BUTTONHOLE LENGTH
A buttonhole should be just long enough to allow the button to slip through the opening without stretching it. You can estimate the proper buttonhole length by measuring the width plus the thickness of the button. To make sure the measurement is correct, cut a slit in a scrap of fabric the diameter of the button you intend to use. Increase length of opening until button slips through easily. This test is particularly advisable for buttons of unusual shape or thickness.

BUTTONHOLE INTERFACING
It is almost always wise to use an interfacing in the buttonhole area. An interfacing holds the fabric firmly so that a neat buttonhole may be stitched and keeps the finished buttonhole in shape. Interfacing is essential when the fabric is loosely woven or is a crepe or knit that stretches easily.

When planning your garment remember that both round-end and bar-tack buttonholes are stitched through three thicknesses of fabric (garment, interfacing, and facing) after the facing has been attached.

TEST SAMPLE
Always make a test buttonhole in a sample of your fabric to determine suitability of buttonhole style, buttonholing method, and machine settings. Be sure to duplicate the number of fabric layers in the garment and include interfacing if appropriate. Remember, too, that loosely woven and medium weight fabrics require buttonholes with wider side stitching than firmly woven or lightweight fabrics. Finally, check to see that the opening for the button can be cut without damaging buttonhole stitching.

CUTTING BUTTON OPENING
Use a pair of small sharp scissors to cut the button opening. Insert blade in center of buttonhole cutting space and cut from this point in either direction. Place a pin across the cutting space at each end of buttonhole to protect end stitching.