

GLOSSARY

Baste

This is temporary tacking. Use the largest stitch length and no back stitch.

Clip the curves

Cut triangles out of the seam allowance to allow the fabric to move freely once turned. Be brave and go close to the stitch but be careful to not cut it. These should be approximately 2.5cm apart along all curved edges, but closer if the curve is more pronounced.

Construction marks

These are locations on the pattern that are later referred to, to help you construct the garment accurately. They may be shown as lines indicating darts, folds or pleats. There can also be small notches (lines) on the outer edges of the pieces that are used to match others or show locations for zips or pockets. Sometimes there is simply a dot to show you where to stitch up to. All marks should be transferred onto the fabric. Use a tracing wheel and paper for the lines and dots and a small snip 0.5cm into the fabric edge for the notches.

Cutting layout

This shows the correct way to place your pattern onto the fabric. Ensuring fabric economy and correct grain/pattern direction.

Gather stitch

With the largest stitch length and without using a back stitch, stitch at a seam allowance of 1cm and then repeat at a seam allowance of 2cm. This ensures an even gather.

Hem allowance

Similar to the seam allowance this is the amount of fabric the designer has allowed for the creation of the hem.

Press

Literally press the fabric in place using an iron. Steam is your best friend when pressing so use it.

Press the seams open

This makes your garment look professionally finished. Press the seam to one side then the other, open the seam allowance and press down the middle. Then turn and press from the right side of the garment. Don't leave this to the end! Do it as you finish each seam.

Raw edge

The edge of the fabric that you cut.

Right side of fabric together (RST)

This is the side of the fabric that will be the outside of your garment.

Seam allowance

Indicates the location of the stitch line and therefore the amount of "extra" fabric allowed for in the design.

Stay stitch

This is a stitch at a 1cm seam allowance along edges that may stretch out of shape whilst you're making the garment. It is done using the same stitch settings as you would use for any seam.

Stitch in the ditch

In simple terms it is stitching right in a seam line in order to create an invisible line of stitching. You can use a special foot that helps you to guide or else you need to be slow and accurate.

Top stitch

This is a row of stitching that's visible on the garment when complete. Your stitch length should be set higher at 3.5. The stitch should be close to the edge or line that you are following. If you have the ability, move your needle all the way across to the right and then use the edge of your machine foot as a guide. If not you will need to have your fabric part way into the machine foot so that the stitch is 4mm from the edge.

Under stitch

This is a stitch that stops the facing rolling back over to the front of your garment. First press all the seam allowance towards the facing and stitch very close to the original stitch line.

Wrong side of fabric together (WST)

This is the side of the fabric that will be the inside of your garment.