

Marching Band Uniforms: Hemming Jacket & Bibber

Jacket and bibber are fitted to each student each year to enhance the overall appearance of the band.

General Practices:

- * **Stitch hems by hand**, not by machine. Machine sewing is used for seams.
- * **Use BLACK thread.** (To maintain consistency, use black thread for all of the uniform hemming chores.)
- * **Use doubled thread.** Two strands hold up better over the length of the marching season.
- * **Make the new hem relative** to where the old hem was.
It might help to put a pin in at the bottom of the old hem for measuring the new hem length.
- * **Take out the old hem** before making the new hem.
Even if it seems easier to just roll the existing hem over, it is harder on the uniform and will shorten the life. This is important since they are paid for out of our tax dollars. The fold should always have a single layer of pant or of jacket sleeve with lining.
- * **Do not cut the fabric**, since we might need it for a future student's alteration.
- * **Work one leg or arm at a time.**
Make all the adjustments needed for one arm or leg to the new length before working the other so you have a reference point for the old length and you can check your work.
- * **Sew the buttons in place first then stitch the hem.**
Sewing the buttons first gives you access to both sides of the button.
- * **Press the new hem** when finished
You do need to set the new hem by ironing. Please use a pressing cloth between the iron and the uniform to avoid scorching, and use a medium setting for polyester blends. An old sheet makes a nice pressing cloth.
- * **Initial the hem instruction slip** to indicate that you completed all of the requested changes.
- * **Return completed uniforms** to the rack in the DV Uniform Room marked as Alterations Completed

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NOTE: The uniform room will be accessible during the rehearsals (see Summer Schedule). Then the school will be shut down, and the uniform room will be inaccessible until pre-camp begins (see Schedule).

- * If a requested change seems too complex, return the uniform to the Alterations Needed rack so someone else can pick it up.
- * We'd like to have the uniforms back during pre-camp, but if you will not be able to bring yours back at that time, please let the committee chair know.
- * If you have any questions, please contact Committee Chair.

BIBBERS (aka pants)

- * Start by removing the two buttons, and then remove the old hem
- * If you are creating a large hem (resulting hem would be about 5" or more from the bottom to the satin ribbon edge) in the pants:
You will need to open the center seam to be able to lay the hem fabric flat on the pant leg. Carefully cut the seam stitches open as far as you need to lay the new hem fabric flat.



- * If you are taking out a large (5" or more) hem to make the pants longer:

The center seam of the bibber might have been opened up to help the hem lay flat. You will need to figure out if you need some of the opening with the new hem length, and if so, mark the position to where the center seam should be sewn closed again. Re-stitch the open section of the seam (to the point marked) using a sewing machine.



- * If you do have a flair V to make a large hem lay flat, stitch along the edges of the V so that a student doesn't get a toe stuck in the V, and then rip out the hem when they keep pulling their pants on.

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- * The buttons are ½" diameter, black, 4 hole buttons
JoAnn's and Hobby Lobby are good sources – bring a Hobby Lobby 40% coupon to either store as JoAnn's accepts competitor's coupons.
- * The buttons go on the inside of the pant leg, on the center seam and the outside seam of the pants, 1" above the bottom of the pant leg.
- * Check the crotch for any holes
We try to make note of any crotches with open seams, but please check again. If open, you might be able to use a sewing machine, but more likely you will need to hand stitch to fix.

Jackets

- * The sleeves are lined, so you need to ensure the liner and the sleeve are both adjusted together.

The liner is the same length as the sleeve, so you need to make sure it is lying flat in the middle of the hem. Otherwise, the liner will slide when the student puts their arm in the sleeve which will make the sleeve hang wrong.



- * If the hem needed is large, you might need to flair the sleeve so the student can get their hand in and out of the sleeve and so that the hem lies flat. This is tricky because you need to open up the seam on the lining and then on the jacket sleeve. Be sure to open the seam at the same point where the satin binding holding the liner to the jacket is seamed, so that the binding is also flared. You will also need the flair to lay the liner and the jacket sleeve flat to the desired length.
- * If the old hem of the sleeve was flared and you are lengthening the sleeve, remember to fix the open seam of the jacket arm before fixing the open seam of the liner.

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- * Check the back for any loose snaps and fix as needed.



- * Check the collar for any missing snaps.

The collar liner snaps usually leave sharp spikes pointing out when they fall off. Each collar should have 4 snaps to hold the collar liner.



- * Mark DONE and initial the alterations instruction card to indicate that you completed the work.
- * Return completed uniforms to the rack marked as Alterations Completed in the DV Uniform Room.

If you have any questions, please contact the Marching Band Uniform Committee Chair.

Thank you for your help! ☺