

## Terminology

**Backstitch** – A few stitches taken in reverse to secure a line of stitching.

**Bar Tack** – A very short thread reinforcement for points of stress

**Baste** – a quick row of hand stitching used to secure a seam prior to sewing, or to mark parts of the pattern on the fabric.

**Bias** – cutting fabric on the diagonal of grain. Can also refer to pre-cut fabric strips on the bias.

**Blind Hem** – Hand hemming technique that doesn't show stitches on the front of the garment.

**Crocking** – Color rubbing off. Solution: wash before using fabric

**Directional stitching** – Stitching with the grain in woven fabrics. In knits, stitching all seams in the same direction.

**Ease** (*noun*) – The allowance added to a body measurement to make a garment wearable. (*verb*) – To attach a fabric edge to an edge that is slightly shorter. When ease-stitching, the longer edge is very slightly gathered.

**Fashion fabric** – the outer fabric in a garment.

**Finger-pressing** – Opening seam allowances with the thumbnail. Mostly used on fabrics that cannot be pressed.

**Flat-Felled Seam** - Seams that are pressed to one side, raw edge tucked under and stitched down. See a pair of jeans.

**French Seam** – finishing for a seam that encases the raw edges. Used on sheer and light-weight fabrics.

**Give** – the degree of elasticity in a fabric or a thread.

**Grading** – Trimming each seam allowance to a different width to reduce bulk and avoid a ridge.

**Hand** – The feel and drape of a fabric.

**Interlining** – a layer of fabric added to a lining for warmth or stability.

**Miter** – The diagonal fold made at the corner in an edge finish, such as a binding, hem, etc.

**Nap** – In actual fact, the raised, hairy or downy surface on fabrics such as flannel, etc. In patterns, however, "with nap" means any fabric surface that looks different when held up or down, such as a pile, knits, one-way designs.

**Non-woven fabric** – A fabric not woven or knitted from thread or yarn. Non-woven fabrics include: fake leather and suede, felt, various interfacings.

**Notches** – Markings on patterns used for matching. They are no longer notches but the opposite—they stand out from the cut edge. Can be marked with outside V shape, a snip, a baste mark, or a pen.

**Pinking** – clipping the raw edges of seam allowance to prevent fraying. Done with pinking shears

**Pivoting** – Moving the fabric around with the machine needle in it and the press foot up.

**Pre-shrinking** – Shrinking/washing done before a fabric is used.

**Roll Hem** – a very small, rolled hem, usually machine stitched. Used primarily for formal dresses

**Seam Allowance** – the extra fabric past the seam line

**Self-fabric** – The fabric from which the garment is made

**Self-lining** – the lining is made from the garment fabric

**Sizing** – A starch-like finish, added in the manufacture of some natural-fiber fabrics and rayon. It is water- and steam-soluble.

**Slip Stitch** – a hand hemming stitch that produces an invisible stitch to the folded side, with a running stitch on the back

**Stay** – A tape added to a garment part to keep it in shape.

**Stay-stitching** – Stitching done inside the seam allowance, before construction, to stabilize curved or slanted edges. Usually done on a single thickness, but also used to attach interfacing.

**Stitching-in-the-ditch** –Stitching on the right side through a seam (in the ditch), to fasten something underneath, such as a facing.

**Topstitching** – hand- or machine-stitching, either functional or decorative, that shows on the outside of a garment.

**Understitching** – a line of stitching along the edge of a facing or undercollar to keep it from rolling to the outside.

**Zig Zag** – A machine stitch that creates a zig-zag