

The corset inside the bodice

The inner layer, shown here from the cotton twill underlining side, is lined (in fuschia) on the body side. The left-hand seam shows how boning is tacked over the center of the seam, then machine stitched in the well of the

seam. The allowances are feather-stitched to the underlining. The center seam shows how a zipper is machine stitched face up, to be covered later by the fashion-fabric layer. At right, the bust dart has been boned like a seam,

and additional boning was stitched to the underlining only to support the bust on either side. The twill tape at the top edge holds the easing there in place. The boning at the top edge helps keep the edge from curling away from

the body. The waistband, stitched to the boning, holds the garment securely in place on the figure. Buttonholes allow it to fasten behind the zipper. The tape beneath the bust holds the bones there against the body.



Don't be shy about adding bones. They'll contribute to the wearer's sense of security, and it's better to have more than enough than to risk embarrassing her. I reinforce every vertical seam with a bone, and on either side of a button closure, as described at right. Bones can also be added where there is no seam. I usually add one to the center front or back, and will reinforce the bust on either side if the pattern has a bust dart instead of a seam, as in the photo above. Except to re-

inforce design lines that dip a little below the waist in front (like the points at the bottom of a vest), you don't need to extend the boning below the waistband.

To insert bones, first cut them to the required length (about $\frac{1}{2}$ in. shorter than the seam they'll cover) and hold the ends over a match to blunt them, so they won't cut through the fabric. Position the lower end of the bones $\frac{3}{4}$ in. above the waistline on waist-length garments, but right on the actual waist level on long-line gar-

ments. They can be stitched along the edges, or right through the center. To add them to a seam, tack them permanently to the underside of the seams and centered over it, as shown above. This makes it easier to sew them in the correct position, as well as keeping them flat to the seam allowances after completion. Using a leather needle, or a heavy jeans needle (described in *Basics*, which starts on p. 16), stitch from the right side of the inner layer, in the well of the seam. This has the