



Textiles and Clothing

—Seams: Judging Guidance—

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.