SEAM - a line of stitching that joins two or more layers of fabric

To evaluate quality of workmanship and appropriateness of seam choice, consider the criteria listed below. For additional information, see *Seams: Quick Definitions and Seams: Types, Techniques, and Tips*.

- **Thread color matches fabric***

- **Thread weight appropriate for fabric:**
  --Size 50 cotton thread for light and medium weight WOVEN CELLULOSIC (cotton, linen, and rayon) fabrics.
  --Size 50 cotton wrapped polyester core thread for all KNITS and WOVENS.
  --Size 50 polyester thread for KNIT, STRETCH, and WOVEN SYNTHETIC fabrics.
  --Size A nylon thread for light and medium weigh SYNTHETICS.
  --Size A silk thread for all SILKS and WOOLS. Also for tailoring and KNITS.
  --Size 40 cotton, cotton-wrapped polyester, and polyester thread for heavy materials such as vinyl and upholstery fabrics.

- **Stitch tension balanced**

- **Suitable stitch length**
  --10-15 stitches/inch for lightweight fabrics.
  --10-12 stitches/inch for medium weight fabrics.
  --8-12 stitches/inch for heavy weight fabrics.

- **Seam allowances are uniform in width**

- **Flat and smooth** (no puckers)

- **Ends secured and threads clipped**

- **Properly finished** (see seam finishes)

- **Pressed**

*Serging thread may NOT always be the exact color as the fabric because of the cone size and expense of serging thread.*