

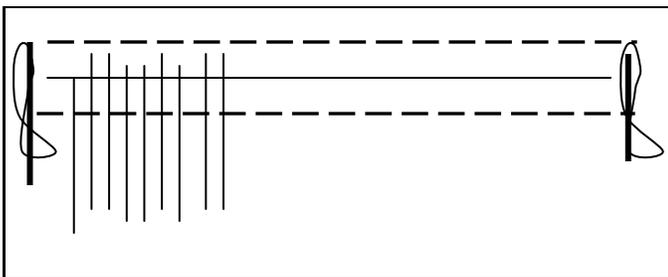


Pin Tucks, Pleats & Gathers

Do you know the correct way to make a gather? Have you ever wanted to make a smocked shirt or dress? Read on to learn more about how to create your dream piece in apparel!

Gathers:

1. Starting at the indicated point, machine or hand sew a basting stitch (long stitches) but do not lock or knot the last stitch. Leave about 2" of thread. **Repeat again about 1/8" below this first basting line, leaving about 2" of thread.**
2. Place a pin near the starting point of both lines and wrap in a figure 8 the four threads.
3. Beginning at the end of the lines, gently begin to pull the bottom threads (bobbin thread) while moving by hand the thread through the fabric. You will see gathers begin to take shape.
4. Gather in this manner until you have the desired amount of gather in the fabric. Pin the four threads from the end (working with) and wrap thread in a figure 8 around pin. Pin the gathers in place at evenly spaced intervals to hold while sewing.
5. Adjust stitch length to normal setting and sew from beginning to end a straight stitch between the two basting lines. You may want to stitch over this again to secure the gathers.
6. Gently remove the pins and gather threads from the end (working with).
7. If you are working with gathering fabric to be sewn to a flat piece, make sure all your marks line up and the gather fits the piece perfectly.
8. Gathering can be done in full gathers (as in skirts to bodices) or small as in using it for ease in a shirt sleeve or curved pieces.

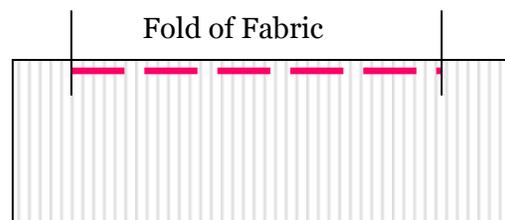


(Above) Gathering by machine step. (Right) Hand gathering.

Pin Tucks are much easier than anyone imagines. Used as to add flair, design, decoration, style, shape and more, pin tucks are quite easy to manage *without the special sewing foot*.

Using your straight stitch sewing foot (or by hand):

1. Mark where you want the pin tucks to begin and end with a pin.
2. Make a fold at that point of fabric. You will be sewing on the **OUTSIDE** of your fabric (right side).
3. Using your straight stitch presser foot, sew a line from point to point on the fold, making sure it is as close to the edge of the fold as you can make it (1/8" is usually the distance).
4. Continue this process until all pin tucks are made.



Pleats are numerous in variety. Box pleats, knife, slash, fan, accordion, etc. Most times when you make pleats your sewing directions will indicate which kind of pleat you will be making, with instructions.

It's good to know a few basics about pleats before you begin.

1. Pleats are not gathers simply flattened out. The fabric is folded specifically for a pleat.
2. Pleats have size and direction—specific in both.
3. Pleats in a garment use extra fabric (to allow for the folding).
4. To make a simple box pleat (can be inverted as well):
 - A. Mark where indicated on the fabric (transfer from pattern).
 - B. Fold and pin both right and left side to the center mark.
 - C. Stitch along the top portion of the pleat, where indicated.
 - D. Press Pleat folds flat.
5. To make a simple knife pleat:
 - A. Mark your fabric where indicated for pleats.
 - B. Fold fabric under and lay top fold to the right.
 - C. Continue each pleat until desired amount are complete.
 - D. Pin and stitch in place at the top.



Box Pleats



Knife Pleats