

Woven/Knit Fabric Stitching



Day Dreams Custom Sewing
& Handmade Gifts

Stitches & Tips

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Help/Information, write to:

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Sewing with knit fabrics is enjoyable. In fact, I like it better than sewing with cotton blends as it tends to be less slippery when sewing, has a clean look and finish to it when done and seams rarely need much fuss over finishing.

A woven fabric will need seams finished and that is easily accomplished these days with the overlock or serger machines. The next guide focuses on finishing seams, so for now, this guide discusses tips on stitching on woven or knit fabrics.

Why a guide for stitching on these fabrics if they are so easy? Some people tend to pull and stretch the fabrics when sewing on any fabric. With woven and knits, this tendency can over stretch a fabric and cause seams to pucker and gather. You will see it immediately if this is something you have done or tend to do.

- Examples of woven fabrics: Corduroy, Chinz, Crepe, Denim, Flannel, Gabardine, Georgette, Cashmere Silk, Muslin, Polin, Sheeting, Velvet, Cotton, Wool, Linen. *Many of these need finished seams and will stretch if not careful.
- Examples of knit fabrics: Jersey, Rib, Double Knits, Knits.

Tips to Remember:

- Sew a few straight seams and simple lines on scrap of the fabric you are working with to adjust your machine settings. This will also give you a feel for how the fabric will react when sewing.
- During your practice patch, work with adjusting your own hand tension; work on not pulling the fabric, but a gentle guide and push.
- Use the stretch stitch setting on your machine when working with knits.
- If you notice threads popping while sewing or pressing seams, your tension is too tight. Readjust your tension and stitch length.
- Top Stitching is recommended when sewing on knits. It will hold the seams in place (keeps them from rolling). An example would be a t-shirt.
- Woven fabrics fray a great deal. Use a fray stop spray or you can zig-zag the edges before sewing the seam (or after). Pinking the edges or using pinking shears when cutting out woven fabrics helps stop fraying.
- Finishing seams is a longer method of working with woven fabrics but it looks more professional and frays will not happen.