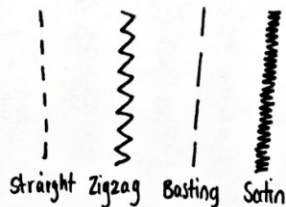


Sewing Terms

- **Seam allowance:** the distance from the stitching line to the outer edge of the fabric
- **Bias:** a direction in a woven fabric, which is at a 45 angle to its threads; a woven fabric has the most stretch in the bias direction
- **Selvage:** the self-finished edge of a fabric, which runs parallel to the long threads that run the length of the fabric
- **Bobbin:** the spool of thread that feeds through from the bottom of the machine
- **Gather:** ruffled look created by sewing a basting stitch and then pulling the thread at either end; press and sew a straight stitch to hold the gather in place
- **Grain:** the direction that runs parallel to the threads in a fabric
- **Notions:** the accessories you will need for a project, such as buttons, zippers, piping, bias tape, etc
- **Press:** ironing a fabric or seam
- **Right side:** the side of the fabric in which the pattern or design is printed and prominent
- **Wrong side:** the underside of the fabric
- **Appliqué:** fabric that is sewn on top of another fabric in a decorative design or shape; typically sewn around with a satin stitch

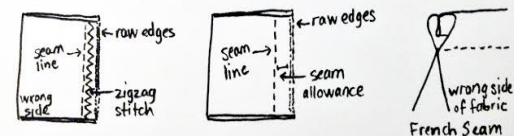
Common Stitches

- **Straight stitch:** basic stitch of a single line of thread most commonly used in sewing
- **Backstitch:** sewing backwards, usually done a couple of stitches at the beginning of a seam to strengthen and reinforce the stitches
- **Basting stitch:** temporary stitch used to hold two or more materials together; a straight stitch where the stitch length is adjusted to the longest setting; also used to gather fabric
- **Zigzag stitch:** stitch used as a decorative stitch or for a seam that will be stretched
- **Satin stitch:** zigzag stitch with the stitch length adjusted to the shortest setting; commonly used to hide raw edges on appliqués
- **Blind stitch:** stitch sewn by hand to close a seam without the stitch thread showing
- **Topstitch:** a straight or decorative stitch on the top of a product, used to keep hems and pieces in place and to provide a crisp edge



Finishing Seams & Edges

- **Raw edge:** an unfinished edge; fleece, felt, and knits can be left unfinished without concern for fraying
- **French seam:** a seam which hides the raw edges of a seam inside another seam; accomplished by first sewing the pieces of fabric wrong sides together, then turning and sewing the seam again with the right sides together
- **Folded hem:** a common way to hide a raw edge; accomplished by folding the raw edge a quarter-inch towards the wrong side, then folding another half-inch or more in the same direction and sewing
- **Bias tape:** a strip of folded fabric cut along the bias and folded along a seam to hide raw edges and give a finished appearance
- **Pinking:** use pinking shears to trim the raw edge on the seam allowance to prevent unraveling; works best on tightly woven fabric, not recommended for linen
- **Zigzag stitch:** stitch next to the seam on the seam allowance with a zigzag stitch to prevent unraveling



Types of Materials

- **Interfacing:** used to protect embroidery or stitching, and to reinforce or provide additional structure to a fabric; available in lightweight, midweight, and heavyweight
- **Fusible fleece:** fleece which can be ironed on to the wrong side of a fabric to provide additional structure and weight to a project; commonly used in sewing purses and bags
- **Fusible web adhesive:** an iron-on adhesive used to adhere appliqués or two materials together
- **Piping:** used to give a decorative edge to a seam; buy it packaged or make it yourself with some bias tape and cording
- **Lightweight cotton:** versatile fabric in a myriad of prints and colors; great for quilts, clothing, and a variety of other simple projects
- **Home décor/outdoor fabric:** heavier weight cotton; great for bags, pillows, house projects, and other projects that require more structure
- **Jersey/Knit:** soft fabric with a stretch to it; great for skirts, leggings, dresses, scarves, etc
- **Flannel:** soft and available in lots of fun prints; great for baby/kids' blankets and toys, pajamas, scarves, etc.
- **Duck cloth:** heavyweight material; great for bags and other projects that require more structure
- **Felt:** great material for crafts and appliqués, as well as simple kids' toys