

**Man’s Overcoat (Tonbi)**  
**Japan, Taishō period (1912–26)**  
**to Shōwa period (1926–89);**  
**1925–35**  
**Wool plain weave, full finish, and**  
**beaver fur, sheared and dyed**  
**Gift of B. Rich**  
**M.2012.188.200**

The Inverness coat, a sleeveless overcoat with a hip-length shoulder cape, was introduced to Japan during the late Edo period (1615–1868). There, it was modified with enlarged armhole openings from the shoulderline to the waistline to accommodate the wide sleeves of a kimono. From the front, the shoulder cape appears to be constructed in a whole semicircle independent from the coat, attached only at the neckline under the beaver collar; but when viewed from the back, the cape is sewn at each side back behind the long armholes in an extended raglan sleeve construction. This sleeve detail, similar to dolman-style overcoats from the late 19th century, would have kept the cape in place.

Popularly known as *tonbi* (black hawk), the overcoats were made of imported wool and were fashionable

during the Taishō (1912–26) and early Shōwa (1926–89) periods among intellectuals, professionals, and the wealthy, who often added a Western-style hat and walking stick or umbrella to their kimono ensemble. The concealed center-front button closures and sweeping construction created a fluid silhouette that was more Western in make but Japanese in aesthetic.

NOTES:

1. Fabric grain follows vertical lines of graph paper.
2. Pattern pieces are drawn without seam allowance.
3. The center-front closes with five 1-inch-diameter buttons and five 1 3⁄8-inch-long buttonholes, with a large hook and bar at the collar, and an additional 1-inch-diameter button and 1 3⁄8-inch-long buttonhole at the top shoulder cape. All buttons are attached along the proper right center-front opening and all buttonholes are along the proper left center-front hidden plackets, concealing all buttons.

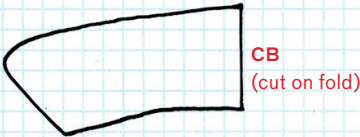
4. The beaver fur collar is slightly padded and underlined with black wool plain weave, full finish, with horizontal stitches at the collar stand and broad zigzag stitches at the top of the collar fall. A felt under-collar melton is attached along the edge.
5. The armhole openings are long to accommodate kimono sleeves; the interior front edges are bound in black silk velvet. The hip-length shoulder cape sleeves are raglan in construction with back edges sewn along the back of the deep armhole. The bottom edges are folded under.
6. Narrow double-welt slash pockets are at each side-front. A small slash ticket pocket and larger flap pocket are at the proper left upper interior side; the flap pocket, made of the black silk satin lining fabric, is secured with a 1⁄2-inch-diameter button and 3⁄4-inch-long buttonhole.
7. The body of the coat, cape sleeves, and center-front facings are of black wool plain weave, full finish; the cape sleeves and interior coat are lined with black silk satin.
8. The center back is cut on the fold.



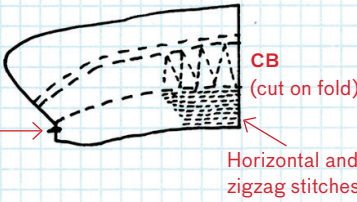


# Overcoat (Tonbi)

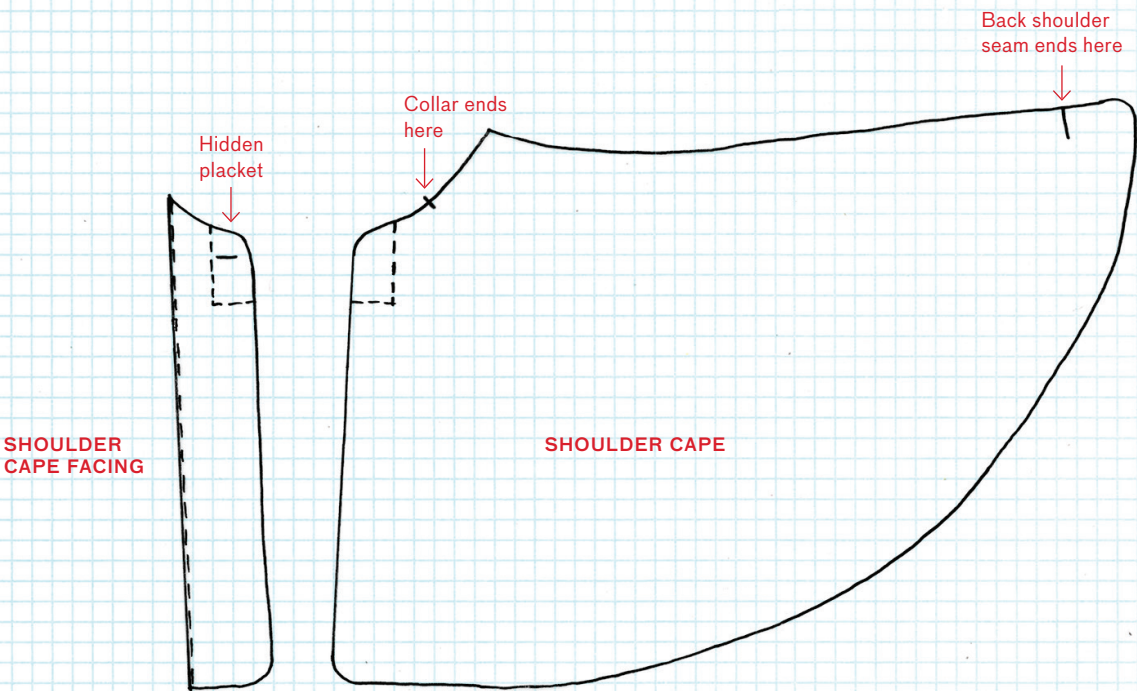
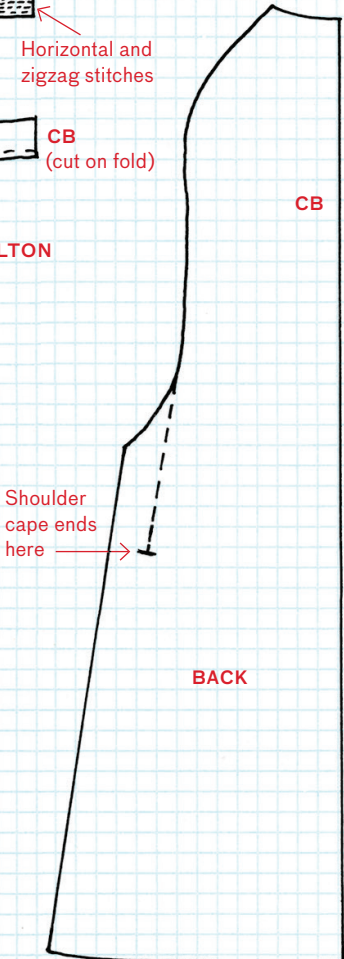
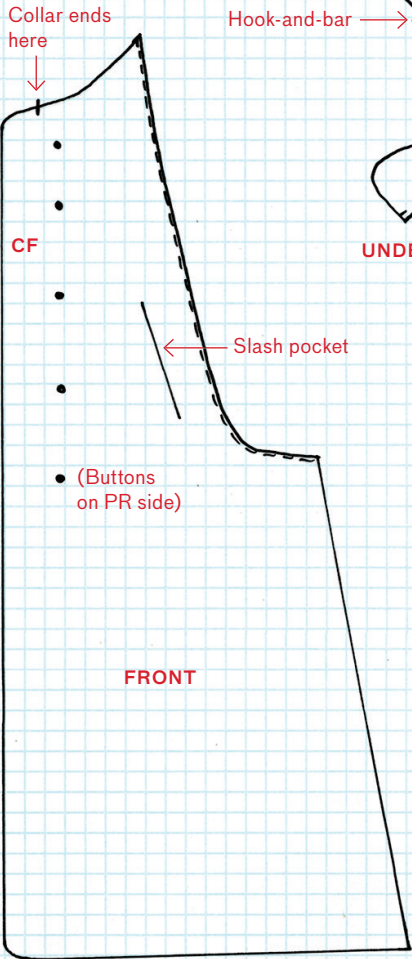
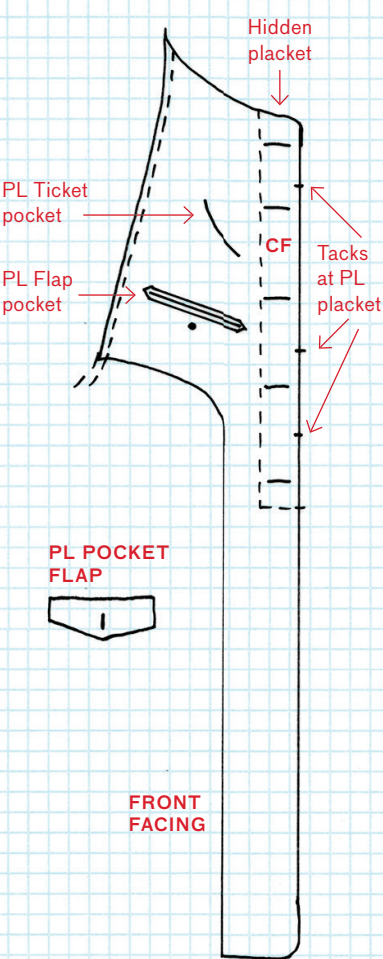
## UPPER COLLAR (BEAVER FUR)



## UNDER COLLAR



## UNDER COLLAR MELTON



- Key:
- = 1:1 inch
  - CF = Center Front
  - CB = Center Back
  - PL = Proper Left
  - PR = Proper Right
  - - - = Stitches
  - = Button placement