Buttonholes

Make a sample! It is best to make a sample of the band with and without buttonholes to get a gauge for length of the band as well as to determine the size of the buttonhole to make sure the button will fit. For a sideways knit band a rule of thumb has been to 'walk' the garment across the needle bed to determine how many stitches to cast on for the band. By making a sample band you will be able to determine stitches per inch which will give you the number of stitches you will need to fit into the length of the garment. For a stockinette band the tension should be tighter than the garment tension to reduce flare as well as to offer more stability for the buttons and buttonholes. Purchasing the button(s) first will also enable to you make the correct size buttonhole. The following choices are for single knit bands.

Single stitch buttonhole: Remove one stitch onto a transfer tool and place it onto an adjacent needle. Repeat across the band for as many buttonholes needed. Leave the empty needle in work and knit 1 row. With the yarn loop over the empty needle twist it to form an e-wrap on the needle; again repeat this for each buttonhole. For the first row knit on these it may be easier to bring these needles all the way out for a few rows to make sure they knit.

Two Stitch Buttonhole: As above transfer one stitch to the right neighbor and the second stitch to the left neighbor. Knit 1 row. With the loops over the empty needles, twist to form an e-wrap on each of the two needles; repeat for each buttonhole.

Three or more stitch buttonholes:

      Option 1: Remove the first stitch onto a latch tool, and then the next stitch onto the latch tool. With the first stitch behind the latch and the second stitch in the hook pull the second stitch through the first. Continue for as many stitches as needed, placing the last stitch pulled through onto the next needle. Knit 1 row over all the needles and with the loops formed over the empty needles make an e-wrap to form a secure stitch.

      Option 2: Put stitches to hold, including the first button hole; except for the stitches below the first buttonhole; set carriage to hold and knit to the first buttonhole. Remove the yarn from the carriage form a wrap over and under the last stitch knit and the bind off the number of stitches for the hole, placing the last loop onto the next needle. Place the first needles knit through the stitch with the loop on into hold and bring the next set of needles to the next hole into upper working position, knit to the hole and repeat. Repeat across the row for each buttonhole. Knit 1 row over all the needles and with the loops formed over the empty needles make an e-wrap to form a secure stitch.

Buttonhole on Band Edge: This technique is good for small buttons only such as small pearl buttons; it is not a stable buttonhole. When attaching the band to the garment hang the garment onto the same number of needles as the band. After the garment is hung onto the needles, drop the garment from the designated needles of buttonhole placement. Hang the band, and continue your attaching treatment and bind off all the stitches from the needle bed. Where the garment was remove from the needle before the bind off makes the buttonholes.

Jane Niemi, 2014

Stockinette Button Band & Three Stitch Buttonhole Band

The bands will be double, resulting in a front and a facing, and the buttonholes will be vertical to the garment. These directions are for a three stitch buttonhole, but can be adapted to any size. Also the width of the band can be changed, with the buttonhole in the middle of each half of a band.

Button Band
1: Walk the front edge of the garment across the needle bed to determine the number of stitches for the band. Hang the selvedge edge evenly across onto these needles, purl side toward you.
2: With the carriage on the right, <u>carefully,</u> knit a double marker row at garment tension. Because you   are knitting onto a selvedge with no stretch, you may want to manually knit the double slip row.
3: RC 0: carriage on the right, knit 1 tension tighter (or pre-determined tension) than garment tension.   Knit 12 rows; knit 1 row at a looser tension for a turning row; knit 12 rows at band tension. Pick   up the up and down loops from the double marker row. Knit one row and bind off.
4: From the button band determine button placement and mark the needle bed accordingly.

Buttonhole Band – have ready a 9" piece of ravel cord or contrast yarn for each buttonhole
Repeat steps 1 & 2 of the button band using the same number of needles and matching any stripes or pattern.
3: RC 0: carriage on the right, at the chosen band tension, knit 6 rows and manually-knit the 3 buttonhole
        stitches onto the ravel cord pieces. The contrast is marking the delineation of the main yarn   loops
to pick up.
4: Knit 6 rows; knit 1 row at a looser tension for a turning row.
5: Knit 6 rows at band tension.
6: <u>Work left to right on each buttonhole.</u> Put loop 1 of main yarn onto the left needle of the buttonhole and
        manually knit the loop through the stitch on the needle. Transfer this new stitch to the next buttonhole
        needle to the right.
    Put loop 2 onto the needle of the buttonhole with the new stitch (above) and manually knit the loop
        through the two stitches on the needle. Transfer this new stitch to the next buttonhole needle.
    Put loop 3 onto the needle of the buttonhole with the new stitch (above) and manually knit the loop
        through the two stitches on the needle. Transfer this new stitch to the last buttonhole needle.
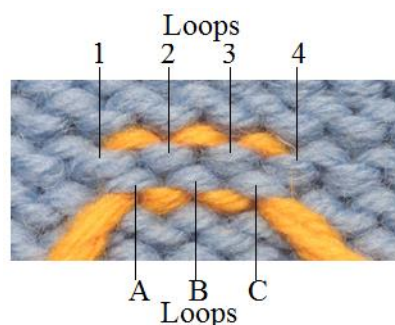   Put loop 4 onto the needle right of the buttonhole needles and manually knit the loop through the two stitches
on the needle.   There will be three empty needles.
7: Place loop A onto the left empty needle
    Place loop B onto the center empty needle
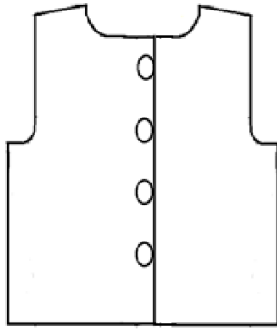   Place loop C onto the right empty needle
8: Knit 6 rows across all stitches.
9: Pick up the up and down loops from the double marker row and place a loop onto each needle. Knit one row and bind off.
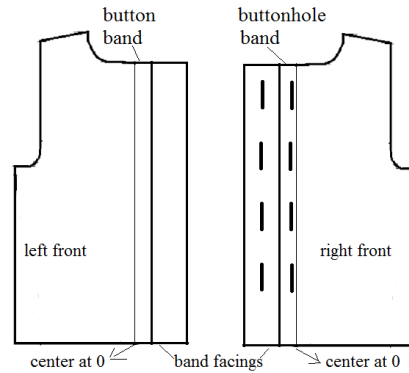

Pick Up Double Marker Row

12 rows	6 rows
	6 rows
Turning Row	
12 rows	6 rows
	6 rows

Double Marker Row

Loops
1 2 3 4
A B C
Loops

Jane Niemi, 2013
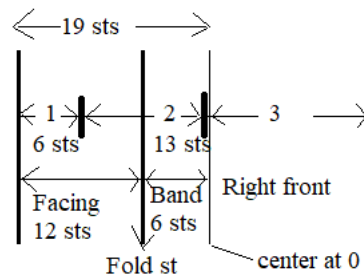
Woman's Double Band Vertical Buttonhole

As you would see the garment

As seen from the knitting / purl side

Knit the left / button side of the sweater first with a fold over vertical band. Have the center of the front at 0, and the band width about an inch wide, e.g. 6 stitches (L1 – L6), a designated fold stitch, in this case L7, and the band facing twice the width of the band, e.g. 12 stitches (L8-L19), as shown in the diagram below. Determine buttonhole placing from the button band along with the number of rows, planning for an odd number of rows for each buttonhole, as well as between each buttonhole. The fold stitch can be re-worked to a tucked stitch or purl stitch before binding off. Note: the number of stitches & rows here are examples.

Step 1: Knit on all needles to the first buttonhole placement, ending with the carriage on the left. Set the carriage to hold. Turn off the row counter. Put all stitches into hold <u>except</u> those on the left of the buttonhole as shown by 1 (6 sts), in above diagram. *Knit an odd number of rows, ending with the carriage on the right. Put the just knit needles into hold and pass the carriage to the left. Pull about 8" of yarn down between the needles just knit and the next needle and clip it out of the way.* This will be used later for sewing the hole closed.

Step 2. With the carriage on the left bring the stitches in section 2 (13 sts) into work. Knit from * to * as in Step 1, ending with this section now in hold, and carriage on the left.

Step 3. Bring all the needles in section 3 into work (all those right of 0).
Turn on row counter and knit the same number of rows as the buttonhole ending with the carriage on the right. Remove carriage from hold and knit on all the stitches to the next buttonhole placement, and repeat the process for each buttonhole.

Jane Niemi, 2021