

## Drafting the Sleeve

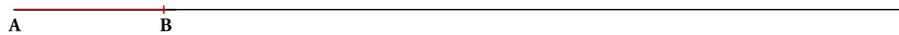
We will begin the last module of the workshop by first drafting and fitting the sleeves. Devere's sleeve draft is relatively easy, compared to the coat. The sleeve head's width is determined by a proportion of the breast measurement. The length is determined the the Length of Sleeve measurement, and the wrists and elbows can either be proportioned to this, or as fashion requires.

Remember that in the 1860s, the sleeves were very full at the elbow, and covered the wrist. The 'show half an inch of shirt cuff rule' is a more modern development.

I neglected to account for the sleeve draft in the measurement spreadsheet you filled out in the first module, so a new one is included that deals specifically with the sleeves. Just fill in your full breast measurement and sleeve length, and the rest will be calculated for you.

### A – B

Begin by drawing a horizontal construction line. Mark A at the left end of the line. Point B is three-eighths of an inch less than one-fourth of the Breast.



### A – C

One-sixteenth of Breast.



### A – D

One-fourth inch more than one-fourth Breast.



### C – E

One-eighth of Breast. Sometimes a smaller amount can be used here if you have trouble drawing the sleeve head later on.



### C – F

Three-fourths inch less than half the Breast.



# Recreating a Federal Enlisted Frock Coat

# Module Twelve — The Sleeves

## C – H

Length of Sleeve to measure.



## G – H

Wrist, to measure or to Fashion.



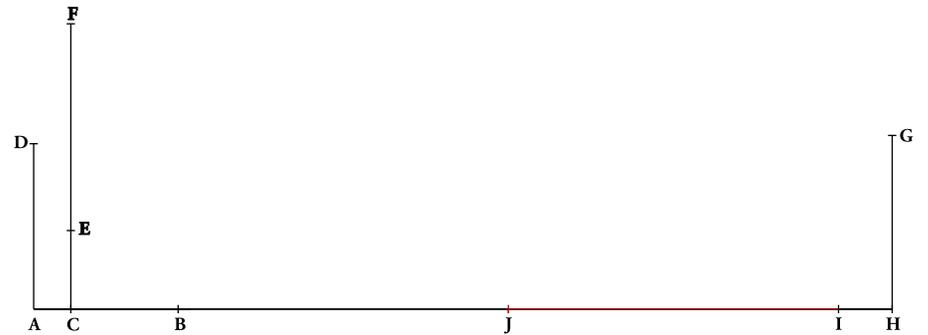
## H – I

One-Twelfth of Breast.



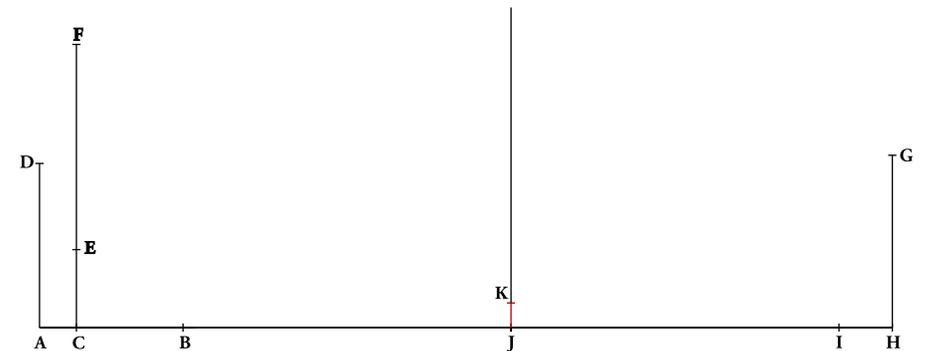
## I – J

Half of I – B. Using the tailor's square makes this calculation easy to check.



## J – K

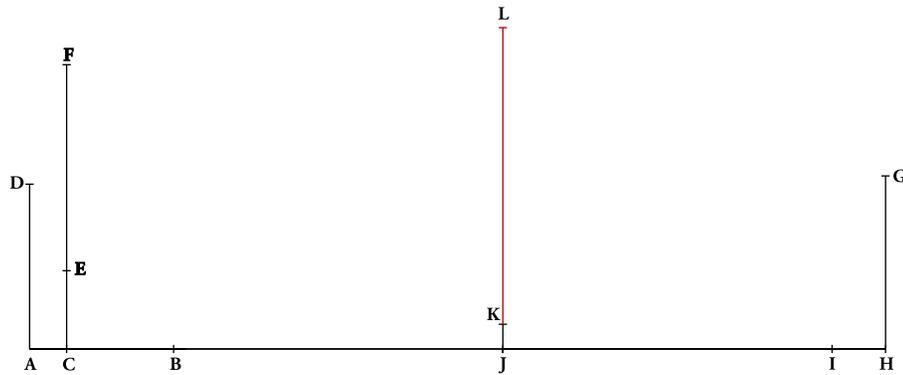
Curve of Forearm Seam to fashion.



# Recreating a Federal Enlisted Frock Coat

## K – L

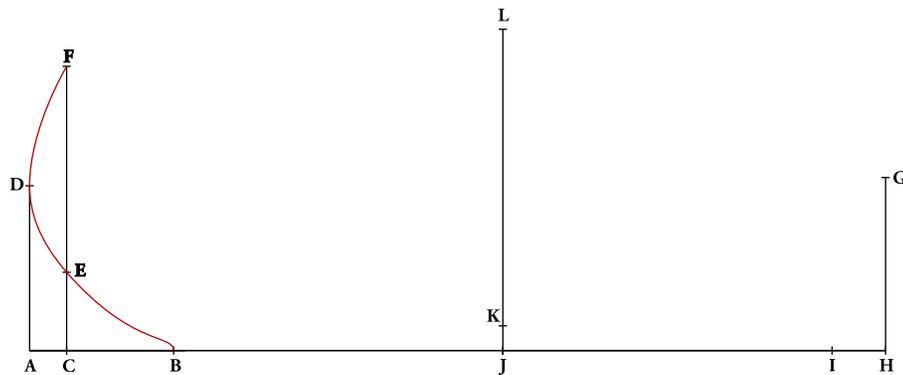
Elbow width, to fashion or to taste. Remember that coats of the 1860s have a very full elbow.



## The Upper Sleeve Curves

We'll begin drawing the sleeve curves, first for the upper sleeve, followed by the undersleeve.

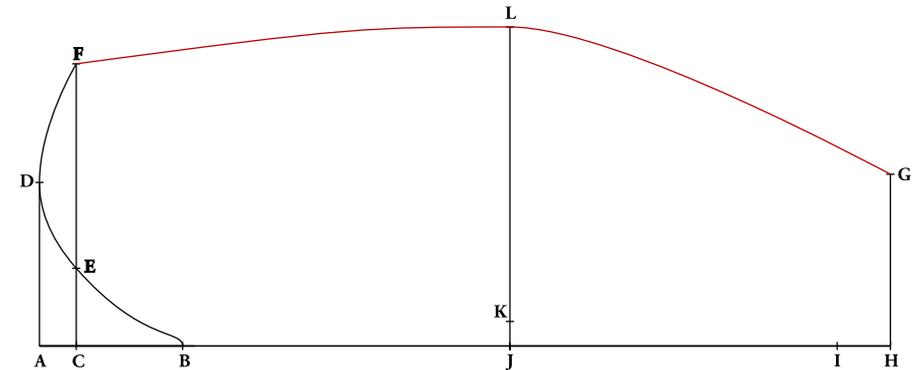
### The Sleeve Head



We'll first draw the sleeve head, as shown. Using either a French curve or bendable ruler, start by connecting Point F to points D and E in a smooth curve. Continue on to point B, but aim about 1/4 high, and then quickly curve in to Point B. This will make it easier to align the seams later on.

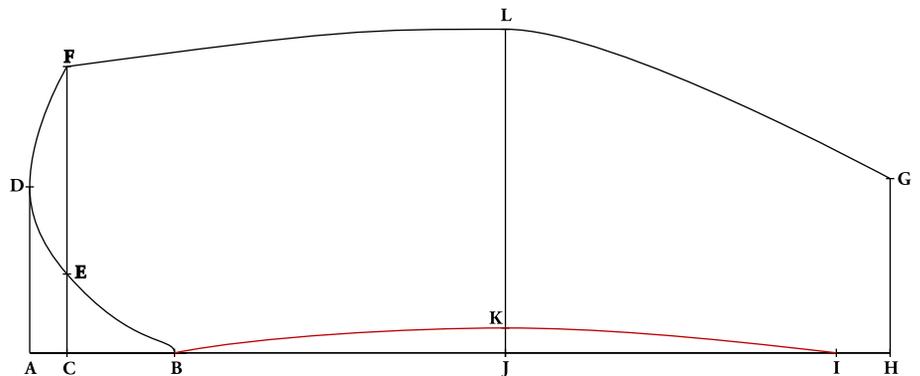
# Module Twelve — The Sleeves

## Back Seam



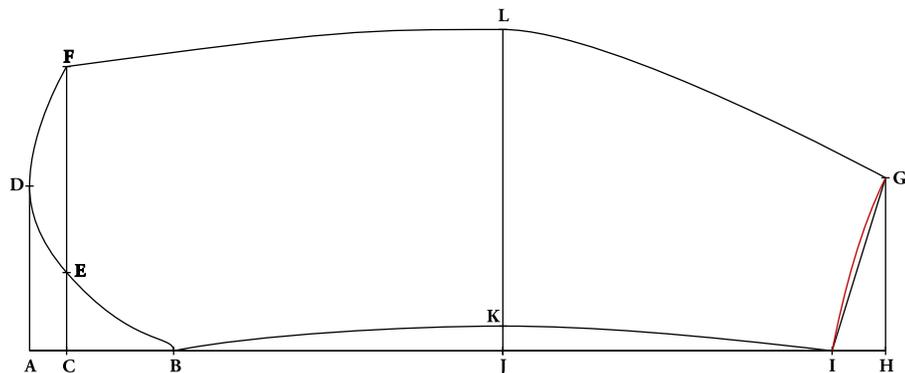
Connect point F to L with a very shallow curved line. At point L, the line swings downward, connecting to point G. You may find that point L is too high, which can happen with larger breast sizes combined with short arms. In that case, you'll need to lower point L until it looks a more reasonable shape.

## Front Seam



Connect Points B, K, and I with a smooth curve, using a hip curve for accuracy.

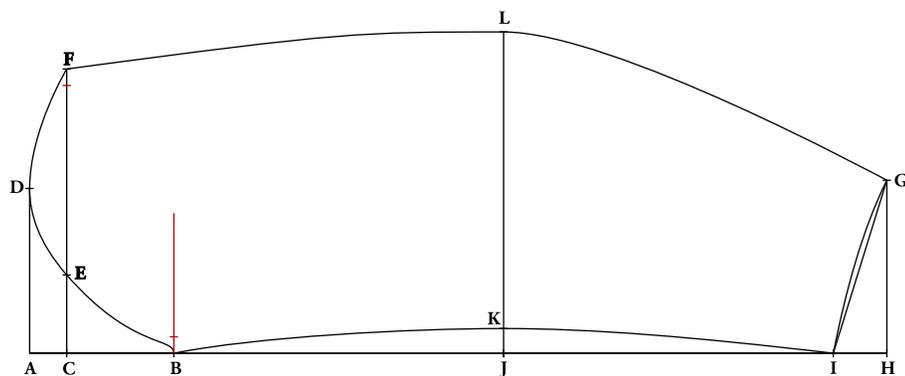
## Cuff



Draw a straight line connecting Points G to I. Use that line as a guide draw a curved cuff.

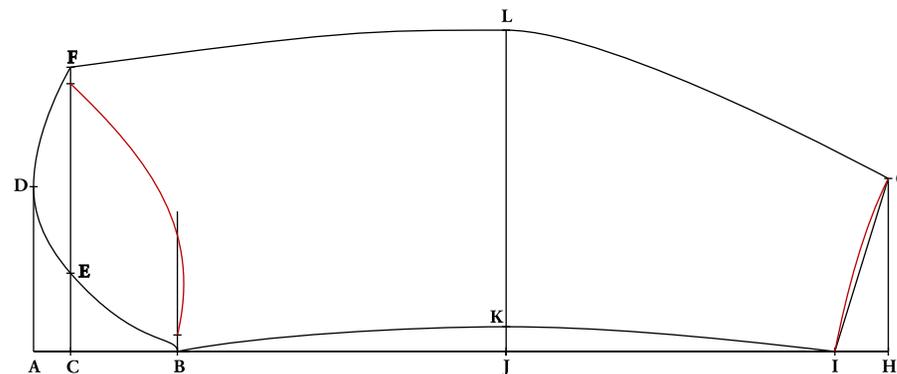
## The Under Sleeve

Begin the under sleeve by drawing a line squared up from point B, about half way up the height of the sleeve.



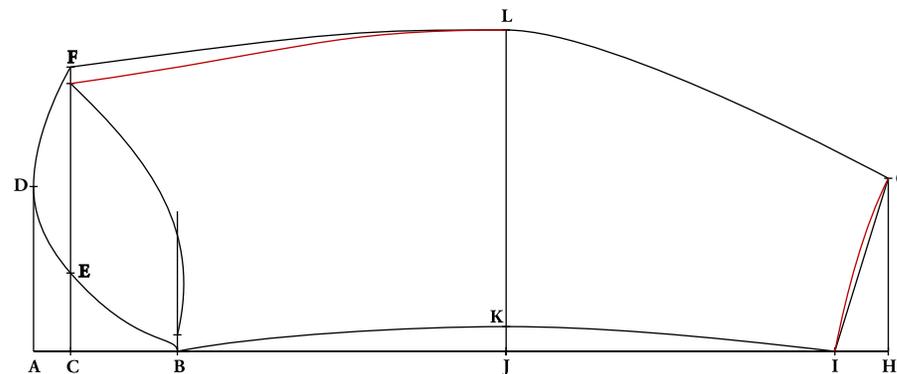
Mark  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch up on this line from point B, and do the same from point F, as shown.

## Completing the Armscye



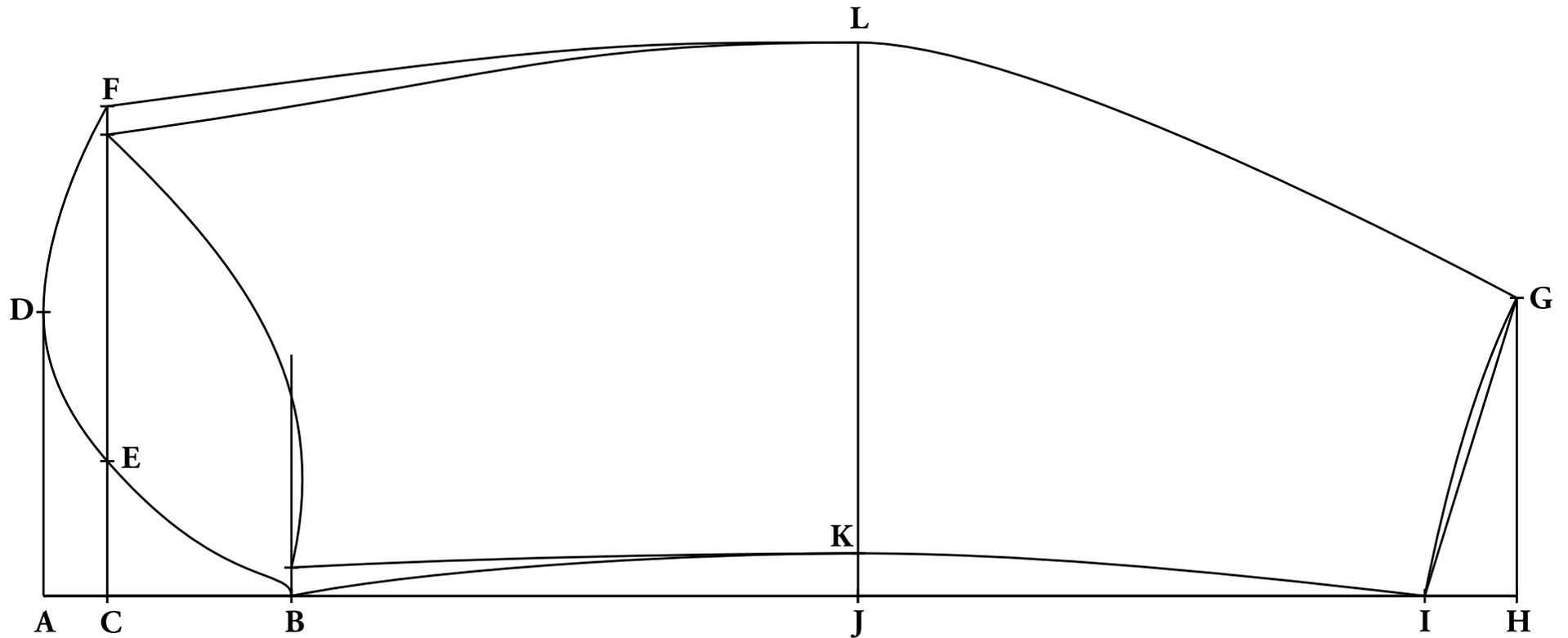
Connect the points you just drew from point F to point B in a smooth curve, as shown. The curve should extend slightly past the construction line from Point B. This is not exact, and with practice you'll learn how to draw this seam more accurately.

## Completing the Back Seam



Connect from  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch below Point F in a nearly straight line, gradually curving into point L.





**The Completed Sleeve Draft**

### Muslin Sleeve

You should now construct a sleeve out of muslin, to test the fit. Only one side is necessary to test, and if you can do the left side, it is a little easier to set into the armhole (if you are right handed, that is).



Begin by sewing the front seam together. Press open.



Sew the rear seam together, pressing that open as well. Line up the rear seam to the middle of the back body at the armhole, as shown for the wool sleeve. Baste together, right sides together, using a running stitch. Instead of the shirring stitches, it's okay to pleat sections in to make things easier. After the muslin sleeve is attached, you should check for the following fitting problems.



### Fitting issues

There are several fitting issues you may encounter when fitting the muslin sleeve. Try to correct these now, as they are much more difficult, with the exception of the Sleeve Pitch, to fix later on.

#### Too long or short

If you find the sleeve is too long or too short, this can be fixed on the draft by altering the measurement from C to H, and adjusting all of the points from the elbow to cuff accordingly. The sleeve should fall to just past the hollow of the wrist. This is a lot longer than modern sleeves, so be careful not to fall into the too-short sleeve trap.

#### Armhole Too Full

You may find when basting on the sleeve that there is just too much extra ease on the sleeve head. If you have more than an inch of ease, I suggest adjusting point F, and bringing that closer to C in both the under and upper sleeve in equal amounts. So if you have an extra inch of fullness that you don't want, subtract ½ an inch

## Recreating a Federal Enlisted Frock Coat

from point F on both halves of the sleeves.

### Elbow Too Wide

If you are a very large size, starting at about size 46 and above, you'll find that the elbow is very wide compared to the length of the sleeve. In this case, disregard point L, and make the curve from F to G follow a more proportionate line if you can.

### Pitched Forward or Back

If you distribute the fullness on the sleeve head incorrectly, you'll find that the sleeve will want to hang too far forward or back, and that there are wrinkles on the front or back of the sleeve head.

If the wrinkles form at the front of the coat, you'll need to rotate the sleeve back, and distribute more fullness towards the back. Likewise, if the wrinkles are near the back of the scye, you'll want more fullness near the front. This can be easy to fix later on, but you want to be aware of it.

After you are happy with the fit of your sleeves, you can cut them out of the wool. Make sure the grain lines are aligned properly, as well as the direction of the nap.



## Module Twelve — The Sleeves

The first step is to baste together the front seam, with right sides together.



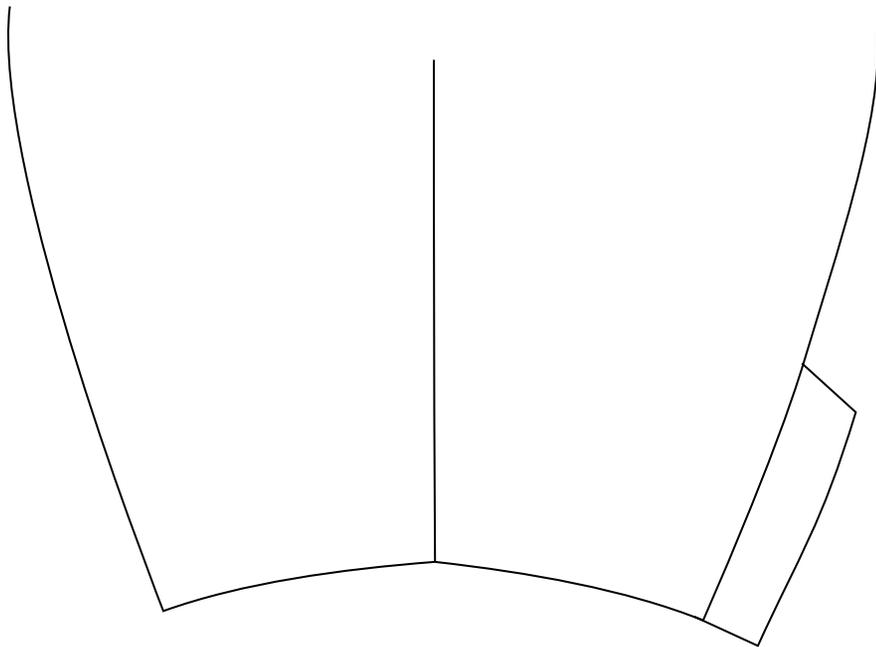
Sew the seam, and press open well, using a seam roll or ham.

## Drafting the Cuff

We'll use the sleeve itself as a template for drafting the cuff, as using the paper gets complicated when dealing with the seam allowances that are present there. I like to draft the cuff directly on the cloth, simply because it's less time consuming to do, and there is less room for error.

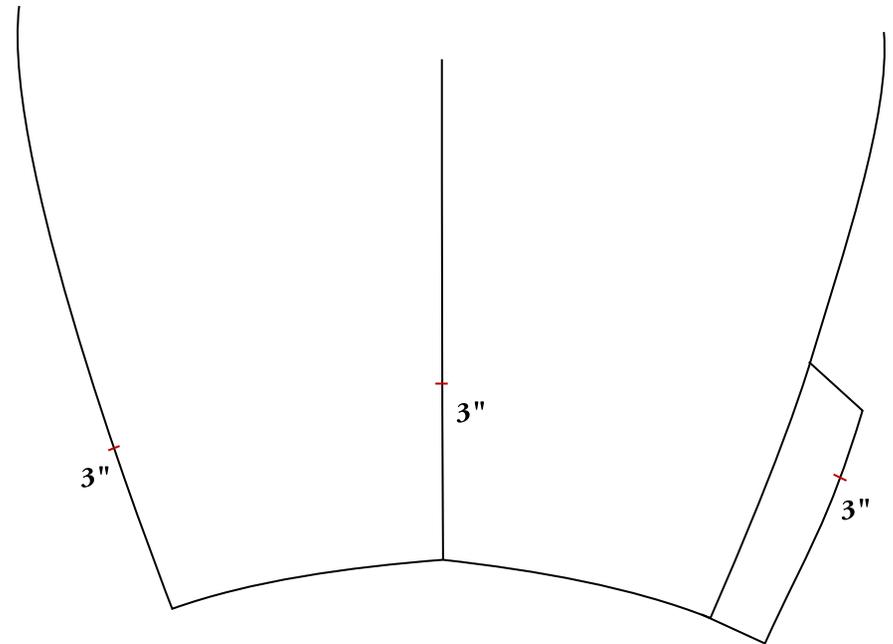
First draw a line crosswise on your fabric so that you have a base to work from. Place the sleeve down so that the ends are touching this line, and the vent inlay is to the right.

Trace around the bottom of the sleeve, and about 5 graduated inches up either side. You can draw further if you wish to better see how the sleeve looks when drawing the cuff design.

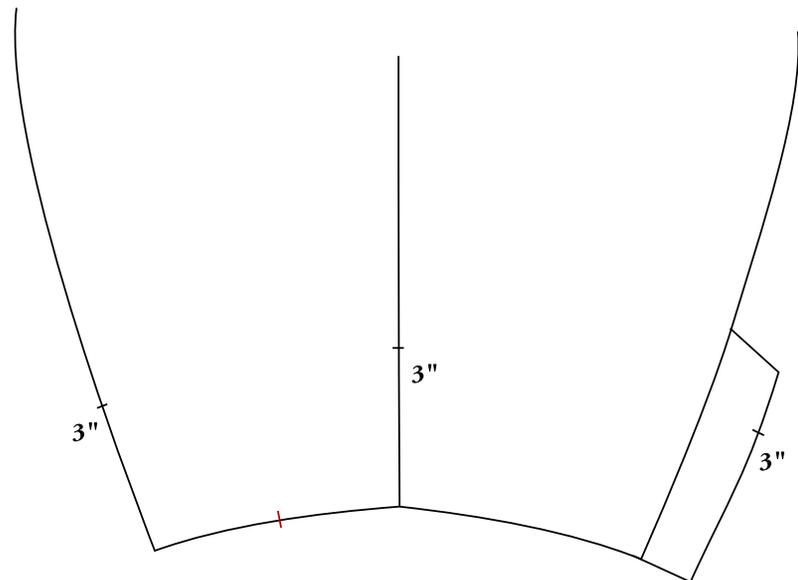


Extend the center seamline down to the baseline, and lift up the sleeve. After removing the sleeve, you can continue this line straight for another five inches or so to give more visual aid.

Mark 3 inches up on either side, as well as the centerline. This will mark the top of the piping line, seam allowances included.

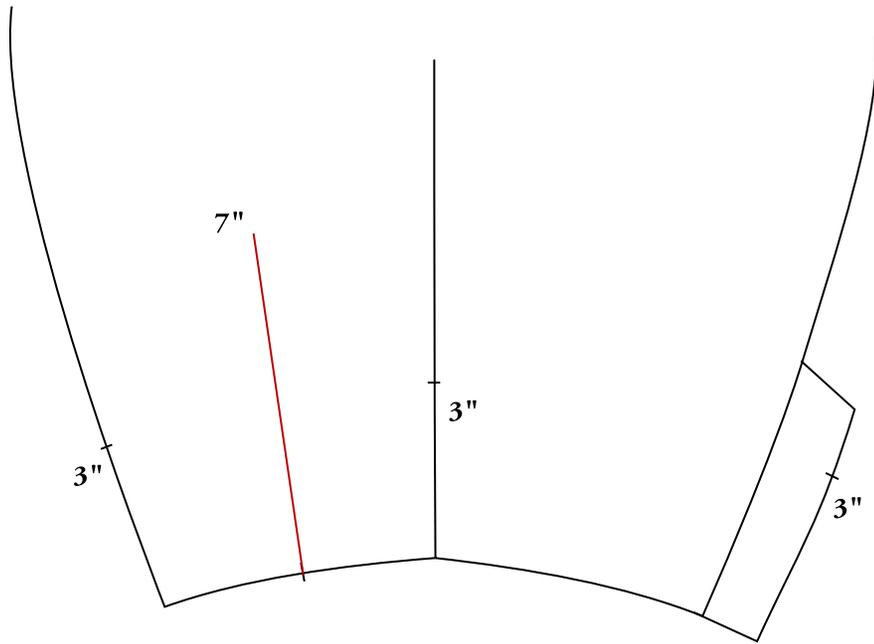


On the cuff line, between the left seam and the center seam, mark the midpoint of the line.



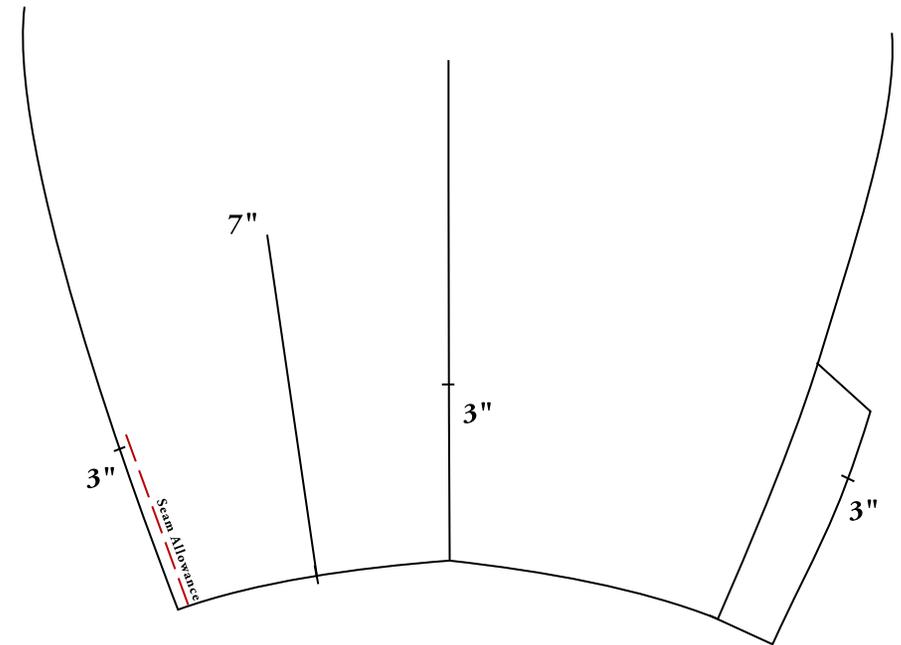
## Recreating a Federal Enlisted Frock Coat

Draw a line at about 90 degrees from the midpoint. It's actually slightly closer to the center seam line, so it's not exactly 90 degrees. If you do leave it at exactly 90 degrees, you'll find the point of the chevron falls too close to the vent opening. The line should be about 7 graduated inches long.



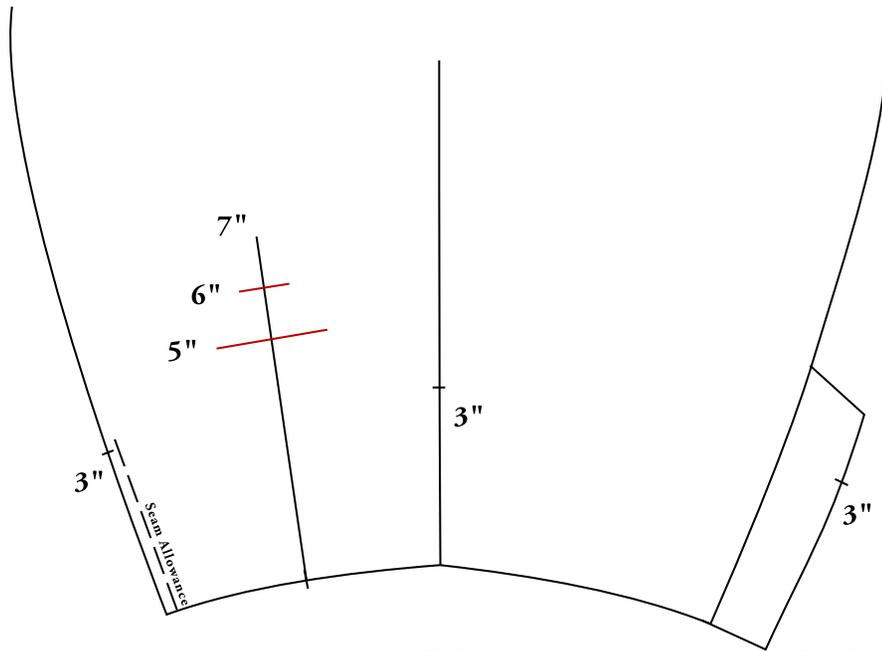
## Module Twelve — The Sleeves

On the left side, lightly chalk the seam allowance, as a visual aid. This is not a cutting line.



## Recreating a Federal Enlisted Frock Coat

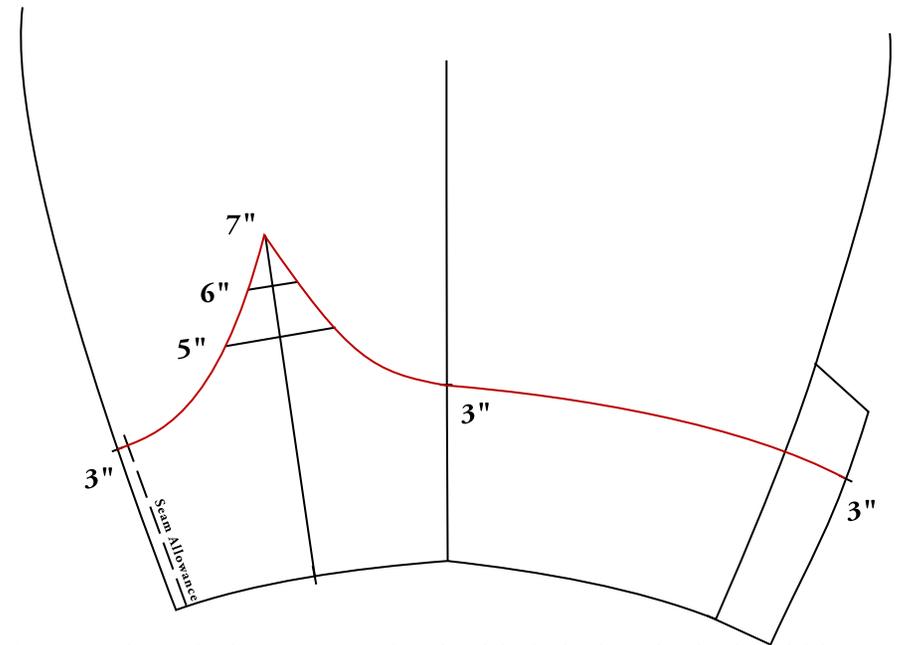
On the midpoint line, mark a line, at 6 inches, that is 1 inch wide, centered on the line. Do the same at 5", but make it 2 inches, centered. This gives us a guide to help make both halves of the chevron the same.



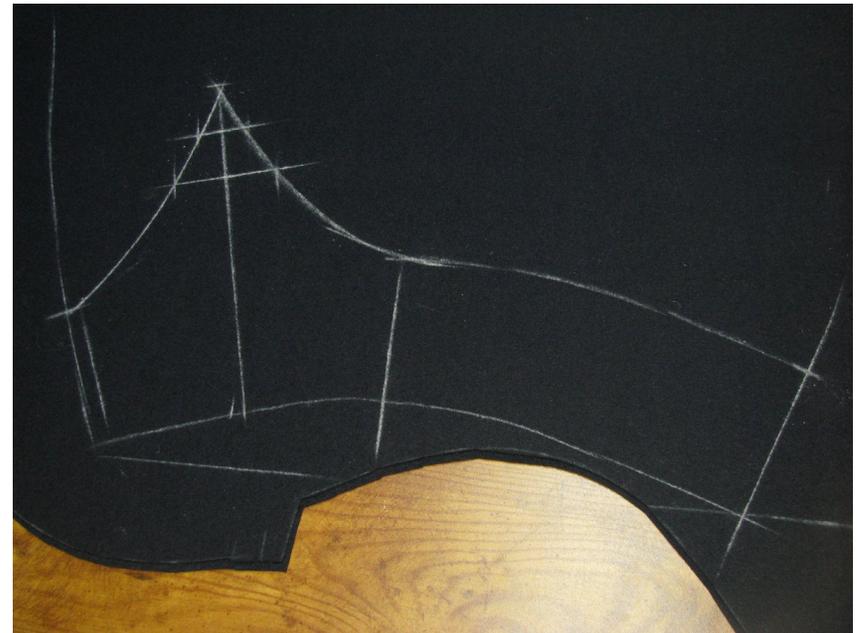
Draw the actual chevron and cuff shape, starting from the left. The curve does not actually start until just after the seam allowance marker. Try to make the curve meet both of the horizontal construction lines, but if it's not exact, that's okay. Just try to make it look nice. After hitting the point, come down on the other side, matching the first half of the chevron. The line continues through the middle seam, and arcs upward slightly to match the curve of the cuff. The line ends at the right side at the edge of the inlay.

If you haven't already, please watch the video on cutting out the cuff piece, to help you understand the process better.

## Module Twelve — The Sleeves



Cut out this whole piece on the doubled cloth, which should be the same size as the sleeve on the sides and bottom.



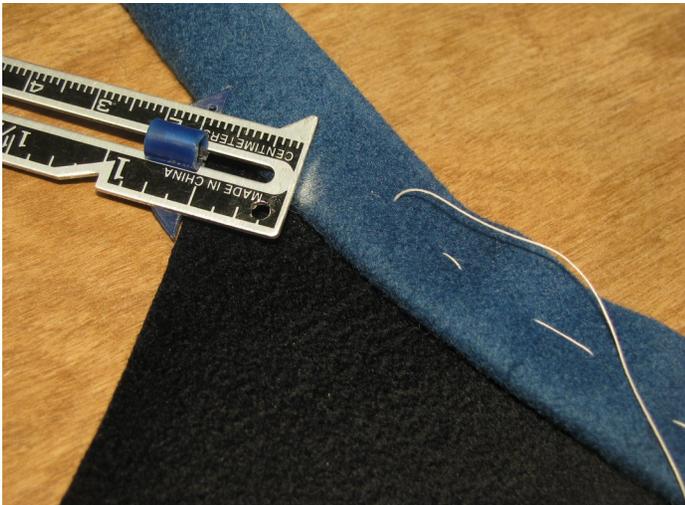
### Constructing the Cuffs

You'll need two pieces of bias piping, made in exactly the same way as the collar. Again, these are 1 ¼ inch wide by about 20 inches long. The length depends on the size of your individual chevron shape. You'll need two

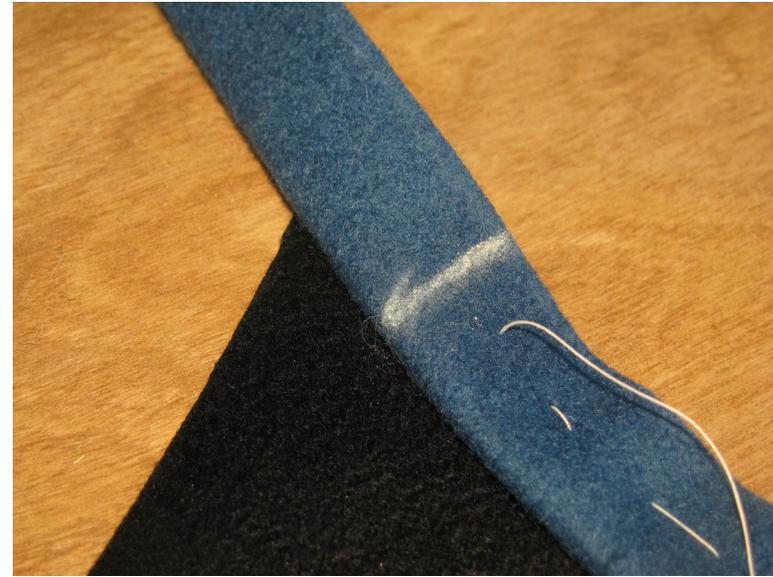


smaller pieces of piping 5 inches long, but these can usually be obtained from the scraps after you've piped the chevron area. Press the piping in half, and proceed.

Baste the piping to the chevron, with the folded edge of the piping facing inward. When you get to the point, measure exactly ½ an inch from the edge of the other side of the chevron, and mark that point in chalk.



Draw a chalk line square across the piping corresponding with that mark. Note how it's cutting right across the piping, and not at all lined up with the other half of the chevron.



Trim along this line carefully, to within 3/16 of the folded edge. Don't go any closer or you'll have a gap or cut edge showing in your finished piping. Any less than that and it'll be hard to get around the tight corner.



## Recreating a Federal Enlisted Frock Coat

Continue basting the piping down until you get to the other edge. Leave about a one inch tail of piping on either side.



Machine or backstitch the piping to the cuffs with a half inch seam allowance, letting 1/8 inch of piping show on the other side of the stitching.

At the tight corner, try to make the stitch line turn with a small radius. It's not perfectly square, but it's not a huge arc, either. If you mess this up, unpick the stitches and try again.



## Module Twelve — The Sleeves

Remove the basting stitches and trim away the coat fabric as you did for the collar. Try to get as close to the stitches as possible – 1/8 of an inch is good.



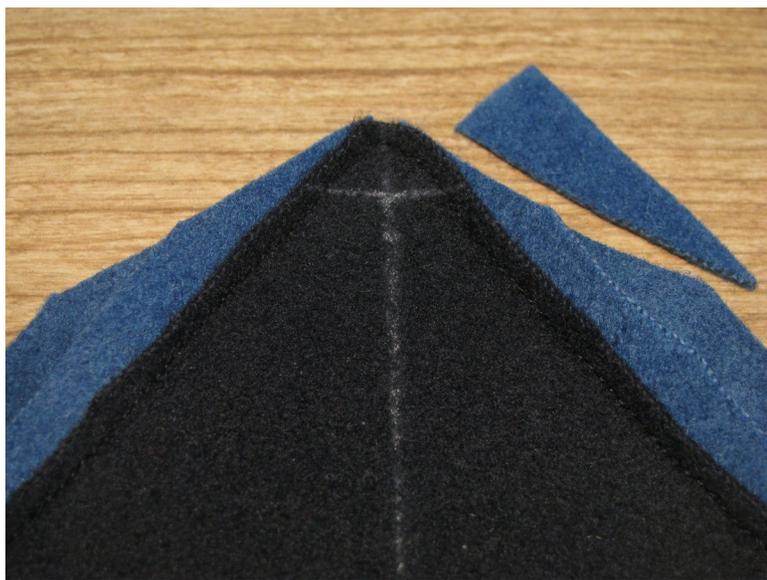
Trim the middle layer of piping, as well, staggering the layers.



## Recreating a Federal Enlisted Frock Coat

### Pressing the Piping

Dealing with the point of the chevron needs some special consideration. First, you must trim off the piping, using an angled cut. The narrow end near the tip should be about 1/8 inch away from the stitching.

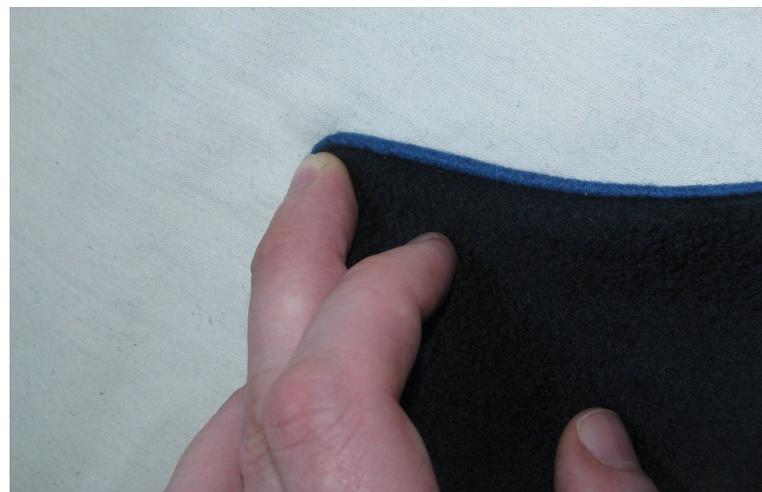


## Module Twelve — The Sleeves

Press the cuff well from each side to set the stitches. I then like to press the piping over on both sides of the tip, saving the tip for last. The process is the same as for the collar.



To press the point, I like to turn the cuff over so that the right side is up, and roll the piping at the tip under with a finger. This is followed directly behind by the iron, keeping the tension so that the piping stays underneath. Don't worry if it takes a few tries, you'll get it soon enough.



## Recreating a Federal Enlisted Frock Coat

### Assembling the Cuffs

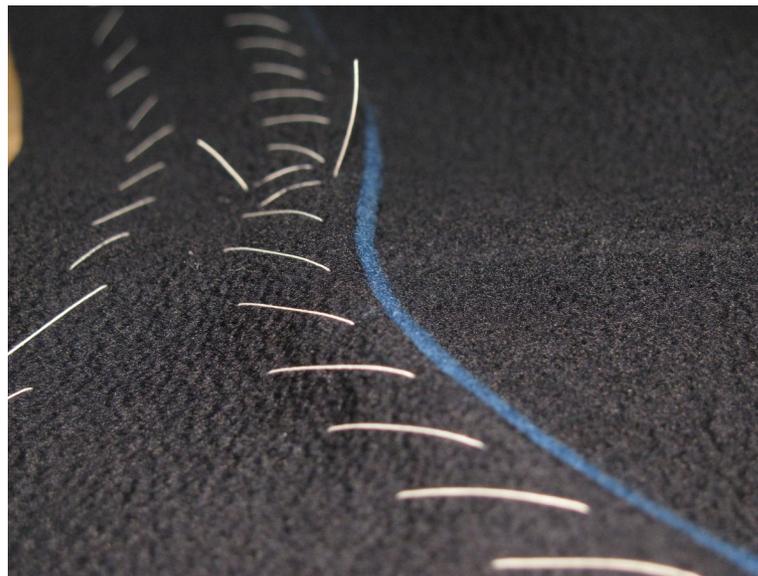
Place the cuff on top of the sleeve, with right sides of both facing up. The chevron should be on the opposite side as the inlay on the sleeve. Baste along the bottom, keeping ½ inch away from the edge.



Continue basting along the top edge of the cuff, just behind the piping. Try to get as close to the edge as you can without actually catching the strip of piping that's showing.

## Module Twelve — The Sleeves

Here comes the tedious part, more side stitching! Using 10 - 12 stitches per inch, side stitch the piping to the sleeve, using the same method as the collar. If you need to save time, you can use a machine and zipper foot, but I find the side stitching gives superior results.



Here's a photo of the underside after the side stitching. All you see are little pinpricks from the stitches, securely holding the piping in place.



## Recreating a Federal Enlisted Frock Coat

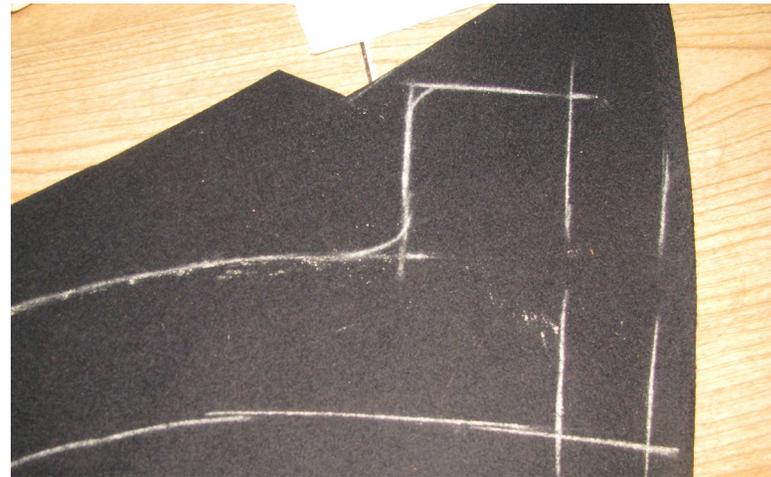
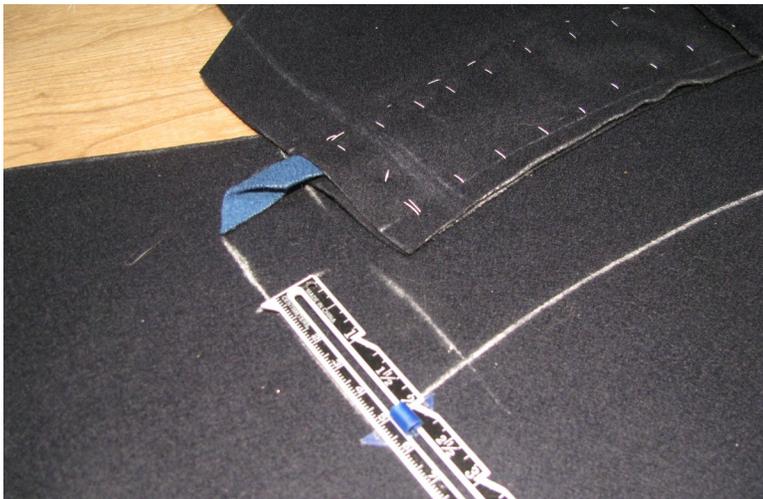
## Module Twelve — The Sleeves

### Cuff Facings

Place the sleeve face down on the cloth, making sure the grain is aligned. Draw a construction line if necessary to get a good alignment. Trace around the bottom, and the sides to just where the piping stitch line is.

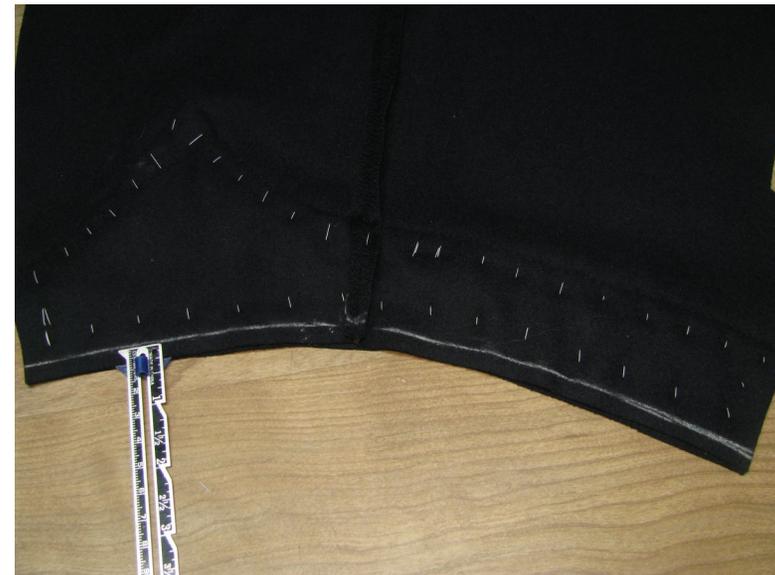


For me, this happens to be two inches high. Draw a line indicating the top of the facing at this level, all the way across. When you get to the right side, strike upwards for 3 inches, two inches from the edge. Then close the top of the facing. Make the corners round, as shown. The height of this side extension piece should be equal to the inlay on the other side.



Cut out both facings, and check for fit if desired.

Turn the sleeve wrong side up. At the bottom of the cuff, mark a line  $3/8$ " from the edge, all the way across.



## Recreating a Federal Enlisted Frock Coat

Trim only the top layer, which is the sleeve layer itself. The cuff beneath is untouched by the scissors.



Place the cuff piece, right sides together, onto the sleeve, being sure that the side with the extension is on the same side as the chevron. Baste together along the bottom edge.



## Module Twelve — The Sleeves

Sew a quarter inch seam, sewing the facing to the cuff piece. The sleeve itself should just miss these stitches by 1/8 of an inch.



### Vent Piping

Now we come to one of the trickiest places to sew on the entire coat. First chalk a line 3/8 inches away from the edge of the sleeve, on the chevron side.



## Recreating a Federal Enlisted Frock Coat

Baste a 5 inch long piece of piping onto the sleeve at this point, lining the folded edge up flush with the chalk line.



Sew a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch seam, counting from the edge of the sleeve, not the piping. It's very difficult to sew over the point where the two pipings meet, being about 7 layers thick. Be sure you are using a size 100 needle for this. Once you get over that spot, it gets easier again.



## Module Twelve — The Sleeves

On the wrong side, trim back the sleeve over the piping a little, tapering back out to it's original width at the end of the piping. Do the same with the middle layer of piping.



This small strip of piping needs to be pressed to the underside of the sleeve now. Due to all the layers, this can take a few tries. Press from both sides to set the stitches well, then fold the piping under, and press well with a heavy weight if you have one. You'll still end up with a slight bump no matter how well you press, but these are present on originals as well.



## Recreating a Federal Enlisted Frock Coat

### Finishing the Sleeves

Turn the sleeves so they are laying wrong side up on the table. Trim the seam allowance from the seam that is holding the facing to the sleeve as shown. This will allow the facing to turn with as little bulk as possible.



Baste in a piece of linen about 5 inches long by 2 inches wide. This should be inserted next to the strip of vent piping, and will give additional strength to the buttonhole area.

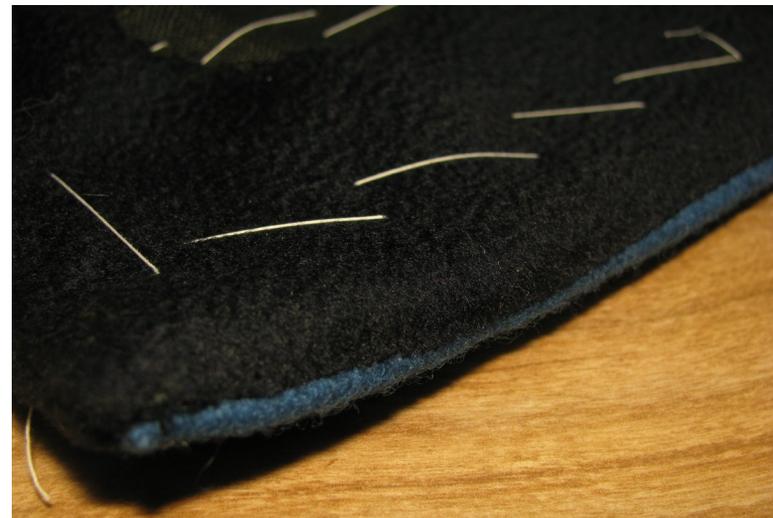


## Module Twelve — The Sleeves

Turn and baste the sleeve facing over, basting along the front edge, and up along the extension on the side. Press well.



Trim a very slight amount – no more than a quarter inch – away from the edge of the facing directly above the vent piping. Fell down the vent to the piping, making sure the machine stitching holding the piping down is completely covered in the process.

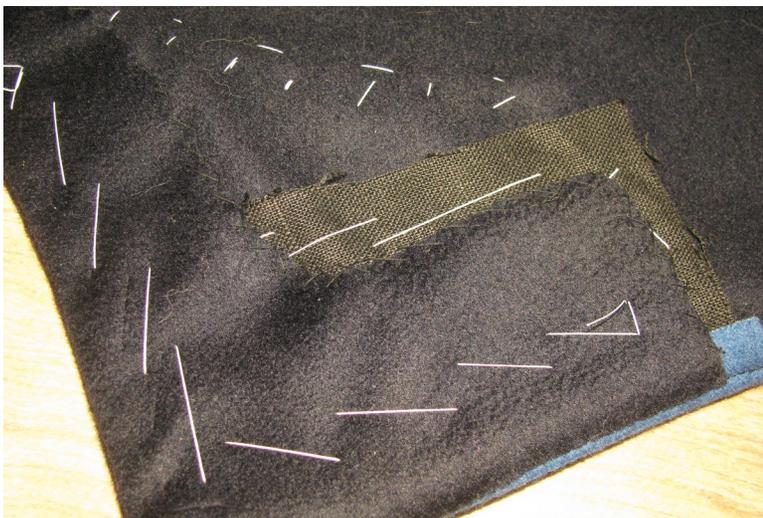


## Recreating a Federal Enlisted Frock Coat

On the other side, the edge is trimmed if necessary to make everything flush, and then stitched closed through all layers using buttonhole twist and a buttonhole stitch for strength.



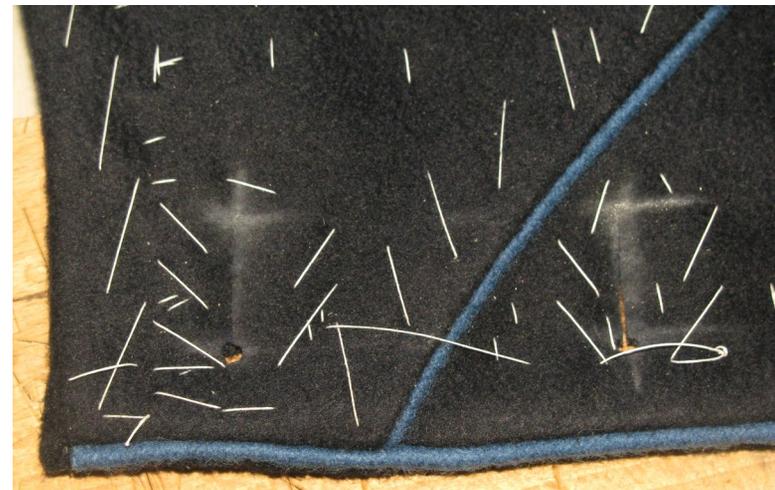
Turning to the wrong side of the sleeve again, cross stitch the inner edge of the facing to the sleeves, being sure to not pull the stitches too tightly. If you do, a fold of fabric will be visible on the right side of the finished sleeve – something that you want to avoid.



## Module Twelve — The Sleeves



Now is the time to add two buttonholes to each cuff, on the piped side of the sleeve. Both buttonholes should be a half inch from the edge. The lower buttonhole is centered between the piping and the bottom of the sleeve, while the upper buttonhole is placed just high enough to avoid running into the piping of the chevron by about half an inch. Work the buttonholes as described in Module 11. The lower buttonhole can be tricky at first, as it has to go through three layers of wool plus the linen layer. If you have to, pass the needle all the way through the hole first to make things slightly easier. With experience, you'll find this is not necessary though.



After all that work, the sleeve cuff is finally done.



Line up the rear seams of each sleeve, right sides together. Baste and sew from the top of the seam, to just  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch beyond the edge of the sleeve inlay, as shown. Press well, using a sleeve roll or tailors ham inserted into the sleeve. This is sometimes tricky to press correctly due to the nature of the curved sleeves.



### Sleeve Lining

We'll now begin constructing and inserting the sleeve linings. These are cut from the same pattern as the sleeve, however some additional allowances need to be made on the seams. On the front and rear seams, add  $\frac{1}{8}$  of an inch to the seam allowance. At the very top at the sleevehead on both pieces, add 1 inch extra allowance. This is so the sleeve has room for movement, preventing the lining from tearing. It also prevents the lining from pulling on the outer sleeves, producing unsightly folds.

Construct the sleeve just as you did for the muslin sleeve. Make sure you add the inlay at the bottom cuff as per the wool sleeves. Press well. At the cuff end, trim off a half inch from the bottom, then turn under another half inch seam allowance. This will line the bottom of the lining up with the upper edge of the cuff facing, just covering the cross stitches.

Turn the wool sleeve inside out, and the sleeve lining right side out. Insert the sleeve lining onto the wool sleeve, wrong sides together, and pin the two together at the bottom of the rear seam, just above the inlay area. This will help you align the rest of the sleeve sections together.



## Recreating a Federal Enlisted Frock Coat

Make sure the lining is falling smoothly over the entire sleeve. You may pick up the sleeve and lining by the cuff and shake slightly to help distribute the fabric properly.



Starting at the side with the inlay, baste from the bottom of the sleeve lining, up along the edge of the inlay, and along the top edge of the inlay, folding the fabric under neatly as you go.

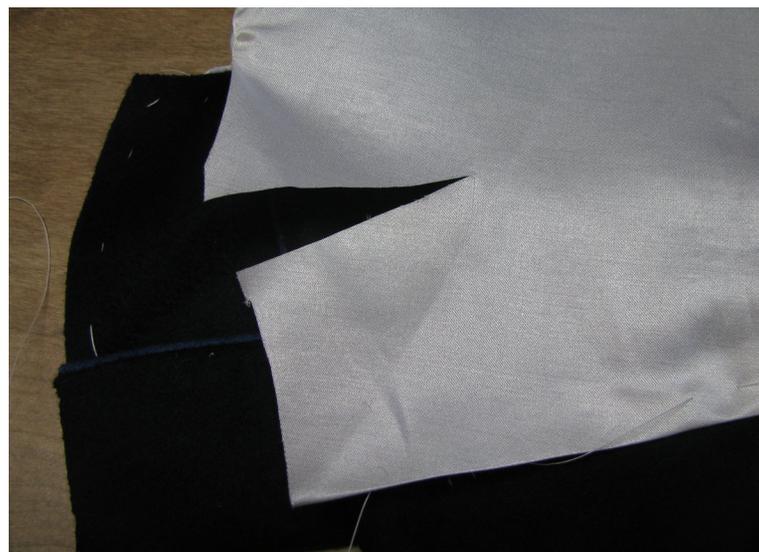


## Module Twelve — The Sleeves

Now baste across the bottom edge, which should have already been pressed under. The lining should just cover the cross stitching by about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch.



Continue basting across the bottom until you get to the area where the extension on the facing begins. At a location about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch below the top of this extension, make a cut in the lining at right angles to the edge of the lining, and about  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inch wide. The cut should be a bit shorter than the width of the facing extension.



## Recreating a Federal Enlisted Frock Coat

Now fold under this section of lining, exposing the buttonholes underneath, and baste down, stopping at the end of the cut you made.



The lining is now felled down with white cotton thread at this point, using 10 to 12 stitches per inch. Using the white thread will help hide the stitches, making them almost invisible. Begin sewing at the end of the cut lining, down to the bottom of the cuff, across the bottom, and up the sides and top of the inlay area. When sewing the section near the inlay, be careful not to let the stitches show through to the right side, as it is only one layer.



## Module Twelve — The Sleeves



Now we are able to finish off the sleeve vent area. Align the inlay area of the sleeve over the buttonhole section with about a 1 inch overlap. Baste in place to keep in from moving.



## Recreating a Federal Enlisted Frock Coat

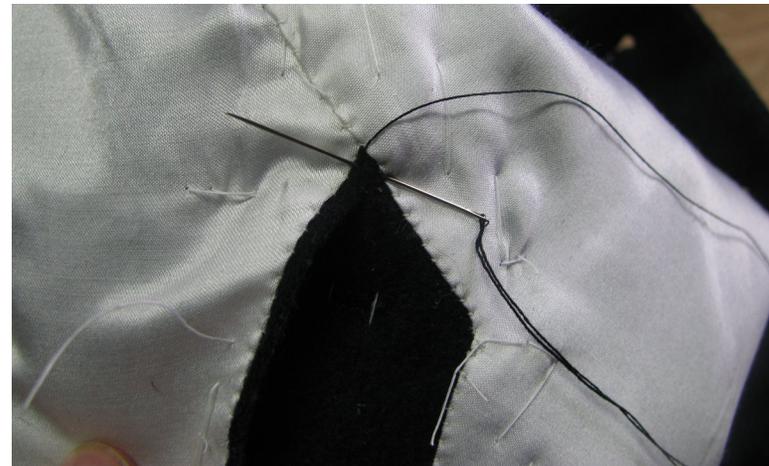
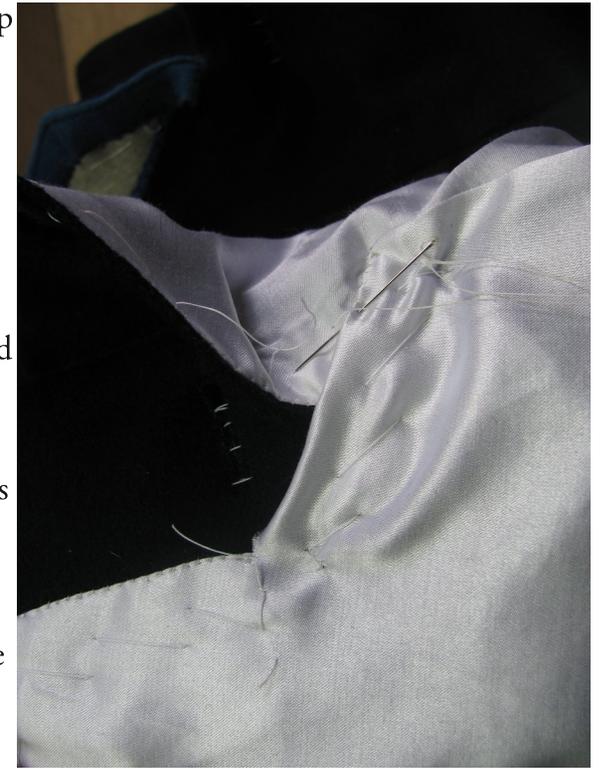
Stitch the top of the inlay down to the vent extension area on the other half of the sleeve. This is done using a back stitch. I use black silk thread for this for a little extra strength. Again, don't let the stitches show through to the right side. Sew from the edge of the inlay, diagonally up towards the seam area. It's okay if the stitches go through the lining a little. These will be covered up.



## Module Twelve — The Sleeves

Fold the unfinished flap of lining under, and baste it in place. This should cover the stitches you just made, and provide a nice finished look to the sleeve lining. Fell this down with white thread as before.

The section where the inlay meets the lining is potentially weak, and could tear the lining after extended use. To help prevent this, make a simple bar tack by making 5 or 6 stitches in place, just below the level of the lining. This should catch the edge of the inlay on the top, and the top layer of the sleeve facing below. I like to use buttonhole twist for extra strength here.



At this point, the sleeve vents are completely done, save attaching the buttons. Remove all basting stitches and turn the sleeve to the right side.



Again, shake the sleeve gently to make sure the lining is laying correctly on the inside. Based through the outer sleeve, catching the lining underneath to hold it in place.



### Setting the Sleeves

Setting the sleeves can be tricky at first, but there are a couple of steps we can take to make things easier. Due to the amount of ease put in Devere's sleeves, and the weight of the fabric used, it is difficult to ease in the fabric nicely without some help.

Begin by making three rows of shirring stitches across the inner edge of the sleeve head. These stitches are 1/8 in length, and the rows are 1/8 inch apart. You must keep the stitches aligned between each row for proper gathering. Three rows may seem excessive, but the third row helps lock the gathering in place, making things easier for you. The ends of the stitching should be left free with about 5 inches of extra thread on each end, to ensure it doesn't slip through at the ends.



## Recreating a Federal Enlisted Frock Coat

At the edge of the center back, mark an 'X' in the middle of the small strip near the armhole. Do the same to the back seam of the sleeve. Place these two together and hold them in place with your fingers.



Turn the coat to the inside, still holding these layers together. Make sure the edges of the armhole and sleeve head are even, and then baste the 'X's together with a couple of basting stitches.



## Module Twelve — The Sleeves

Holding the layers together with your left hand, ensure that the edges are lined up, and baste down the bottom edge of the sleeve, using a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch running stitch. You want to baste the bottom half of the sleeve first, so that you know how much to gather for the top sleeve.



Directly at the bottom of the armhole, gather in a very slight amount of sleeve as you baste, about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch total.

Continue basting until you get to the other seam, where the shirring stitches begin.

## Recreating a Federal Enlisted Frock Coat

Now pull each end of the shirring stitches, grasping all three threads at the same time, gathering the sleeve until it fits nicely into the coat. Distribute the fullness so that there are no large folds in the fabric. This step can be fiddly and take a while, but have patience and you will get it. It's worth the extra time.



When you are happy with the distribution, baste across the top of the sleevehead, fine tuning the fullness as you go. When you reach the other side, where you began basting, stop for a moment, but don't cut the thread. Turn the coat to the right side, and check the hang of the sleeve, and that the fullness is distributed nicely. Also check that the rear sleeve seam is centered on the little section of the back piece. This is the time to make any changes necessary.

## Module Twelve — The Sleeves

When satisfied, go back to the inside, and baste around the armhole again, this time alternating your stitches with the previous stitches. This will lock the sleeve in place, while at the same time making the basting stitches easier to remove later.



Place the top of the sleeve head onto a pressing surface so that the gathered section is visible, and gently shrink away the fullness from the gathering stitches. Press no more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch into the sleeve, or you'll end up shrinking all of the fullness away, and your work will be for nothing.



## Recreating a Federal Enlisted Frock Coat

After pressing you should have a fairly smooth sleevehead, with some fullness visible below the top edge.



Place the sleeve onto the sewing machine, with the coat inside out, and sew the sleeve on with a quarter inch seam allowance. This can be done with a backstitch if preferred, of course.



## Module Twelve — The Sleeves

After sewing, remove all basting stitches from the sleeve area. Some of them may get caught in the stitching, but by picking at them carefully, they'll all come out eventually. Turn the coat to the right side and check your work. The sleeve should be smooth on top, and slightly raised above the level of the shoulder.



### Finishing the Lining

Press the top edge of the sleeve lining over to the wrong side, using a ¼ inch seam. Place shirring stitches along the top of the sleeve head. I only did one row, but feel free to do all three rows if you need more control.



Baste the bottom edge of the lining to the coat body, just covering the stitches holding the sleeve onto the coat.



When you get to the upper sleeve, gather the stitches as you did before, distributing the fullness. Baste in place. Because the lining cannot be shrunk away, you will naturally get a slightly messier looking lining. Try to smooth things out as best you can.



Fell down the sleeve lining to the body, using 10 to 12 stitches per inch. Congratulations, the sleeves are finally done, and we can move on to something more exciting!



### Button Stay Stitch

Along the right side of the coat, from the waist seam, to half an inch below the collar, and half an inch from the edge, chalk a line using black chalk. Top stitch with a machine, or by side stitching if sewing by hand, along this line. This will help bind the layers together, making a sturdier coat, and preventing strain on the buttons.



### Some Odds and Ends

There are just a few odds and ends left on the coat to finish. First baste the remaining unfinished lining down to the collar piping, using a basting diagonal stitch. Use black silk for this so that it will be invisible if the collar ends up not completely covering it. The stitches should be about ¼ inch in length.



At the bottom edge of the front skirt, close off the facing by stitching it to the front of the coat with a buttonhole stitch, using silk twist. This is a part of the coat that may get extra wear and tear, so the extra strength is good.



## Recreating a Federal Enlisted Frock Coat

At the back skirts, trim off the inlays. You want them to be even with the skirts, so drawing chalk lines may be necessary.



Finish the bottom of the back skirt facings with a buttonhole stitch as well.



## Module Twelve — The Sleeves

### Hooks and Eyes

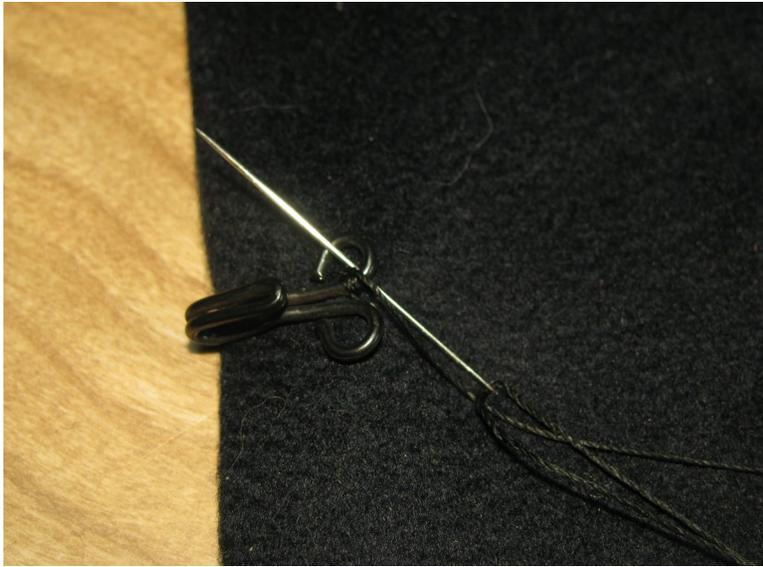
Original frock coats of the period had hooks and eyes on the skirts, and at the collar. I'm not sure exactly what the skirt hooks and eyes were used for. My theory is either to get them out of the way when sitting, or during long marches to try to keep cooler. When hooked together, the skirt takes on the appearance of a Regimental coat of the 1700s, so maybe it's just an evolution of that.

Begin by marking about 3 to 4 inches along the inner edge of the front facings, and the back facings. The hooks are placed first, on the front of the coat.



## Recreating a Federal Enlisted Frock Coat

Begin by sewing a small loop around one of the eyelets, using silk buttonhole twist. Work your way around that eyelet, ensuring the stitches are close together for a nice appearance.



When finished, you should not see any of the metal on the eyelets. When stitching, be sure the stitches do not show through to the right side of the coat.



## Module Twelve — The Sleeves

Do the same thing with the eyes on the back. Both the hooks and eyes should extend off the edge of the coat by about 1/8 of an inch.



On the right side of the collar, sew an eye down to the piping in the same manner. On the other side of the collar, place a hook.



### Finishing the Collar

Now we are going to finish the inner edge of the collar. Begin by cutting a piece of wool using your collar pattern, seam allowances included.

Next cut off the seam allowance from the pattern, and cut a piece of canvas. You want it to be just slightly larger than the finished pattern, so cut on the outside of the chalk line this time.



Baste the two together, with the canvas centered on the wrong side of the wool. The basting should be done at the top to keep it out of the way of the stitching.

Draw a line down the middle of the canvas, stopping about ½ inch from either end. Machine stitch along this line to hold the layers together permanently.



Place the inner collar on to the outer collar, wrong sides together. The stitch line should be centered on the outer collar. Baste from the center to one end. When basting, try to hold the inner collar on tightly, to help curve the collar inward and avoid excess fabric when wearing the coat.



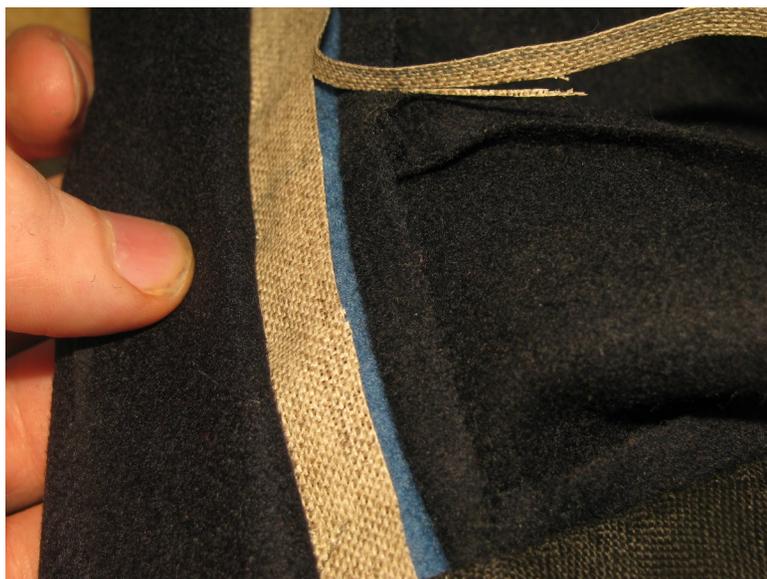
Baste from the center to the other end, securing the inner collar.



## Recreating a Federal Enlisted Frock Coat

Fold back the wool layer, and trim the canvas to about 1/8 inch inside the piping stitch line. This can be tricky, so take your time and check your work frequently.

Trim along the bottom edge, again cutting the canvas 1/8 inch to the inside of the piping. When you get to the section covered by the lining and facing, you will need to do this by feel alone.



## Module Twelve — The Sleeves

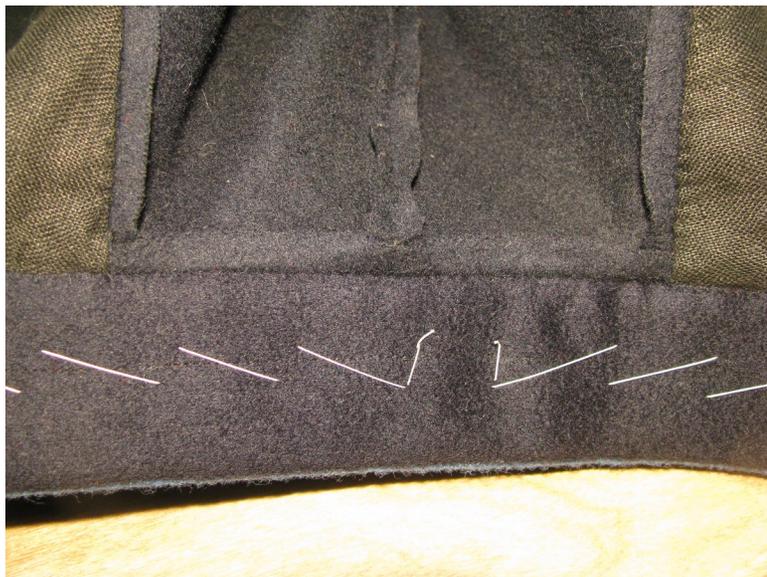
Trim the inner collar to be exactly even with the bottom row of piping. You want it to cover the top of the facing and lining still, so be careful not to trim off too much. Again, most of this is done by feel, rather than sight.



The top and both ends are trimmed exactly even with the piping stitch line.

Now fell down the inner collar to the piping at the top and sides, and the facing and lining at the bottom edge.





The inner collar is placed underneath the hook. You may need to widen the hook opening with a pair of pliers. Make a couple of stitches on either side of the hook and eye for extra strength.



### Collar Tab

Original coats had a tab made of lining in order to hang the coat on a hook. This is a feature rarely reproduced, sadly.

Cut a piece of lining 4 inches long, and a piece of stay tape 3 inches long – the finished size of the tab. Baste the stay tape  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch away from one edge, keeping a half inch seam allowance on either side.



Press over this smaller edge onto the stay tape.



Fold the wider edge in half, then fold that over the stay tape, giving you a finished edge.



Fell this edge down the length of the tab.



## Recreating a Federal Enlisted Frock Coat

Trim off  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from both ends, and press the remaining allowance under. Place this on the coat, and fell down along both ends, starting  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from the edge and working your way around to the opposite side. Just past the spot where the folded under edge stops, side stitch across the tab for extra strength.



## Buttons

Mark the button placement on the right side of the coat. I like to do this by laying the right side on to the left so that the buttonholes are just visible. Then I simply mark the corresponding spot on the row of stitching.



## Module Twelve — The Sleeves

Beginning with the waist seam button, sew the button on as you did for the rear buttons earlier. I like to go six times through the shank, then wrap that four times around. Starting from the bottom button ensures that the thread does not get caught on the previous button as you sew.



On the cuffs, mark the buttonhole location, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch from the edge and aligned with the buttonholes. Sew on the smaller cuff buttons here. This will show through the lining, on the upper button.



## Recreating a Federal Enlisted Frock Coat



I sincerely hope you have learned a lot from this course and picked up some tailoring techniques along the way. Please don't hesitate to ask any questions as you go – I want to help get you through to the finished coat. I leave you with a few photos of the finished coat.



At this point, you can remove any basting stitches that are left in the coat.

Congratulations, the coat is completely finished.



