

MACHINE ATTACHMENTS

To simplify the task of sewing and finishing of the garment, the sewing machine comes with a variety of presser feet (also known as machine attachments). Machine feet allows a sewing machine to be used to full advantage. Each foot enables the machine to sew an item or piece of a garment in a specific manner, while some feet can be used for a number of tasks.

For using the machine attachments or different presser feet , consider the following points before sewing :

1. Raise the presser foot lifter and remove the standard presser foot.
2. Replace the foot with the attachment, tighten the thumb screw that holds the presser foot in position.
3. Turn the fly wheel slowly with hand and check if the needle passes through the attachment and needle hole without touching the attachment before sewing. The needle should not touch the presser foot or throat plate. The upper thread should pass through the needle hole on the attachment from top to bottom before starting to sew. All these points must be ensured before starting to sew.

Each kind of presser foot has a different function and it an all round finishing when it comes to making buttonholes, attaching zipper, hemming, picoeing, gathering, quilting etc. Lets discuss some of the different types of presser foot.

Zig-Zag foot : It is an all purpose foot used for straight, zig zag and decorative stitching. It is also known as universal foot.

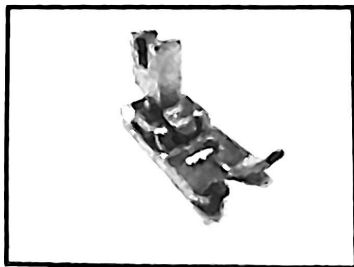


Fig. Zig-Zag foot

Tucker foot : With the help of tucker foot, a balance is maintained in the steps of making tucks in the garment. Tucker foot helps to make pintucks as per measurements. Twin needle can also be used for even spacing between tucks.

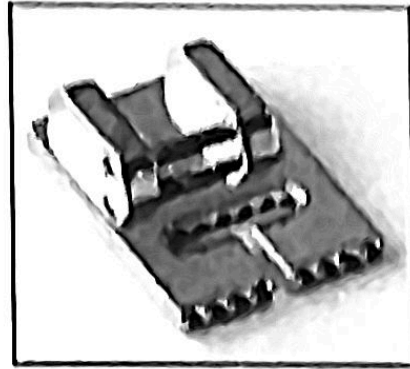


Fig. Tucker foot

Binder foot : This versatile attachment makes bias binding on quilts or garment easier and neat. This foot folds, binds and stitches bias binding. It is equipped with a small funnel to fold and guide the binding over the fabric edge before it reaches the needle and can be used with either zigzag or decorative stitches as well as straight stitch. The binder foot helps to attach the material without the need for basting. Unfolded or pre-folded bindings can be applied with the binder foot on the edge of the fabric.

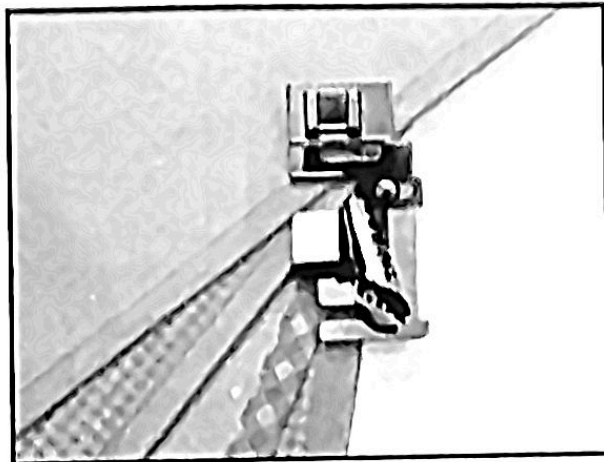


Fig. Binder foot

Quilter Guide bar or quilting foot : While quilting, a soft or spongy fabric is stitched between two or more layers of a fabric. This process is known as quilting. The quilter foot helps to make the seams on layered fabric easily. It is useful in making beautiful designs on coats, quilts, bags etc.

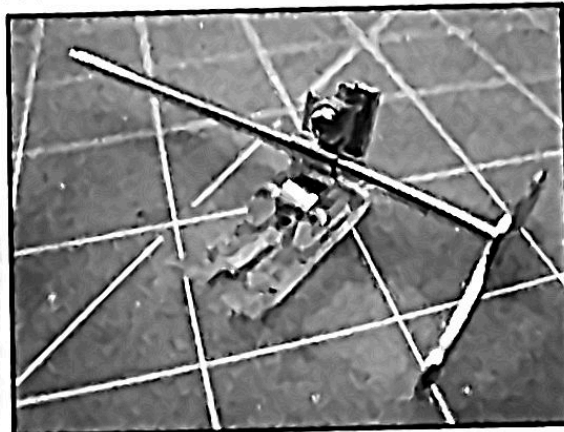


Fig. Quilter Guide bar or quilting foot

Ruffler : This ruffle foot is used to make ruffles and frills on the garment. Folding or pleating a fabric is called ruffling. With the help of this attachment the fabric is ruffled in a short time. Frills for frocks, tops, nighties and night suits are made with this attachment.

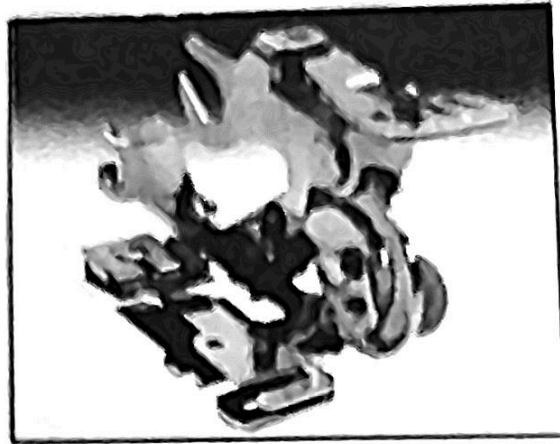


Fig. Ruffler

Blind Hem foot : To save the time doing hemming manually the blind hem foot is used. This foot helps in creating an almost invisible hem efficiently on the garment.

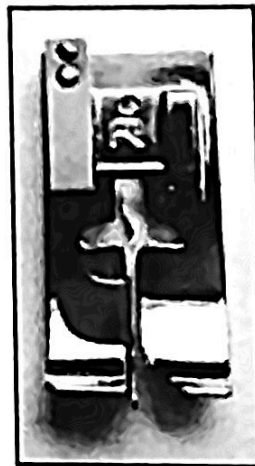


Fig. Blind Hem foot

Gathering foot : The gathering foot attachment allows the fabric to be stitched with a soft gathered look. It can be used to create gathers on children's clothing, dresses and skirts. The underside of the foot is raised behind the needle and has a thick bar in front of the needle to gather and attach a ruffle onto a flat piece of fabric simultaneously.

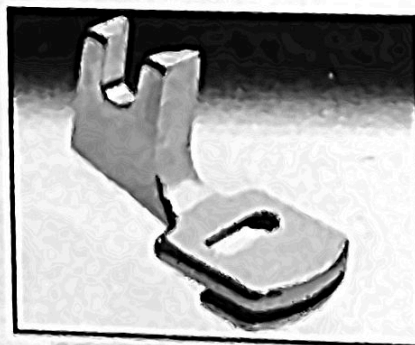


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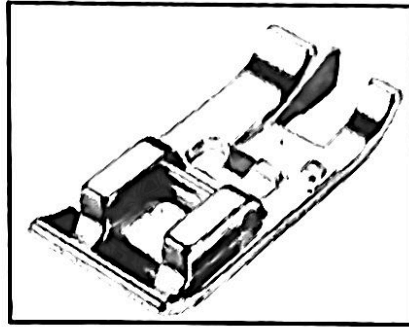


Fig. Edge Guide/ Edge Stitcher

Buttonhole Attachment : As the name indicates, this attachment is used for making neat and uniform buttonholes on garments. It makes buttonholes of equal size and shape according to the size of buttons.

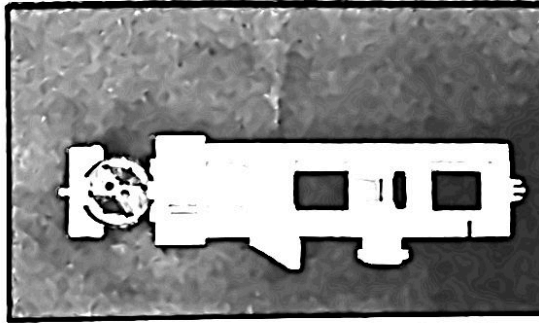


Fig. Buttonhole Attachment

Zipper Foot : The zipper foot is used to stitch zipper on the garments like jackets, dresses and skirts etc. It helps to make stitches near the zipper coils without harming the zipper teeth. Zipper foot makes it easy to sew close to a raised edge.



Fig. Zipper Foot

Narrow Hemmer Foot : A hemmer foot is neat device used for making very fine hems and stitching of single and double folded hems. It also helps to make a stitch close to the folded edge of the fabric.

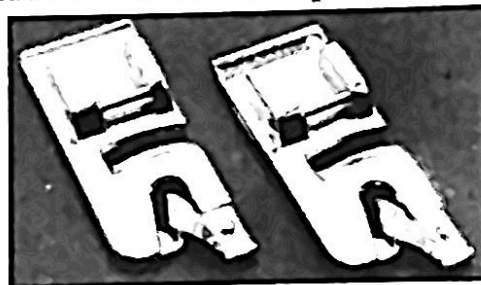


Fig. Narrow Hemmer Foot

Piping Foot : This foot is used for making and applying corded piping. The piping foot is designed with two grooves on the underside and will hold and cover the cord when making piping tape. It can also be used for attaching piping.

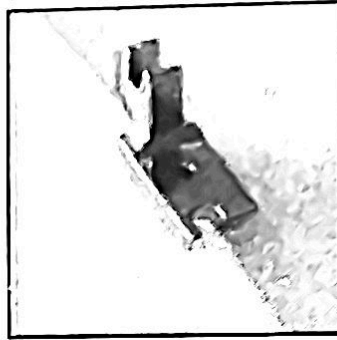


Fig. Piping Foot

Walking foot with quilter guide : This foot helps to match stripes, prevent slipping and stitch leather easily. It is designed to evenly feed the multiple layers of a quilt through machine special teeth on the bottom of the foot grip the surface of quilt.



Fig. Walking foot with quilter guide

Seam Guide : The seam guide helps to maintain the width of a seam when sewing both straight and curved edges. The edge of the fabric is positioned against the guide when sewing, keeping the needle at a constant distance from the edge.

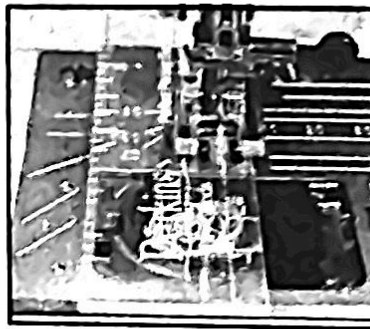


Fig. Seam Guide

SOME IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

1. Explain various types of presser feet used in sewing machine and their functions?
2. Explain the following:-
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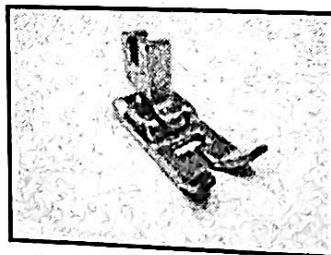


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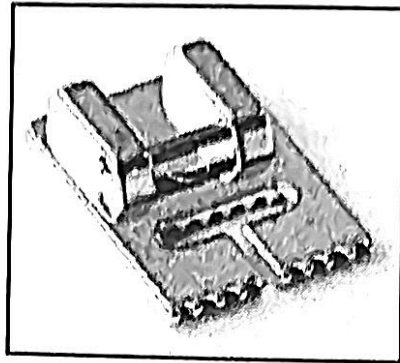


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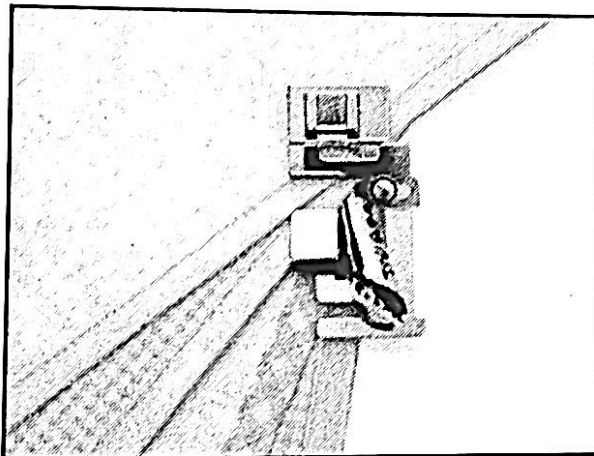


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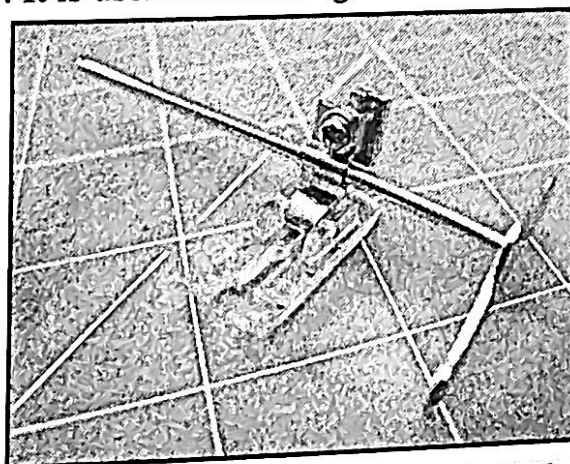


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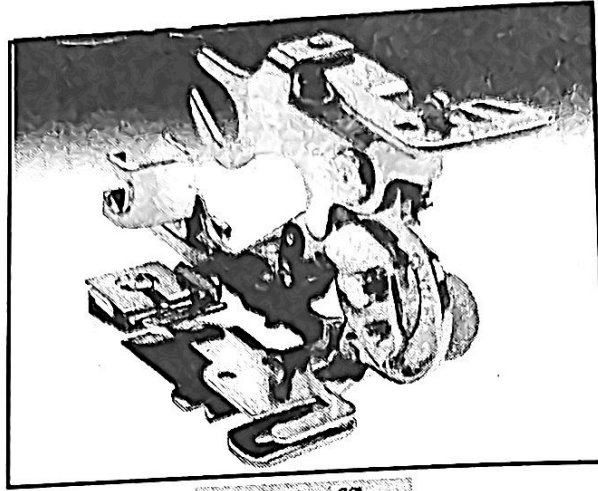


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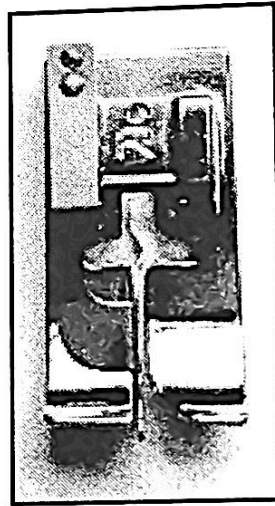


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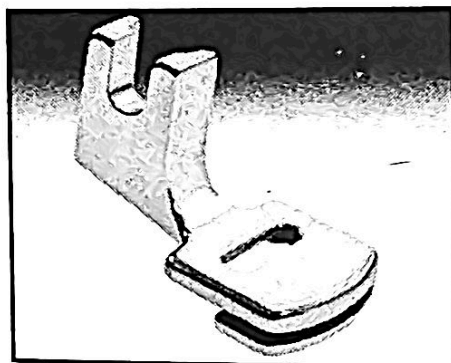


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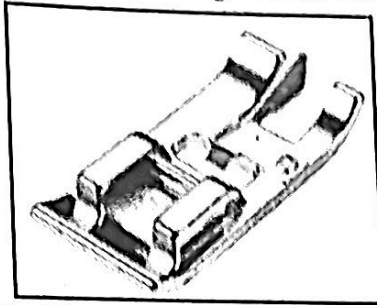


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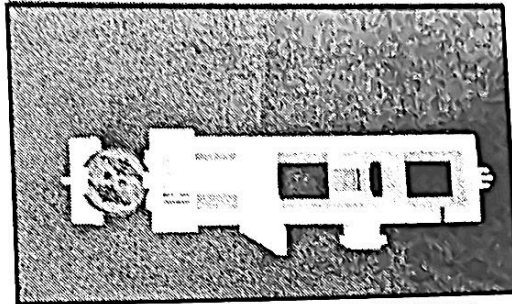


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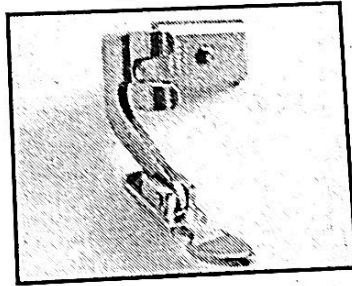


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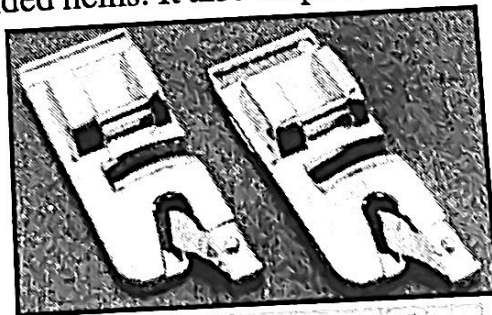


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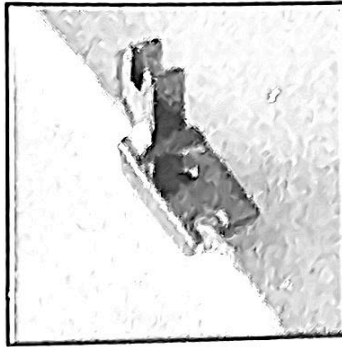


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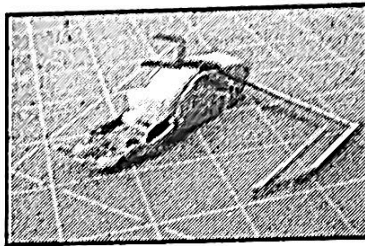


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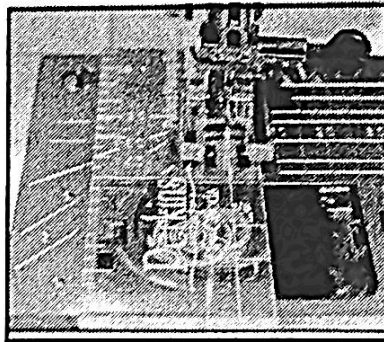


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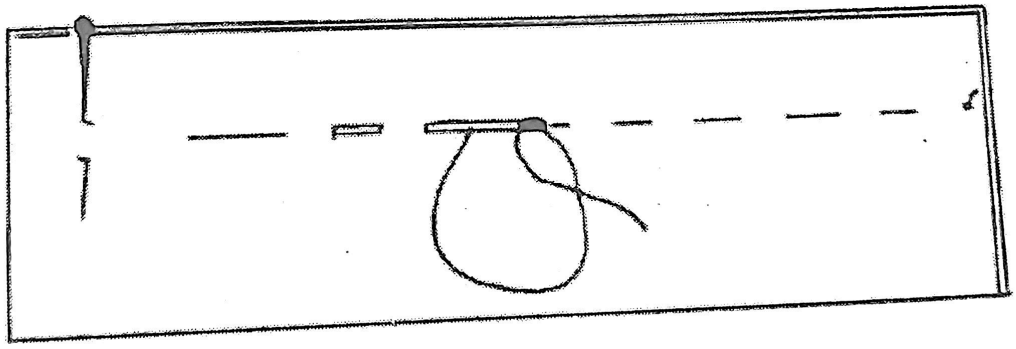
SEWING TECHNIQUES

INTRODUCTION

Temporary stitches are those that are used to loosely attach two pieces of cloth to ensure that pieces are together, darts are appearing at the right points. These stitches are opened out after stitching the garment. These also help to keep pieces in places while being stitched. These are of various types like :

RUNNING STITCH

A stitch produced in a series and taken in a forward progression, in which the length and spacing of the stitches are each 1/8th inch or less. It is also used to mend and patch and to ease a seam.



BASTING STITCH

This is used to join two pieces of cloth together. This helps to keep slippery material in a straight line together while stitching. Basting is done using a single thread. After threading the needle with an appropriate length of thread, the needle is taken in and out of the two pieces of cloth at some distance, throughout the required length. Basting should be removed from the garment as soon as the permanent stitching is completed and it is no longer needed. There are two types of basting stitches :

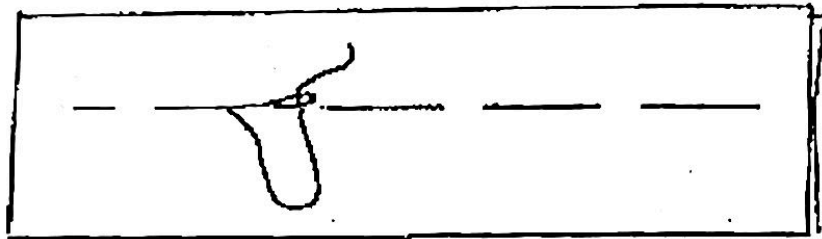
EVEN BASTING

It is used to hold seams together for fitting or permanent stitching, such as basting sleeves into armholes. The stitch size is same on right side and wrong side.



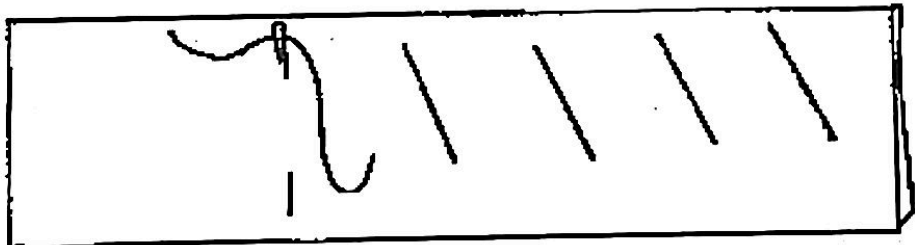
UNEVEN BASTING

It is used for marking or for holding hems in place for stitching. Mark 1 inch stitches on top side of fabric and short 1/4th inch stitches on the underside.



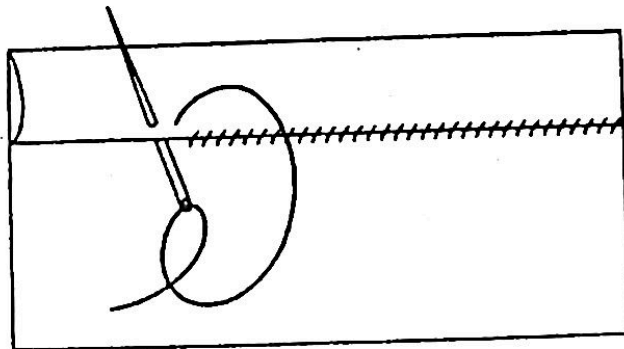
DIAGONAL BASTING

This is used to hold two pieces of the fabric together where more than one row of basting is required. A diagonal stitch made and the needle is pulled out crosswise through the fabric. The second stitch is again made in line with the first and in the same direction.



VISIBLE HEMMING

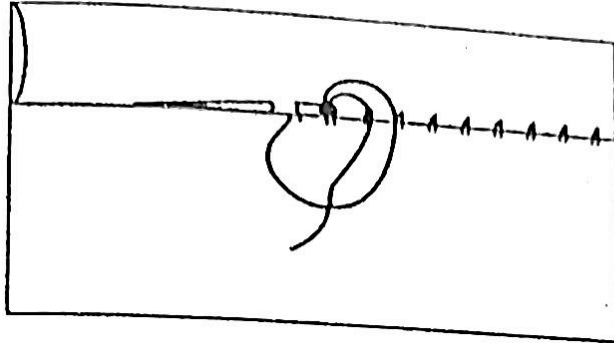
This slanted stitch is used for finishing different types of hems, especially ones with seam



binding or a folded edge. Make a tiny stitch in the garment. Then bring the needle diagonally up through the folded edge of the fabric or the seam binding. Space stitches about 1/4th inch apart.

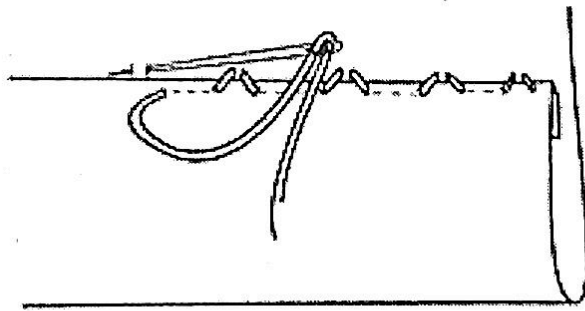
BLIND HEMMING STITCH

As the name suggests, this stitch is almost invisible to the naked eye. It has to be done with great care to give a neat finish. It is used mainly in men's wear. The turned in part is so closely stitched to the main body of the garment so as to take only one strand of thread at a time giving it almost an invisible feel. Each stitch alternates between the folded seam edge of one ply and the stitching line or folded seam edge of another ply.



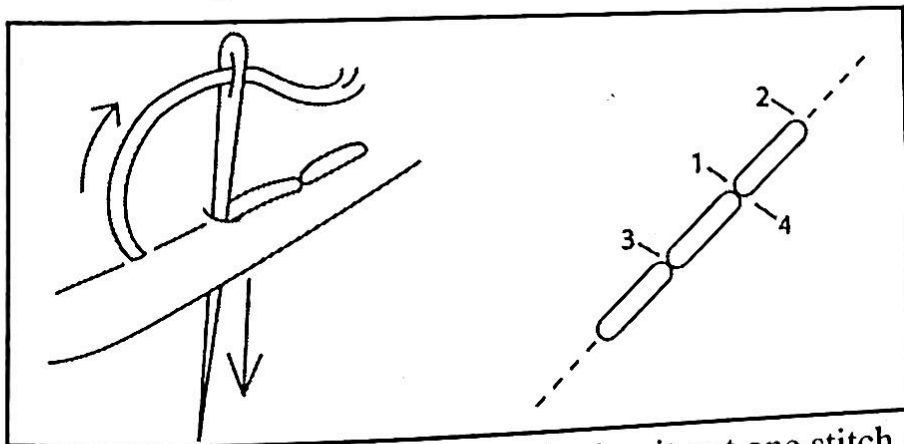
SLIP STITCH

Similar to simple hemming but the stitches are taken at a little distance from each other. It is usually used on slippery materials like silk, nylon etc. As the name signifies, this stitch is similar to hemming but in a more lateral (slipping) position. It is used to finish cuffs, necklines etc.



BACK STITCH

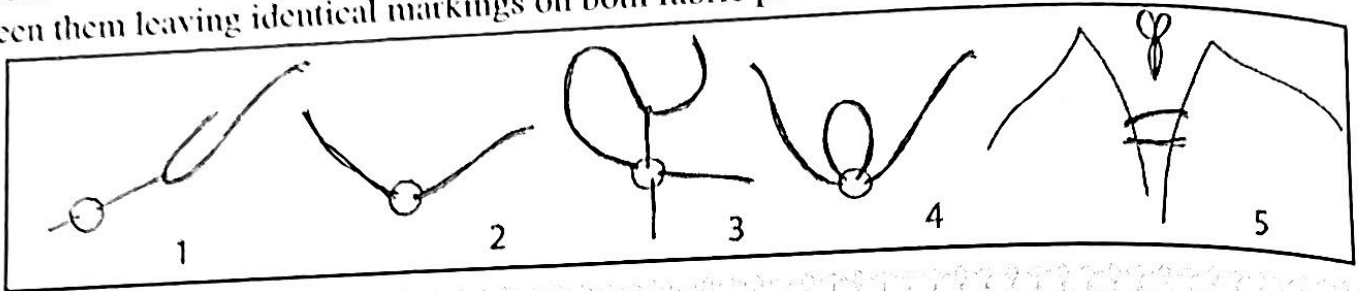
This is one of the strongest hand stitches. It is used to repair machine stitched seams and to fasten thread ends securely. Begin with a tiny running stitch, then insert the needle back at the beginning of the first stitch. Bring it out once again one stitch length in front of the thread. Keep



inserting the needle in the end of the last stitch and bringing it out one stitch ahead. The stitches on the underside will be twice as long as those on the upper side.

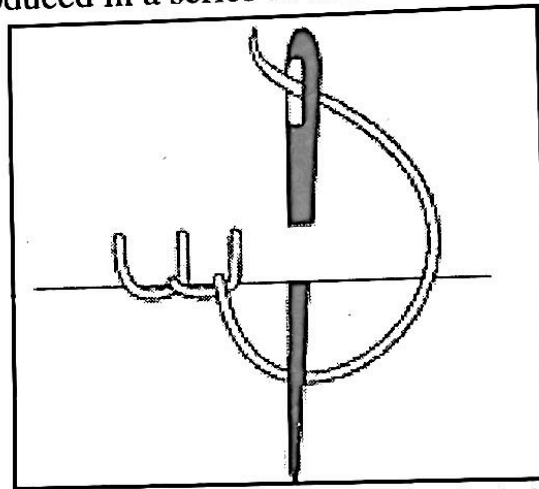
TAILOR'S TACK

Tailors tack is used to transfer pattern markings on to the garment pieces. Use a double thread in a contrasting colour. Take a small stitch through the pattern marking and both layers of the fabric. Pull the thread through. Take another stitch leaving a loop of the same length. Cut the thread leaving a 3cm end. Carefully cut all the loops and separate the fabric layers slightly. Clip the threads between them leaving identical markings on both fabric pieces.



BLANKET STITCH

It is an interlocking stitch produced in a series at 1/2inch or less intervals, formed to lie on the



edge of the ply. It is used as a finish on garment edges. This stitch is also used to attach hook, eye and snap fasteners

SEAMS AND SEAM FINISHES

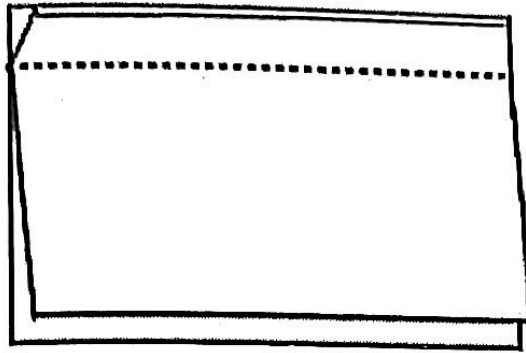
A seam is a line of stitching used to hold two layers of fabric together. The suitability of a seam to a garment or article may be determined by the kind of the garment on which they are to be used, the position and shape of the seam on the garment and the firmness, weight and texture of the fabric.

The most widely used type of seam is a plain seam, which is suitable for all fabrics and for different styles of garments. There are other kinds of seam that can be used when appropriate for the fabric, or to add decorative detailing. French seams and other self-neatening seams that conceal all raw edges, are ideal for sheer fabrics. The flat run and fell seam adds style to casual clothes made from denim. Top stitched seams add definition and sharpness, particularly on jackets and coats.

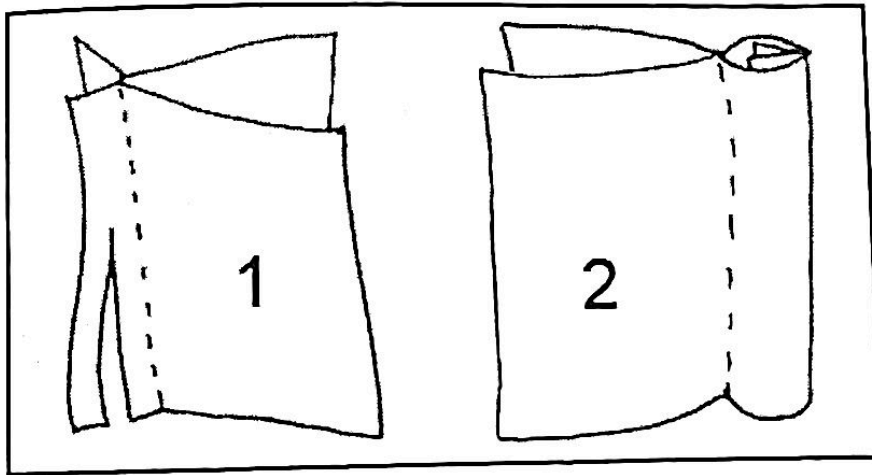
TYPES OF SEAMS

Plain Seam : It is a flat seam. This seam is used on most materials except very transparent fabrics such as voile, georgette, organdie etc. Place two fabrics with right sides together and facing each other. Pin horizontally across the seamline placing the pins on the seamline. Tack together

alongside the seamline if necessary. Stitch down the seamline, working a few stitches in reverse at each end of the seam. Remove the tacking stitches. First press the seam allowance to one side, then press the seam open.

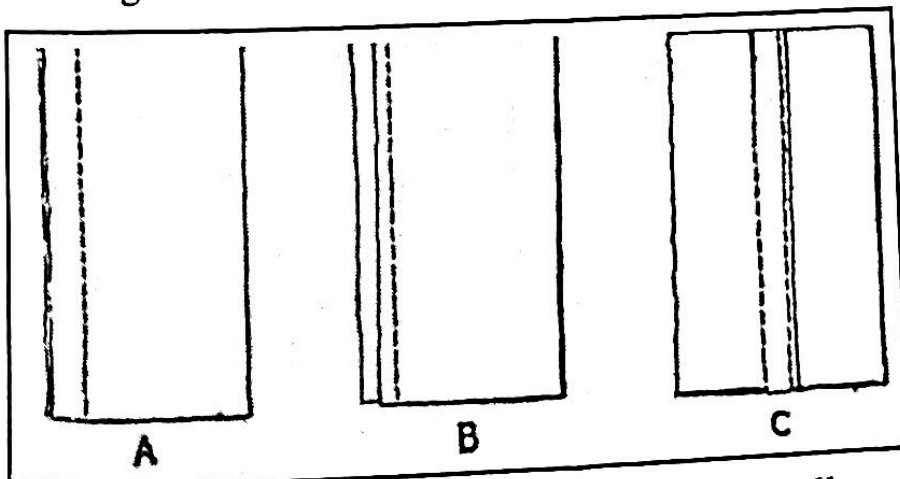


French Seam : This is a very secure and neat seam since the raw edges are not exposed. It is suitable for thin fabrics such as organdie, georgette, voile etc. It is a raised seam i.e it does not lie flat on a garment. Place the two fabrics with wrong side facing each other. Pin and stitch the seam making approx. 1cm seam allowance and press. Refold the seam with right sides together so the seam



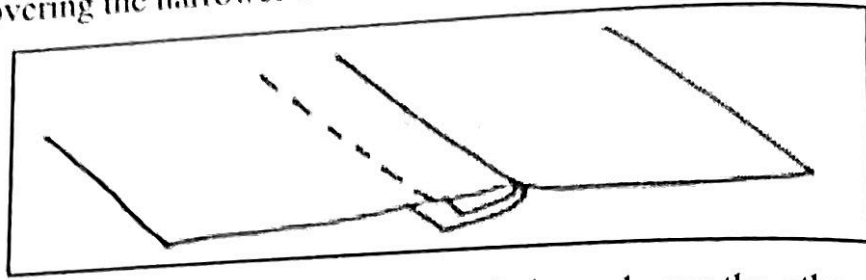
lies exactly along the folded edge. Pin and stitch the seam again in from the folded edge, thus enclosing the raw edges.

Run and Fell Seam : This is a flat seam. It is suitable for undergarments which come in direct contact with the skin because it does not rub the skin. Place the two fabrics with right sides facing each other. Pin and stitch together down the seamline. Press the seam open and then to one side.

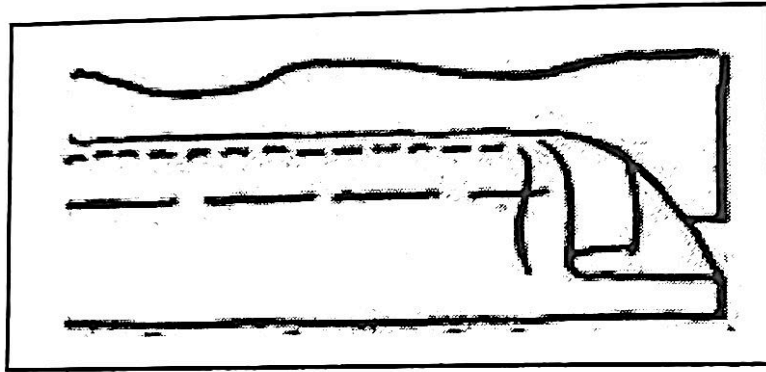


Trim down one seam allowance to 1/8th inch. Fold the wider seam allowance in half around the narrower seam allowance and flat against the fabric. Pin and topstitch close to the folded edge.

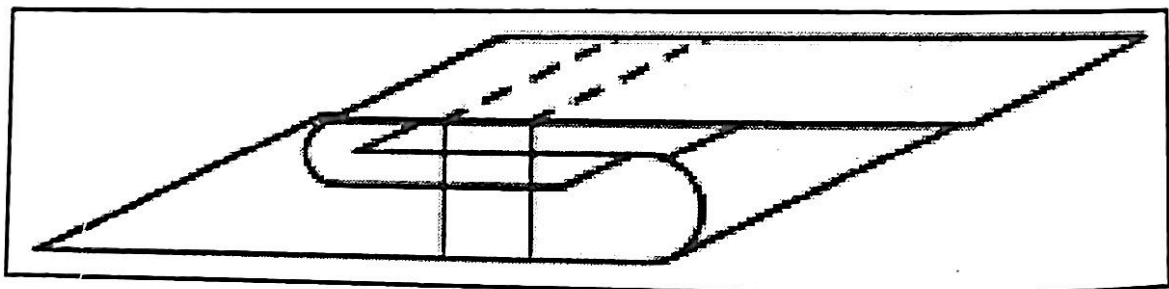
Welt Seam : This seam is used for a tailored finish on heavier fabrics. It is less bulky . Place the two fabrics with right sides facing each other. Pin and stitch down the seamline. Press to one side. Trim down the inner seam allowance to 1/4th inch. Topstitch wider seam allowance alongside the outer edge, thereby covering the narrower seam allowance.



Lapped Seam : This seam is used when one piece is lapped over the other and topstitched in place. It is used where other seams are not possible due to the structure feature of the garment, such as on the yokes of frocks etc. It is also often used with natural or synthetic leather and suede. Turn the seam allowance of the overlapping piece of the garment to the wrong side. Pin and tack close to the folded edge. Then lay this piece on the fitting line of the undersection, right side up. Machine stitch close to the edge after tacking.



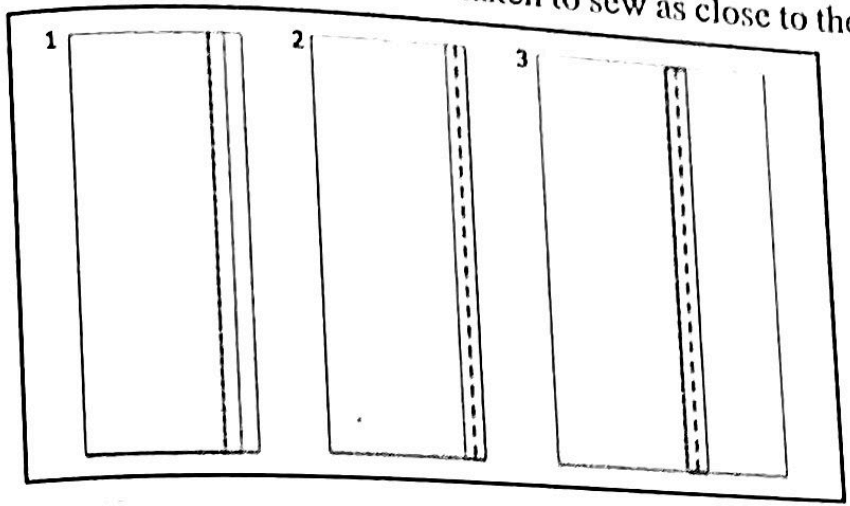
Counter Seam : This is a flat seam. It is called counter hem because the edges on both the pieces of material are folded down, slipped under each other and then hemmed or machined. Turn down a narrow fold 1/2 inch on the wrong side of one piece and on the right side of the other. Place



the wrong side of the first piece on the right side of the second piece and slip the turned edges under each other. Pin and tack in position. Machine stitch on the folded edge of wrong and right side.

Mantua Maker Seam : This is also known as a hemmed seam and is a raised seam like the french seam. This seam is suitable for fine fabrics like muslin, voile, silks, cambric and transparent material as it can be made very narrow and will not be easily seen. It can be either hemmed or machined. Place the two pieces of materials together with the right sides facing. The edge of the top piece may be about 1/2 inch below the edge of the upper piece. Make a second turning of the same depth right over on the top piece. Tack above the edge and the hem being careful to pass the stitches

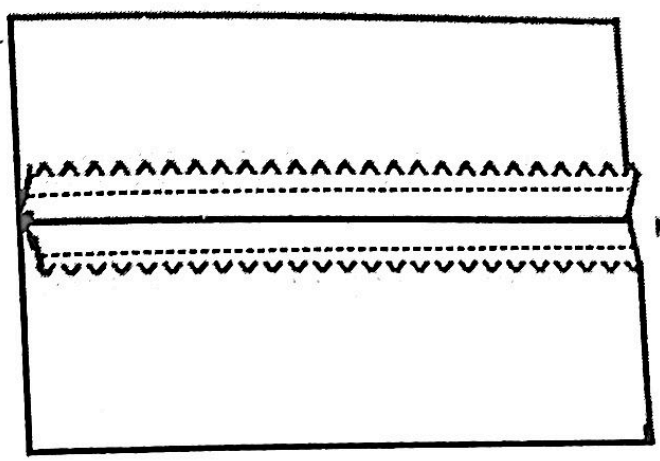
through all thicknesses of material. Care must be taken to sew as close to the edge as possible.



Types of Seam Finishes

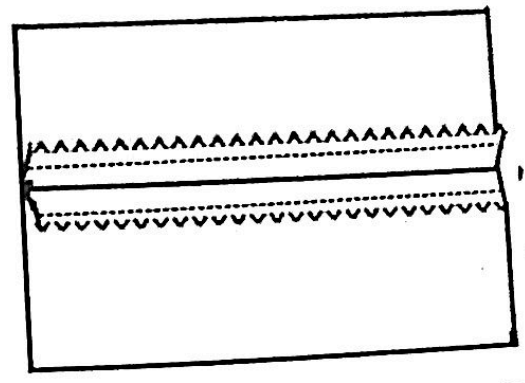
Seam finishes are used to keep the raw edges of seam allowances from ravelling. They can also add a professional-looking touch to an item, producing neat, clean seam edges that can make an item look as nice on the inside as it does on the outside. Seam finishes are done after the seams of the garments are stitched and pressed.

Pinked : After making a plain seam, just trim the edge of the seam allowance with pinking



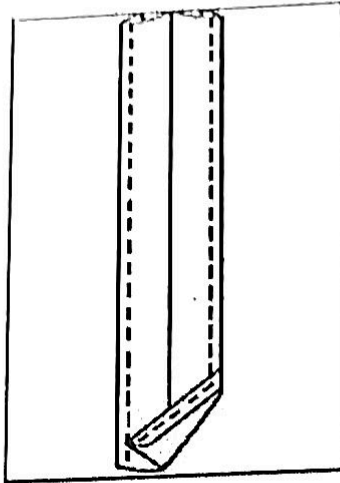
shears. Trim the seam allowances first, then press them open. The raw edges of the seam allowance are trimmed with pinking shears.

Pinked and stitched : This is a variation of the pinked seam finish. But with this finish, a line of stitching is added to the seam edge, making it even more fray resistant. Press the seam allowance

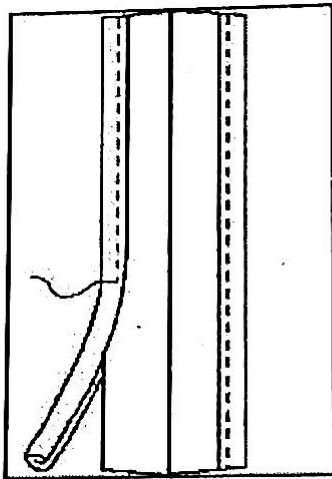


open. Sew a line of straight stitch about 1/4" from the raw edge. Trim close to the line of stitching with pinking shears.

Clean finished : The edges of the seam allowance are turned under and stitched. Turn each fabric edge under $1/8''$ to $1/4''$. Stitch close to the folded edge using a straight stitch.

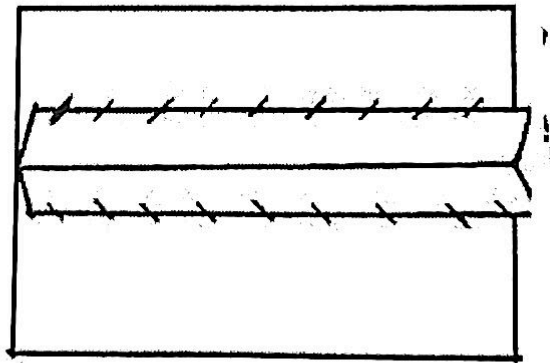


Bound Seam : Strips of bias tape, ribbon or seam binding are folded and sewn over the raw edge of the seam allowance. Press the seam allowance open. Take lightweight seam binding or



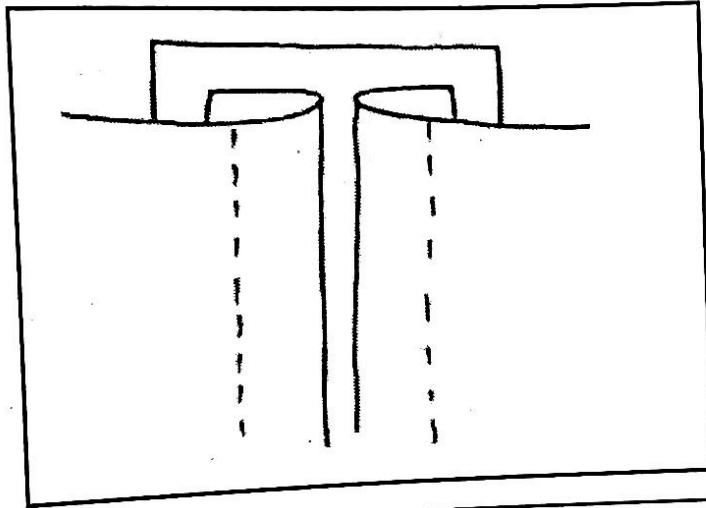
double folded bias tape and fold it around the raw edge of the seam allowance placing the wider side underneath. Stitch close to the folded edge of the tape, sewing through both sides of the tape at once.

Hand Overcasts : It is sewn close to or over the raw edge of the seam allowance. Trim the raw edge of the seam allowance (to make a clean edge). Now both edges are overcast separately i.e.



diagonal stitch is made on the unfinished edge of the seam allowance. This method is time consuming but is sometimes used for sheer or delicate fabrics.

Slot seam : The slot seam resembles an inverted pleat and is effective in firm fabrics that give crisp edges or in lined fabrics where the lining helps to give a sharp edge. The fabric used to back a slot seam may be cut from either the garment fabric of the same kind of fabric in a contrasting colour. Machine baste the seam on the wrong side of the fabric. Finish the edges of the seam allowance to prevent ravelling and press the basted seam open. Cut a strip of self or contrasting fabric that is slightly wider than the combined width of the two seam allowances and that has the same grain as the seamline. Put the strip under the seam and pin through the outer fabric and seam allowance. From the right side of the garment stitch about 1/2 inch from each side of the seam line. Remove the basting stitches that are holding the seam closed and give the seam a final press.



SOME IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

1. Explain different types of flat and raised seams with illustrations? What type of seams are suitable for stitching sheer fabrics?
2. Explain types of temporary stitches with the help of illustrations ?
3. What type of finishes are done to cover the raw edges of seams? Explain any two in detail.

