

Flat-fell seam using denim or canvas (press on high heat)

Tutorial Time: Flat-Fell and Mock Flat-Fell Seams



Flat-fell and mock flat-fell seams protect raw edges. They feature two lines of topstitching—a classic look for many garments.



1. With right sides together, straight stitch along the seamline. Press.



2. Decide which direction your seam will face; traditionally, when flat felling on garments, the seam allowances face away from the front of the body. Trim the side of the seam allowance on that side to half its original width.



3. Fold the wider seam allowance in half, enclosing the shorter one inside. Press.



As an alternative to cutting and folding the seam allowances, you can use an overlock, zigzag, or wrapped stitch for a similar effect. This creates a mock flat-fell seam.



Edgestitch (pg 105) then topstitch (pg 177) the seam allowance down, creating two rows of stitching detail on the right side of the fabric.

French seam using skulls print mediumweight cotton (press on high heat)

Tutorial Time: French Seams and Mock French Seams



French and mock French seams enclose raw edges, creating a seam that's both delicate and protective.



1. With *wrong* sides together, sew a line of stitches outside of your seamline (within the seam allowance). These can be straight, overlock, zigzag, or wrapped stitches.



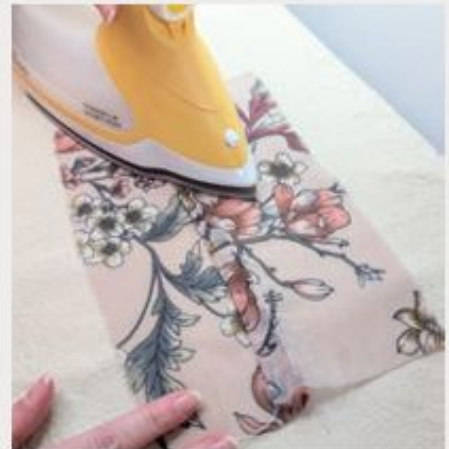
2. Clip your seam allowances up to the line of stitches you just created.



3. Press your seam open, and then fold the fabric right sides together. Press the fold.



4. Sew another line of straight stitches, this time along your seamline.



5. Press the resulting seam to one side.

Mock French seam using solid purple cotton (press on high heat)

A mock French seam results in a similar lightweight seam with enclosed raw edges, but it can be simpler because it doesn't rely on sewing wrong sides together first (and, therefore, can be executed on a piece that has already been fitted or constructed).



1. With right sides together, sew a straight stitch along your seamline.



2. Press the seam open, and then fold and press the seam allowances inward, toward the seam, so that their raw edges meet at the line of sewing.



3. Close the fabric along the seam so that the right sides are together, joining the folded seam allowances. Pin or clip.



4. Edgestitch (pg 105).



5. Press the seam allowance to one side.

Blind hem using green heavyweight or pink textured (press on medium heat)

Tutorial Time: Blind Hems



Blind hems combine a special fold and either a blind stitch (on a conventional machine) or a flatlock stitch (on a serger) to create a hem that's almost invisible on the right side of the fabric. The raw edge of a blind hem will not be enclosed. If necessary, finish it before beginning the hem.

1. Press the hem to the inside along the hemline. Then, with the fabric facing wrong side up, flip the folded hem under the body of the piece, tucking until the hem's edge extends past where the body fabric flips.

2. On a conventional machine, install a standard foot or blind hem foot and set the stitch to the blind stitch. On a serger, set the machine to the flatlock stitch. Sew along the edge of the hem, just *barely* catching threads of the body fabric with the intermittent wide stitches.

Lapped seam using yellow fleece (press on low heat)

Tutorial Time: Lapped Seams



Lapped seams are minimal and beautiful, but they are complicated by their asymmetrical seam allowances.

1. Decide which of your pieces will be the top of the lapped seam. Only on that piece, carefully cut the seam allowance entirely away.

2. Align the pieces, matching seamlines. Baste the two layers together (pg 99); pins will distort the seamline, creating a wobbly and inaccurate seam.

3. Edgestitch (pg 105) along the seamline. If desired, topstitch (pg 177) down the bottom seam allowance.

Hairline seam using grey squares polyester lightweight woven (press on low heat)

Seam tutorial starts on next page!

Tutorial Time: Hairline Hems and Seams

Hairline hems and seams are extremely low-profile. They are delicate and minimal, but they can also be hard to sew.



A single-fold hairline hem is appropriate for a fabric that does not fray, like jersey.



1. Fold your hem along your hemline; press.



2. With or without an edge-stitch foot, edgestitch (pg 105) along the fold of the hem.



3. Carefully cut off the seam allowance, very close to the line of edge stitching.

The double-fold version works well for lightweight, translucent, and slinky wovens.



1. Sew a straight stitch along your hemline. For this step, you're only going through one layer of fabric.



2. Fold to the wrong side along that line of stitching. Ideally, the stitching will be just barely to the inside of your piece.



3. Edgestitch (pg 105) your hem.



4. Carefully trim the seam allowance very close to your second line of stitching.

The same concepts can be used for seams.



5. Fold and press your hem once more to the inside of your piece.



6. Then edgestitch (pg 105) once more to finish the hem, enclosing the raw edge.



1. Straight stitch your seamline.



2. Stitch again with a zigzag stitch, directly next to your original seamline, but inside the seam allowance.



3. Carefully cut your seam allowance very close to the zigzag stitches.



4. Instead of using a zigzag stitch and then cutting, you can use an overlock, rolled (pg 132), or wrapped stitch, any of which will enclose the raw edges.



5. Press to one side.

Abutted seam using yellow washable paper (press on medium heat)

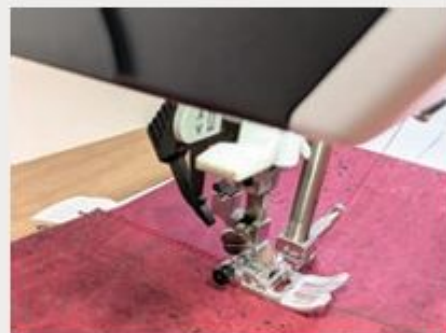
Tutorial Time: Abutted Seams



Abutted seams connect your material without any overlap at all—perfect for very bulky materials and very minimal seams.



1. To begin, cut your pieces all the way up to the seamline. Align them at the seamline; then use fusible interfacing or stabilizer to baste the pieces together. (To create an abutted seam in one step, you can stop here!)



2. Use a wide zigzag stitch to connect the pieces. You can sew from either the right or wrong side of the piece.



Abutted seams are even easier to create with thick materials and glue.

After cutting both pieces to the seamline, adhere with glue.



For both sewn and glued abutted seams, the reverse side of the abutted seam can be reinforced with interfacing, fabric, tape, fusible interfacing, or glue.