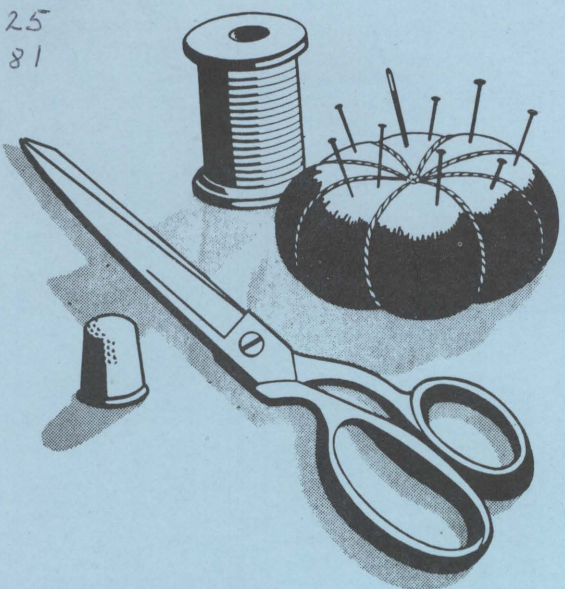


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BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA



## Quality Look

in

## Clothing Construction

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Do you want quality and a professional look in the garment you make?

For best appearance you will have to choose the best methods for different construction problems and for different fabrics.

Your pattern instructions are a guide, but you may know a better method for your particular need. Remember, there is a reason why one method is better than another. Consider the "why" when you make your choice. Will your choice give the results you desire?

Don't sew any more than is necessary to achieve:

1. Good appearance (the outside of the garment is what is seen).
2. Durability (seams must last the lifetime of a garment).
3. Good fit of pattern parts together.

### GUIDES TO HELP YOU MAKE DECISIONS

#### Cutting

Straighten fabric grainline.

Place pattern accurately on grain or design.

#### Interfacing should:

- Match fabric in color, as nearly as possible.
- Be no heavier (sometimes lighter) than fabric of garment.
- Be pre-shrunk.
- Have "give" for garment to move with body. Woven fabrics have more "give" than non-woven.
- Require the same cleaning processes as fabric it is used with. It should be washable, if garment is to be washed.

#### Stitching

- Use a balanced top and bottom tension.
- Thread should match in color and size.
- Adjust stitch length for fabric used.
- Top stitching should be slightly shorter than underneath, unless used for decoration.
- Use extra short stitches for added strength.

## Staystitching

Staystitch  $\frac{1}{2}$ " from outer edge on curved or bias seams and on zipper side of waist and skirt.

## Darts

Waistline darts usually turn toward center front and center back.  
Darts taper gradually to a point, with stitching secured at each end.  
Bust darts extend toward fullest part of bust and are usually pressed downward.

## Seams

Fit parts together accurately.  
Make seams accurate width. This is usually  $5/8$ ", unless pattern designates otherwise.  
Plain seams are satisfactory for most firmly woven fabrics.  
Pinked, edgestitched, machine overcast, or other suitable finishes may be necessary, depending on how much the fabric frays.  
French seams may be used on sheer fabrics.

## Collar

Upper collar should be slightly larger than under collar to keep the underside from showing.  
Shorten stitches around corners and curves to allow for closer trimming.  
Cut small notches on outward curves for smoother fit.  
Grade seams, leaving longer side next to upper collar.  
Understitch outer seamline to keep under collar from showing.

## Facings

Clean finish (or other appropriate finish) outer edge as needed.  
Understitch seamline so facing won't show.  
Attach outer edge of shaped facing at construction points only, such as shoulder and other seams.  
If garment is underlined, facings may be completely attached to lining.

## Sleeves

Set-in sleeves:

Be sure there is no excess fullness across top.  
Hem, face, or attach cuff after underarm seam is made.  
Set sleeve in after underarm seams of sleeve and waist are secured.  
Doublestitch underarm seam from notch to notch in same seamline for strength.

Kimono type sleeves:

Reinforce underarm seam along curve with narrow selvage strip, other straight or bias strip, or tape.

## Closures

Closures (plackets or zippers) should be as inconspicuous as possible.  
Zippers should be well covered by lap.  
Machine stitching should be even width from edge of zipper lap.  
Zipper may be put in by hand in better garments.  
Buttonholes may be bound, hand or machine worked, as suits the garment.  
All should be firm.

Covered buttons should be free of wrinkles.  
Most buttons need a shank for ease in fastening.

### **Belts**

Cover belting entirely.  
Keep grainline straight.  
Worked eyelets are usually best (machine, hand, or hand-overcast metal eyelets put on upside down).

### **Hems**

Stitches should be inconspicuous on top side of garment.  
Stitches should be about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " apart.  
No long threads should be exposed on underside to hang, snag, or wear out quickly.  
Finish edge in manner suitable for garment fabric:

- A. It may be turned under and edgestitched;
- B. Use tape as durable as garment;
- C. One or 2 rows of machine stitching may be used, and edge pinked if necessary;
- D. Ease in fullness in hems of shaped skirts.

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