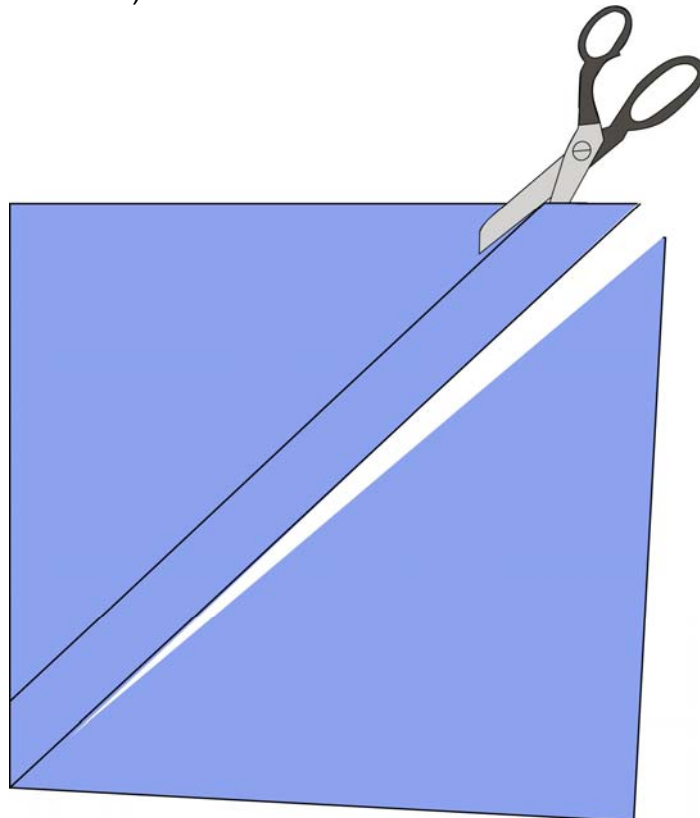


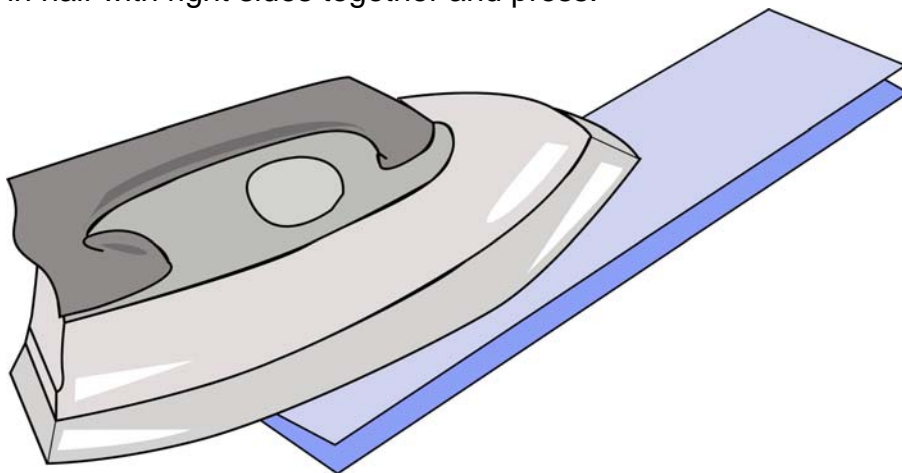
How to make rouleau

Rouleau loops are very simple to make, you don't need any fancy equipment and they can add a really nice extra touch to a finished garment. Rouleau loops are most often seen as button holes/loops on bridal wear, but the rouleau has many other purposes such as spaghetti straps for dress etc.

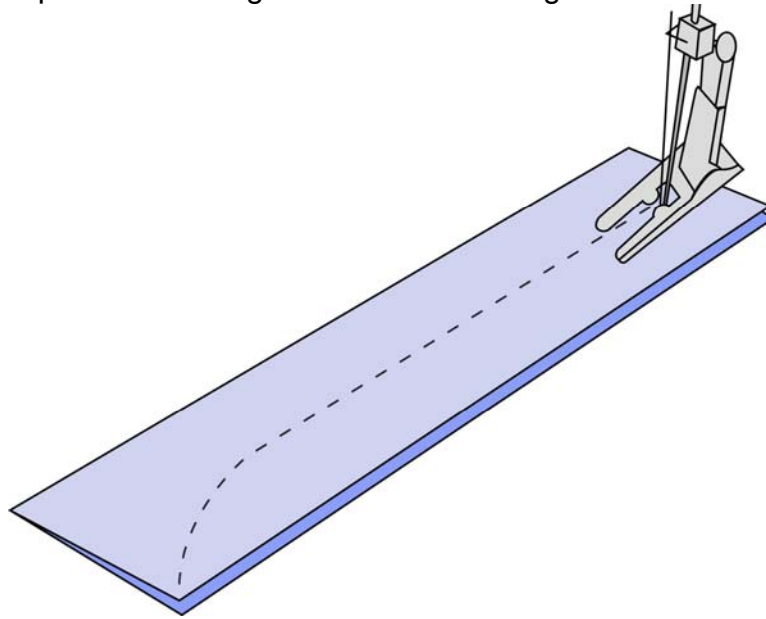
1. Cut a strip of fabric on the bias (diagonally across the fabric) at the required length. If your fabric isn't long enough then you'll need to join the strips at the ends. The width of the strip should be 4 times the width of the finished rouleau e.g. a 5mm wide strip of rouleau will need to be cut 2cm wide (if using rouleau for buttons measure the depth of the button shank to see how wide you'll need to cut the fabric).



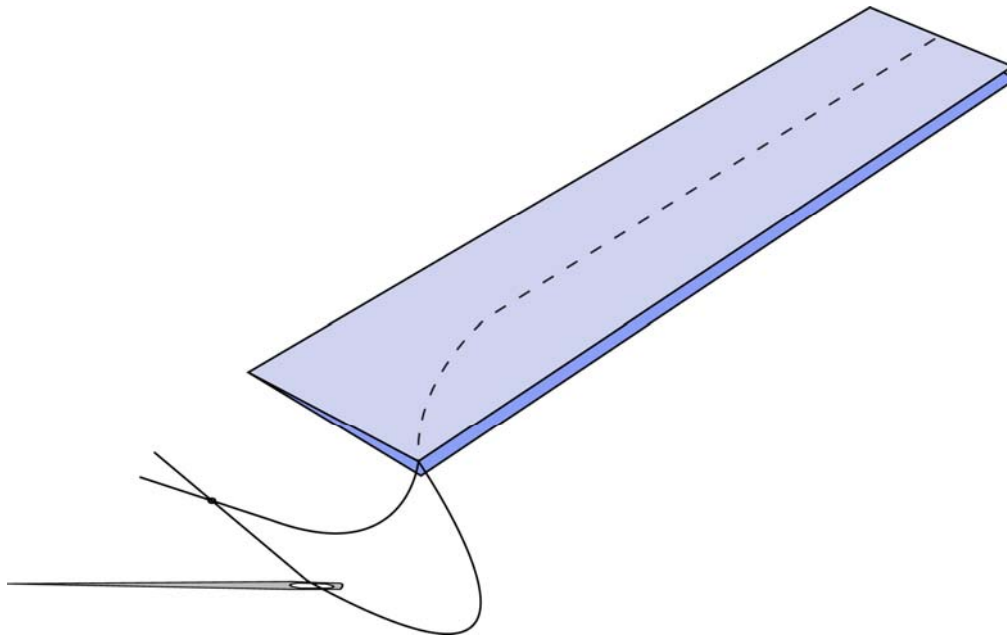
2. Fold the strip in half with right sides together and press.



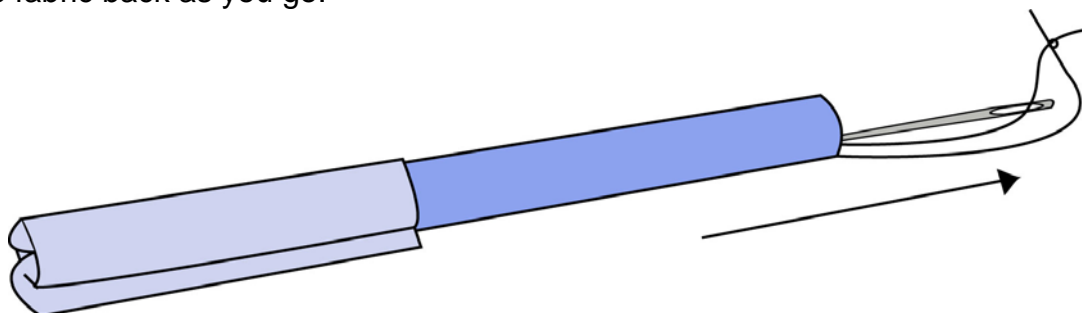
3. Machine stitch down the length of the folded fabric, right down the middle. When you come to the end of the fabric, taper the stitching towards the raw edges.



4. Thread a tapestry needle on to one of the loose threads and knot it in with the other thread so it will not come loose.



5. Insert the needle (eye first) into the tube and work it down to the opposite end of the tube rolling the fabric back as you go.



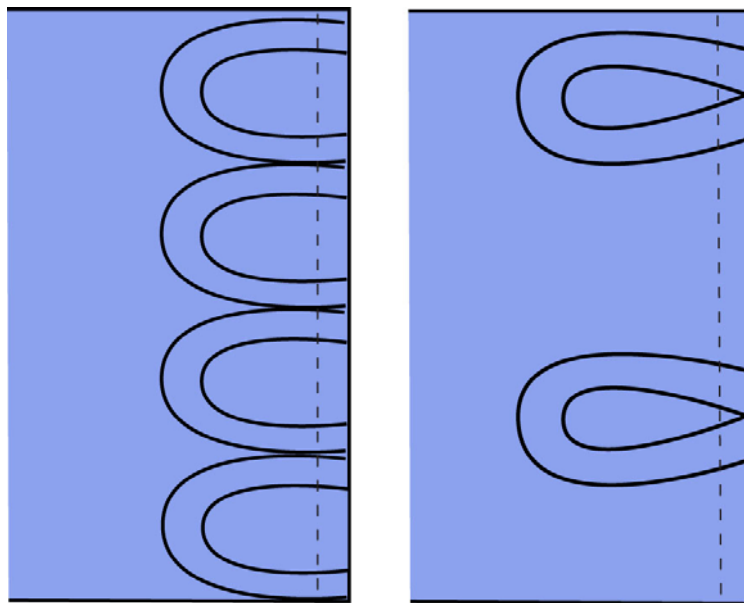
(Optional: instead of using a tapestry needle to turn the tube you can use a rouleau turner which looks like a long metal needle which a loop on the end.)

Using Rouleau To Make Button Loops

In essence you already have your button loops, you can now either cut them from the length of rouleau you have created and stitch them straight into your garment or create a continuous loop band.

If you wish to cut the loops measure around your button with the rouleau and add any extra length on for attaching the loops to the seam allowance. Cut each loop to this size and affix to your garment.

This is also the method to use for individual lacing loops. When making lacing loops you can apply the loops to the garment either with the ends touching or with the ends spaced. For larger gaps between lacing loops apply with the two raw ends touching.

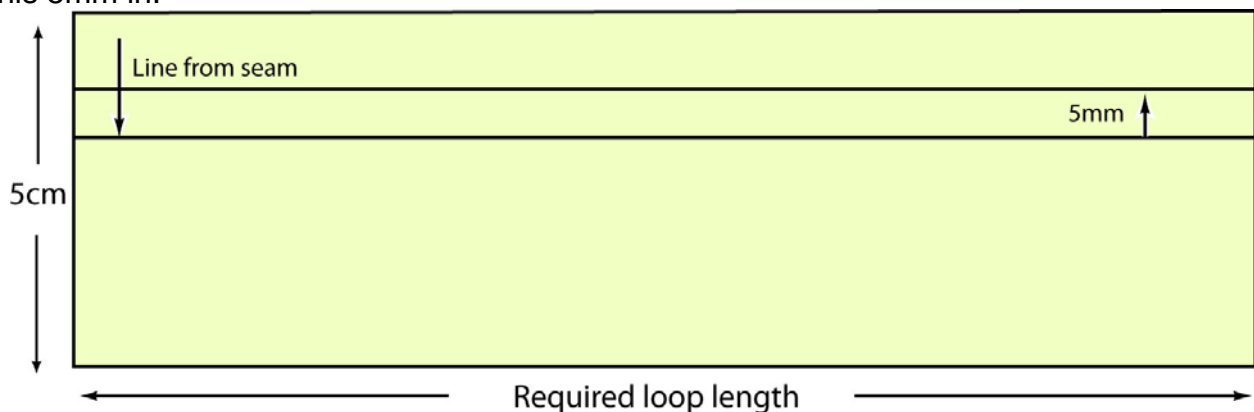


Loops applied with gaps for tight lacing and buttons

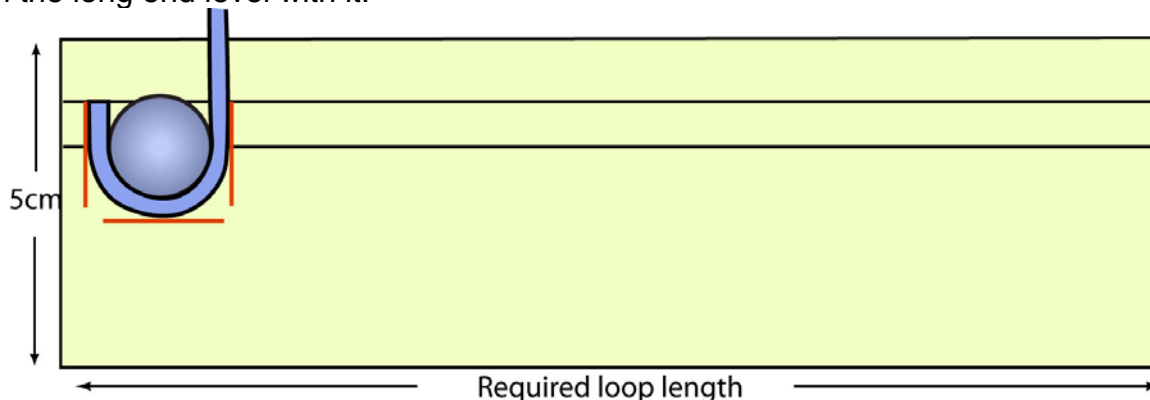
Loops applied with ends touching for wider spaced lacing loops

For continuous button loops:

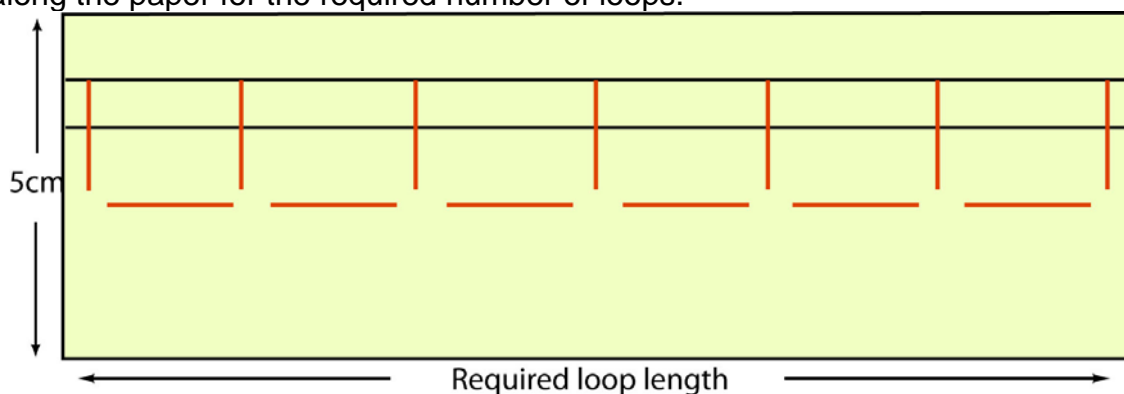
1. Cut a piece of paper about 5cm wide by the length of the opening on which you are to place the loops. Mark the seam line in from one edge (normally 1.5cm) then mark another line parallel to this 5mm in.



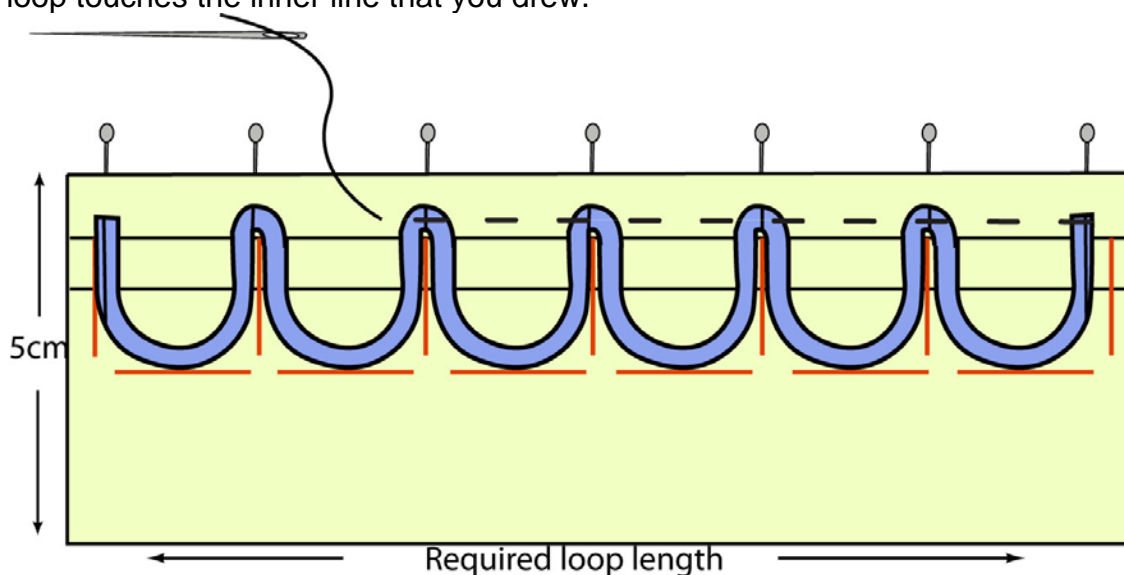
2. Place a button on the paper where the shank of the button will sit on the seam line. Wrap the rouleau around the button with the seam on the inside of the loop. Pin one end to the inner line and pin the long end level with it.



3. With the rouleau still in place mark the paper at the top bottom and sides of the loop. Remove the button and rouleau from the paper. Measure the spaces between the marks and repeat these marks along the paper for the required number of loops.

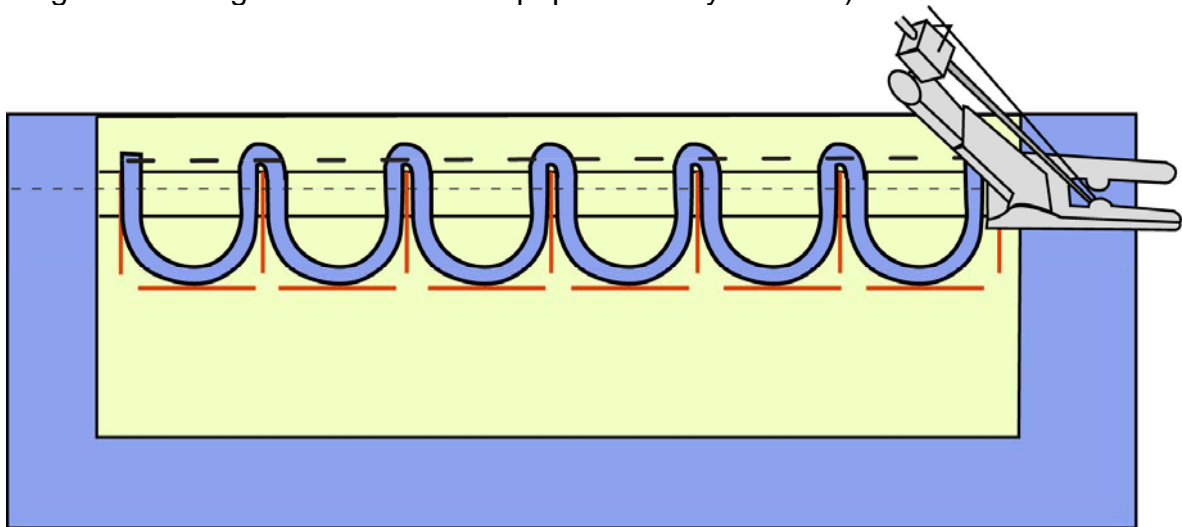


4. Put the rouleau back on the paper where marked and make loops with it all along the marked areas filling each space with a loop. Keep each loop in place with a pin. Make sure the bottom of each loop touches the inner line that you drew.

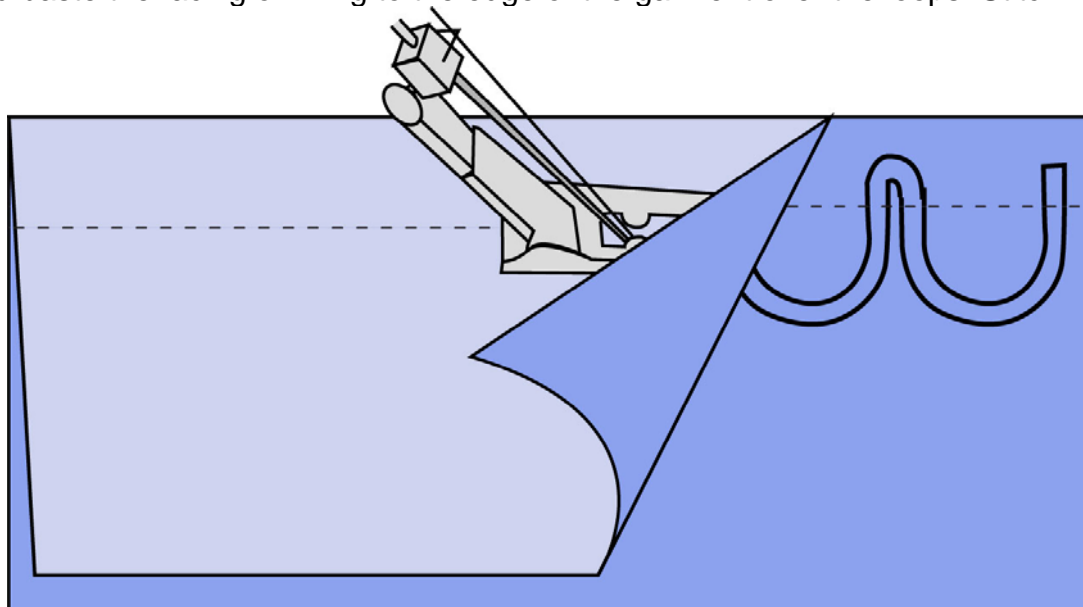


5. Baste the loops into place and remove the pins.

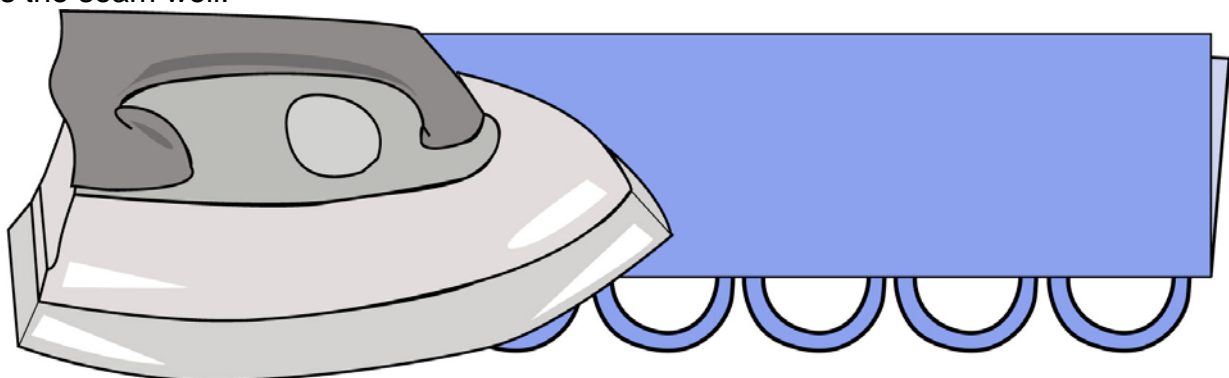
6. Pin the paper to the right side of the garment where the loops are to be placed with the edge matching the edge of the fabric. Stitch in place between the seam line and the basting. Then remove the basting and the paper (if you've used anything thicker than tissue paper use a damp cloth along the stitching lines to soften the paper for easy removal).



7. Pin and baste the facing or lining to the edge of the garment over the loops. Stitch in place.



8. Trim the seam allowance and turn to the right way turning back any facings or linings and press the seam well.



Notes: continuous buttons loops provide a very nice even and professional finish, but they can be fiddly. If you're not happy with making them then use the first method in making loops where the loop is cut to size, although do note that you'll have to be careful in placing them on the garment as they can look uneven if done incorrectly.