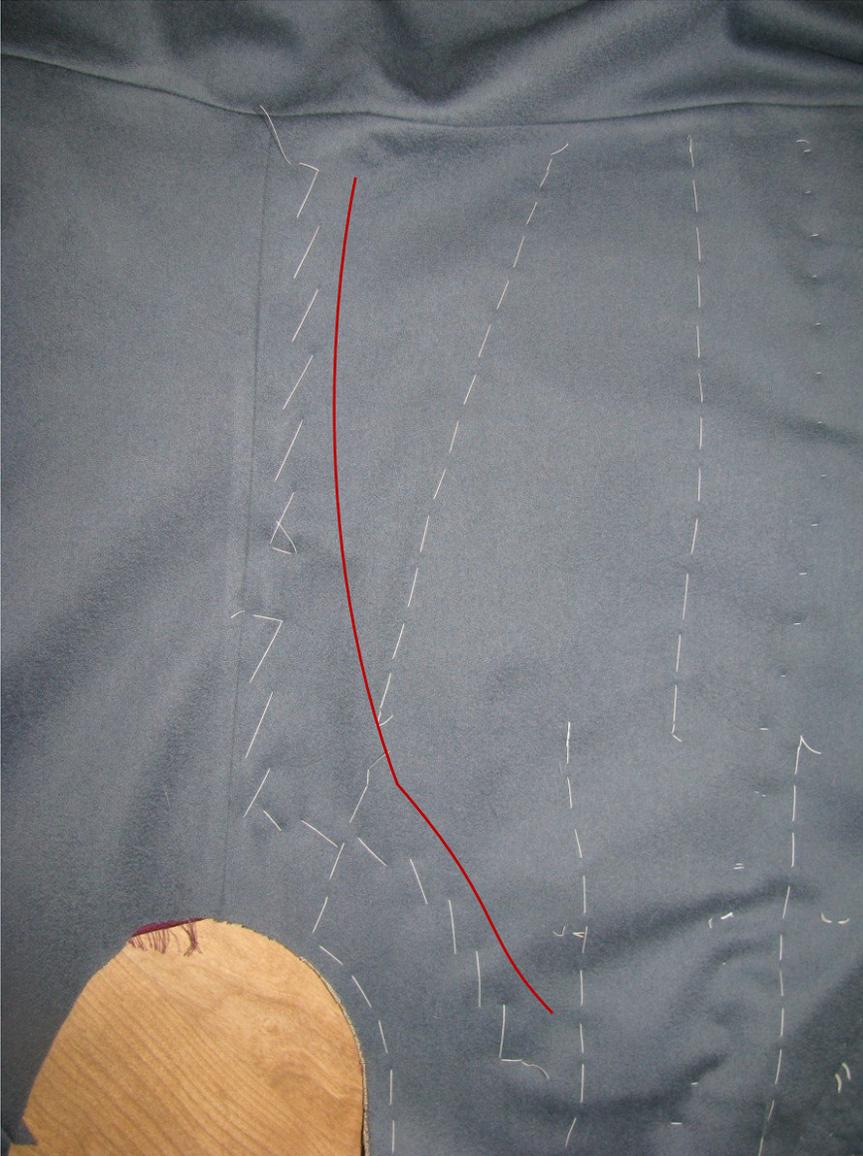
Tacking the Pockets

To prevent the pockets from moving out of place during use, you should sew the seam allowance of the pocket to the coat canvas, using a cross stitch. Move the lining out of the way for better access.



Completing the Basting

Starting at about the middle of the armhole, 2 inches from the edge, baste the lining to the coat around the bottom of the armhole until you get to the side seam. Then baste down the side seam to just above the waist seam.



You may want to support the shape of the coat with your hand underneath, especially in the armhole area. Each coat is different, so the amount of shape you need to support may vary.

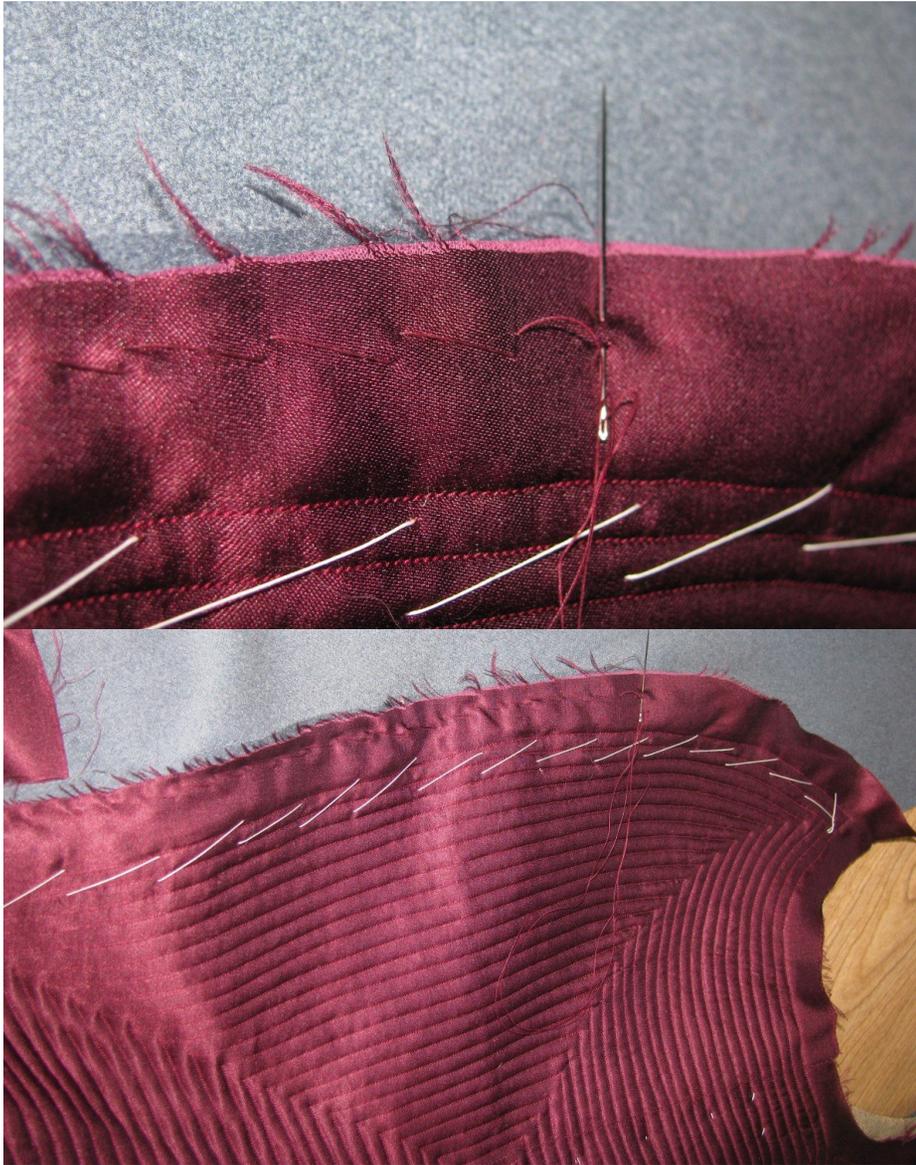


Finally, baste along the back sidebody seam, from the lining side of the coat. The lining should line up with the edge of the back seam. If you find a slight shortness in the lining, it's due to the coat not being held in its proper position while basting. You may need to redo the last row of basting and try this step again for good results.



Securing the Lining

Now that the lining has been fully basted down, you need to permanently secure it. Using silk thread, baste the lining edge of the back sidebody down, using smaller basting stitches than normal. This will help prevent the weight of the lining from tearing itself or sagging.



Marking the Gorge Line

On the facing, mark the gorge line carefully in chalk. It begins at the facing seam, exactly level with the edge of the stay tape underneath. Continue this line towards the roll line, continuing $\frac{1}{2}$ inch beyond. At this point, draw a line at 90 degrees towards the neck. You should do this to both halves of the coat at the same time, to ensure they are exactly the same.



On the underside of the facing, make a few stitches in place to hold the seam securely. This location is called the collar notch, and is where the lapel and collar meet.



The stitches should be placed just beyond the edge of the coat underneath.

Snip carefully along the chalk line you made at 90 degrees to the gorge line.



Also remove the stitching holding the facing together, stopping just at the stay stitches you put in place.



Measure $\frac{3}{8}$ inches away from the edge of the coat on the facing, along the top and center front of the coat. Trim away the excess. Note here I only need to trim away at the top, because I left a smaller inlay at the center front.



Closing the Facing

Starting at the area below the roll line, fold under the facing so that it is set back $\frac{1}{16}$ of an inch away from the edge of the coat. Baste this securely as you move along. This ensures the facing is not visible from the outside on the finished coat.



When you get to about 1 inch from either side of the roll line, make the facing and coat front exactly even. This will be exposed, and having either side offset will be easily noticeable.



Above the roll line, the facing should extend off the edge of the coat by 1/16 of an inch. This is because when the lapel is rolled over in place, the facing side ends up showing. Stop basting about three inches below the lapel point, as this needs extra care.

The Lapel Point

Getting a smart looking point on the lapel can be a challenge. I highly recommend practicing on some scraps a couple of times beforehand to get a feel for the technique. First, draw a chalk line straight



across the wrong side of the facing. The actual angle isn't precise, but should be roughly balanced from the lapel point on both ends of the line. The line should be drawn exactly even with the tip of the lapel. This is extremely important.

Trim just to the inside of the chalk line. This makes the facing just slightly shorter than the lapel itself. At most, it's 1/32 of an inch. The reason for this is that when forming the lapel point, the cloth tends to extend slightly out of shape at the tip. By reducing the amount slightly, you'll get a perfect fit.



After trimming along the chalk line, fold both seam allowances inward, leaving 1/16 of an inch of the facing showing. Trim off the excess fabric that appears in the tip of the lapel facing, as shown above.

Stoat the corner securely closed, forming a nice point at the tip. You will never get a sharp angle to the point – it will always be slightly rounded due to the nature of fabric.



Baste the remaining facing down around the top of the lapel to the collar facing seam.



The Gorge Line

The area on the neck line that you chalked out will form the gorge line. Fold under the fabric to the chalk line. It should just cover the stay tape underneath. You may need to remove a few basting stitches to make room for the folded fabric underneath. Baste it securely in place.

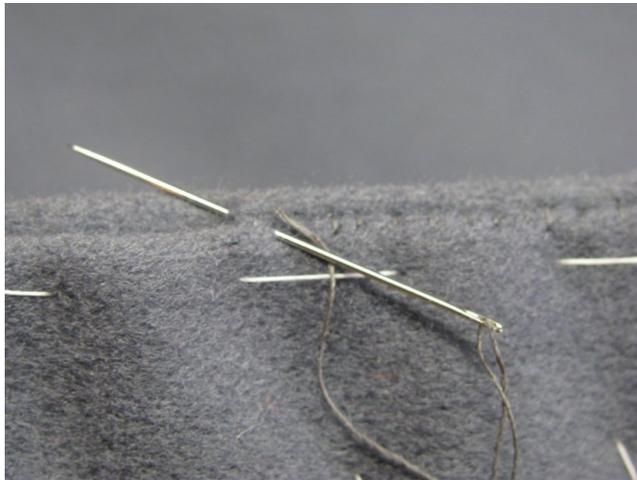


Felling

Starting at the waistline, fell down the facing using tiny, nearly invisible stitches, about 10 per inch. Continue upwards towards the roll line. At this point, I like to stop, and continue again from the collar notch at the top.



Continue felling, around the point of the lapel, down the front. When you get to the roll line, be careful to take very tiny stitches, so that no stitching is visible from the outside of the coat.



Fell across the bottom of the facing at the waistline.



At the bottom of the inner half of the facing, remove the stitches holding the lining in place, to about an inch above the waist. This gives us room to do some other work in this area. Using a basting stitch, and silk thread, secure the rest of the facing to the skirt seam line. We do this instead of felling, in order to avoid stitch marks from showing through to the right side.



Give the front edge of the coat a good pressing, from the point of the lapel, down to the waist line. Be sure to use a ham in order to preserve the shape you so carefully worked in.



Fold the lapel across the roll line, and press well. Stop pressing three or four inches above the bottom of the roll line. You want it to roll naturally at this point.



Here you can see the progress so far. Repeat for the other half if you haven't done so already!



Here is the coat flat on the table – work on the shoulder seams will continue after completing the skirt lining.



Note the sharp point on the lapel – yet still slightly rounded.

Lining the Skirt

Before lining the skirt, there is a decision to be made. The skirt lining can either be left hanging free at the bottom, or felled. The skirt should be allowed to hang free if you cut a fuller skirt, and did not press the plaits in the back. This will allow the skirt to drape freely, without the lining tugging on it.

Felling the skirt down is an option if you basted the plaits closed, and pressed them, as well as cut a closer-fitting skirt.

Either is correct for the period – it's up to you to make the decision best for your situation.

Hemming the Skirt for Free Hanging Skirt Only

If you have decided to allow the skirt to hang freely, you must first hem the bottom. Press back the bottom by $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, then press that back on itself an additional $\frac{1}{4}$ inch so that the raw edge is hidden. Carefully fell the folded edge down to the wrong side, taking more of a diagonal between stitches so that the stitches are less visible on the right side.



Waist Seam

Line up the center of your quilting or dart in the skirt to the bottom of the side body seam. The skirt lining should just cover the seam allowance of the upper body. Baste from the dart or center of quilting, along the waistline towards the front. Then do the same towards the back. As you get near the ends of the skirt, turn them under so that an appropriate amount of facing is showing. I used about two inches.



You can see here a little bit of fullness that was improperly basted. I ended up taking it out and rebasting.



Basting the Front

Draw a chalk line down the front, equidistant from the front edge, and turn the lining back so that it is aligned with it.



Baste down the lining along the front edge. I find it very helpful to hold the coat up before hand, and allow the lining to drape freely, to ensure everything is in its proper place.



For coats that are using the free hanging lining, trim away some of the turned-under fabric, so that it does not show in the finished coat.



Basting the Back Skirt

Fold under the back edge of the skirt lining, so that it overhangs the pocket by 1/8 of an inch. Baste carefully to the pocket, being sure not to accidentally close it up.



Baste the rest of the back lining down. At this point, you should lightly press the skirt lining at all folded edges.



Securing the Skirt Lining

At the waist, fold back the upper forepart and side body lining so that it is out of the way. Using silk thread, carefully baste the skirt lining along the waist seam allowance, from front to back.



Use a side stitch to secure the lining to the top pocket bag.



At the bottom of the pocket, continue felling until about two inches from the bottom of the skirt. This area will need to be finished later.



At the back of the skirt lining, starting at the top, fell down the top half inch or so of lining, until you get to the top of the pocket.

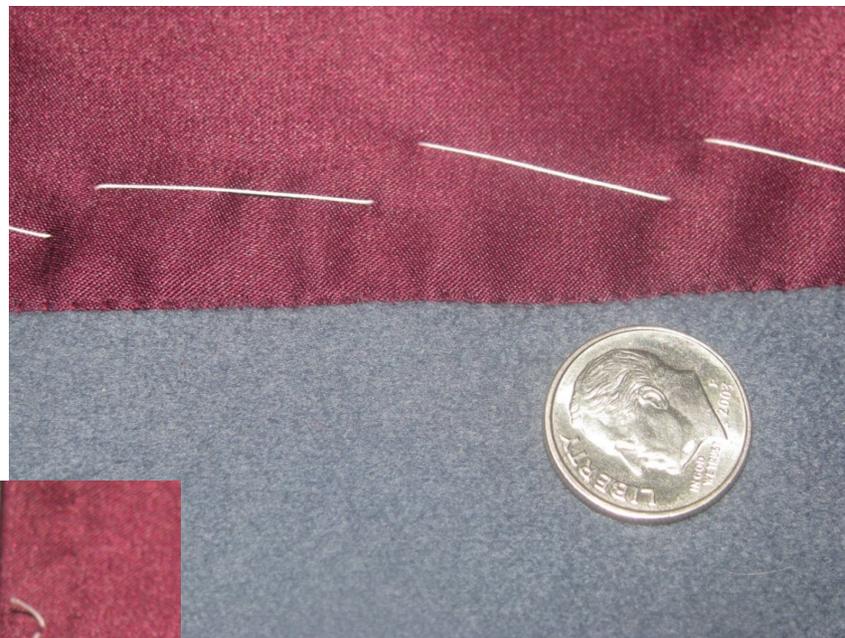


At the front of the skirt at the waist line, fold under the remaining raw edge until just under the forepart lining.

Fell from just under the forepart lining, across the rest of the waist, and down along the front edge, all the way to the bottom of the skirt lining. If you are securing the bottom of the skirt, stop an inch from the bottom. If you are doing a free hanging skirt, continue felling along the bottom for the first half inch to one inch.



As you are felling, remember that the stitches should be small and almost invisible.



Securing the Forepart Waist

Baste under the raw edge of the forepart lining at the waist, lining everything up so that there are no wrinkles or pockets of fullness.

Fell along the waist line from the front edge of the forepart lining to the back of the lining.



Plait Buttons

It's time to finally move on from the linings – for a little while, anyway. Turn the coat right side up. This is the best time to put on the plait buttons, before we close up the shoulder and back seams. At the point where the waist seam meets the back, is the location for the buttons. Using the buttonhole twist left hanging from the back of your buttons, go through the fabric above the waist seam, and exit just below it. The thread does not pass through all layers, but through the top few only. Then pass

the needle through the wool on the back of the button. Do not pull the thread tight, but leave about 1/8 of slack in the thread between the

button and coat. This will form the shank. Repeat this process a total of six times for best security.



Pass the needle through the coat one last time. Upon exiting, wrap the thread around the shank you made, about four to six times. This will strengthen the

button more. To finish off, pass the needle through the shank three times, from separate directions, and trim off the excess.





The Shoulder Seams

It is now time to close the shoulder seams. Since these seams are cut strongly on the bias, it is necessary to secure them with a strip of linen, to prevent too much stretching out of shape. The linen is cut on a slight bias, about 30 degrees, and is about 1 inch in width, and a little longer than the shoulder seam. Baste it on to the wrong side of the shoulder, on the forepart. You must fold



the canvas and lining out of your way as you do this. Make sure the linen is centered on the seam line – don't forget about the inlay.

Pin one end of the shoulder seam closed, making sure it is flush against the inlay marking threads. On the other side, line up the seam, and baste. You will notice much fullness in the back, which needs to be eased throughout the entire seam.

You can see the fullness in this photo, after the shoulder seam has been basted. This extra fullness will allow room for the shoulder blades and give a little room for movement. This is a great time to do a fitting – use a straight basting stitch in this case, and also close up the back seam. Now, the shoulder seam can be adjusted on you or your client to ensure a perfect fit.



Press the fullness out, being sure not to let the iron travel more than an inch onto the back, or you will shrink out all of the fullness, negating your work.



Sew the shoulder seam closed. Note the inlay is still in place, for future adjustment if necessary.

Remove the basting stitches and press well, using a tailor's

ham, as per the usual method.



Closing the Back Seam

It is time to finally close up the final remaining seam – the back. Lay the coat halves right side together, and baste the seam closed from the neck to the back vent.



At the back vent area, you can see how the left half of the coat differs from the right half. The right half extends slightly above, and the left half was trimmed to the seam allowance. Sew the back seam, ending just at the end of the cut. It needs to be as precise as possible.



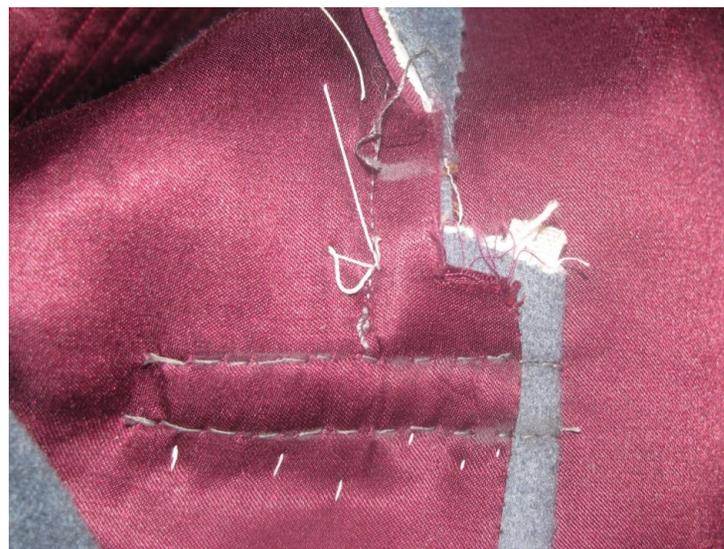
Press the back seam open as usual. However, as you get near the back vent, the left right half is placed over the left half, and the seams are both pressed to the same side. This gives a lot of additional strength to a normally weaker area of the coat.



Preferably while wearing the coat, pin the back vent closed. You need to make sure it is balanced correctly. The vent should neither open up on itself, or want to close, but should hang straight down, all the way to the hem. After you are satisfied with the balance, baste the vent closed, very securely.



On the lining side, chalk out two parallel rows. The first is a hair below the top of the vent, and is perpendicular to the back seam. The second row of stitching is about half an inch below. Both rows are the length of the back vent. Stitch these lines using a back stitch, being absolutely sure the stitches do not show through to the right side. You only want to catch one layer of the piece below.



On the right side, chalk a line the length of the vent, just below the top. At either end, draw two 45 degree lines towards the center, each about half an inch long.



Although very hard to see (and that's a good thing), use a side stitch, at about 20 stitches per inch, to secure the vent along the chalk lines. You really want these to be invisible and neat, as the area draws attention to itself.

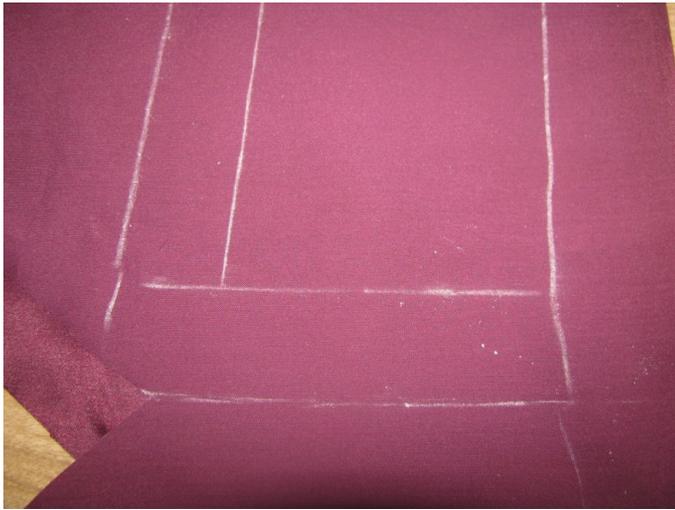


The Back Lining

We will now begin the final piece of lining – the back. Using your pattern, draw out the back on your lining as usual.



It's necessary to add some inlays, to make sure we have room to cover everything. I usually add $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch along the neck, shoulder, and armscye, and an inch along the side seam.



Add about 1 ½ inches at the bottom. You want to be sure you have enough lining to cover the back vent area.



Cut out the lining and add your inlays as usual.

Baste the back seam, and machine or hand sew the back seam.



Press open the back seam.

Quilting the Back Lining

This is an optional step. If you do not wish to quilt the back lining, just skip this section.

On the madder red interlining, trace out the upper half of the back, on the fold. Reduce the neck and shoulder seams by half an inch. The bottom should be approximately even with the middle or top of the armscye.



Cut this out, as well as some batting. You should be a pro at this by now if you've made it this far.

Baste the lining and batting together.



Baste the interlining assembly to the wrong side of the lining.



Quilt in a manner similar to the forepart of the coat.



Remove all basting stitches.

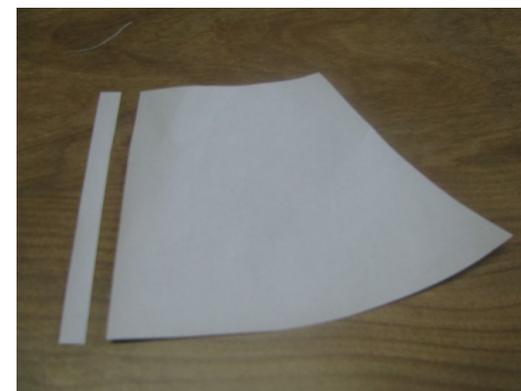


The Back Canvas

This is a feature I've never seen on a reproduction, but is sometimes found in originals. The purpose of the back canvas is to give a little more support and strength to the back. Trace onto paper the top of your back pattern.

About 3 inches down the back and shoulder should be fine.

Connect both with a graceful curve along the bottom, and trim off the seam allowance at the center back.



Cut out the canvas on the fold, and on the straight grain.



The canvas is lined up with the back, and basted down the center, securely along the back seam allowance.



Baste each side to the shoulder seam, making sure not to catch the seam allowance underneath. You'll want these free for later on.



Installing the Back Lining

Line up the back lining carefully, being careful not to stretch the neck area of the coat. Baste down the center of the lining, catching the center back seam. Check to make sure everything is lined up as you baste.



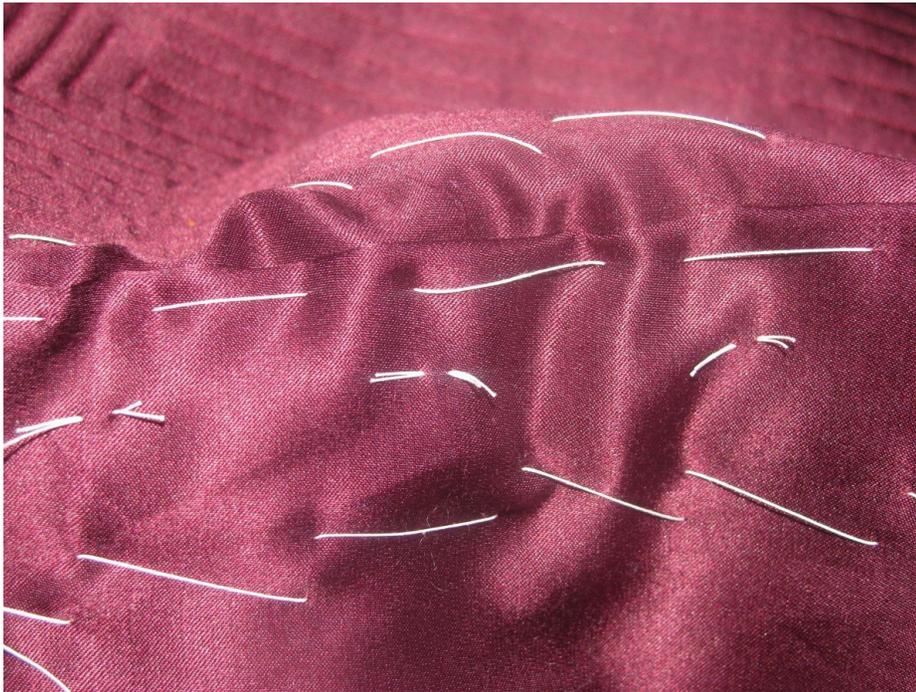
Baste the shoulder seams down, staying about an inch away from the edge. Make sure there is a neutral tension with the coat underneath.



Baste along the side seams of the lining, again staying an inch away from the edge.



Along the edge of the side seams only, baste under the raw edge, making sure the forepart lining and silk basting stitches are covered underneath. Also turn under the raw edge at the bottom of the back lining, being sure to just cover the back vent area. Don't allow the lining to extend too far below the back vent – a ¼ inch at the very most – or you will affect the drape of the plaits.



Fell down the lining along the side seams and bottom. Do not fell the shoulder seams down, there is more work to be done there.



Next – we will construct the collar!

