

Finishing Seams

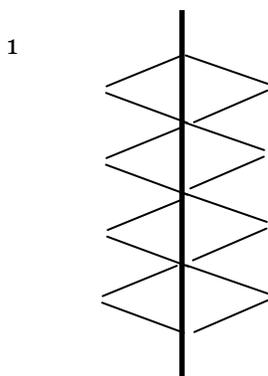


Day Dreams Custom Sewing
& Handmade Gifts

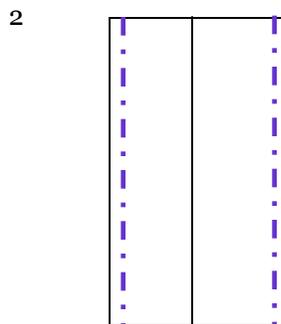
Stitches & Tips

Finishing Seams

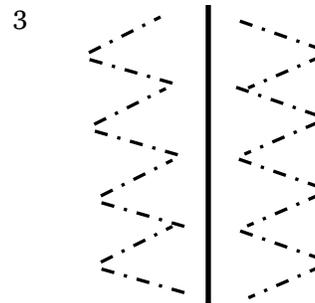
Finishing Seams makes your project look and feel professional. If you are a beginner I encourage you to take this practice to heart and start now with assuring all your projects seams are finished. Whether you finish them with a serger, overlock or the “old fashioned” way, it is a good practice to start now.



Pinked Edge



** Hemmed Edges



Zig Zagged Edge



A good pair of pinking shears (Like these from Gingher) will make quick work of finishing seams in fabrics such as knits. It will only be a temporary fix for woven or non-woven fabrics. Simply trim the seams with your pinking shears to finish with a pinked seam as shown above in view 1.

Optional to add to the pinked seam is to finish the edge first with a straight stitch, then pink close to the seam. This works quite well with a woven fabric that likes to fray. It stops the fray while you sew, as well as in the laundry. You will see some fray after wash, but not nearly as much as if you did not finish the seams.

Hemmed Edges or Clean Finished Seams are Views 2 & 3.

A clean finish is simply to turn under an edge 1/4", then straight stitch on top as close as you can to the edge without going off. This takes patience and practice! The patience comes in with getting the seams pressed under so little, then going back and sewing a straight seam. It is worth the process!

Zig-Zagged seams are just that—an edge that has been sewn with a zig-zag stitch. This works well with fabrics that do not fray too much or fabrics that are thin and drapery: crepe, satin, silk, linens, etc. When you have a fine fabric that is light in weight, and won't fray much, you don't want bulky seams showing, so a pinked edge or zig-zagged edge is recommended. A *French Seam* is recommended for sheer fabrics...that is on the next page.

Help

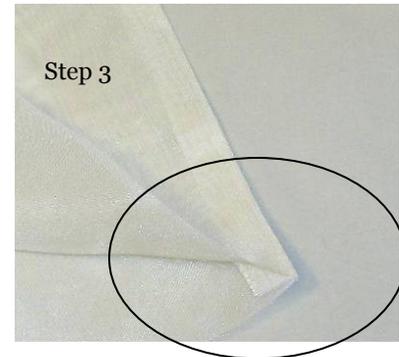
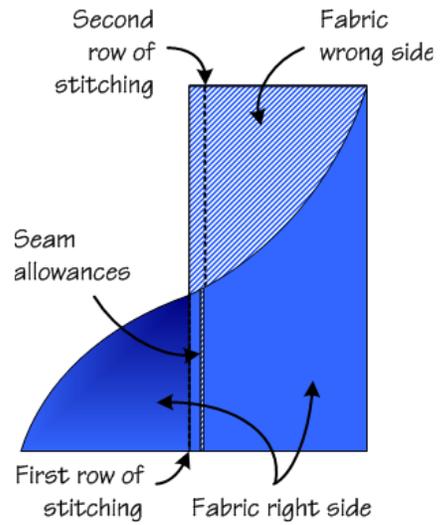
/

The **French Seam** is not as difficult as it looks. It's a matter of patience but if you are making your dream dress or other high brow apparel, this will be something you want to learn.

- The seam allowance is enclosed inside another seam.
- It is well suited for sheer fabric that a zigzag or serge stitch would leave a lot of thread visible through the fabric.
- It can be used on any fabric to enclose a seam allowance and keep a soft edge to the seam. This works especially well for a person with very sensitive skin.

Steps:

1. Using a standard 5/8" seam allowance, sew a 1/4" seam with the wrong sides of the fabric together. Press the seam together—not open
2. Fold the seam into the garment (see view to the right)
3. Sew a new seam 3/8" from the folded seam edge.
4. Press the seam as it was sewn and from the right side of the item.

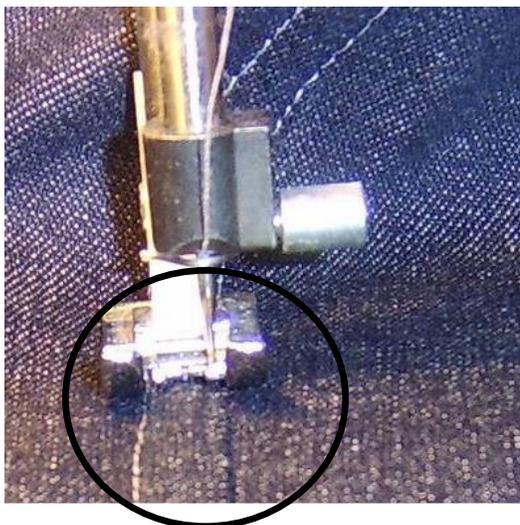


Flat Felled Seams—Found in heavy duty apparel, sport wear, outdoor gear...

Flat Felled Seams are those found on jeans—it's the best example there is. The key to making a flat felled seam is pressing while making the seam.

Steps:

1. Sew your seam—press seam together, not open.
2. Trim back seam allowance (one side not facing you) in half.
3. Fold and press a 1/4" allowance on top half, then fold over the bottom half. Press in place again. You should have a piece where the top is covering the back seam allowance completely.
4. You will be top stitching the pressed under seam allowance as close to the folded edge as possible.
5. Use guides on your presser foot and needle position (when possible) to set the needle along the fold on the seam allowance.
6. Stitch the seam allowance down.



Step 4—top stitch the seam down