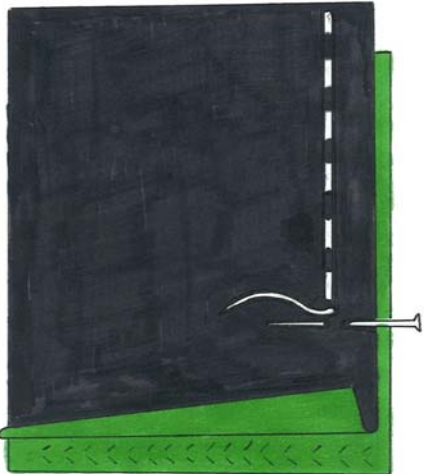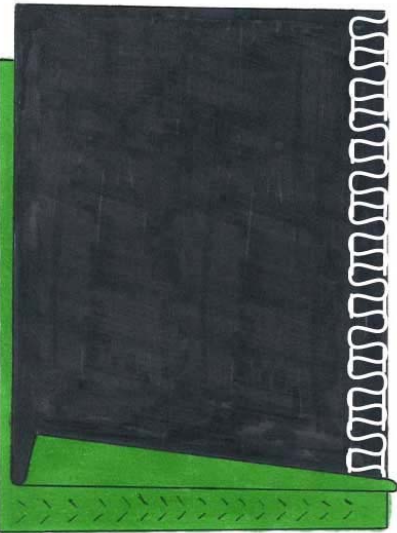# Textiles and Clothing
—Seams: Types, Techniques and Tips—

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

TYPE	TECHNIQUE	TIPS
Plain	1. Place right sides together. 2. Use a 5/8" seam allowance unless the pattern guide sheet instructs otherwise. 3. Stitch along length.	-Most seams start with a plain seam. -Plain seams are used on all types of fabrics except sheer fabrics and items intended for heavy use.
Serged	1. Place right sides together. 2. Serge and trim along edges (machine trims it). *serging thread may NOT always be the exact color as the fabric because of the size and expense of serging thread.	-When a fabric ravels easily, a good way to finish the seam is by serging it. -Serging is also used on stretch woven or knit fabrics, and is often seen in casual wear.
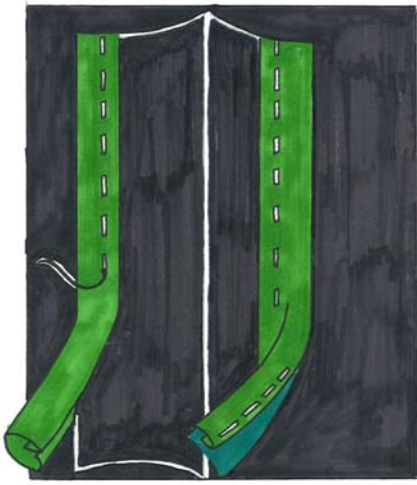
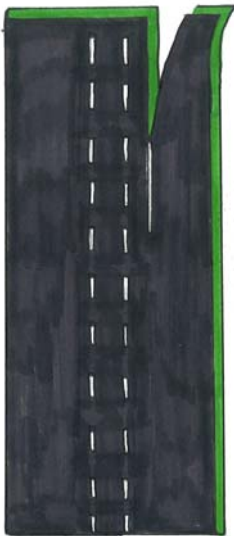| Bound	1. Sew a plain seam 2. Pin bias binding along the plain seam stitching, with the fold of the binding matching the previous stitching. This is done on the outer part of the garment 3. Machine stitch through pinned area. 4. Fold bias binding to the inside of garment, and slipstitch along the other folded edge.	-Bound seams are usually visible, and used for decorative effect. -The fabric used for binding needs to be very flexible to be able to be sewn around curves without puckering. -Bias binding is usually 1.5" wide, with two folds on each .5" mark.
Corded	1. Pin or baste cording to right side of one seam allowance, aligning cording stitch line with seam line. The raw edge of cording must face the raw edge of the seam. 2. Stitch closely to the left of the cording stitches. 3. Place seam allowances with right sides together and cording in between. Stitch through. 4. Press, trim and grade as necessary.	-Corded seams add a decorative effect. -It can be used on any type of fabric, except fabrics that are too sheer. -One can buy covered cording or make one's own.
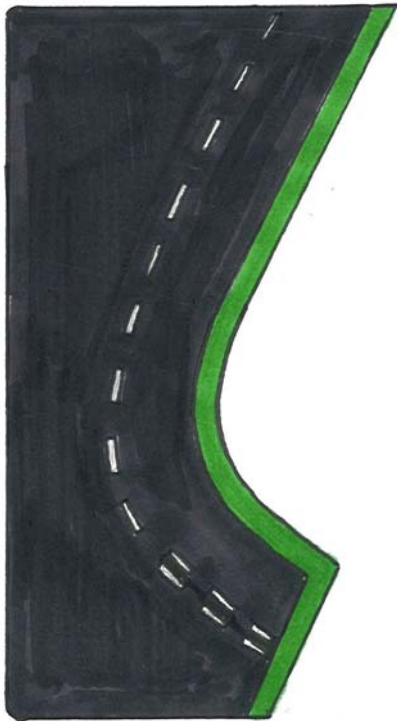
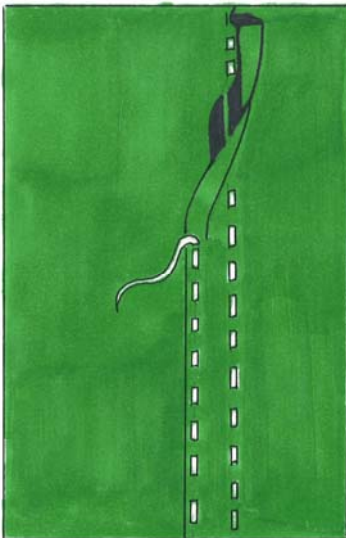| Curved	1. Pin two curved pieces together. 2. Stitch on the seam allowance line, going slowly and slowly turning the fabric to follow the curve. 3. Notch (cut triangles into) the seam allowances, cutting straight to the stitching. 4. Press seam open.	
Double-stitched	1. Stitch a plain seam with straight stitch. 2. Machine-stitch a second row 1/8" in from the first, using a straight stitch, a zigzag, or a blind stitch. 3. Trim seam allowances close to the stitching. 4. Press seam to one side.	-Especially good for knits, where edges tend to curl.
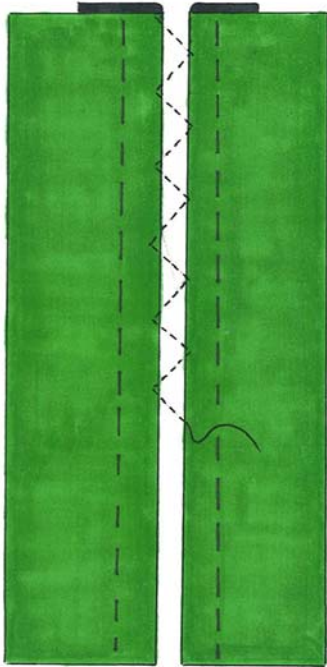
| Fagoted		
	1. Make a test stitch to determine width of opening. 2. Divide width in half; fold each seam line back by this halved amount. 3. On paper, draw parallel lines to represent width between folded edges. 4. Pin folded fabric to paper along parallel lines. 5. Baste 6. Stitch, centering opening under foot and making sure that each edge is caught in stitching.	-Used as a decorative effect, usually in summer clothing.
Flat-felled		
	1. With wrong sides of fabric together, stitch on the seam line. 2. Press seam open, then to one side. 3. Trim the inner seam allowance to 1/8". Press under the edge of outer seam allowance $\frac{1}{4}$". 4. Stitch this folded edge to the garment. 5. Be careful to press like seams in the same direction.	-A very sturdy seam, usually used for sports clothing and children's wear. -Because it is formed on the right side, it is also decorative.
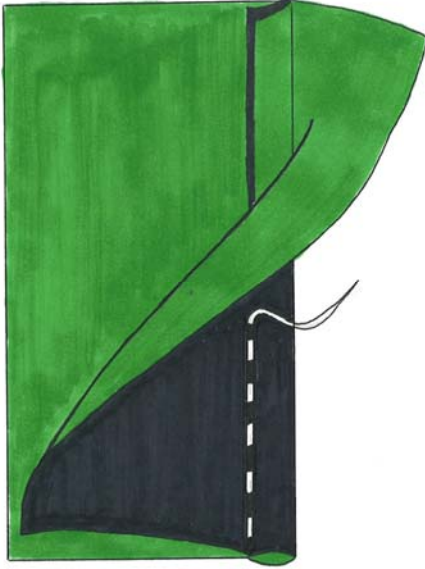
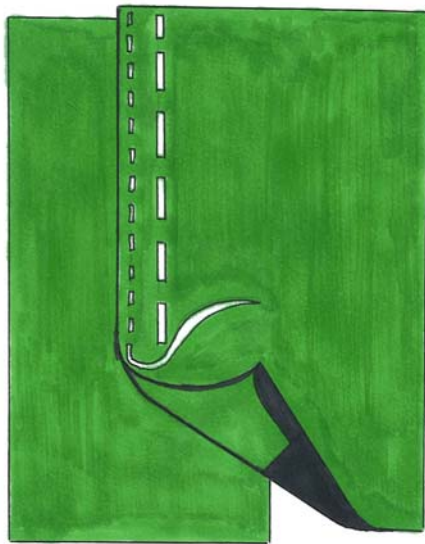| French		
	1. With wrong sides of fabric together, stitch 3/8" from the edge. Trim seam allowances to 1/8". 2. Press seam open. 3. Fold right sides together, with stitched line exactly on edge of fold, and press again. 4. Stitch on the seam line, which is now ¼" from the fold. 5. Press seam to one side.	-This classic seam works well for sheers, and looks best if the finished width is ¼" or less.
Lapped		
	1. Mark seam lines 2. Lap one edge over the other with seam lines meeting in the center. 3. Place a row of straight stitching on either side of seam line, or stitch with wide zigzag through center. 4. Trim both seam allowances close to stitching.	-Used to eliminate bulk especially on interfacing and interlining.
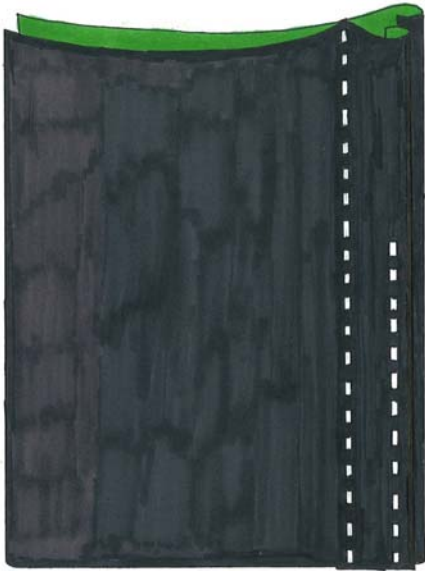
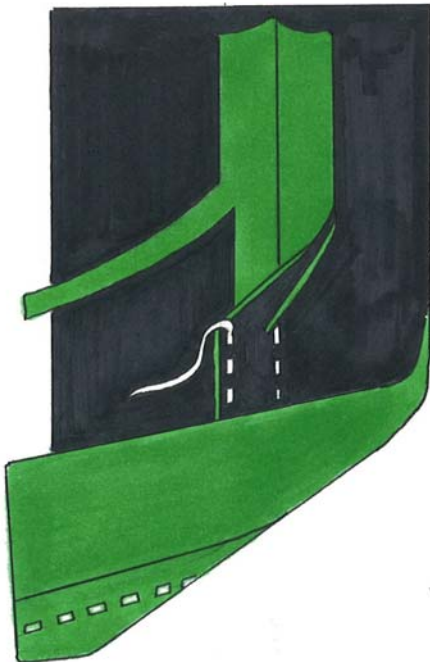| Mock-French		
	1.With right sides of fabric together, stitch on the seam line. 2. Trim seam allowance to ½". 3. Turn in the seam edges ¼" and press, matching folds along the edge. 4. Stitch these folded edges together. 5. Press seam to one side	-Can be used in place of the French seam, especially on curves where a French seam is difficult to execute.
Self-bound		
	1. Stitch a plain seam. 2. Trim one seam allowance to 1/8". 3. Turn under the edge of the other seam allowance 1/8" and press. 4. Turn and press again, bringing the folded edge to the seam line, so that the trimmed edge is now enclosed. 5. Stitch close to fold, as near as possible to first line of stitching.	-Works best on lightweight fabrics that do not fray easily.
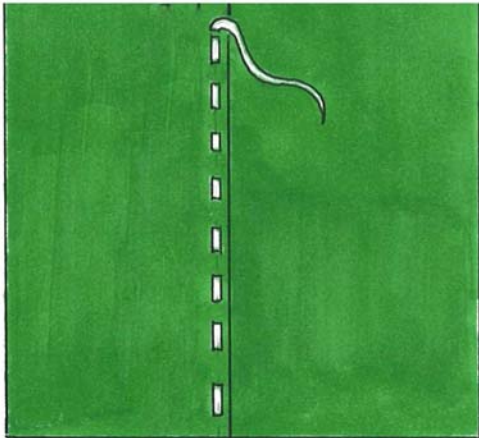
Topstitched			
	1. Stitch a plain seam 2. Press seam allowances to one side. 3. Stitch through all thicknesses, parallel to the seam line.	-It is a good way to emphasize a construction detail, to hold seam allowances flat, or to add interest to plain fabric.
Welt 	1. Stitch a plain seam. 2. Press both seam allowances to one side. 3. Trim inside seam allowance to $\frac{1}{4}$". 4. Topstitch, catching wider seam allowance.	