

# Sewing Tips Every Sewist Needs:

A QUICK START GUIDE



**FASHION**  
WANDERER

## **Welcome to *Sewing Tips Every Sewist Needs: A Quick Start Guide!***

Get ready to thread the needle and step into the fabulous world of sewing!

This chic and oh-so-handy guide is filled with must-know tips to help you start your sewing journey with confidence—and plenty of style.

We know—sewing can seem like a whirlwind of pins, patterns, and perplexing terms. But take a deep breath! With just a few basics, you'll be stitching up your own beautiful creations in no time.

Inside, you'll find a curated collection of every sewing level tips—like how to choose the right fabrics, pick essential sewing tools, and master your first stitches with ease with our sewing patterns.

And remember: even the most skilled sewists started with tangled thread and trial-and-error. Embrace the learning curve, enjoy the process, and let your creativity sparkle with every stitch!

Happy Sewing!

Soonjoo

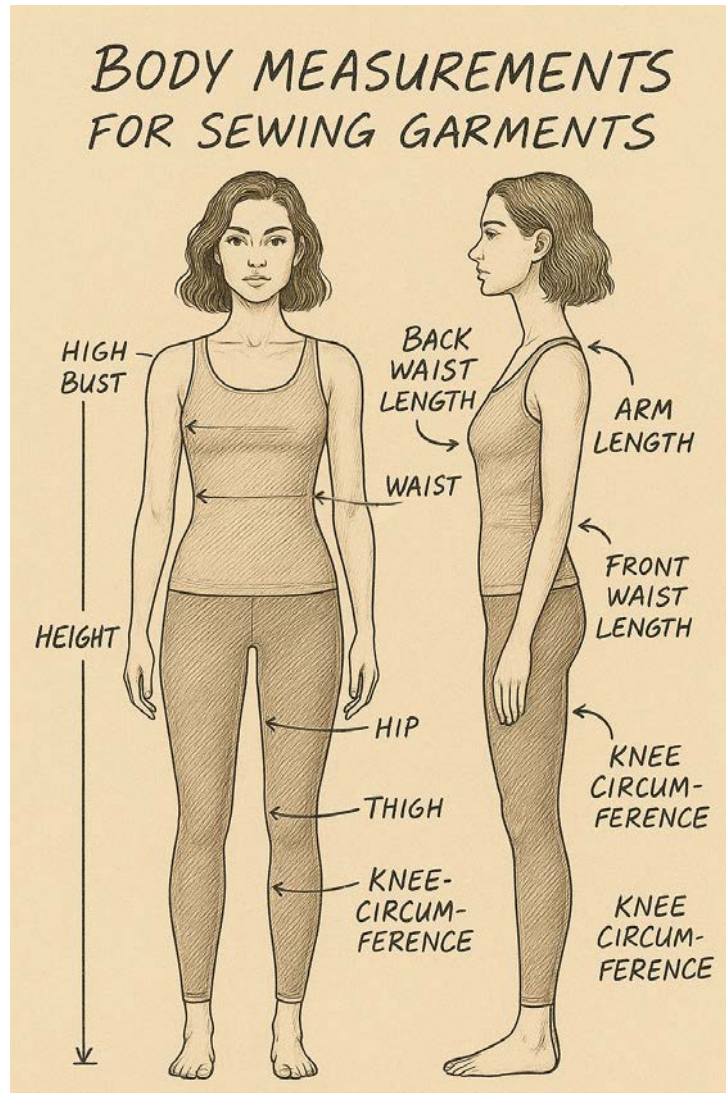
Owner, Designer, Maker

[FashionWanderer.com](https://FashionWanderer.com) & [PatternsForLess.com](https://PatternsForLess.com)

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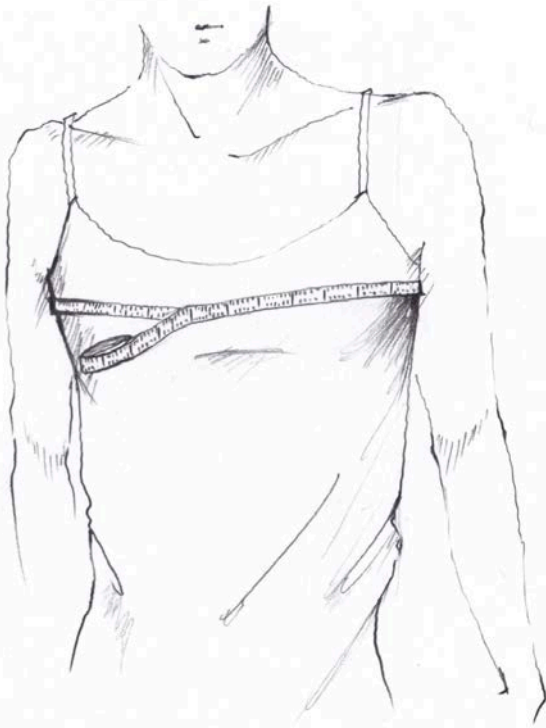
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✨ **Take Your Measurements, Tailor Your Fit** ✂️

Before you cut into that gorgeous fabric, it's time to grab your tape measure and get personal! Taking accurate body measurements is the first step to creating garments that truly *\*fit and flatter\**. Whether you're sewing a chic dress, cozy knit top, or sharp pair of trousers, knowing your numbers ensures every piece hugs and drapes exactly how you want it to.

This guide walks you through the essential body measurements you'll need—from bust to hip, inseam to arm length—so your handmade wardrobe fits like it was made for *\*you\** (because it was 😊).

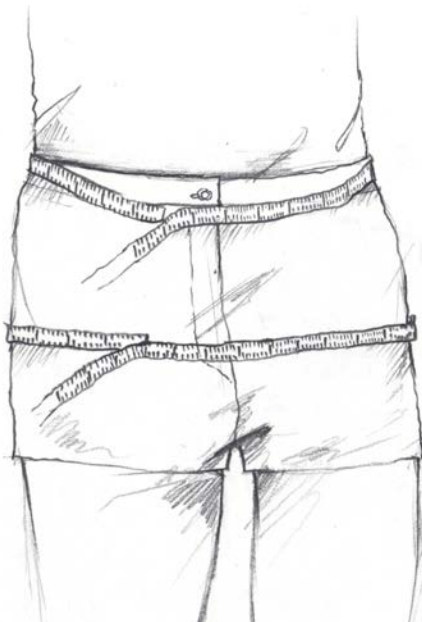
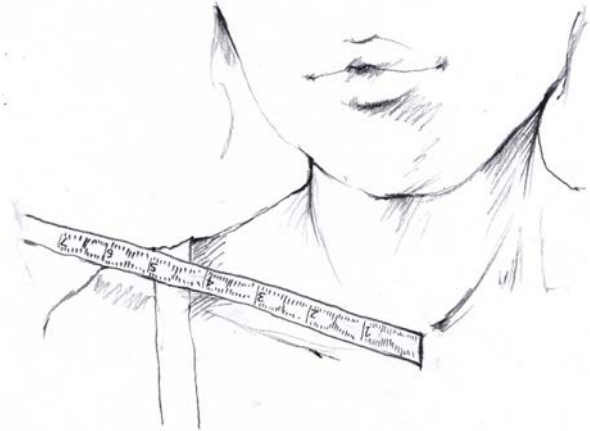


**Bust** – Measure the fullest part around your chest.

**High Bust** – Just above the bust under the armpits.

**Under Bust** – Right under the bust line.

**Shoulder Width** – From one shoulder bone to the other across the back.



**Waist** – Measure the narrowest point (typically above the belly button).

**Hip** – Measure the widest part around your bottom.

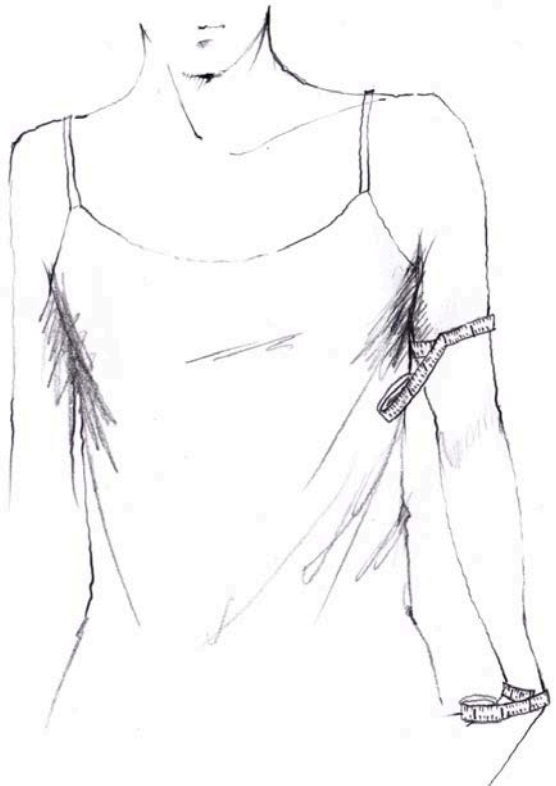
**Back Waist Length** – From base of neck (nape) to natural waistline.

**Front Waist Length** – From shoulder (neck) down over bust to waist.

**Neck Circumference** – Around the base of the neck.

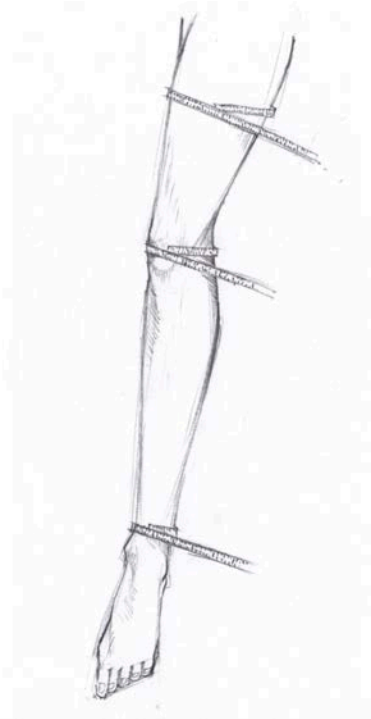


**Arm Length** – From shoulder point to wrist with arm bent slightly.



**Upper Arm Girth** – Around the fullest part of the upper arm.

**Wrist Circumference** – Around the wrist.



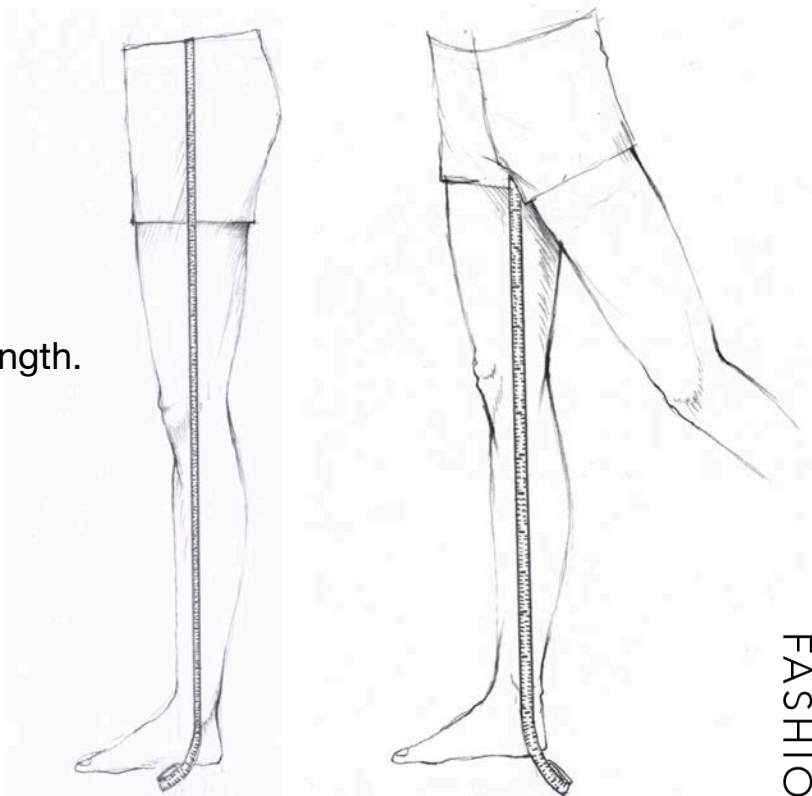
**Thigh Circumference** – Around the fullest part of the upper thigh.

**Knee Circumference** – Around the knee.

**Outseam** – From waist to ankle on the outside of the leg.

**Inseam** – From crotch to desired pant length.

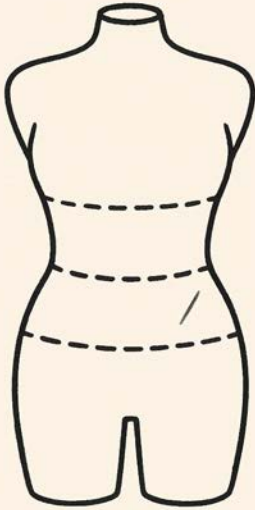
**Height** – Full height from head to heel.



### **Tips Section:**

- Always measure over undergarments or close-fitting clothes.
- Keep the tape snug but not tight.
- Use a mirror or get help for accurate results.
- Record measurements regularly as your body changes.

## My measurements



Bust 34"

Waist 28"

Hip 39"

If you're sewing for yourself, start by having someone take your full set of body measurements—yes, all of them! Save those numbers like gold, because they'll be your go-to reference for every future project.

The same goes for your inner circle—family, friends, or regular clients. Having their measurements on hand means no more starting from scratch every time you whip up a custom piece.

Always use real body measurements, then cross-check with [our sizing chart](#) to find the closest match. If the numbers align perfectly—lucky you, go for it!

If not, here's a trick:

- Working with a non-stretchy fabric? Size up for comfort.
- Using a super-stretchy, elastic fabric? Feel free to size down for that sleek, body-hugging fit.

Fashion is all about fit—and now, you're ahead of the game!

## Size Chart

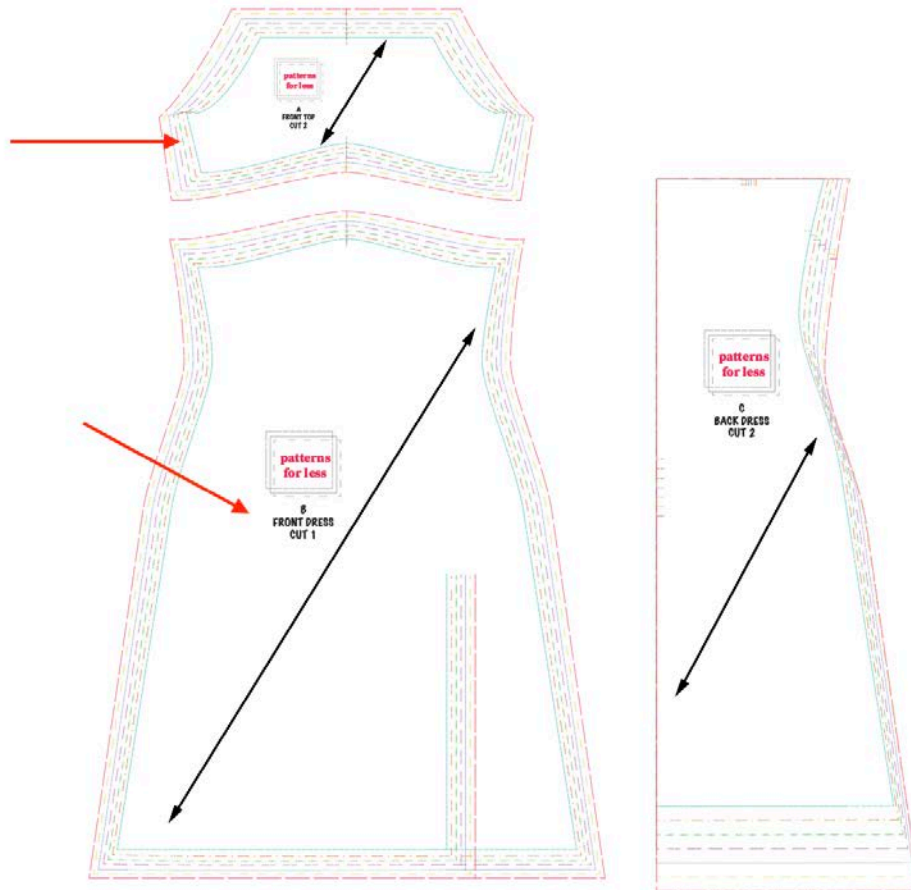
*inches*

SIZE	KNIT TOP		WOVEN PANTS	
	BUST	WAIST	WAIST	HIP
XS	30	25		36
S	33	27		38
M	36	29		40
L	39	31		42
XL	41	33		44
XXL	44	35		46
XXXL	47	37	OVERSIZED OUTERWEAR	48

## Pattern Prep Like a Pro ✂️✨

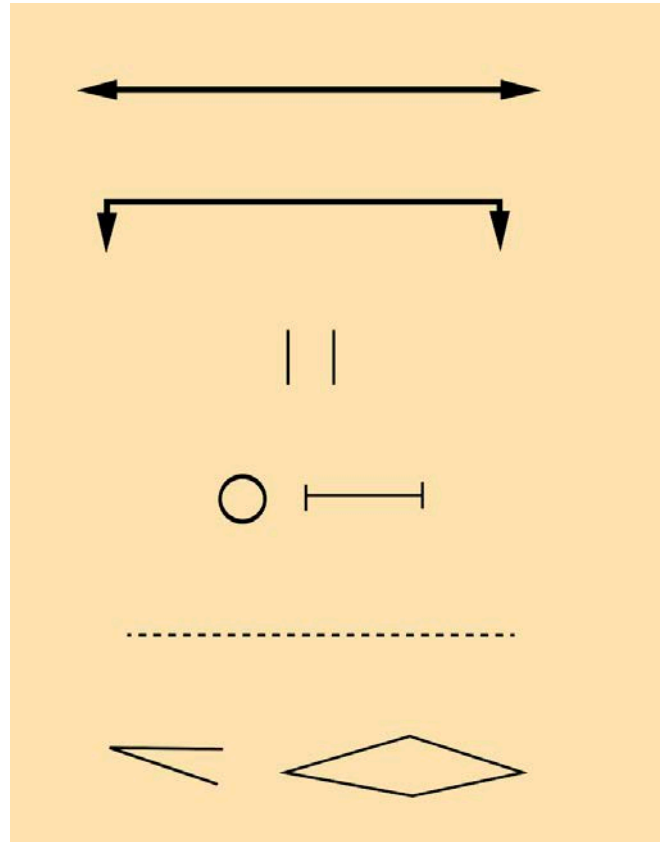
Before you even think about cutting into that gorgeous fabric, hit pause and double-check your pattern details. Make sure you've selected the right size outlines, confirmed that all pieces are there, and counted everything twice—because missing one sleeve? Not cute.

Cut your patterns cleanly and keep them organized like the sewing superstar you are. Fold them neatly into labeled folders *or* punch holes and tie them with ribbon or tape for a chic hanging system—perfect if you've got the space to show off your collection!



## Know Your Pattern Symbols (a.k.a. Your Stitching BFFs):

- **Grainline** – Align this with the fabric’s lengthwise grain (warp).
- **Place on Fold** – That edge goes right on the fold—no cutting there!
- **Notches** – Match these up to align your pieces perfectly.
- **Buttonholes & Buttons** – Mark these carefully for pro-level placement.
- **Pattern Outlines** – Cut along these lines for the correct shape.
- **Darts** – These create shape in curved areas like busts, armholes, and waistlines — **mark them, but don’t cut them!**



Sewing success starts with prep—so take your time, stay organized, and slay those seams!


## How to Translate a PDF Without Losing Your Style



Need to give your sewing instruction PDF a glow-up in another language? Whether you're all about the quick fix or prefer full creative control, here are a few fab options to get the job done effortlessly:

### **Option 1: Google Translate – Fast, Free & Fuss-Free**

1. Strut over to [translate.google.com](https://translate.google.com).
2. Hit the "**Documents**" tab.
3. Upload your PDF like the boss you are.
4. Choose your target language (hello, French chic or Spanish flair!).
5. Click "**Translate**" and voilà—your document gets an instant makeover.

 Heads-up: Layout may get a little funky, and images don't always make the cut.

## **Option 2: Adobe Acrobat Pro – For the Detail-Oriented Diva**

1. Open your PDF in **Adobe Acrobat Pro**.
2. Export it as a **Word doc (.docx)**—super versatile.
3. Drop that doc into a translation tool like **DeepL** or **Google Translate**.
4. Once it's translated, pop it back into Acrobat to save as a polished PDF.

✨ Perfect if you want to keep those fonts, headers, and layouts looking fab.

## **Option 3: DeepL – Luxe Translation Vibes**

1. Visit [deepl.com/translator](https://www.deepl.com/translator).
2. Upload your document (convert to Word first if needed).
3. Choose your language of choice.
4. Download and strut away with your freshly translated file.

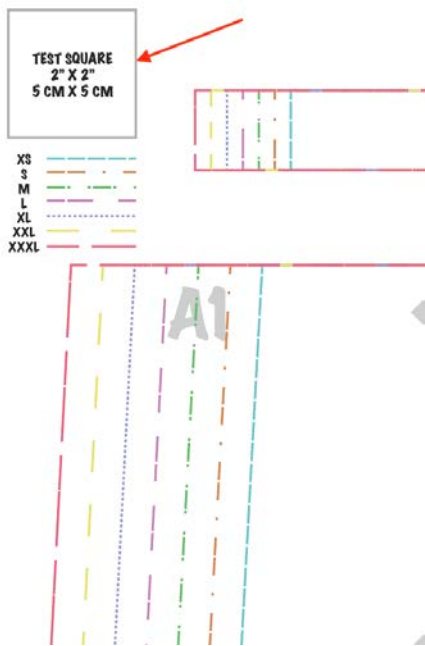
♥ Known for next-level translation quality—especially for European languages.

## **Option 4: Let Me Help!**

Want the VIP treatment? Ask me about our PDF [right here](#), and I'll help translate it—whether it's the full doc or just key sections.

✨ Translation has never looked so chic. Ready to upload your PDF and work some multilingual magic?

## Pattern-Printing Like a Pro ✨



### 1. Do a Glam Test Run

- Print just **Page 1** first. Treat it as your runway rehearsal to be sure the scale is spot-on.

### 2. Turn That Test Page into a VIP Guide

- It already shows the model pic and layout grid—perfect for flagging the exact pattern set in your stash later.

### 3. Set Your Printer to “Actual Size” (100 %)

- No “Fit to Page” sneaking in here!
- Grab a ruler and check the calibration box/lines; they should measure out precisely.

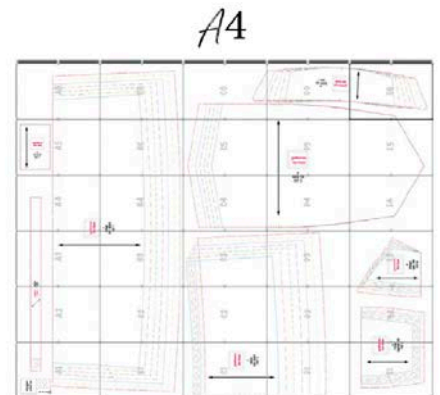
### 4. If Everything Measures Up, Hit Print All

- Release the rest of the pages and let the pattern party begin.

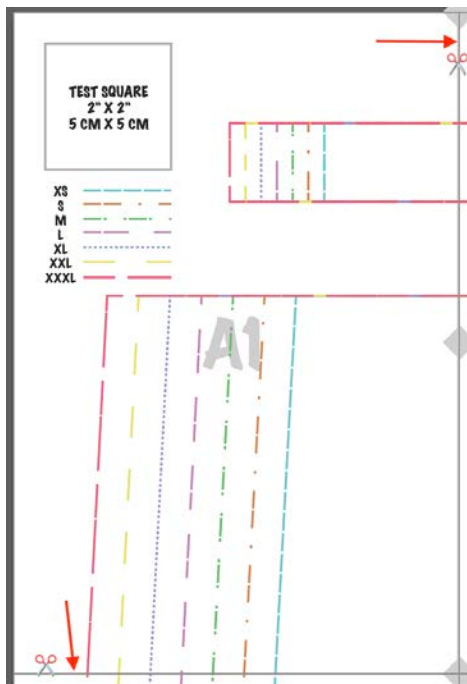
### 5. Assemble with Style

- Spread the sheets on a big table or the floor, matching the numbers or letters edge-to-edge.
- Use your VIP guide page to see the layout at a glance—like a fashion mood board for your pattern pieces.

Now you're ready to cut, tape, and strut into your next sewing project with absolute confidence!



 **Pattern Assembly: Let's Get It Together (Literally)**



Ready to bring your printed pattern to life? Let's do it the sleek, stylish way:

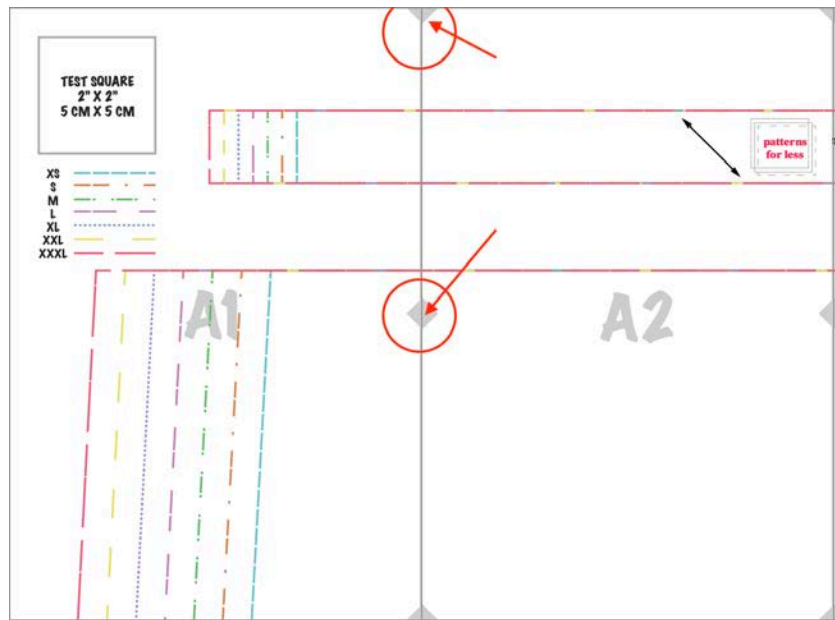
**1. Line It Up Like a Pro**

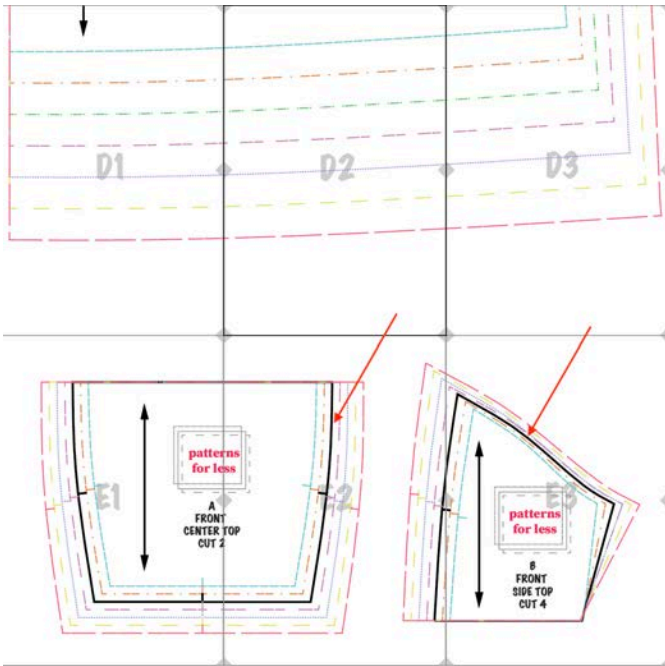
- Use a ruler to draw a straight line by matching the diamond shapes on each corner. Cut out the margins all around each page.
- Use the diamond shapes or alignment marks to match the pages perfectly.

**2. Stick with Style**

You've got two fab options:

- **Trim + Tape:** Cut the edges and tape pages together, edge to edge.
- **Fold + Layer:** Fold the edge of each new page and glue or tape it *on top* of the previous one, lining up the guides precisely.



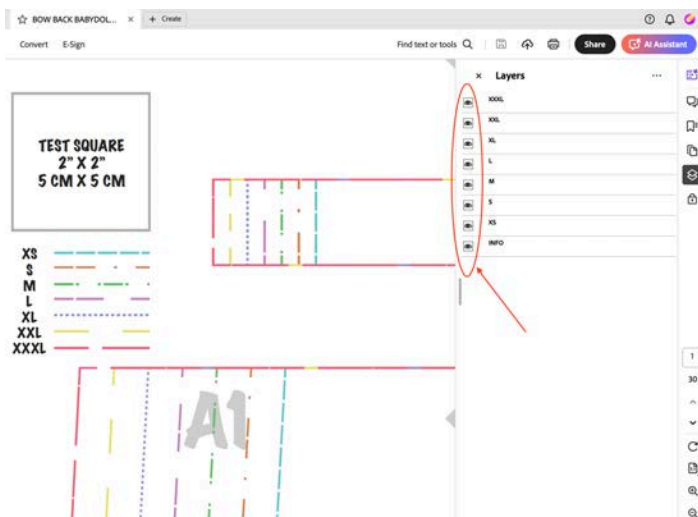
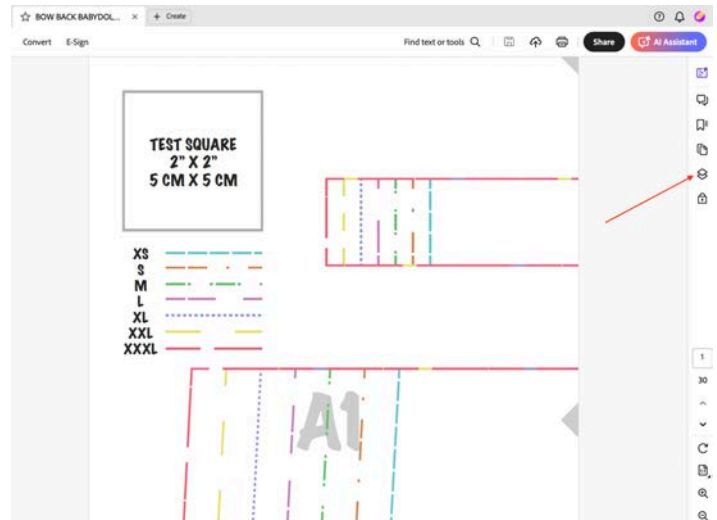


### 3. Highlight Your Size

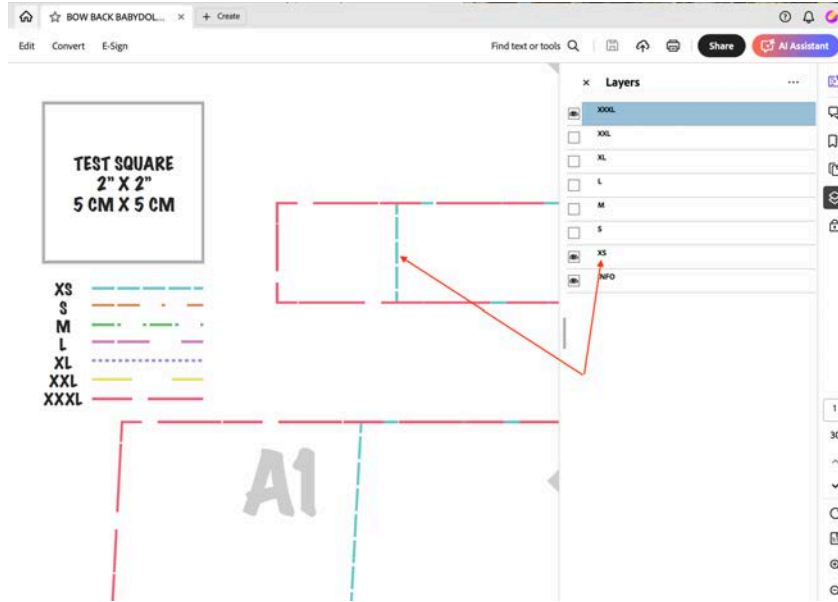
- Use a colored pencil or pen to lightly trace the outline of your desired size — it'll help you stay sharp when it's time to cut.
- Each size usually has its own line style or color, so follow the flair that fits *you*.

### 4. Want to Print Just Your Size? Yes, You Can.

- Open the pattern in **Adobe Acrobat (or another PDF reader)**.



- Head to the **Layers** panel and turn off the sizes you don't need.



Print only your selected size—clean, simple, no distractions.


5. **Cut It Out—Literally**

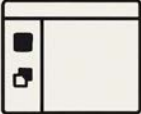
- Once everything's taped and ready, snip along the lines of your marked size. Voilà! Your pattern is runway-ready.

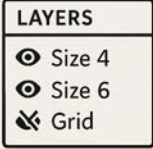
Now you're prepped, taped, and totally set to slay that next sewing project. Ready to stitch in style?


### HOW TO SELECT LAYERS IN ADOBE ACROBAT

- 1 OPEN YOUR PDF**  
Open your PDF in Adobe Acrobat.


- 2 OPEN THE LAYERS PANEL**  
Click the Layers icon.


- 3 TOGGLE LAYER VISIBILITY**  
Click the eye icons to hide or show layers


- 4 PRINT**  
Go to *File > Print*



CHEAT SHEET OM

## Let's Talk Fabrics—Fashion's Building Blocks!

When it comes to structure, fabrics fall into two fabulous categories: **woven** and **knitted**. (Bonus: **leather and fur** are also popular, though they're non-woven.)

### **Woven Fabrics**

Think: **linen, cotton, denim, velvet, silk**—the classics!

These are made by weaving horizontal (**weft**) and vertical (**warp**) threads together, like a stylish little criss-cross dance. Some are stretchy, some are not, depending on the fiber and weave.

### **Knitted Fabrics**

Hello, cozy! Meet **jersey, rib knit, interlock**, and more.

Instead of weaving, these are created with loops—yep, like when your grandma knits with needles. The result? **Stretchy, comfy, and great for everyday wear.**

**LET'S TALK FABRICS**  
**FASHION'S BUILDING BLOCKS**

**WOVEN**  
  
woven threads

**KNITTED**  
  
loops

**WHERE DO FABRICS COME FROM?**

**FIBERS**  
 natural  
 artificial

**BURN TEST**  
 natural  
 synthetic

**WANT TO ID A FABRIC?**  
 natural fibers  
 synthetic melt

**START SIMPLE**  
**NEW TO ID A FABRIC**  
100% cotton



**Where Do Fabrics Come From?**

They all start with **fibers**, and here's the scoop:

- **Natural:** From plants and animals (think **cotton, linen, wool, silk**)
- **Artificial:** Made from natural sources with a little tech magic (like **acetate** or **Tencel**)
- **Synthetic:** Born in the lab (hello **polyester, nylon, acrylic**)

Every fiber type has its own care routine—so **check those clothing labels!** 🧺

Fabric blends are common too—like:

- 100% cotton
- 80% wool + 20% acrylic
- 65% cotton + 35% polyester ... and so on. Each mix brings a different vibe and performance.

 **Pro Tip: Want to ID Your Fabric?**

Careful with this one—but you *can* do a **burn test** on a small piece:

- **Natural fibers:** burn to ash
- **Synthetic fibers:** melt like plastic

 **New to Sewing?**

Start simple with **100% cotton fabrics**—they're beginner-friendly, easy to work with, and feel great!

## Prep Like a Pro: Get Your Fabric Runway-Ready ✨

So you've found the perfect fabric—now it's time to prep it before cutting. Think of this step as giving your material a mini spa day before it becomes your next fabulous creation!

### 🧺 Step 1: Shrink It Before You Stitch It

Some fabrics love to shrink—usually when it's least convenient. To avoid post-sewing surprises, give your fabric a good **steam press** with a high-powered iron. This helps it shrink *now* instead of later, and bonus—it smooths out wrinkles, reveals any flaws, and lets you feel the texture.

No fancy iron? No worries. Just **wash the fabric first**, then give it a nice press before cutting.

### 🎨 Step 2: Color Check – Don't Let It Bleed

Mixing colors in one project? Love that for you—but make sure your fabrics play nice together!

Here's a quick trick:

- Wet a piece of plain **white cotton**,
- Rub it on your chosen fabric,
- If it picks up color? That fabric might **bleed**—best to use it solo.
- If it stays white? You're free to mix and match!



### ✨ **Step 3: Direction Matters**

Some luxe fabrics like **velvet, velour, and silk** can look different depending on which way they're cut—hello, sheen shifts! To keep your project looking polished, **mark your fabric's direction with chalk** and place all your pattern pieces facing the same way.

Working with a fabric that looks the same no matter what? Lucky you—you can **alternate pattern directions** to save fabric and reduce waste. Smart *and* chic.

Get these prep steps right, and your sewing project will be off to a stylish, smooth start. Ready to cut and create?

### **Grainlines, Bias Cuts & Print Matching—Let's Cut with Confidence** ✂

Most garments you'll sew are cut “**on grain**”—that means aligning your pattern pieces with the **lengthwise grain** of the fabric. It keeps your pieces crisp, stable, and beautifully structured. Think of it as sewing's version of keeping things sleek and classic.

But then there's the **bias cut**—hello, drama! This involves placing your pattern pieces at a **45-degree angle** to the fabric's grain. Patterns for these pieces are usually marked with a 45° grainline and labeled as “bias cut.” Why go bias? Because it hugs the body in all the right ways and gives your garments that effortlessly slimming, slinky silhouette. Think vintage glam or high-fashion evening wear!

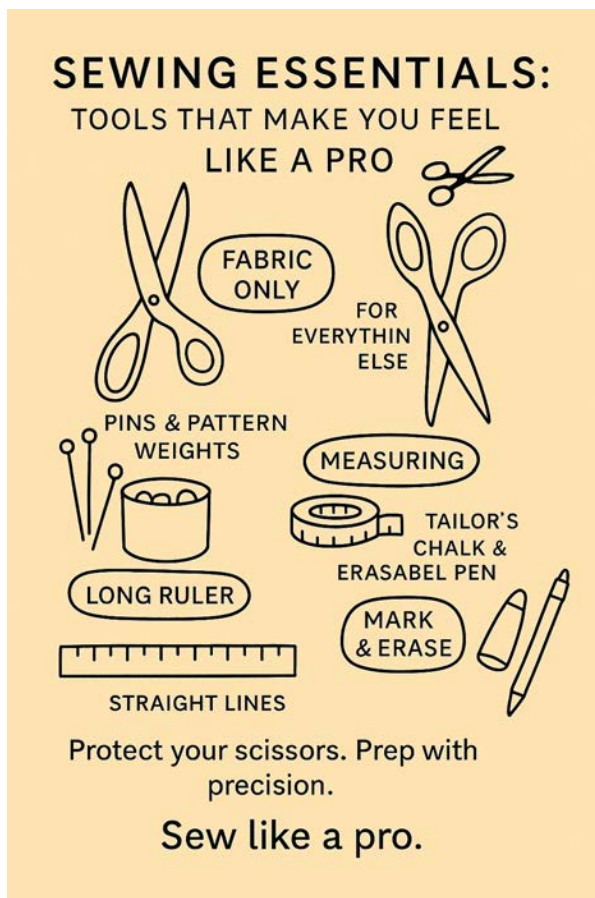
### **Fabric with Personality? Plan Ahead!**

Working with **stripes, checks, or bold symmetrical prints**? You'll want to match those patterns at the seams for a flawless, runway-worthy look. That means you'll need around **20% extra fabric**—but trust us, the tailored finish is worth it. Just look at designer brands—they *always* match their plaid.

✨ **Pro Tip:** If you're short on fabric, you *can* skip the matching, but it'll give your garment a more casual, offbeat vibe. Own it either way—just make the choice intentionally.

## Sewing Essentials: Tools That Make You Feel Like a Pro ✂️✨

Ask any seasoned sewist and they'll tell you—the true ride-or-die in your sewing toolkit is a **fabulous pair of fabric scissors**. If you sew regularly, **invest in a high-quality pair**—you'll feel the difference with every cut.



## Sewing Essentials: Tools That Make You Feel Like a Pro ✂️✨

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### 📌 Keep It Steady

When working with slippery or delicate fabrics, don't let your layers shift around. Use **pins** or even better—**pattern weights**. You can buy chic ones at sewing shops, or DIY it with heavy mugs (bonus: perfect for holding thread spools, rulers, or that third coffee).

### 🖍️ Tools You'll Always Want Within Reach:

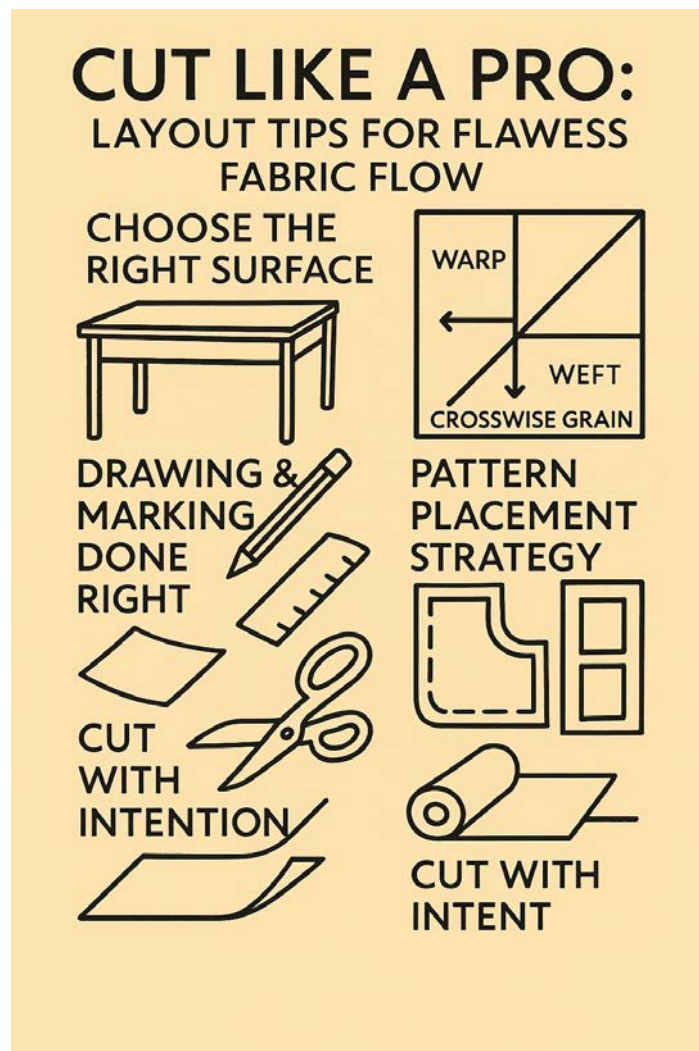
- A **measuring tape** (hello, precision!)
- A **long ruler** (plastic or metal—great for those clean lines)
- **Sharp tailor's chalk** for marking on dark fabrics
- **Erasable pens** for lighter fabrics (yep, the kind from stationery stores—just iron over the lines and poof, they're gone)

## Cut Like a Pro: Layout Tips for Flawless Fabric Flow ✂️✨

Time to roll out your fabric and start cutting—but let's do it the fashion-forward way!

### Choose the Right Surface

A **rectangular cutting table** is your best friend—it helps you align your fabric perfectly by matching the **lengthwise and crosswise grain** to the table edges. If your fabric's warp and weft aren't sitting at a perfect 90°, don't stress—just make sure your pattern grainlines are aligned with the **lengthwise (warp) direction**. That's your sewing compass!





## Drawing & Marking Done Right

- **Always mark on the wrong side** of the fabric—no one wants chalk or pen showing on their finished piece.
- **Exception:** Fabrics like velour or velvet are easier to mark on the right side because of their plush texture.
- Be extra mindful with **folded corners**—keep them crisp and straight so your lines connect beautifully when unfolded.



## Pattern Placement Strategy

- Start with your **largest pattern pieces** first—they're the divas that demand space.
- Fit smaller pieces in after, like a chic fabric puzzle.
- Neat layout = saved fabric, and saved fabric = cute future projects.



## Cut With Intention

- Cut each large piece **one by one**—precision is key.
- Set aside a **small scrap of fabric** for testing your **machine tension** before you dive in.

## Let's Talk Seam Allowances: The Secret to a Polished Finish ✨🧵

When sewing stylish pieces—especially **sleeveless tops and dresses**—those curves around the **neckline and armholes** need extra love and attention. For a sleek, no-bulk look, keep the **seam allowance smaller** here—typically **¼" (5–7 mm)** or **½" (1 cm)**.

### **Curve It, Clip It**

After you stitch a curved seam (like on a neckline or armhole), make **tiny clips into the seam allowance**—without cutting through the stitches! This lets the fabric relax and **lie flat and smooth** on the body. It's a small step that makes a **huge difference** in the final look.

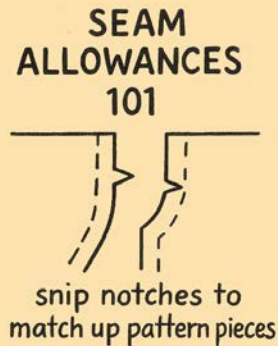
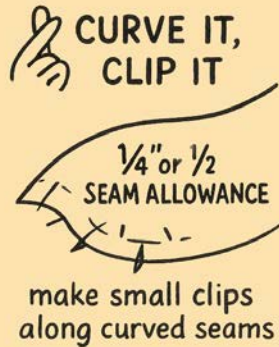
### **Don't Skip the Notches**

Patterns often include **notches**—those little marks along the edges of your pattern pieces. They're not just decorative!

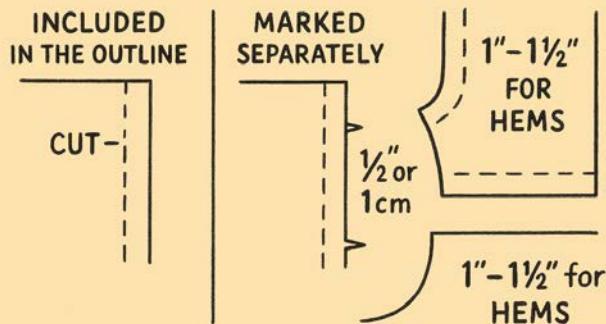
- Some help you **match up pieces** like puzzle corners
- Others indicate where your **seam allowance** starts or shifts

When transferring your pattern, make **small snips into these notches** (about ⅛" deep). They'll guide you when it's time to sew and keep everything beautifully aligned.

# LET'S TALK SEAM ALLOWANCES



## SEAM ALLOWANCES 101



## Seam Allowances 101

Every pattern includes seam allowances—it's just a matter of where and how:

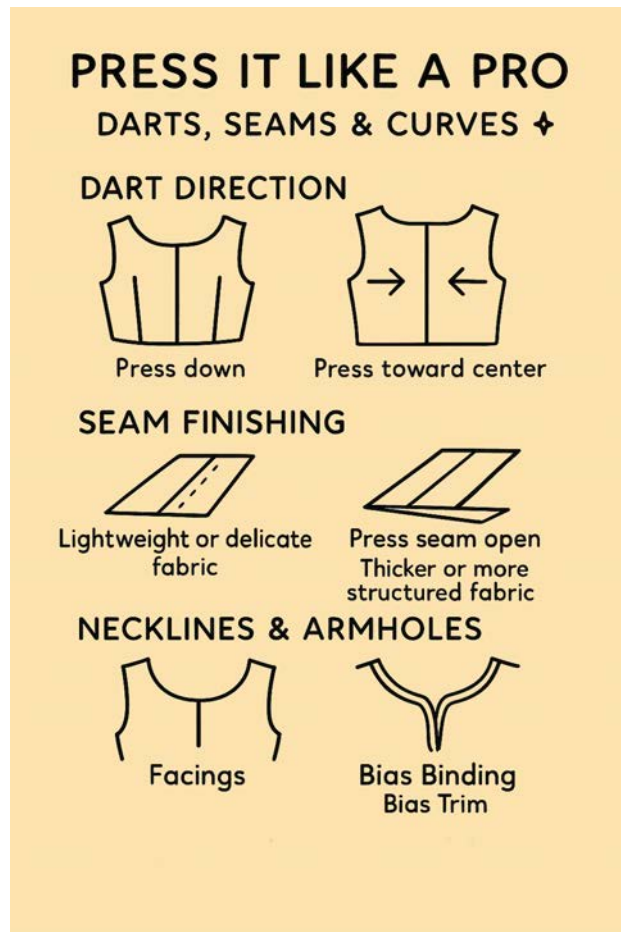
- **Included in the outline:** You can cut as-is
- **Marked separately:** You'll need to **cut along the line showing the seam allowance**

Most garments are stitched with a **standard 1/2" or 1 cm seam allowance** for clean, structured seams. But when it comes to **hems**—on pants, skirts, or sleeves—designers often leave **more room** (think 1"-1 1/2") to create elegant finishes or optional boho-style cuffs.

## Special Note for Knit Lovers

When working with **knit or stretchy fabrics**, seam allowances are usually smaller—**about 1/4" or 7–8 mm**—because these are sewn with an **overlocker (serger)**. The narrower seam keeps the fabric flexible and sleek.

## Press It Like a Pro: How to Handle Darts, Seams & Curves ✨🧵



Your garment's shape and polish come down to **how you press and finish**—and trust us, it makes all the difference between “handmade” and “high fashion.”

### 🎯 **Dart Direction: It's All About the Silhouette**

When it comes to **darts**, your go-to rule is:

- **Press them down** for bust darts
- **Press them toward the center** for waist darts  
This helps the fabric contour smoothly to your body—think **flattering lines and crisp shaping**. Of course, if your pattern has a specific instruction, follow its lead—fashion is all about intention!

## **Seam Finishing: Choose What Suits the Fabric**

Now let's talk **seams**:

- For **lightweight or delicate fabrics**, you can finish both seam layers **together** (with overlock or zigzag) and **press them to one side**—usually to the back of the garment.
- For **thicker or more structured fabrics**, finish each layer **separately** and **press the seam open**. This gives you a cleaner finish and reduces bulk—especially around the shoulders, side seams, and sleeves.

## **Necklines & Armholes: Keep Them Chic and Clean**

You'll typically finish curved areas like **necklines and armholes** with either:

- **Facings** – These are inner fabric pieces that follow the shape of the edge and give it body without showing.
- **Bias Binding (aka Bias Trim)** – A thin, folded strip of fabric cut on the **bias (at a 45° angle)**. Why on the bias? Because it gives the strip **stretch and flexibility**, which makes it perfect for hugging curves *without puckering*.

Binding is not only functional—it can be a beautiful design feature, especially when made in a contrast fabric or print. So don't be afraid to let it show!

## Stitch Like a Star: Perfect Thread Tension & Machine Tips ✨ 🧵



Your sewing machine isn't just a tool—it's your creative sidekick. And to get runway-worthy results, you've got to treat it right—starting with **thread tension and stitch quality**.

### 🎯 Get Your Tension Right

Each fabric has its own personality, and your **thread tension** should match.

Too tight? You'll get puckering.

Too loose? Hello, messy seams.

**Aim for balance**—your stitch should look **identical on both sides** of the fabric.

💡 **Pro tip:** Use different colored threads in the top spool and bobbin when testing. It makes spotting uneven tension a breeze!

### 12 34 **Stitch Length Matters**

Match your **stitch frequency** to the fabric's thickness:

- **Delicate, lightweight fabrics** → go for shorter stitches (think 1.5–2.0 mm)
- **Thicker or structured fabrics** → longer stitches (2.5–3.5 mm) give strength without straining the fabric

## ✨ Overlock Like a Pro

Your overlock (serger) seams should look **neat and balanced**:

- Needle thread = not too tight, not too loose
- Looper threads = should weave *neatly along the edge* of the fabric— not spilling over or showing on either side

If your seam looks tense or puckered, try this first:

- **Lightly press the seam** with steam while gently pulling it  
Still not smooth? Undo it, steam the fabric flat, **adjust the tension**, and sew again.

If a seam has stretched out:

- Steam from above without touching it—this helps it bounce back  
If that doesn't work, same routine: unpick, steam, and restitch with better tension settings.

## 🧵 Keep Your Stitches Stylish

- **Straight seams** = clean, crisp lines
- **Curved seams** = fluid, continuous curves that follow the pattern precisely
- For tricky fabrics like **silk, chiffon, or velvet**, **always baste first**—it's the secret to no slipping, no shifting, and all elegance.

## 🧼 Machine Maintenance = Sewing Magic

A clean machine is a happy machine!

- Dust it regularly
- Remove thread scraps and lint
- Clean it before switching to **a lighter or contrasting fabric** (nobody wants surprise dark thread marks on white silk!)

## Press Like a Pro: The Chic Secret to Flawless Garments

Want your handmade pieces to look couture-level polished? It's all in the press. Quality ironing and pressing can *make or break* the final look of your garment, so treat your iron like your favorite accessory—essential and fabulous.

✨ **Start smart:** Before you cut a single piece, test your iron on a fabric edge to check how it reacts to heat and steam. Then, give your fabric a good steam to relax the fibers—this prevents surprises later and helps with accuracy when cutting.

💡 **Know your heat:** Always match your iron's temperature to the fabric type. Delicate silks, crisp cottons, plush velvets—they all demand different settings. One heat does *not* fit all.

👗 **Press every seam:** Don't rush! After each stitch, press the seam before moving on. This keeps your work crisp, professional, and easier to handle as you sew.

🧵 **Shape with style:** For sleeve caps, bust darts, hip curves, and other shapely sections, tailor your tools. Pressing aids like ham cushions, seam rolls, or custom ironing pads (hello, DIY from scraps!) are a total game changer. They're readily available at sewing supply stores or fun to make yourself.

🔥 **Press with care:** When working on curved seams and hems, avoid dragging the iron across the fabric. Instead, place it, steam gently, then lift. This keeps your garment's shape intact and prevents warping.

👐 **Set with your hand:** No fancy tools? No problem. After steaming, use your hand (or a smooth wooden block) to press the shape into place—especially helpful when your iron might leave marks.

🚫 **Velvet warning:** Never, ever press velour or velvet directly with an iron! Always steam from a short distance. Touching the fabric can crush its luxurious pile and leave permanent marks.

## 🔥 Fabric-Specific Ironing Tips

### Cotton & Linen

- Use high heat with steam.
- Mist with water for extra crispness.
- Always iron on the wrong side to avoid shine.

### Silk

- Use low heat, no steam.
- Place a press cloth between iron and fabric.
- Iron on the wrong side if possible.

### Wool

- Medium heat + steam.
- Use a pressing cloth or wool pad to prevent flattening the texture.
- Let seams cool in shape for best results.

### Velvet & Velour

- **No direct contact with iron!**
- Hover steam or use a velvet board (or thick towel) underneath.
- Gently pat the fabric to avoid crushing the pile.

### Synthetic Fabrics (Polyester, Nylon)

- Low heat, no steam.
- Always test first—synthetics can melt quickly.
- Use a pressing cloth to protect from shine.



## Press Like a Pro

### The Chic Secret to Flawless Garments

- ✓ **Start smart**  
Avoid nasty surprises (like shrinkage) & relaxers fabric to check how fabric a steam.
- ✓ **Press every seam**  
Don't rush! After each stitch, press—both flat first, then open.
- ✓ **Press every seam**  
Don't ever press velour or velvet directly—lay them nap-side down for use
- ◆ **Shape your form**  
Consider using tools to that mimic curves, darts, point, and peans—like tailor's hams, seam rolls, custom pads and custom pads
- ◆ **Velvet warning**  
Never ever press velour or velvet directly—lay them nap-side down with an a iron with a velvet board



Tailor's ham      Custom pad

Tailor's ham      Seam roll

Seam roll      Custom pad

## ✨ Fit Check: The Fashionista's Guide to a Flawless Silhouette ✨

Nothing says “made-to-measure” like a garment that fits *just right*. Whether you're sewing your own wardrobe or perfecting your drape game, here's what to keep in mind for that ultra-polished, runway-worthy look:

### 👗 Perfect the Fit from the Top Down:

- The **shoulder line** should sit *exactly* where it belongs—not creeping toward the front or slipping toward the back. Think of it as the backbone of your upper silhouette—clean, crisp, and confidently straight.
- Peek at the **side seams** from a side mirror. They should fall in a perfect vertical line—no twisting, no skewing. Same goes for **center front and back seams**. Symmetry is your best friend here!
- The **waistline and hem** should be *parallel to the floor*, whether you're standing tall or taking a twirl. This keeps your garment balanced and polished.
- **Bust darts** should point toward the bust apex but *never* land right on it—aim for about 1" to 1.5" (2.5–4 cm) shy of the point for a natural shape.

# Fit Check

## The Fashionista's Guide to a Flawless Silhouette



### Sleeves: The Real MVPs of Fit

Shift the sleeve to reduce excess creases



### **Symmetry = Style:**

If your garment has mirrored elements (like sleeves, lapels, or pant legs), they should look identical. Take a moment to compare—if one side is giving “yes” and the other is “meh,” tweak it before sewing it in place.



### **Sleeves: The Real MVPs of Fit**

Sewing sleeves is an art—and totally worth mastering. Observe how your arms rest naturally: slightly forward. Your sleeve design should follow that same flow.

- Too many **creases in the back** of the sleeve? Time for a subtle shift: move the **sleeve cap point forward** by about 1/4 inch (0.5 cm), and slide the **sleeve seam backward** the same amount.
- Creases **in the front**? Rotate in the opposite direction.
- You may only need to adjust the **cap** or the **seam**—try each tweak and see which works best.



### **Fashion Meets Function: Test the Fit in Motion**

- Tightening pants or skirts? Do a walk test! Can you sit, bend, or strut without resistance?
- Slimming down the bodice or sleeves? Lift those arms and twist your torso—you should feel stylish, not stuck.



### **Always Baste, Always Try On**

Before committing to final stitches, *baste the whole garment* together and try it on. This step saves time, heartbreak, and fabric—and it’s your chance to fine-tune every seam like a true designer.

## ✨ Bonus: 50 Secret Sewing Hacks Every Sewist Should Know ✂️🪡

Ready to level up your sewing game? Whether you're stitching your first hem or crafting couture from scratch, these 50 insider hacks are about to become your new BFFs.

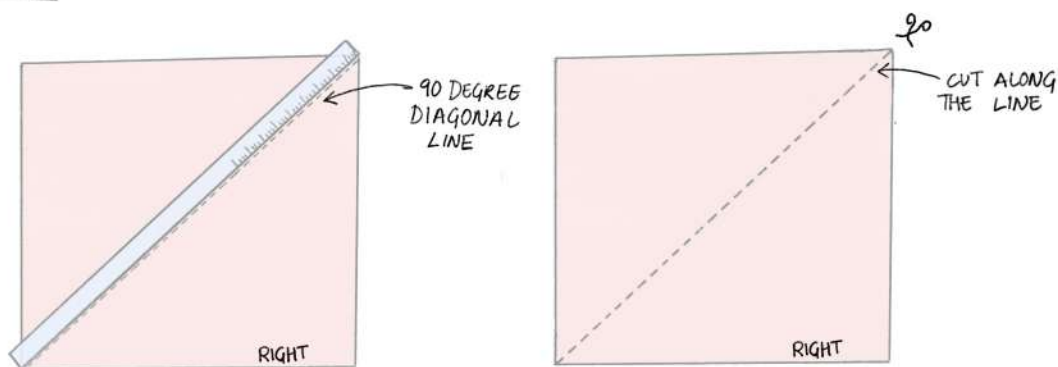
From time-saving tricks and clever shortcuts to pro-level finishes and game-changing tools, this section is packed with juicy secrets that the sewing world *doesn't always share*.

These hacks are here to help you sew smarter—not harder—and bring more ease, style, and polish to every project. Grab your pins, press that fabric, and get ready to discover the sewing shortcuts you never knew you needed!

Let's hack that fabric magic! 🧚‍♀️🧵

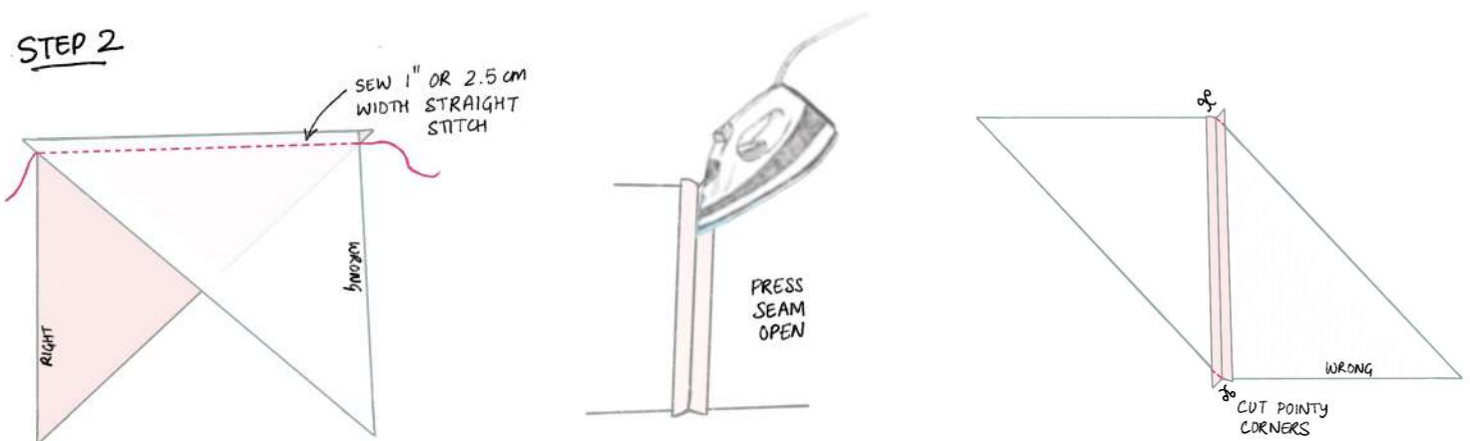
### 1. Bias Binding

#### STEP 1



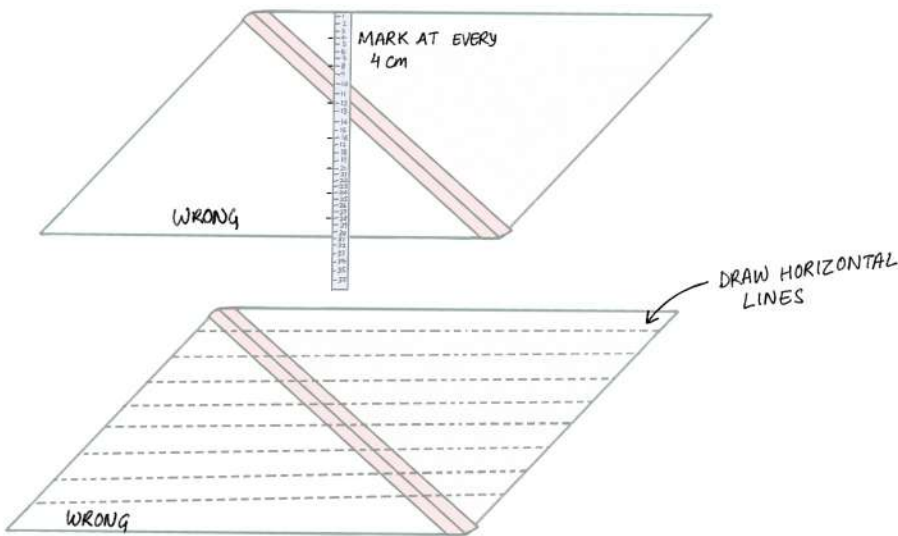
STEP 1: Use a ruler to draw a 90 degree diagonal straight line across the right side of the fabric and cut along the marked line.

#### STEP 2



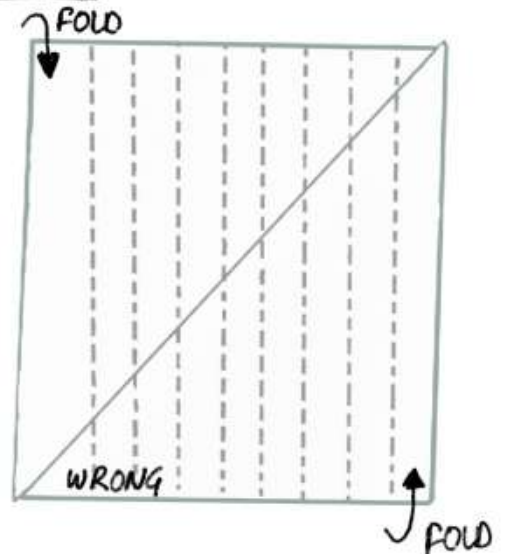
STEP 2: Place the cut fabric so the diagonal cut edges align. Sew 1" or 2.5cm width straight stitch along the cut edge. Press seam open and lightly press the seam allowance. Cut out the all around the pointy corners.

STEP 3



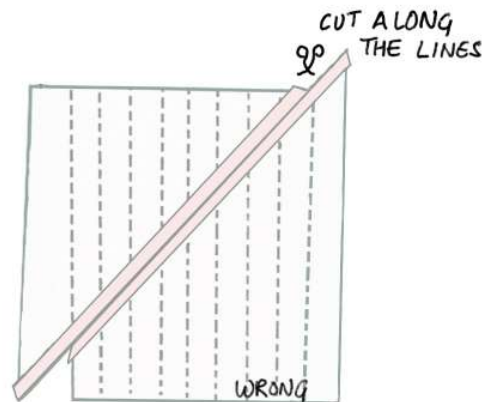
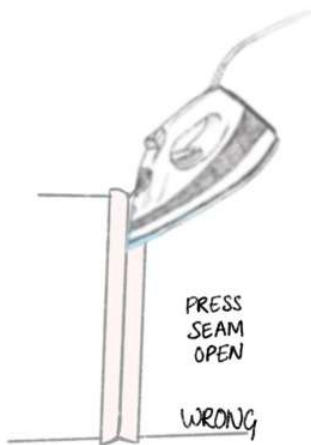
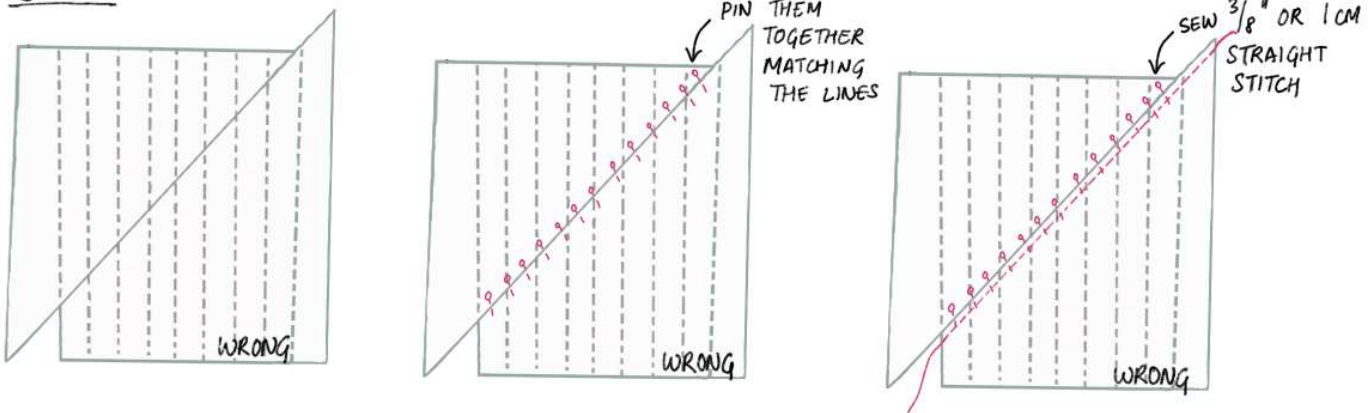
STEP 3: From the top edge, use ruler to mark 1½” or 4cm width to the bottom. Follow the marks and draw horizontal straight lines from top to the bottom.

STEP 4



STEP 4: Use the seam line to follow both sides so the cut edges meet to the stitch line. Move the folded fabric so the drawn straight line is vertical.

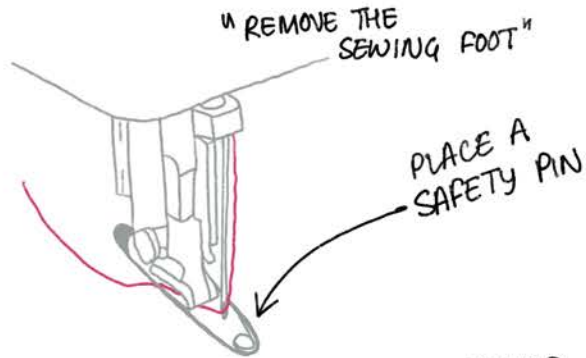
STEP 5



STEP 5: Choose two center top and bottom lines and pull so they line up correctly in one straight line. Match each lines and pin to sew 3/8” or 1cm width straight stitch. Press seam open and follow the marked straight line to cut all the way to make bias binding!

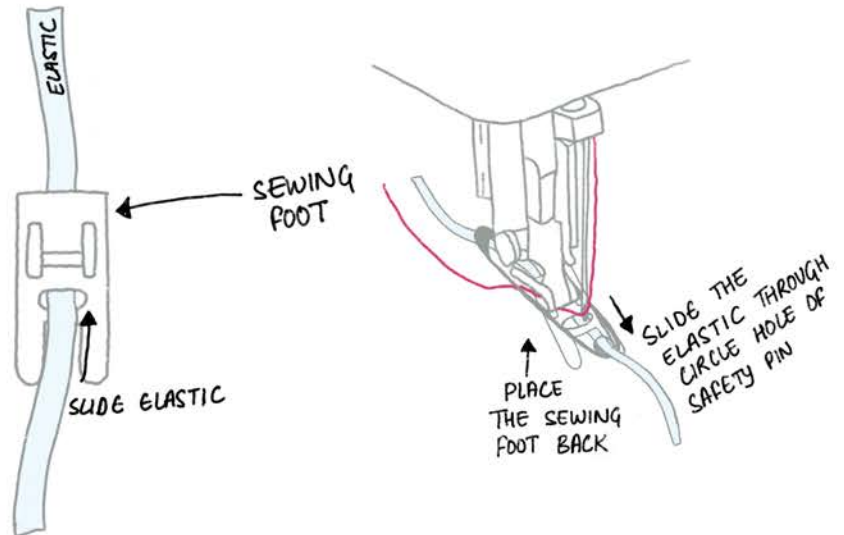
## 2. Zigzag Stitch Elastic

STEP 1



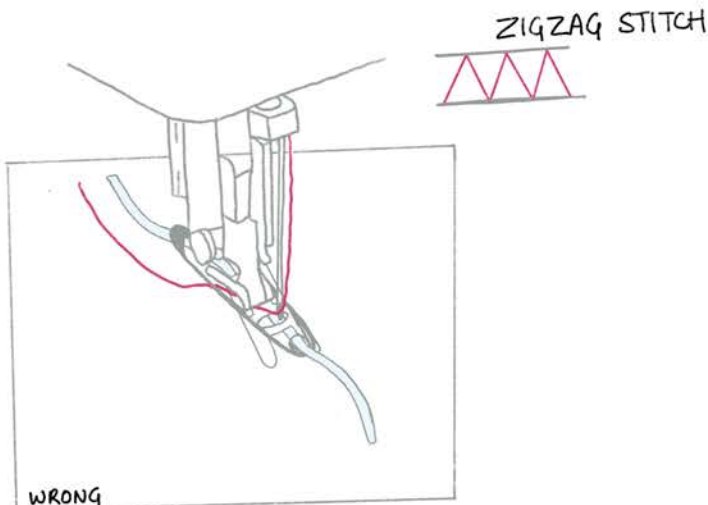
STEP 1: Remove the sewing foot and use safety pin to place between the knob of pressure foot and tighten to secure.

STEP 2



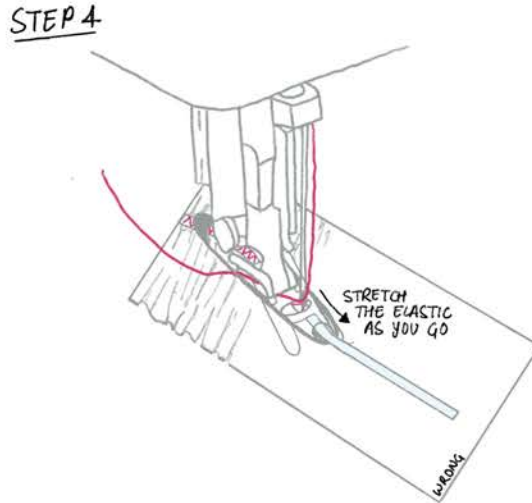
STEP 2: Slide through the elastic band through the sewing foot. Pull through the other end of elastic through the circle hole of safety pin. Then, place the sewing foot back to the pressure foot. Clip to secure and tighten the elastic.

STEP 3

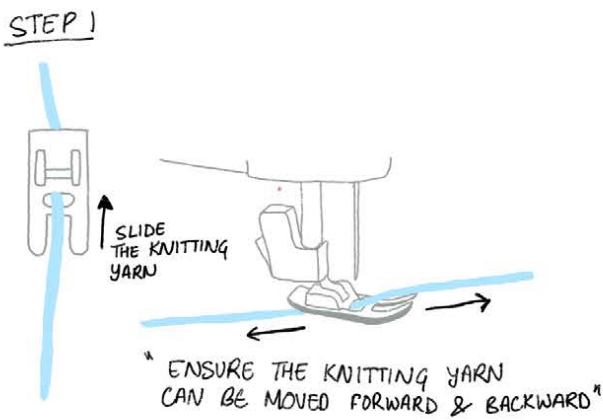


STEP 3: Place wrong side of fabric underneath the sewing foot and change the machine to zigzag stitch.

STEP 4: Start sewing and stretch the elastic as you sew.

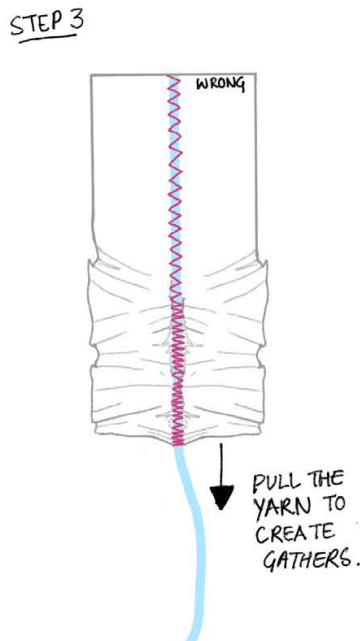
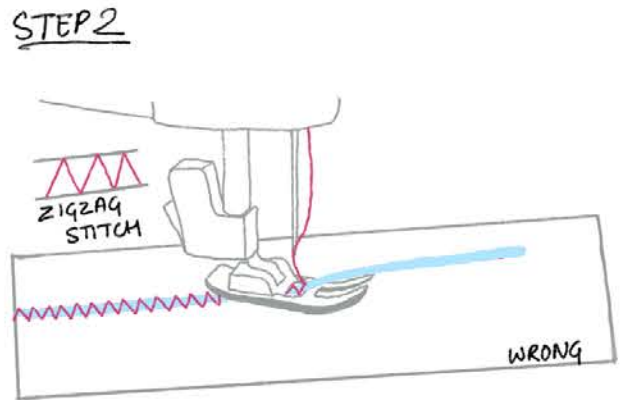


### 3. Gathering on Strip Fabric



STEP 1: Slide through the knitting yarn through the sewing foot hole. Attach the sewing foot back to the pressure foot. Ensure the knitting yarn can be moved forward and backward.

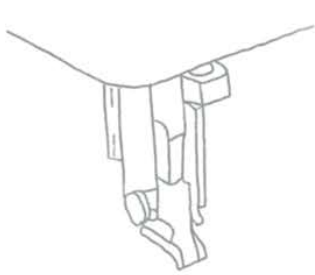
STEP 2: Place fabric wrong side up and zigzag stitch around the yarn without stitching through the yarn.



STEP 3: Pull the knitting yarn to gather the fabric and evenly distribute the gathering.

## 4. Straight Stitch Knit Fabric

STEP 1

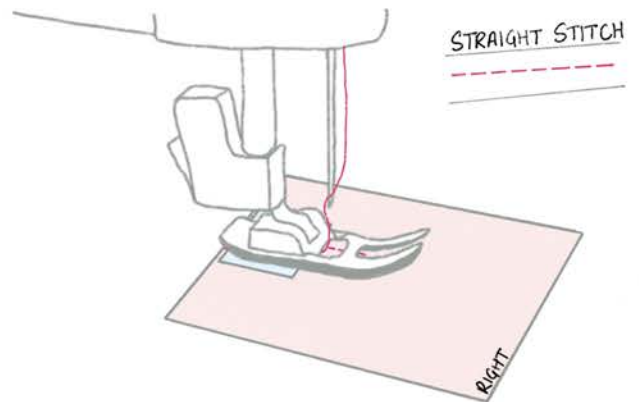


STEP 1: Remove the sewing foot from pressure foot. Place a strip of masking tape underneath the sewing foot and attach. Cut any excess tape around the foot.

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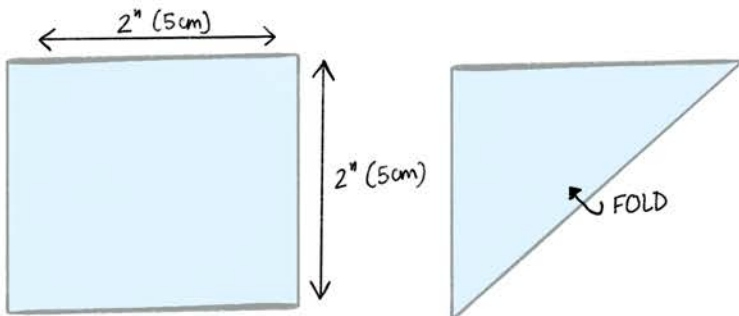
STEP 2: Place knit fabric right side up and sew straight stitch smoothly.

STEP 2



## 5. Thread a Needle in Sewing Machine

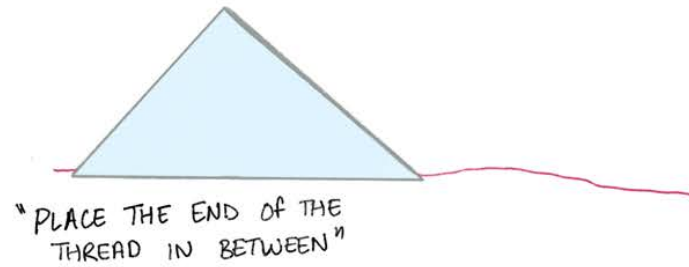
STEP 1



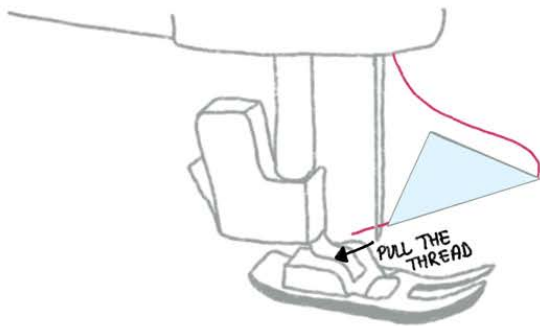
STEP 1: Take a piece of paper that is 2" x 2" ( 5cm x 5cm) and fold in half diagonally.

STEP 2: Place the ends of thread in-between the folded square paper.

STEP 2



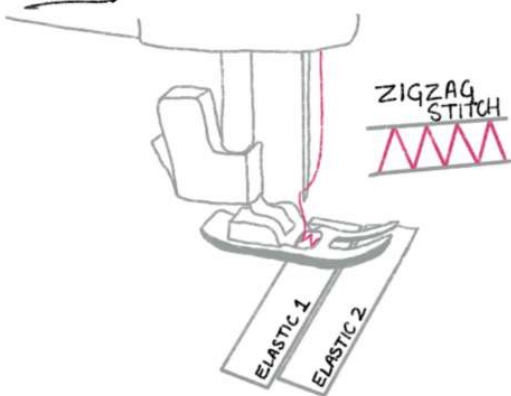
STEP 3



STEP 3: Hold the corner of the paper to guide the thread into to the sewing needle. Use the other finger to pull the thread through the needle eye.

**6. Join Elastic Band (3 ways)**

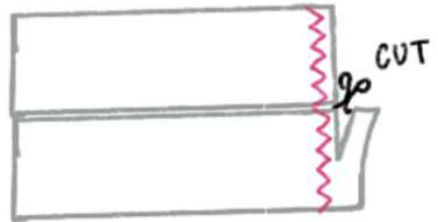
STEP 1



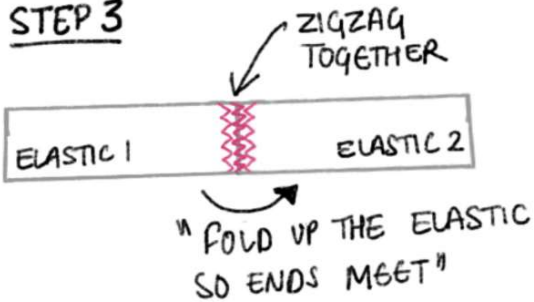
STEP 1: Zigzag stitch the one of the ends of elastic band. Place the other end of elastic band to continuously zigzag stitch.

STEP 2: Cut the remaining ends of elastic bands close to the zigzag stitch.

STEP 2



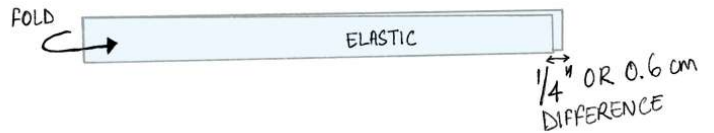
STEP 3



STEP 3: Fold up the elastic band so the ends touch each other and zigzag stitch as a one piece.

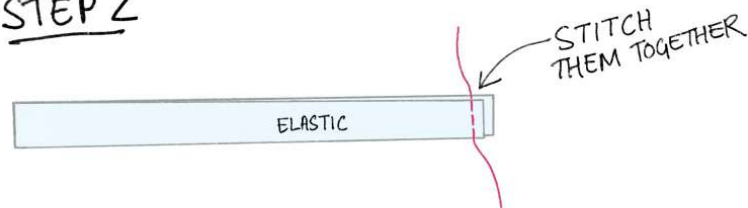
STEP 1: Fold the elastic band in half and leave bottom elastic 1/4" or 0.6cm longer than the top elastic.

STEP 1

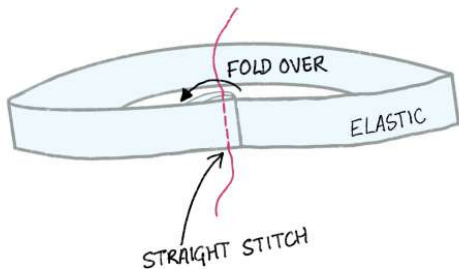


STEP 2: Straight stitch the elastic together.

STEP 2

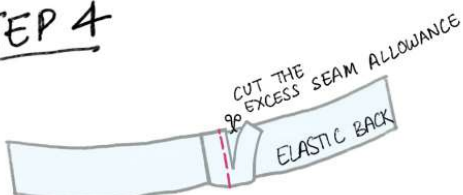


STEP 3



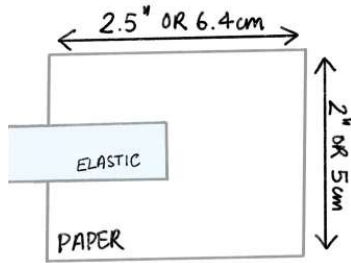
STEP 3: Fold the elastic so the longer piece covers the short piece and straight stitch.

STEP 4



STEP 4: Cut the excess elastic from longer elastic piece to create loop elastic band.

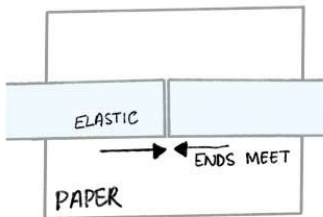
### STEP 1



"SIZE OF THE PAPER  
DEPENDS ON THE  
WIDTH OF THE ELASTIC"

STEP 1: Place a small piece of paper that is 2 1/2" x 2" (6.4cm x 5cm) and place underneath the elastic band. This will depend on the width of your elastic. Ensure to double length to fully able to cover and wrap around the elastic band.

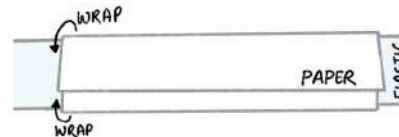
### STEP 2



STEP 2: Place another elastic band so the ends are touching on the paper.

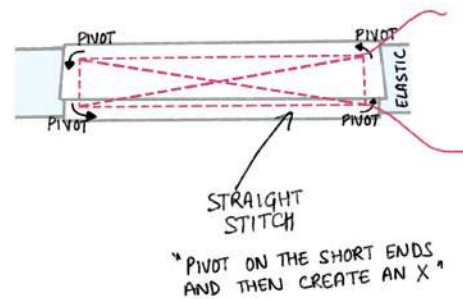
STEP 3: Wrap the paper around the elastic band.

### STEP 3



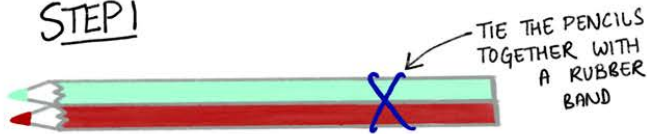
STEP 4: Straight stitch the top, lift the sewing foot and pivot to sew short end, repeat to sew the long end and back to short ends. When arrived to corner, sew diagonally to create X stitch line.

### STEP 4

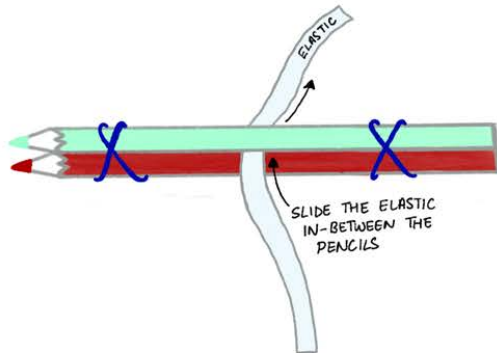


## 7. Sew Narrow Elastic Band

STEP 1



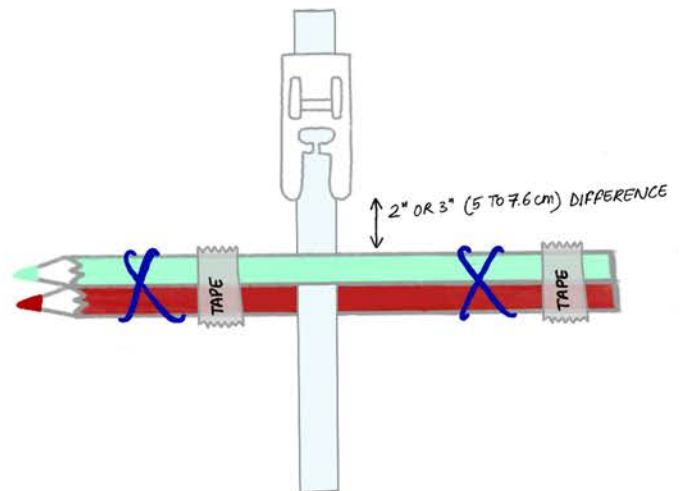
STEP 2



STEP 1: Take two colored pencil that is same length and use rubber band to tie the end.

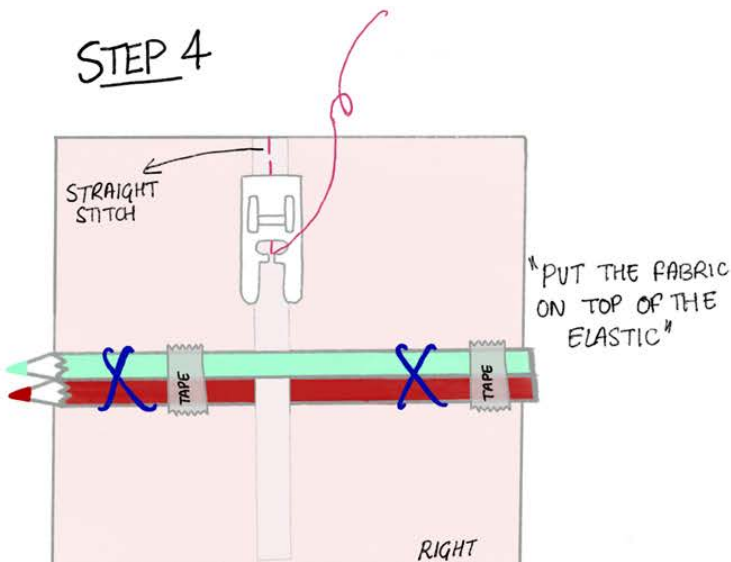
STEP 2: Slide the elastic band in-between the pencil and tie the other end of pencil with rubber band.

STEP 3



STEP 3: Place the pencil on the sewing machine board about 2"-3" (5cm-7.6cm) away from the sewing needle and tape the pencil on the board to secure.

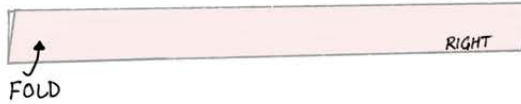
STEP 4



STEP 4: Place a fabric right side up and straight stitch. Ensure to sew in the middle of elastic without stretching the elastic.

## 8. Sew 1/8" or 0.3cm Width Elastic Band

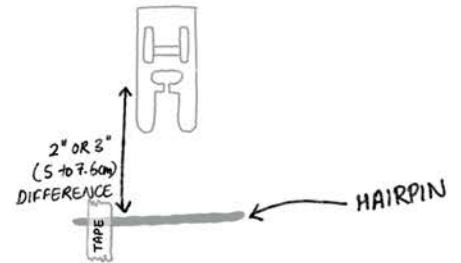
### STEP 1



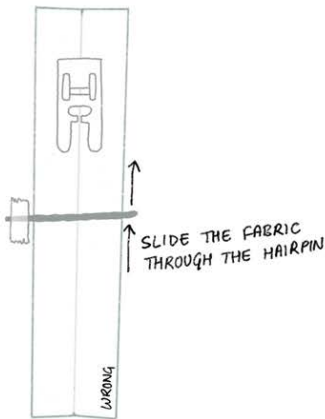
STEP 1: Fold a piece of fabric strap in half lengthwise wrong side touching.

### STEP 2

STEP 2: Place a hair pin on the sewing machine board and tape one side about 2"-3" (5cm-7.6cm) away from the sewing needle.



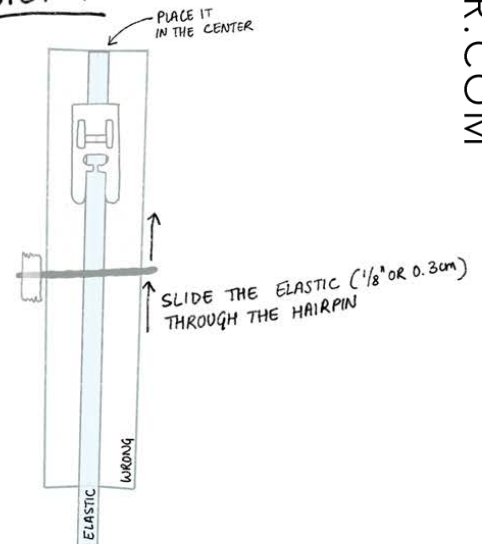
### STEP 3



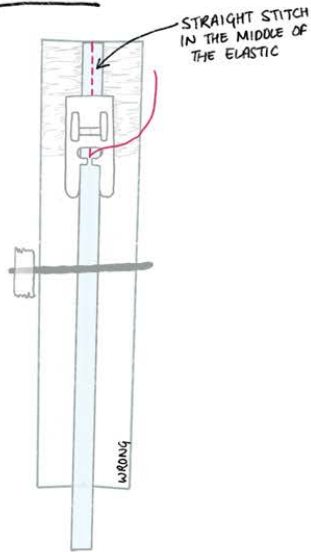
STEP 3: Open up the folded fabric and place the fabric through the hair pin. Ensure the wrong side of the fabric is facing up.

STEP 4: Place a 1/8" or 0.3cm width elastic band on the wrong side of the fabric and ensure to slide the elastic also through the hair pin.

### STEP 4



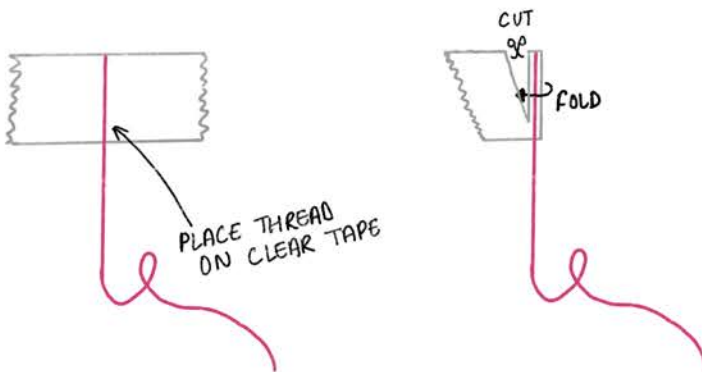
## STEP 5



STEP 5: Straight stitch in the middle of elastic band to create smooth gathering.

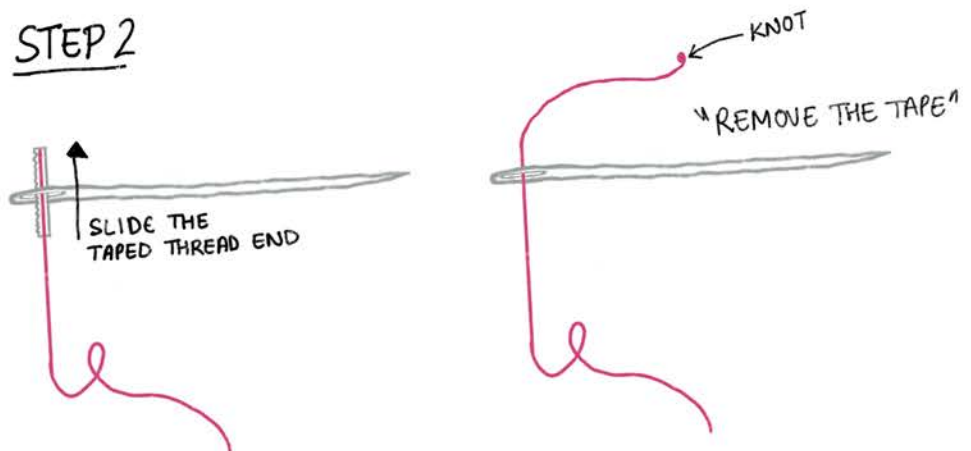
## 9. Thread a Hand Needle

### STEP 1



STEP 1: Use a clear tape and place the end of thread. Fold the tape and cut excess tape.

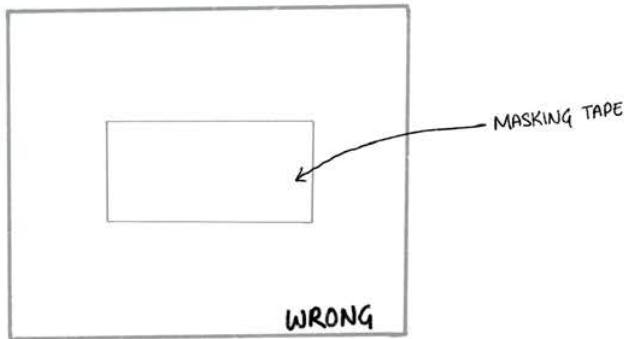
### STEP 2



STEP 2: Slide the taped end of thread into the hand needle's eye to quickly thread a hand needle. Remove the taped ends and knot to start hand sew.

## 10. Sew Buttonhole on Knit Fabric

### STEP 1

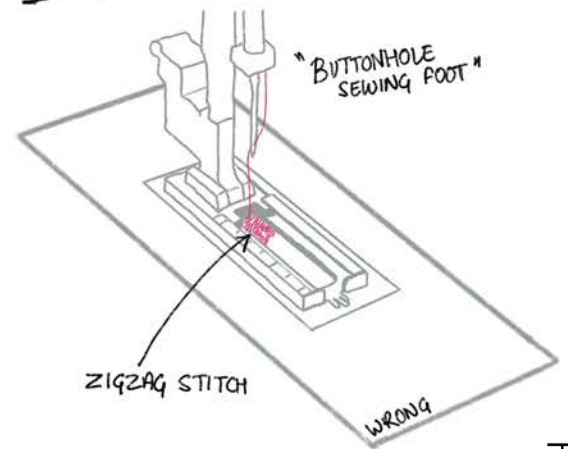


ENSURE THE WIDTH OF MASKING TAPE IS LONG ENOUGH FOR BUTTONHOLE!

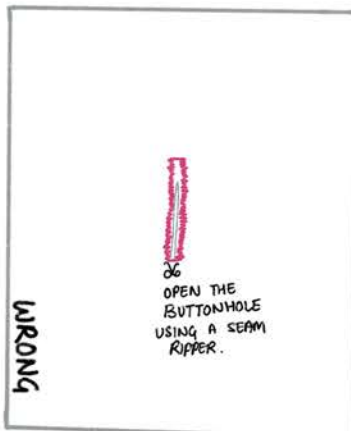
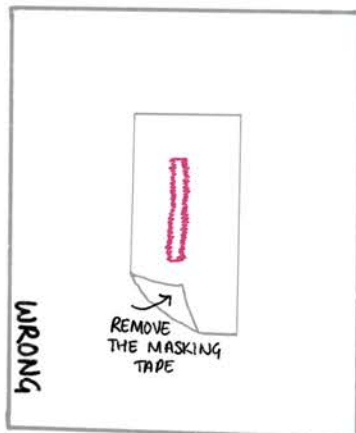
STEP 1: Place masking tape on the wrong side of the fabric. Ensure the width of masking tape is long enough for buttonhole you need.

STEP 2: Use a buttonhole sewing foot to zigzag stitch the buttonhole opening on the tape.

### STEP 2

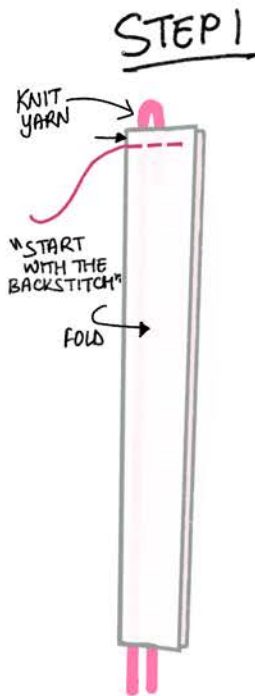


### STEP 3

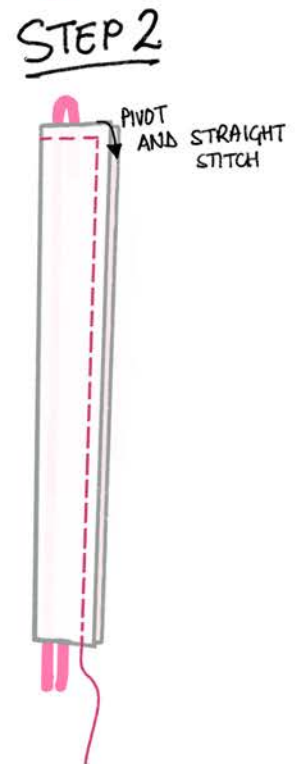


STEP 3: Remove the excess masking tape so it is clean around the buttonhole. Use seam ripper to open the buttonhole.

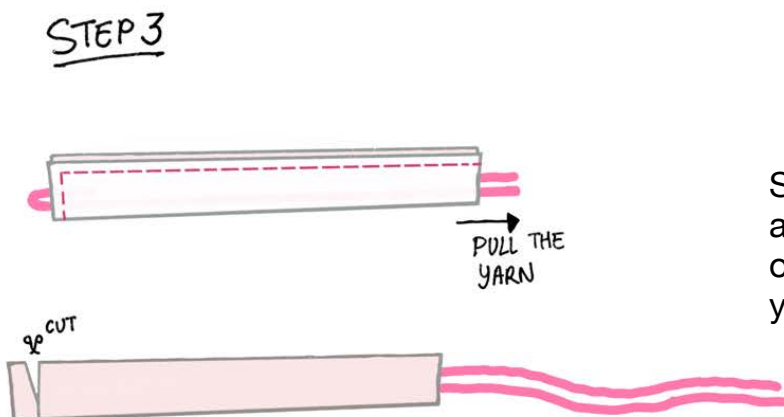
## 11. Spaghetti Strap Without Loop Turner



STEP 1: Fold the binding in half lengthwise and slide in yarn in-between. Start to back stitch along the short edge.



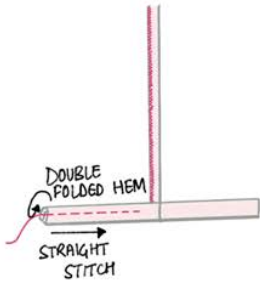
STEP 2: Pivot the sewing needle and straight stitch along the long edge. Ensure to not sew through the yarn.



STEP 3: Pull the yarn through the binding all the way to turn the binding right side out. Cut the short edge to detach the yarn from the binding.

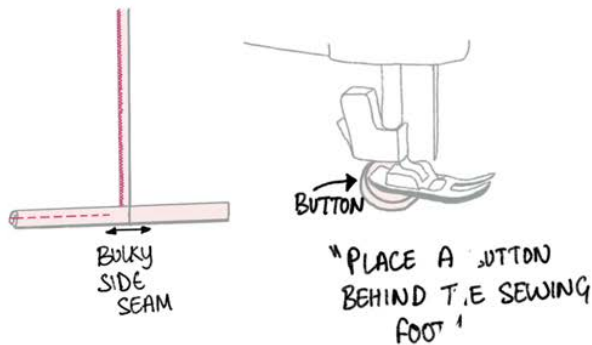
## 12. Hem Double Fold to Sew Over Side Seams

### STEP 1



STEP 1: Double fold the hemline and pin along the new hem. Place the fabric wrong side up and start straight stitch along the hem.

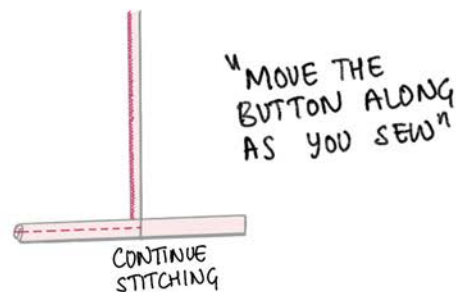
### STEP 2



STEP 2: When reach to bulky side seams, lift the sewing foot up and place a button behind the sewing foot.

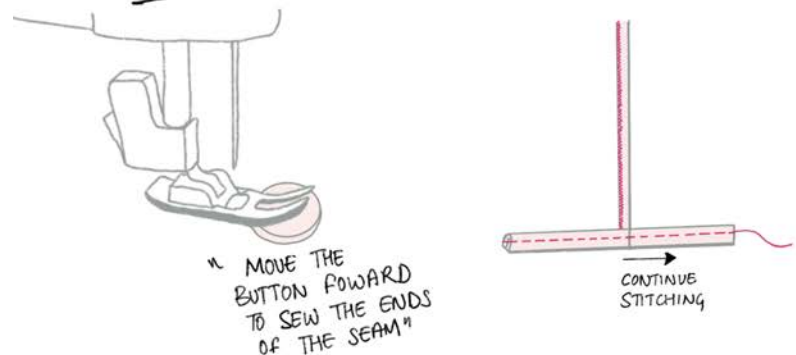
STEP 3: Release the sewing foot and start to sew over the side seam. Ensure to move the button along while sewing straight.

### STEP 3



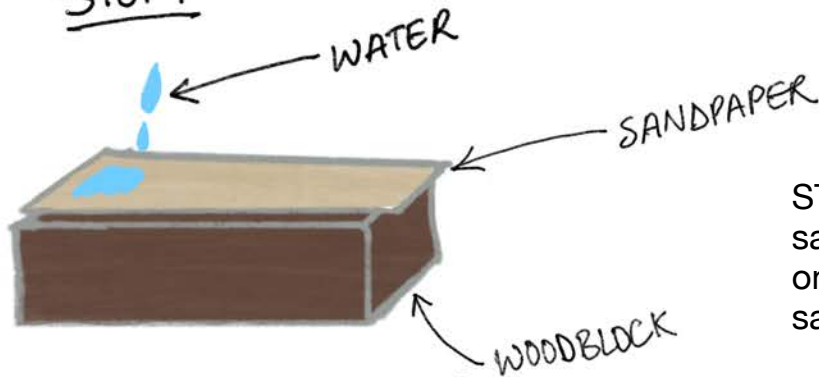
STEP 4: Move the button and place toward from sewing foot to sew the ends of bulky side seam. Slowly move the button while sewing.

### STEP 4



### 13. Sharpen Fabric Scissors

#### STEP 1

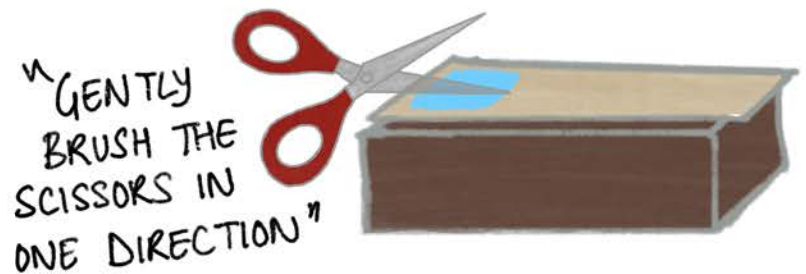


STEP 1: Soak small part on the sandpaper. Place the soaked sand paper on wood block. Smear the water on the sandpaper to even out.

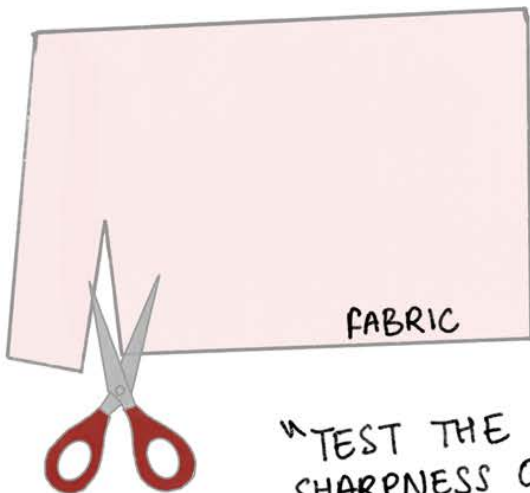
"POUR SOME WATER ON THE SANDPAPER AND EVENLY SPREAD IT"

STEP 2: Open the fabric scissor and gently brush the scissor in one direction. Flip the scissors and repeat the process to brush the scissor knife in one direction.

#### STEP 2



#### STEP 3

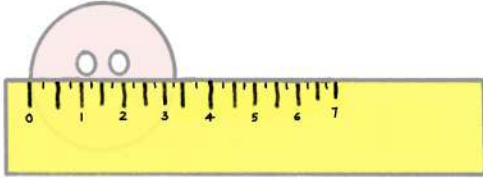


"TEST THE SHARPNESS OF THE SCISSORS"

STEP 3: Test the fabric scissor by cutting fabric in single or multiple layer. Repeat the process until you have nicely sharpen scissor.

## 14. Turn Any Button Into a Cover Button Without a Tool

### STEP 1

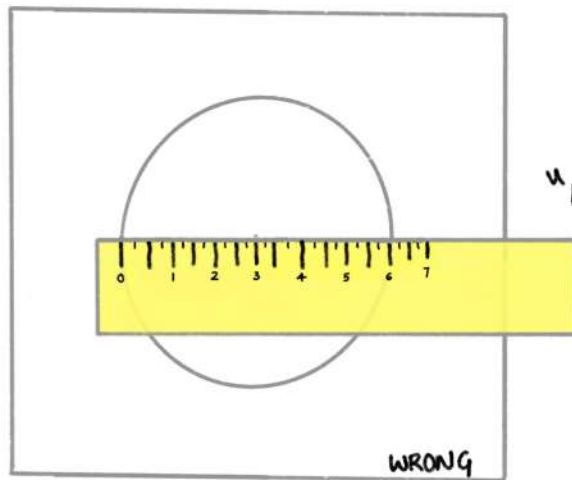


"MEASURE THE BUTTON  
AND DOUBLE THE DIAMETER"

STEP 1: Measure the button with ruler  
and double the diameter.

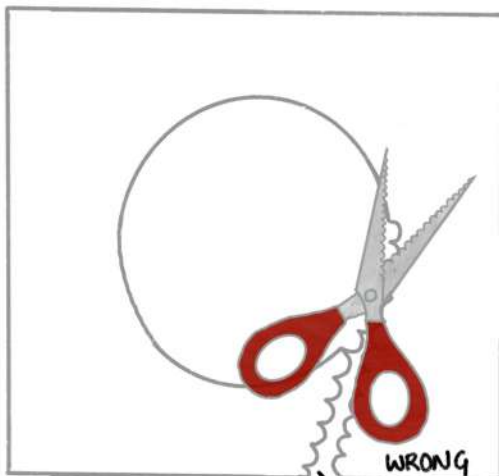
STEP 2: Transfer the measurement on the  
wrong side of fabric to draw a circle.

### STEP 2



"MARK THE  
MEASUREMENTS"

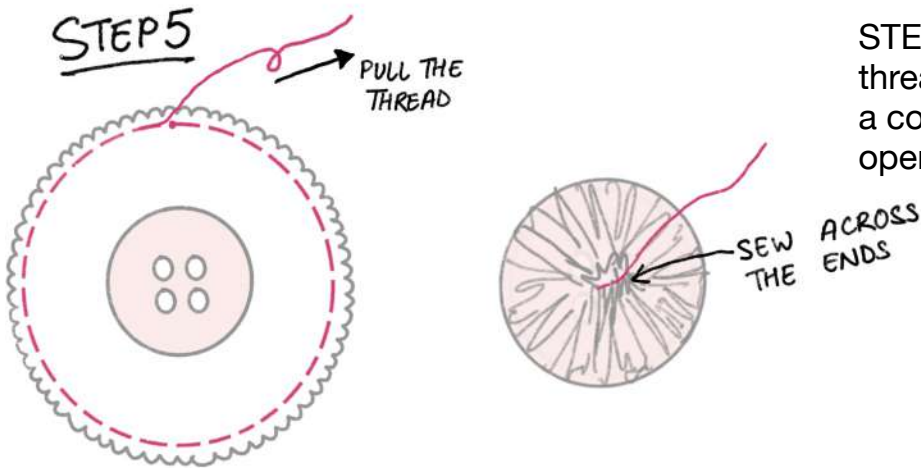
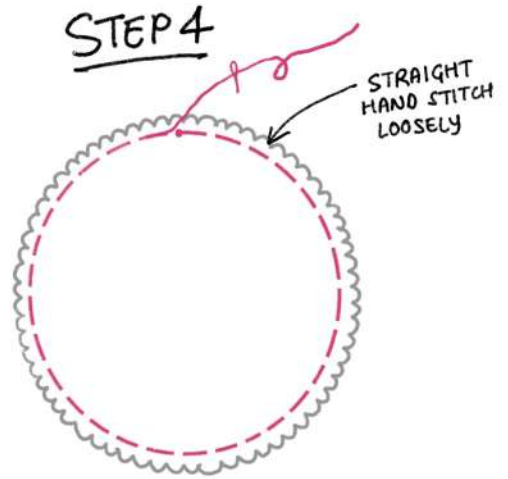
### STEP 3



✂  
CUT OUT THE  
CIRCLE

STEP 3: Cut out the circle with pinky  
scissor.

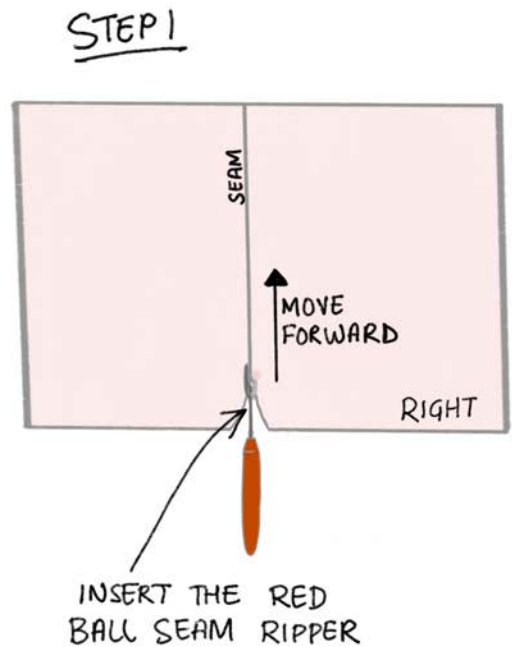
STEP 4: Use hand sewing needle to straight stitch loosely all around the circle.



STEP 5: Insert the button and pull the thread to tighten the fabric to create a cover button. Sew across the opening ends of fabric to secure.

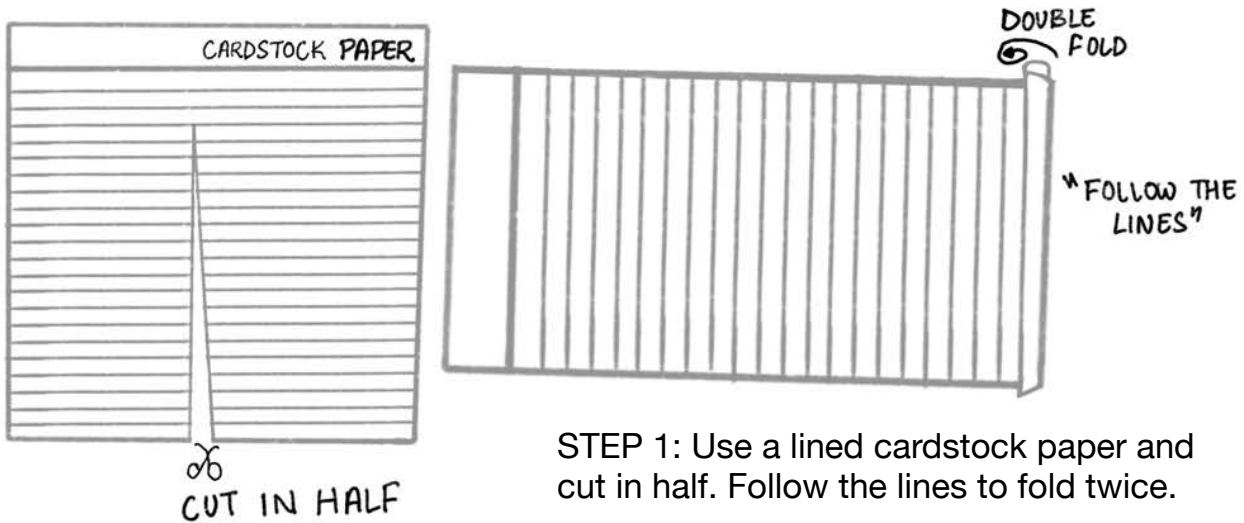
### 15. Rip Seam Properly

STEP 1: Use red ball sided seam ripper knife to insert along the seams and slowly move forward to rip seams easily without destroying the fabric.



## 16. Rolled Hem

### STEP 1



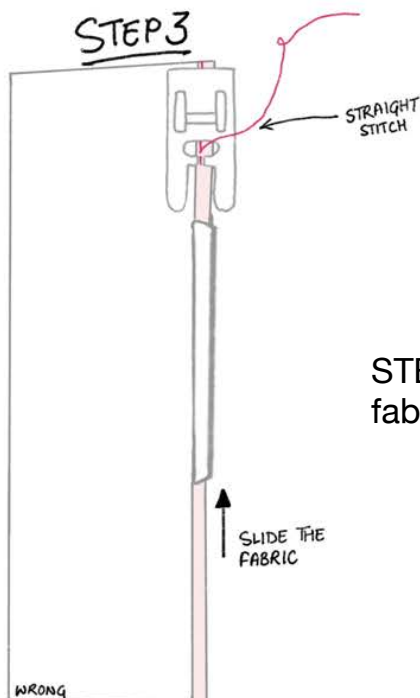
STEP 1: Use a lined cardstock paper and cut in half. Follow the lines to fold twice.

STEP 2: Place the folded fabric on the sewing machine board where the sewing foot starts and tape the paper top and bottom to secure.

### STEP 2



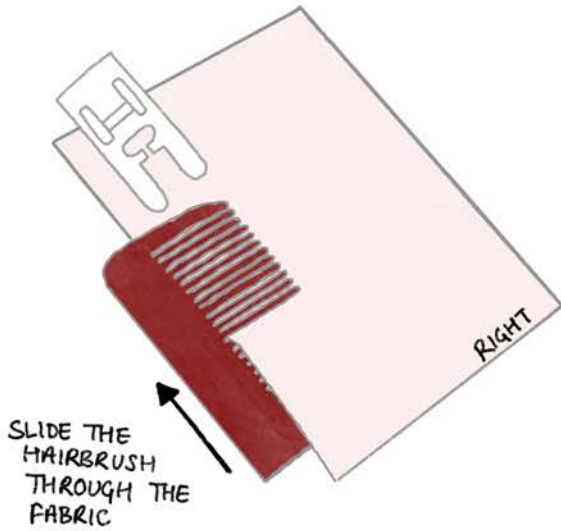
"PLACE THE PAPER THE SEWING FOOT STARTS"



STEP 3: Slide the fabric through the folded fabric and start to sew the rolled hem.

## 17. Make Felt Seam Easily

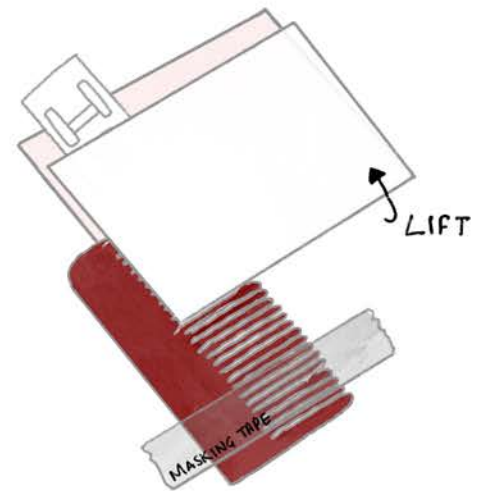
### STEP 1



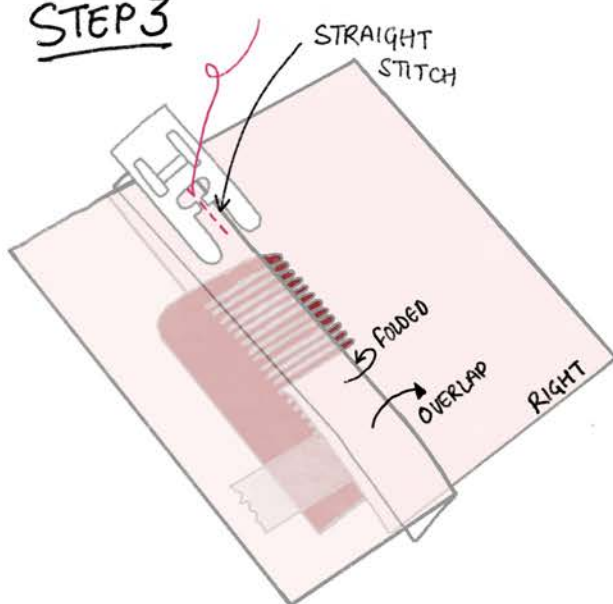
STEP 1: Use a hairbrush and slide through fabric in the middle.

STEP 2: Lift the fabric and tape with masking tape on the hairbrush to secure.

### STEP 2



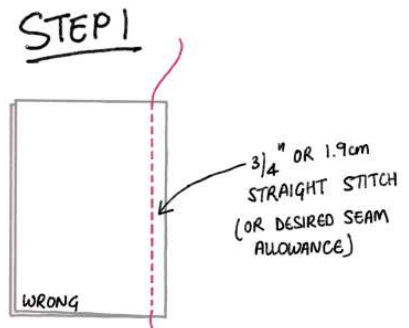
### STEP 3



STEP 3: Place folded other side of fabric on top and start straight stitch.

### 18. Sew Zipper With Masking Tape

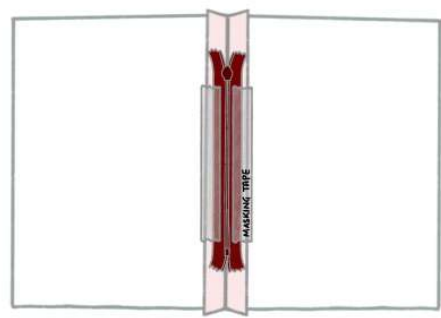
STEP 1: Place the fabrics right side together and straight stitch  $\frac{3}{4}$ " or 1.9cm ( or desired seam allowance width).



STEP 2: Open the fabric wrong side up and press the seam allowance with iron.

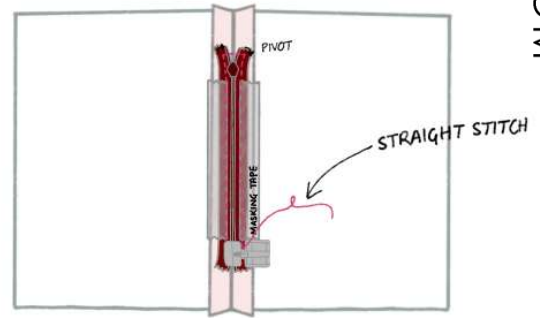


### STEP 3



"TAPE THE ZIPPER ON SEAM ALLOWANCE WITH MASKING TAPE"

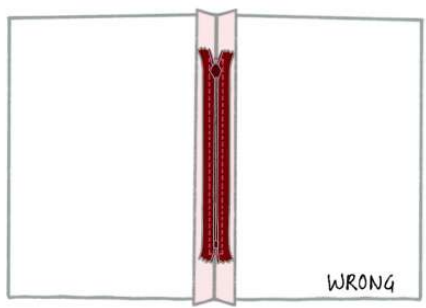
### STEP 4



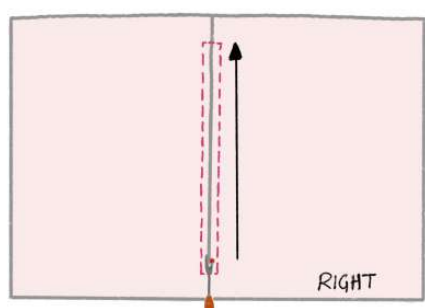
STEP 3: Place zipper along the seam allowance and tape along the zipper tape with masking tape on both side.

STEP 4: Replace with zipper sewing foot and straight stitch all around the zipper tape. Pivot when sewing the corner and use seam ripper to straight stitch the zipper tape.

### STEP 5



"REMOVE THE MASKING TAPE"

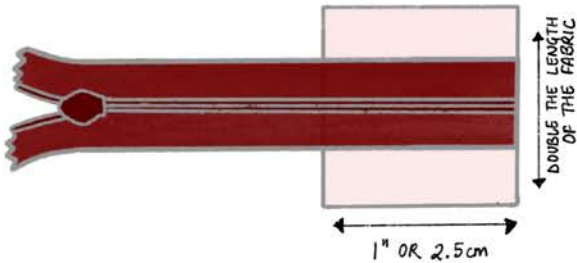


"USE SEAM RIPPER TO OPEN THE SEAM"

STEP 5: Remove the masking tape and use seam ripper to open the seam.

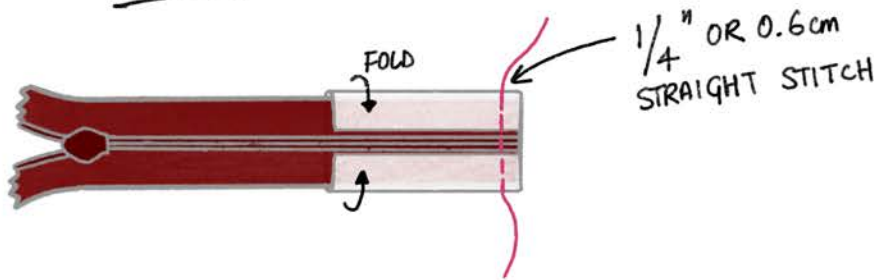
## 19. Sew Zipper Tab

STEP 1



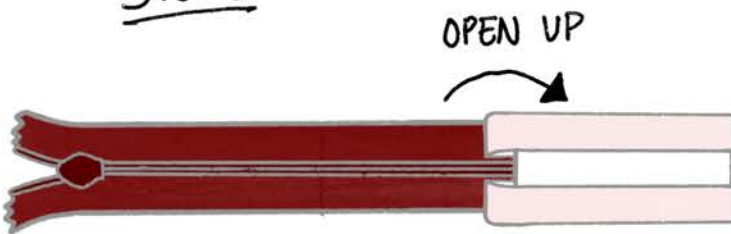
STEP 1: Place an extra fabric that is double the length and 1" or 2.5cm height on the end of zipper tape.

STEP 2



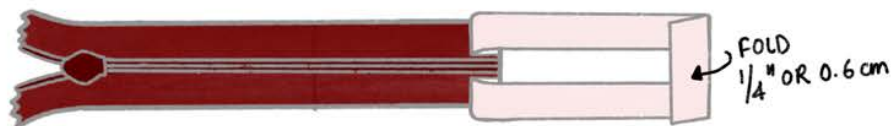
STEP 2: Cover the zipper end width fabric and sew  $\frac{1}{4}$ " or 0.6cm width at the end.

STEP 3



STEP 3: Open the fabric and continue to fold the fabric long edge.

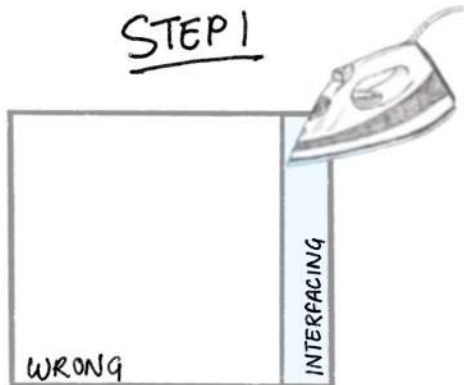
STEP 4



STEP 4: Fold the other side of short edge  $\frac{1}{4}$ " or 0.6cm width and then fold the fabric in half to completely cover the zipper end. Straight stitch along the fabric to complete the zipper tab.

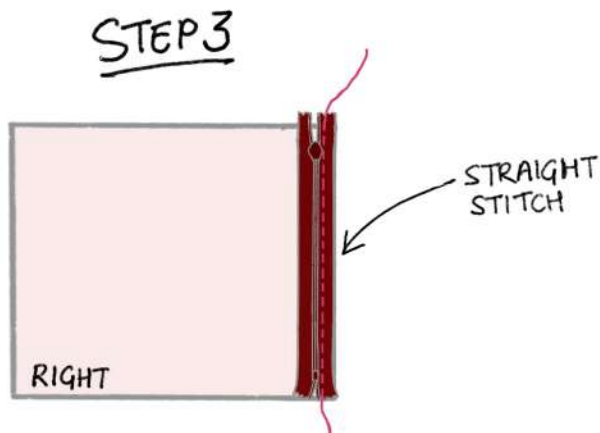


## 20. Sew 2- Way Zipper Without Wave on Knit Fabric



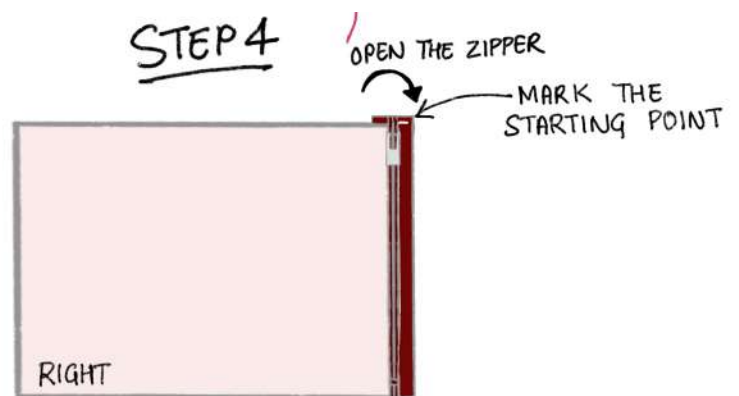
STEP 1: On the wrong side, place lightweight interfacing along the center front opening.

STEP 2: Place the zipper along the right side of top opening at center front.

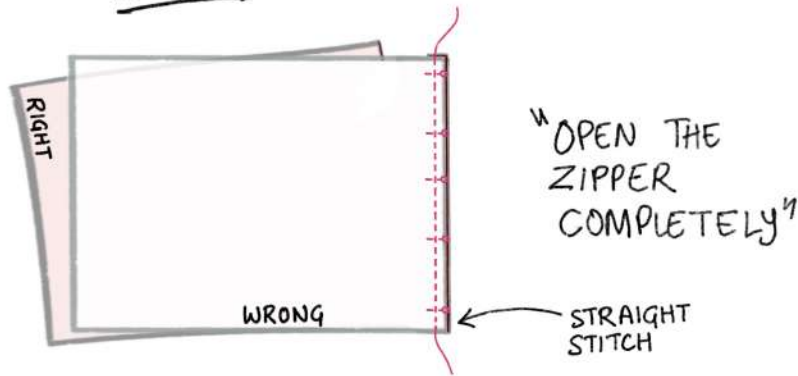


STEP 3: Straight stitch along the center front.

STEP 4: Open the zipper and mark the starting point of previous zipper on the zipper tape.



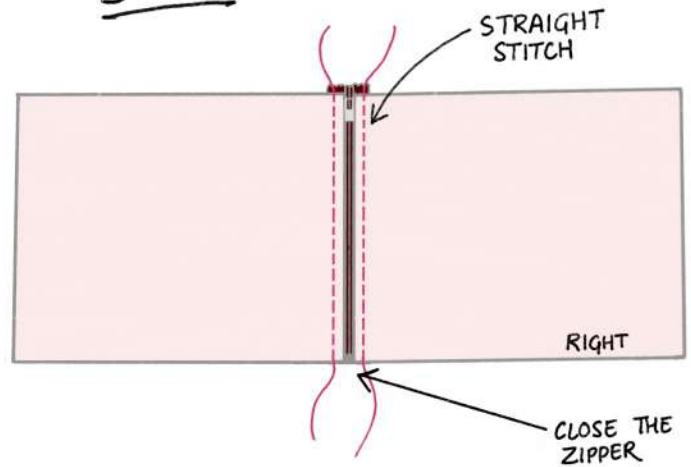
STEP 5



STEP 5: Open the zipper completely and place the other zipper tape along the center front right side of fabric. Pin the zipper tape and straight stitch.

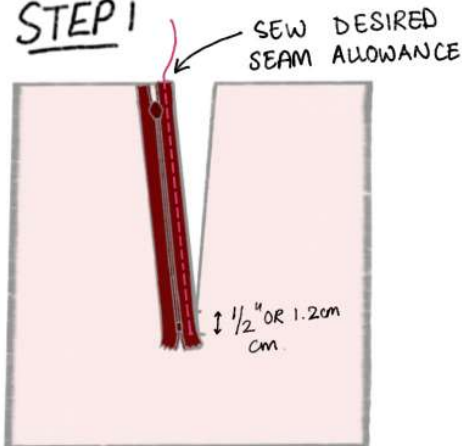
STEP 6: Close the zipper and straight stitch along the zipper tape on the right side of the fabric.

STEP 6



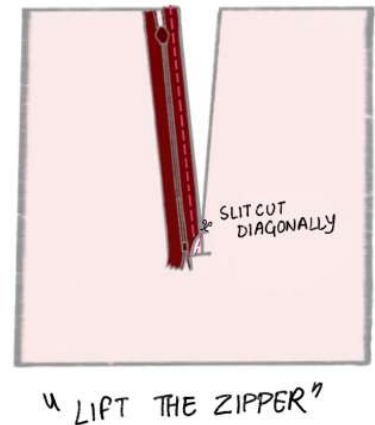
**21. Sew Placket Zipper**

STEP 1



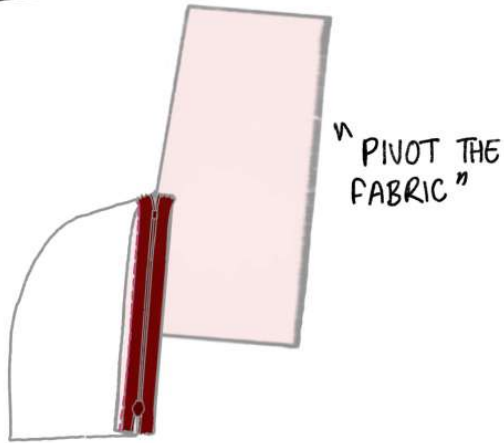
STEP 1: Place one side of zipper on the right side of the fabric and sew desired seam allowance. Ensure the right side of the zipper is facing right side of fabric. Sew until the slit opening and  $\frac{1}{2}$ " or 1.2cm below and stop.

STEP 2



STEP 2: Lift the zipper tape and use the scissor to slit cut diagonally.

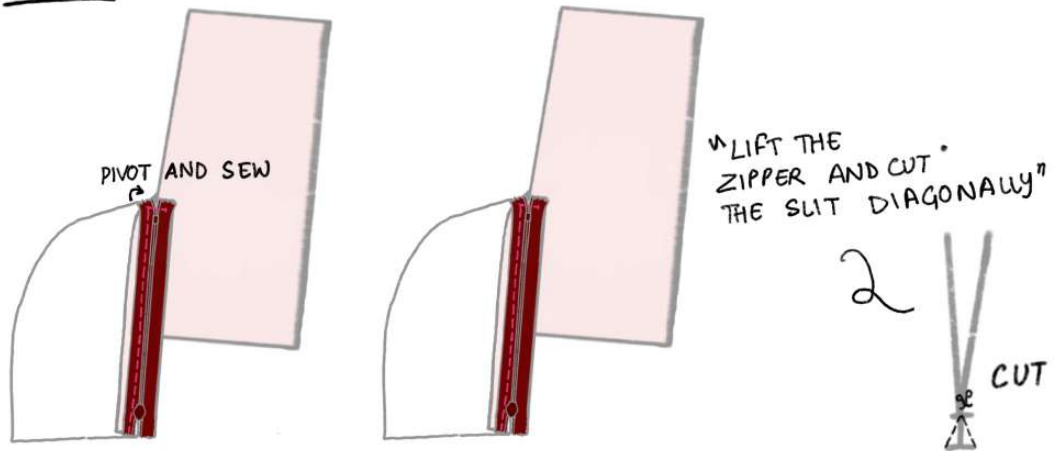
### STEP 3



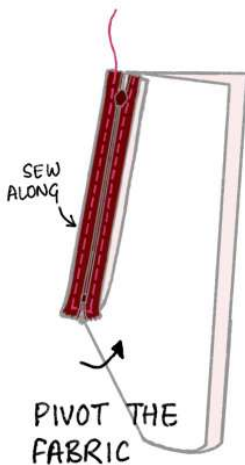
STEP 3: Pivot and move the zippered fabric side so the cut line is horizontal.

### STEP 4

STEP 4: Sew short edge straight and again pivot. Lift the zipper tape and use the scissor to slit cut diagonally.

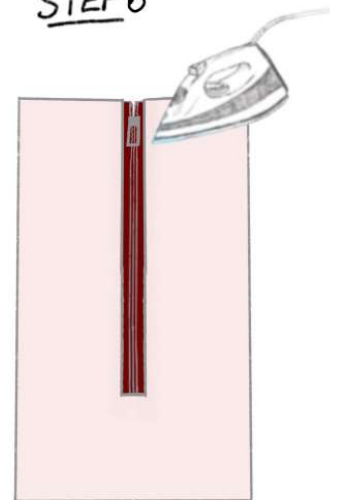


### STEP 5



STEP 5: Pivot the zippered sewn side of fabric so the fabrics are lined up and sew down along the zipper tape.

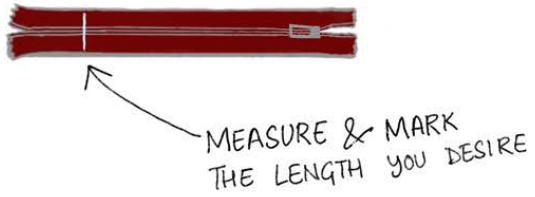
### STEP 6



Step 6: Open up the fabric right side up and lightly press all around to create a placket zipper.

## 22. Shorten Nylon Zipper

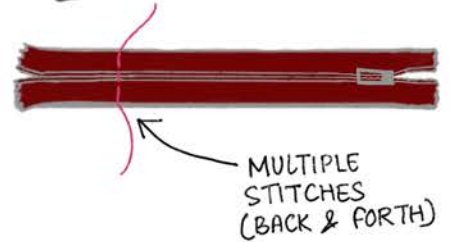
### STEP 1



STEP 1: Measure the length that you would like to shorten and mark with pen on both side of zipper tape. Do not include the extra zipper tape amount.

STEP 2: Slowly sew over the marked zipper teeth and go back and forth couple times.

### STEP 2



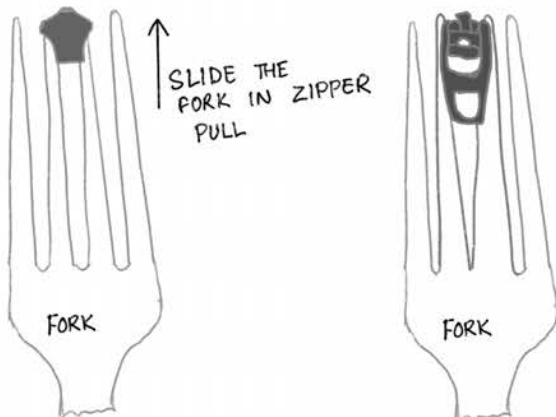
### STEP 3



STEP 3: Trim off the excess zipper tape.

## 23. Fix Zipper

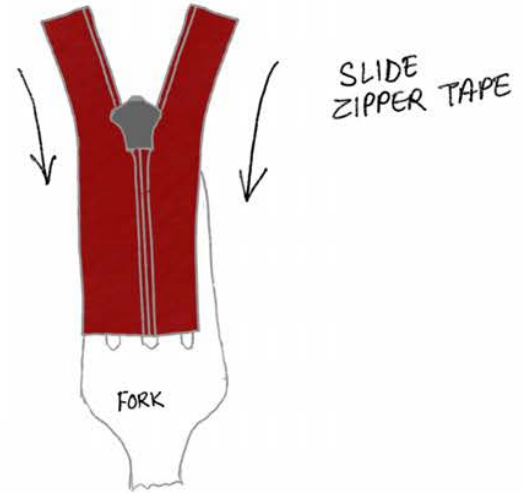
### STEP 1



STEP 1: Use a fork to slide the zipper pull through the middle part of the fork.

STEP 2: Slide the both sides of zipper tape along both sides of zipper pull opening.

STEP 2



SLIDE ZIPPER TAPE

STEP 3



REMOVE THE ZIPPER FROM THE FORK

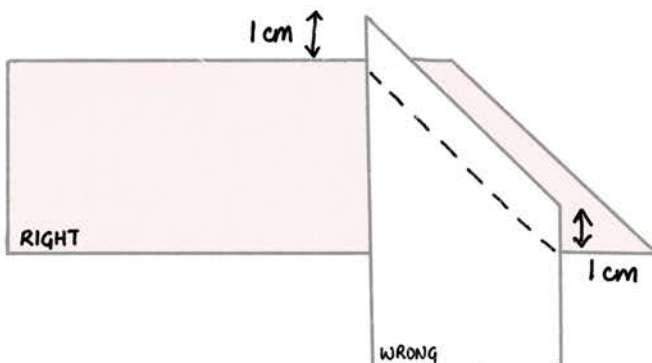


FULLY CLOSE THE ZIPPER

STEP 3: Use zipper pull to close the zipper halfway and remove the zipper from the fork and fully close the zipper.

## 24. Connect Bias Binding

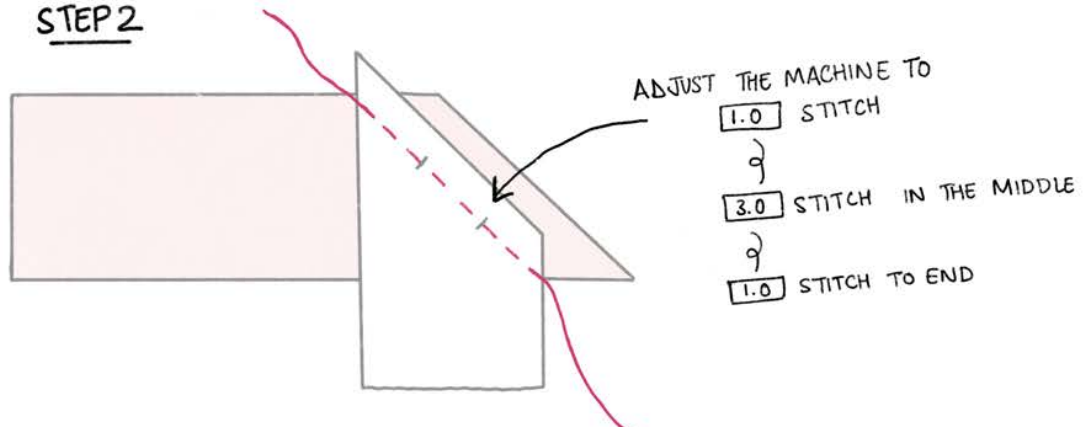
STEP 1



"MARK THE STITCHING LINE"

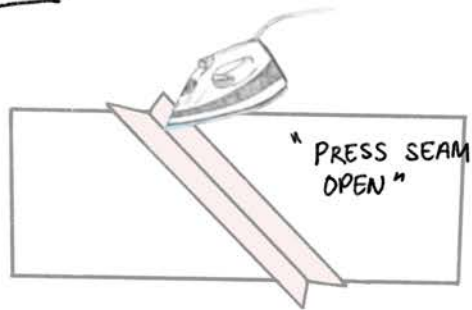
STEP 1: Place the bias binding strap right sides together on an angle so the top strap is  $\frac{3}{8}$ " or 1cm longer sticking out on both top and side. Mark a stitching line with pen.

### STEP 2

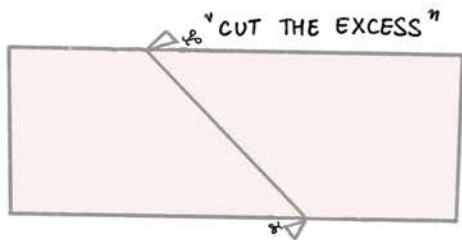


STEP 2: Adjust the machine to 1.0 stitch and start sew along the marked line and in the middle adjust the machine to 3.0 stitch and readjust to 1.0 stitch to end sewing.

### STEP 3

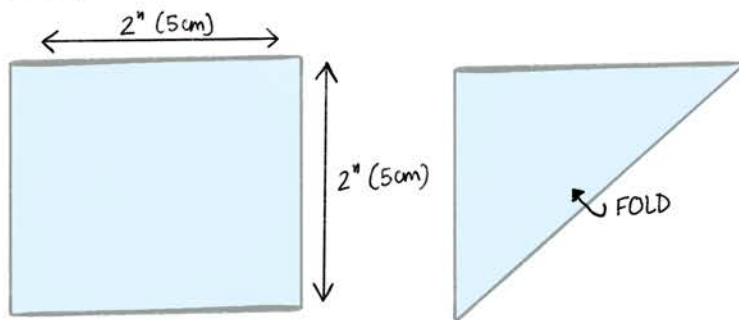


STEP 3: Press seam open and snip the excess top and bottom fabric.



## 25. Hand Thread the Sewing Needle

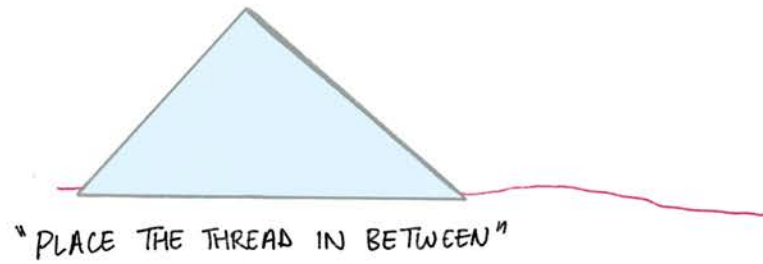
### STEP 1



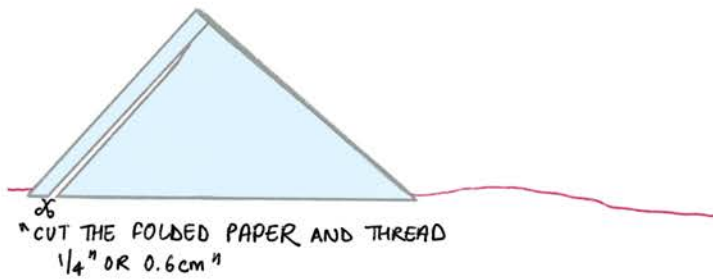
STEP 1: Take a piece of paper that is 2" x 2" ( 5cm x 5cm) and fold in half diagonally.

## STEP 2

STEP 2: Place the thread in-between the folded square paper and fold the fabric along the previous folded line.



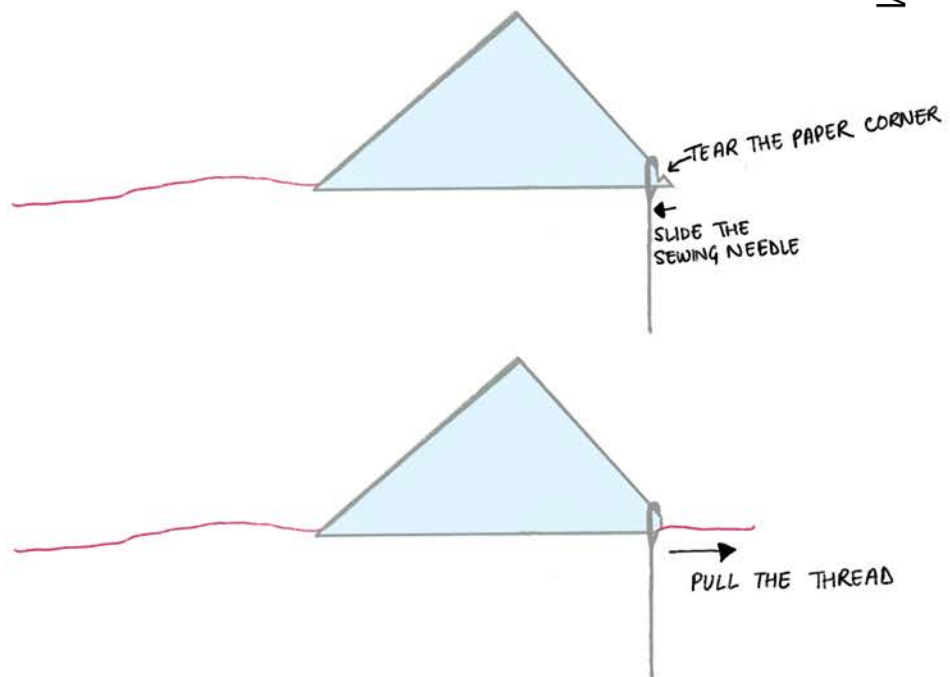
## STEP 3



STEP 3: Cut the paper and thread 1/4" or 0.6cm width.

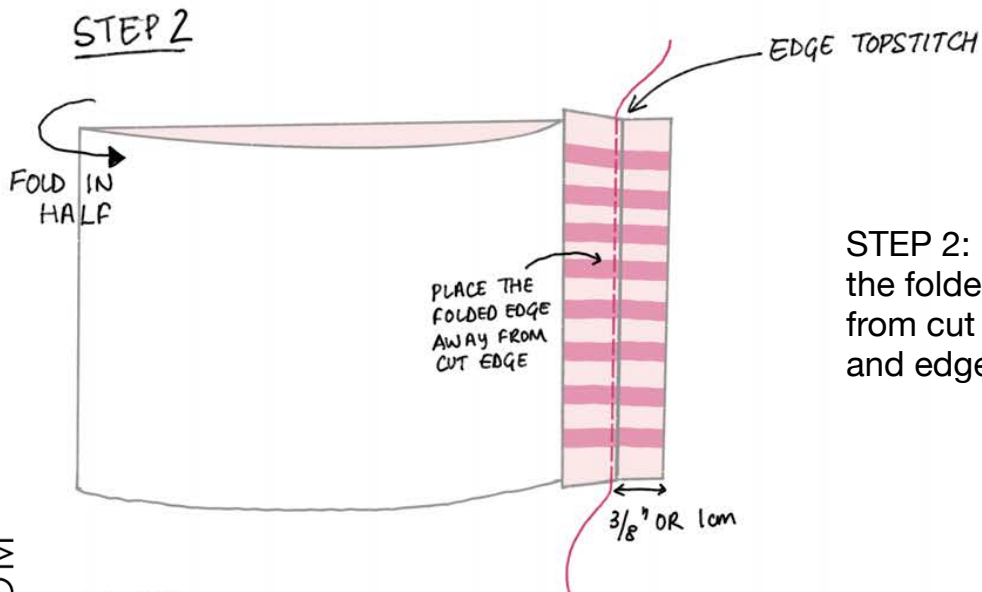
## STEP 4

STEP 4: Slide the paper through the hand sewing needle and cut the corner of the paper. Pull the thread through the sewing needle.



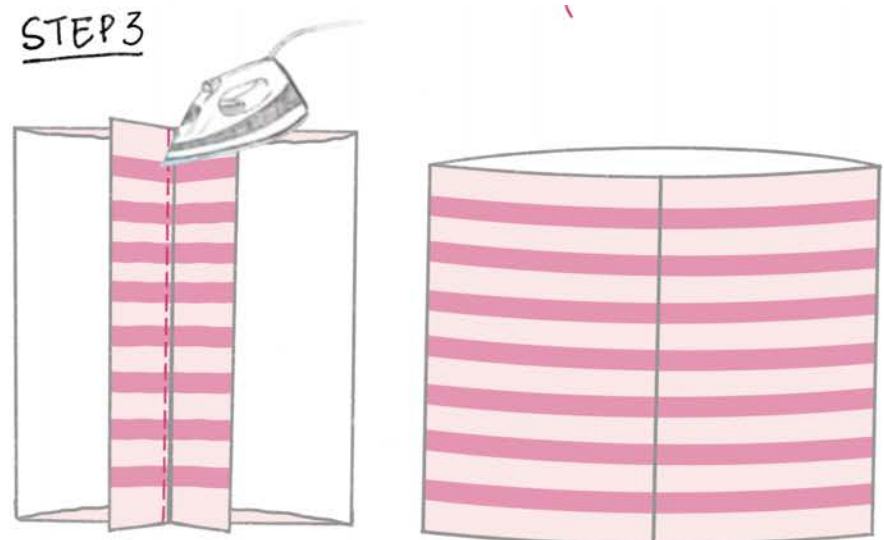
## 26. Match Stripe When Sewing Seams

STEP 1: Fold  $\frac{3}{8}$ " or 1cm (or desired seam allowance amount) edge on one side toward the wrong side of the fabric and press.



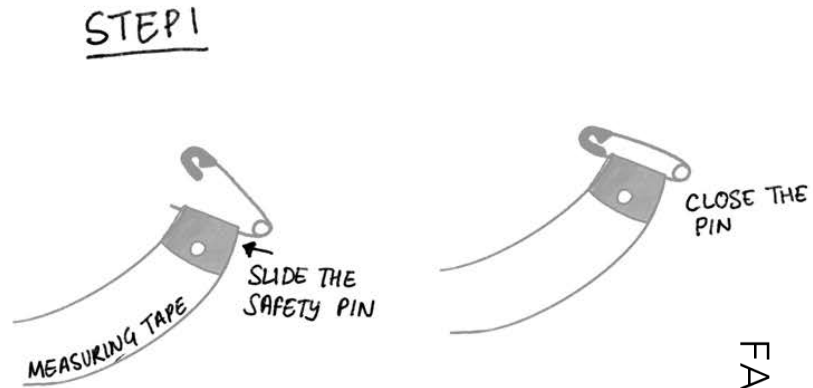
STEP 2: Fold the fabric in half and place the folded edge  $\frac{3}{8}$ " or 1cm width away from cut edge. Ensure to match the stripe and edge topstitch along the folded edge.

STEP 3: Press seam open and flip the fabric right side out.

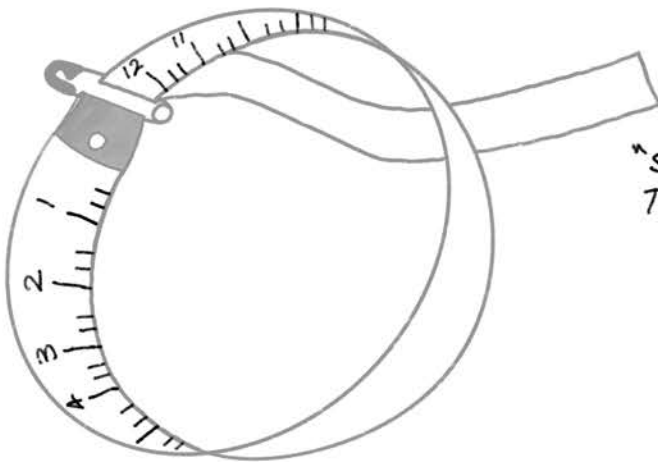


## 27. Measure Wrist Accurately

STEP 1: Open a safety pin and slide the needle part of safety pin through the metal clip part of the measuring tape. Close the safety pin.



### STEP 2

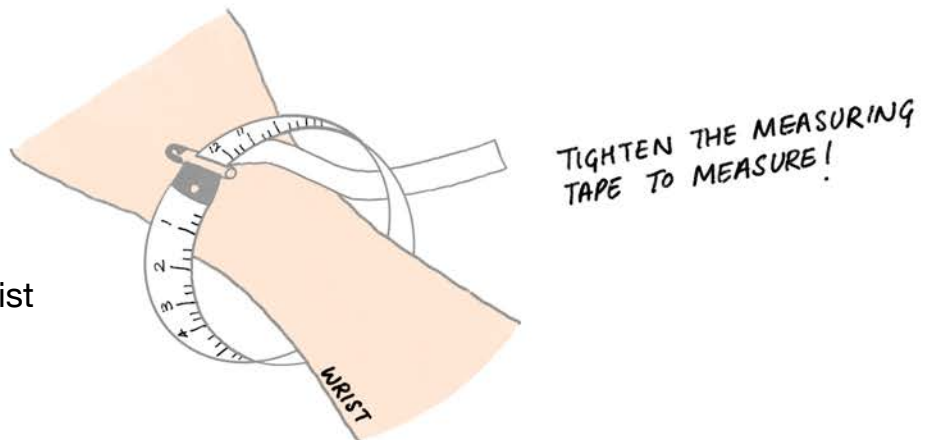


"SLIDE THE OTHERSIDE THROUGH THE PIN"

STEP 2: Take the other end of measuring tape and slide through the safety pin to create a loop.

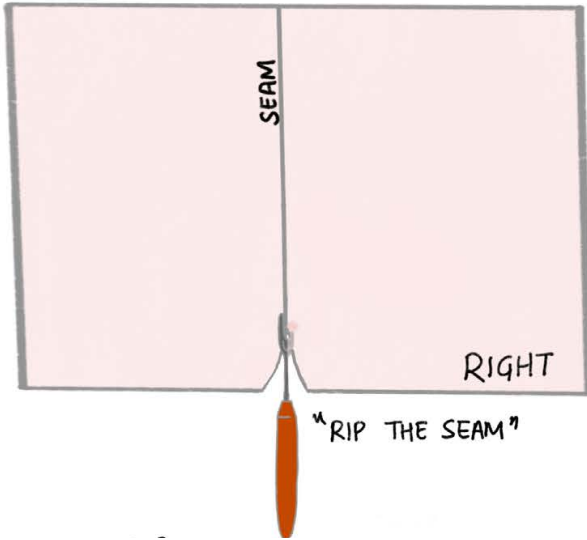
### STEP 3

STEP 3: Through the loop insert wrist and tighten the measuring tape to measure the width of your wrist.



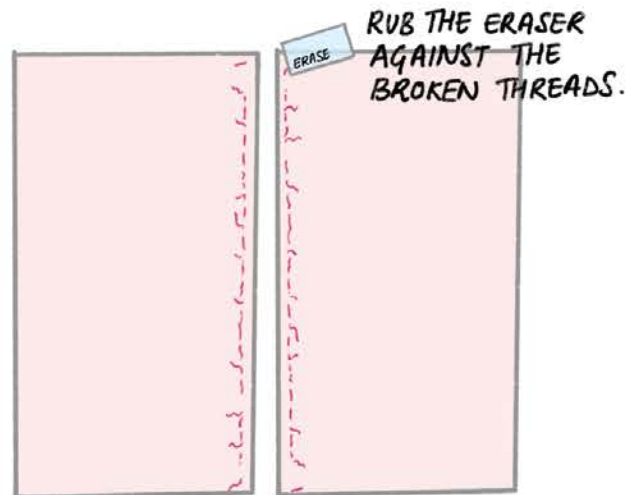
## 28. Clean Out Thread Easily From Ripped Seam

### STEP 1



STEP 1: Start ripping the seam properly with seam ripper.

### STEP 2



STEP 2: Separate the fabrics and use an eraser to rub against the broken threads along the seams.

### STEP 3



REMOVE THE THREADS FROM THE ERASER AND CONTINUE.

STEP 3: Remove thread parts on the eraser and continue to clean out threads.

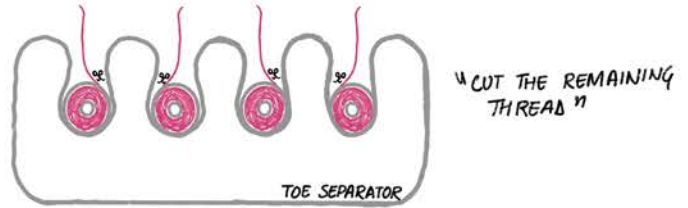
## 29. Organize Bobbin Thread

STEP 1



STEP 1: Use a toe separator sponge to insert the bobbin on each hole.

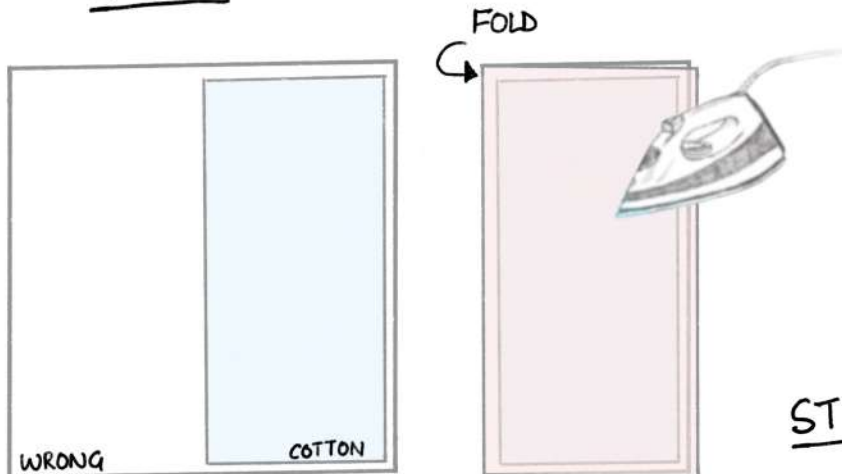
STEP 2



STEP 2: Once the separator is filled with bobbin thread, cut the remaining thread with scissors.

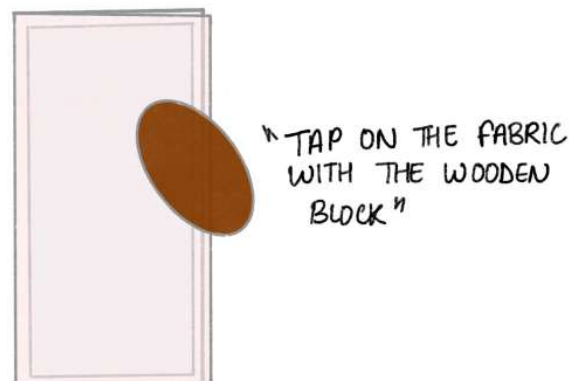
## 30. Make Quilted Fabric with Even Stitches

STEP 1



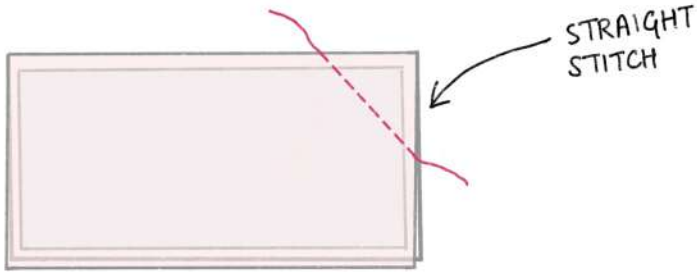
STEP 1: Take a cotton ball batting on the wrong side of the fabric and place the fabric on top to sandwich. Lightly press the fabric with iron to give a nice pressure.

STEP 2



STEP 2: Use a wooden block to tap on top of the fabric to even out the batting.

### STEP 3



STEP 3: Straight stitch first line with regular sewing foot.

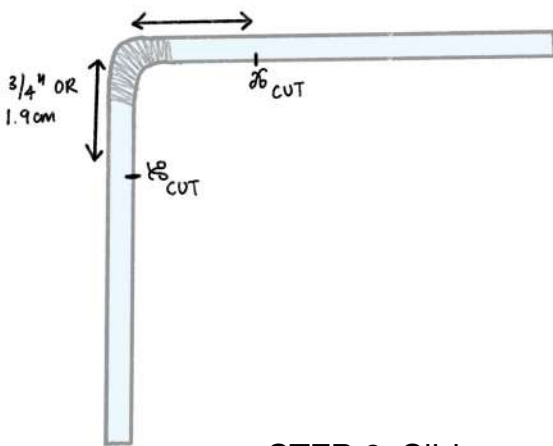
### STEP 4

STEP 4: Replace the regular sewing foot with any open toe foot.



"REPLACE REGULAR FOOT TO ANY OPEN TOE FOOT"

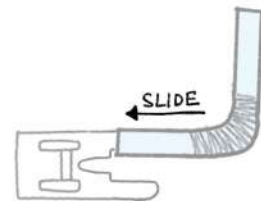
### STEP 5



STEP 5: Take a straw and cut  $\frac{3}{4}$ " or 1.9cm from both side of bent straw.

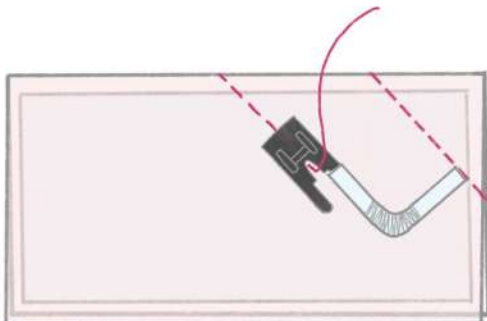
### STEP 6

STEP 6: Slide one end of straw to the leg of open toe foot and insert the sewing foot to the sewing machine.



INSERT THE FOOT TO THE SEWING MACHINE

### STEP 7



"USE THE STRAW AS A GUIDE TO CREATE EVEN STITCHES"

STEP 7: Use the first or previous stitch line and use the straw as guide to create evenly spaced stitches.

### 31. Organize Matching Bobbin and Spool of Thread

#### STEP 1



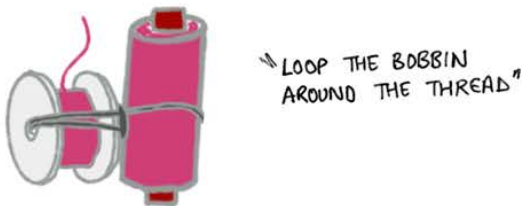
STEP 1: Grab your spool of thread your bobbin and a hair tie or a rubber band.

#### STEP 2



STEP 2: Push your hair tie through the center of your bobbin then grab one end and loop it through the other end you're going to pull that end out.

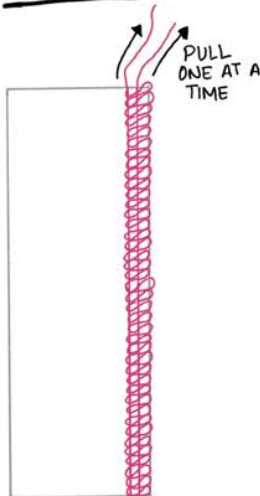
#### STEP 3



STEP 3: Loop that around your thread spool and now you'll always have a matching bobbin thread with your spool of thread.

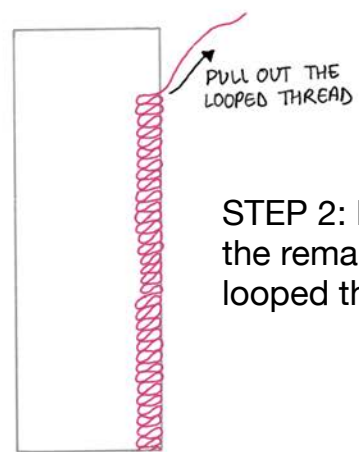
### 32. Rip Serged Seams Quickly

#### STEP 1



STEP 1: Find the two straight threads and pull them out while holding on to the fabric and pull one out at a time. These threads are straight stitch that went through the serge stitch.

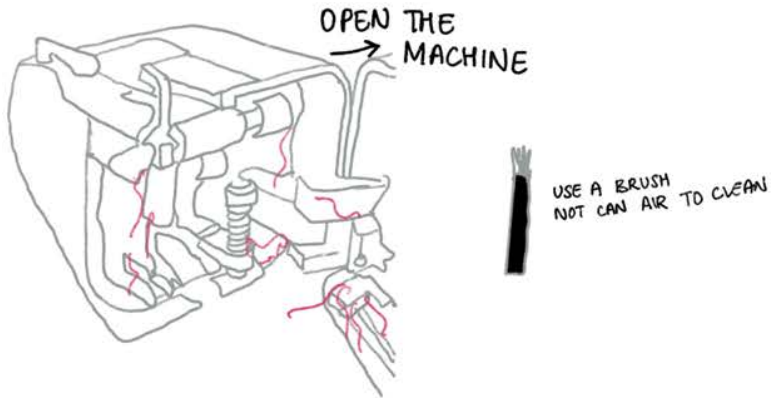
#### STEP 2



STEP 2: Pull out the remaining looped thread out.

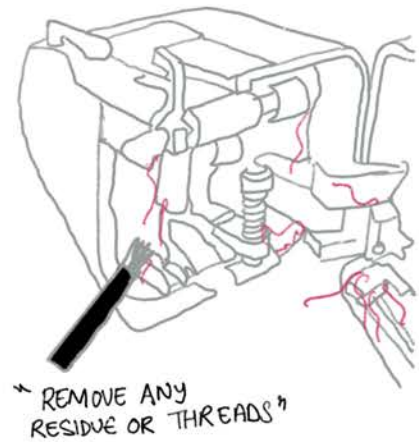
### 33. Clean Sewing Machine

STEP 1



STEP 1: Open up our machine and brush them to clean out your machine instead of can air.

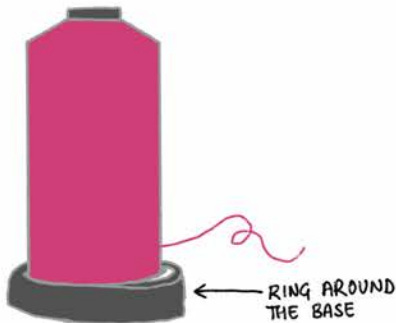
STEP 2



STEP 2: Remove any residue or thread from inside the machine and sewing board.

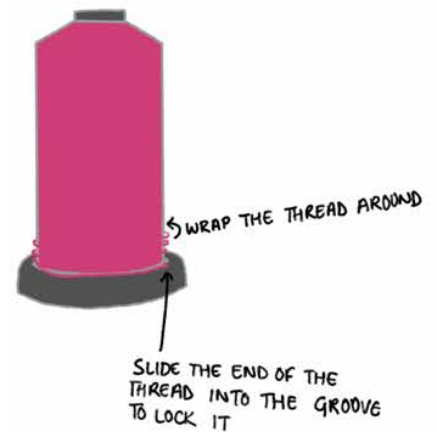
### 34. Store Spool of Thread Properly

STEP 1



STEP 1: Find the ring around the base of thread spool.

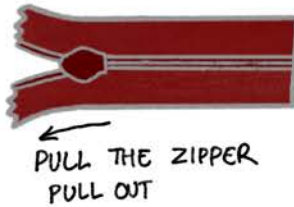
STEP 2



STEP 2: Wrap around the thread all the way to the end and hold your thumb to slide the end of thread into the groove to lock it.

### 35. Reinstall a Zipper Head

#### STEP 1



STEP 1: Separate the zipper tape by removing the zipper pull.

STEP 2: Cut the one side of zipper tooth about 1" or 2.5cm long.

#### STEP 2



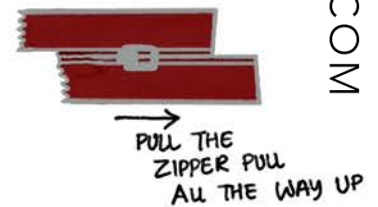
#### STEP 3



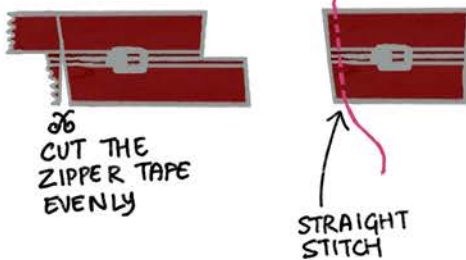
STEP 3: Slide the zipper pull on the other side of zipper.

STEP 4: Then, slide the cut zipper tape side to the zipper pull and pull the zipper all the way up.

#### STEP 4



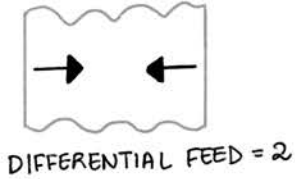
#### STEP 5



STEP 5: Cut the remaining zipper tape evenly and then straight stitch across the zipper.

### 36. Gather on Serger Machine

#### STEP 1



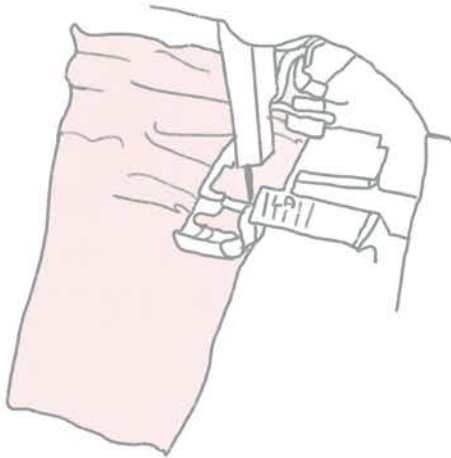
STEP 1: Raise the differential feed to two on the overlock machine.

#### STEP 2



STEP 2: Change the stitch length to a four.

#### STEP 3

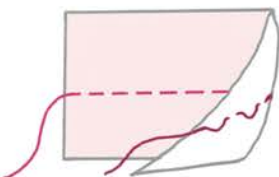


"IT WILL AUTOMATICALLY START GATHERING"

STEP 3: Place fabric on the machine and start sewing. It will automatically create gathering using a serger machine.

### 37. Basic Sewing Tension

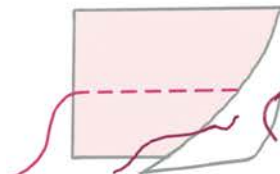
#### STEP 1



IF LOOSE BACK THREAD, INCREASE THE NEEDLE TENSION

STEP 1: When the top thread look good but the back thread is loose, this means to increase the needle tension.

#### STEP 2



IF THE THREAD BREAKS, TENSION TOO HIGH OR POOR QUALITY THREAD

STEP 2: When thread break while you sew, this means the tension is too high or the thread quality is too poor.

### 38. Best Thread to Use for Sewing Machine

#### STEP 1

DON'T USE  
CHEAP THREAD

STEP 1: Avoid using cheap thread to your sewing machine.

#### STEP 2

LIGHT  
IF STRANDS POKING  
OUT → LOW QUALITY THREAD

STEP 2: Hold the thread to the light and see many strands poking out in all different directions that means this is low quality thread.

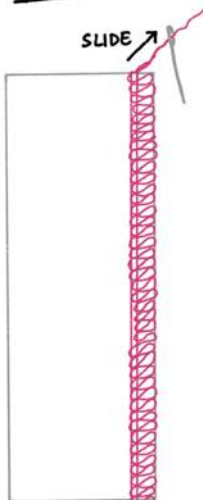
#### STEP 3

HOLD THE ENDS  
AND TRY TO SNAPS  
IF BREAKS = LOW QUALITY THREAD

STEP 3: Do a snap test by holding the ends of thread on each side of your hand and try to snap. If it snap easily, the thread is low quality.

### 39. Secure Serger Thread

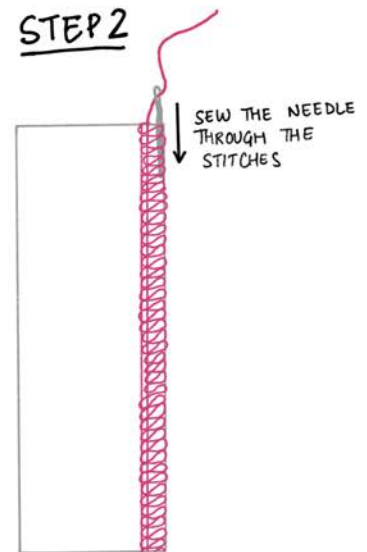
#### STEP 1



STEP 1: Instead of cutting the serger thread tail, take embroidery needle and thread the serger tail through the eye of the needle.

STEP 2: Sew the needle back through the stitches and snip the remaining thread.

#### STEP 2



### 40. Easy Way to Install Zipper

#### STEP 1



OVERCAST OR ZIGZAG USING SERGER

STEP 1: Finish the cut edges using a serger and overcast foot or zigzag foot.

STEP 2: Fold and press the overlock seam  $\frac{3}{8}$ " or 1cm width (or desired seam allowance width).

#### STEP 2



FOLD  $\frac{3}{8}$ " OR 1cm OR DESIRED SEAM ALLOWANCE

#### STEP 3



BASTING TAPE

"CUT A PIECE OF BASTING TAPE THE LENGTH OF THE ZIPPER"

STEP 3: Grab your zipper and cut a piece of basting tape the length of the zipper.

#### STEP 4



STEP 4: Stick the basting tape on the edge of the zipper tape and finger press.

STICK THE BASTING TAPE AND FINGER PRESS

#### STEP 5



REMOVE THE ADHESIVE PART



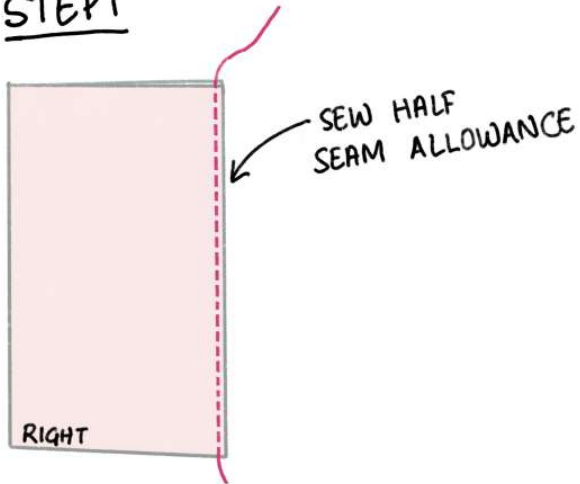
PLACE THE FABRIC WITH FOLDED SEAM ALLOWANCE ON THE BASTING TAPE AND FINGER PRESS.

STEP 5: Remove the adhesive part on the tape and place the fabric on top so the wrong side of the fabric touches the basting tape on zipper. Finger press the secure the zipper tape to the fabric.

## 41. Sew Mimic French Seam for Clean Finish

FOR STRAIGHT LINES

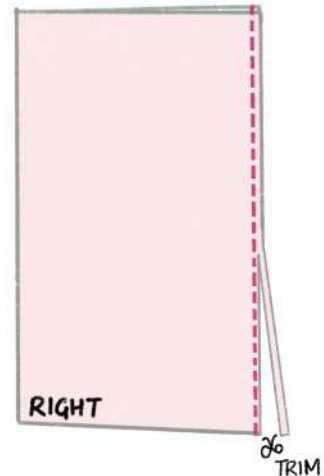
STEP 1



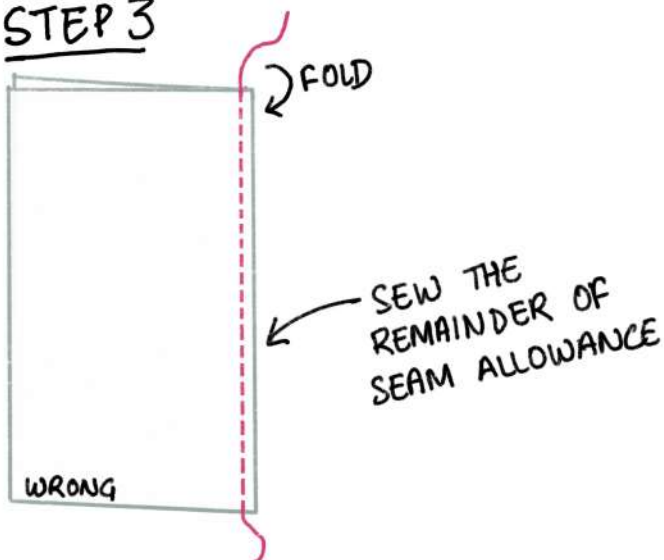
STEP 1: Sew fabrics together using half the seam allowance.

STEP 2: Trim the seam allowance.

STEP 2



STEP 3

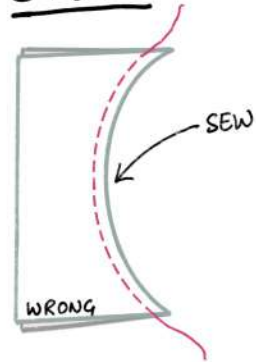


STEP 3: Fold the fabric with the right sides together and stitch the rest of the seam with the remainder of seam allowance.

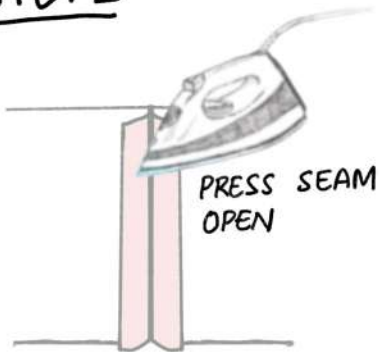
STEP 1: With right sides together, sew full seam allowance.

FOR CURVE LINES

STEP 1



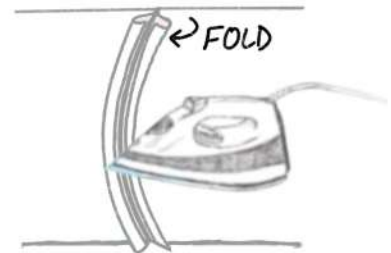
STEP 2



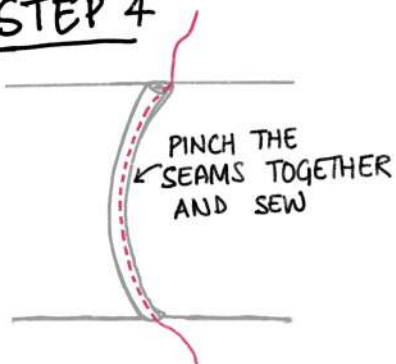
STEP 2: Press the seam open.

STEP 3

STEP 3: Press each side of the seam allowance in half towards the seam.



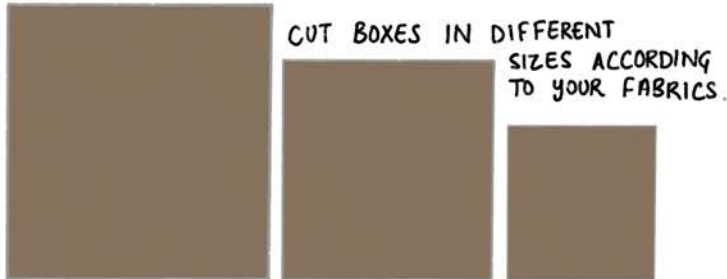
STEP 4



STEP 4: Pinch the two seam allowances together and stitch the seams.

## 42. Organize Fabric

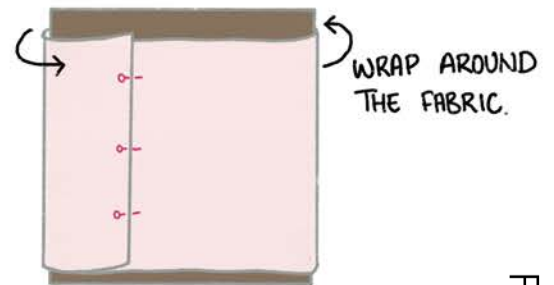
### STEP 1



STEP 1: Recycle moving boxes by cutting off based off the sizes of different fabrics.

STEP 2: Wrap the fabric around the cardboard pieces and pin it in place.

### STEP 2



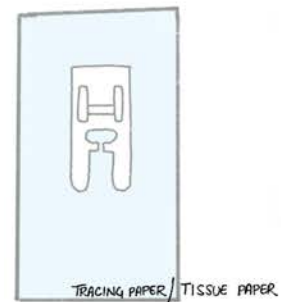
## 43. Sew Slippery or Delicate Fabric

### STEP 1



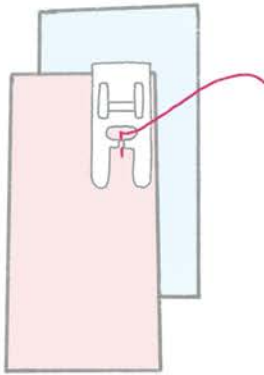
STEP 1: Reduce stitch length to 3.5.

### STEP 2



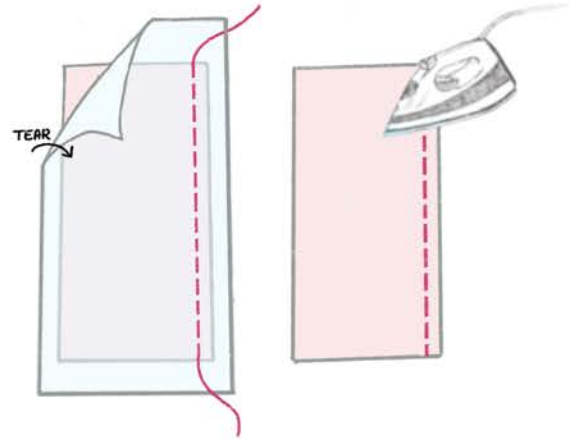
STEP 2: Prepare tissue paper or tracing paper and lay on the sewing machine bed.

### STEP 3



STEP 3: Then take the piece that you are going to sew lower the foot and the needle and start sewing.

### STEP 4



STEP 4: After completing the stitching, tear away the paper and press.

## 44. Cut Binding in Equal Length Without Ruler

### STEP 1

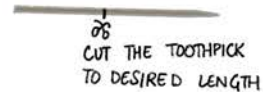


THREAD CUTTER  
& TOOTH PICK

STEP 1: Prepare thread clipper and toothpick.

STEP 2: Cut the toothpick of your desired length for binding.

### STEP 2



### STEP 3



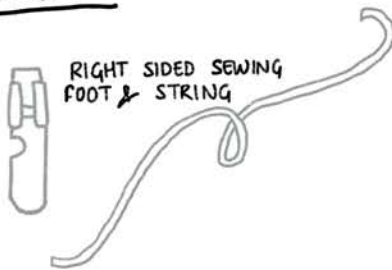
STEP 3: Place the pointy toothpick through the thread clipper hole.

STEP 4: Use the toothpick to measure the binding and snip to repeat making equal length without measuring with ruler.



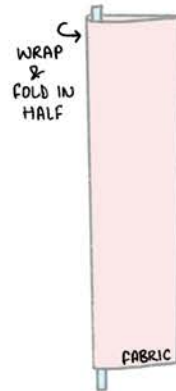
## 45. Sew Piping

### STEP 1



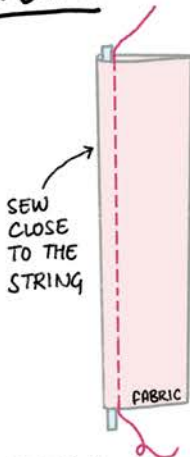
STEP 1: Prepare right-sided sewing foot and piece of string.

### STEP 2



STEP 2: Wrap fabric around the piece of string in the middle and fold in half.

### STEP 3



STEP 3: Make a seam as close to the string as possible.

## STEP 4



STEP 4: Trim the seam allowance.

## STEP 5



PLACE PIPING  
BETWEEN 2 FABRICS  
& SEW CLOSELY

STEP 5: Place piping between two layers of fabric and make a seam as close to string as possible.

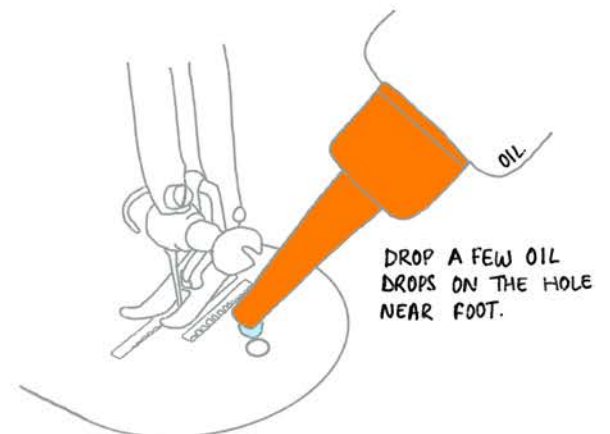
## 46. Oil Sewing Machine

### STEP 1



STEP 1: Avoid oiling sewing machine along the foot of the bed.

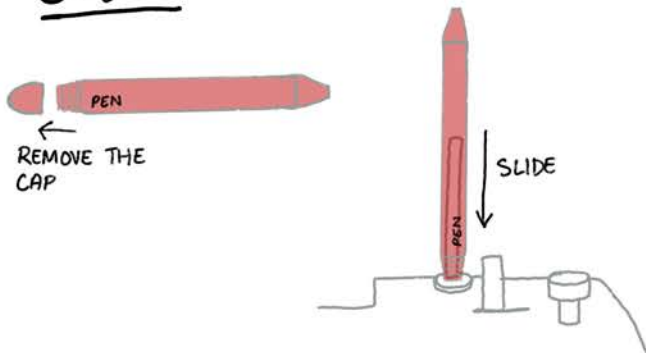
### STEP 2



STEP 2: Instead drop few oil on the hole next to the sewing foot.

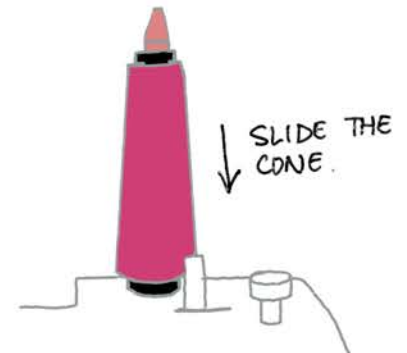
## 47. Use Thread Cone on Sewing Machine

### STEP 1



STEP 1: Remove the pen cap and slide through the sewing machine thread holder.

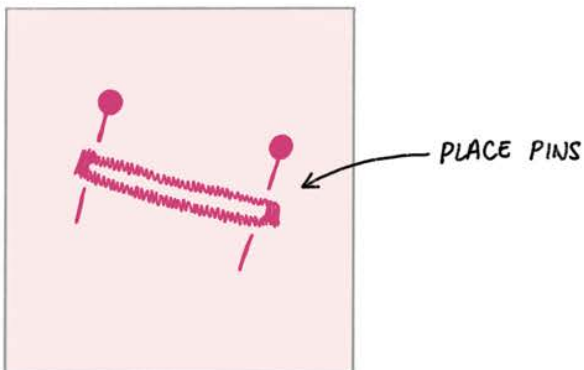
### STEP 2



STEP 2: Place the large thread cone through the pen holder and start threading the machine.

## 48. Open Buttonhole Properly with Seam Ripper

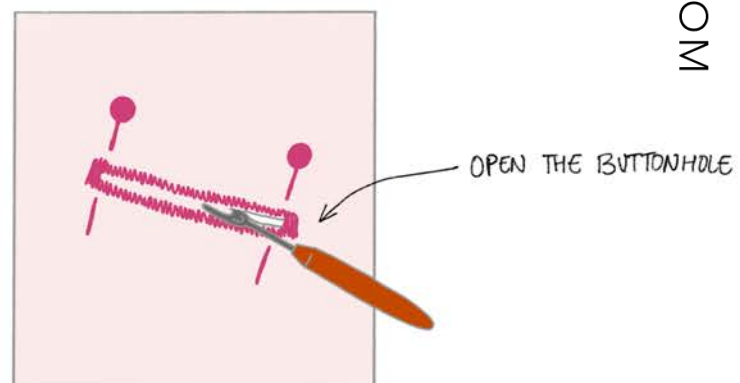
### STEP 1



STEP 1: Place pin along the start and end of buttonhole.

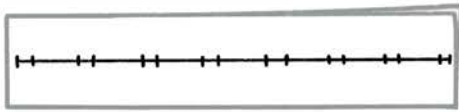
STEP 2: Use seam ripper and open the buttonhole within the buttonhole marking.

### STEP 2



## 49. Sew Viral Buttonholes

### STEP 1

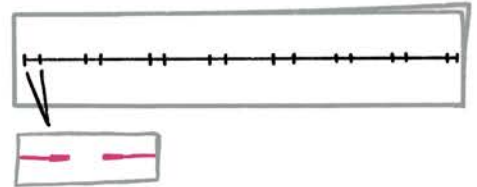


MARK BUTTON POSITION  
AND ENSURE EQUAL DISTANCE

STEP 1: On the wrong side of fabric, mark the button position and ensure the in-between the button placement is equal.

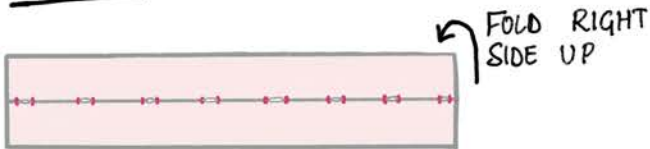
STEP 2: Straight stitch along and back stitch right before and after the button position and skip stitching along the button position.

### STEP 2



BACK STITCH  
& SKIP STITCHING  
ALONG THE BUTTON POSITION

### STEP 3

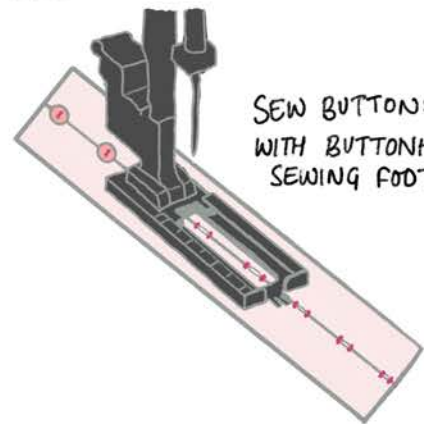


FOLD RIGHT  
SIDE UP

STEP 3: Fold the Fabric right side out and check the button holes.

STEP 4: Use buttonhole sewing foot and sew buttons on the right side of the fabric.

### STEP 4



SEW BUTTONS  
WITH BUTTONHOLE  
SEWING FOOT.

### STEP 5

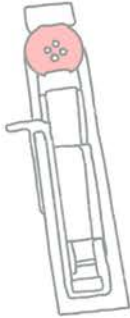
PUT BUTTONS THROUGH THE BUTTONHOLES.



STEP 5: Double check the placket pieces by put buttons through the buttonholes.

## 50. How to Know What Size Buttonhole to Make

### STEP 1



STEP 1: Take the button that you are going to use onto the garment and pop it into the buttonhole foot.

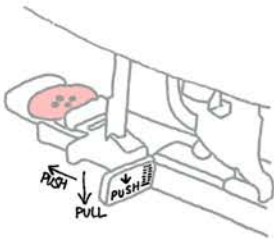
STEP 2: Switch the sewing machine over to a buttonhole stitch. Change the stitch length to zero and stitch width around five and the tension in the middle.

### STEP 2



STITCH LENGTH → 0  
STITCH WIDTH → AROUND 5  
TENSION → MIDDLE

### STEP 3

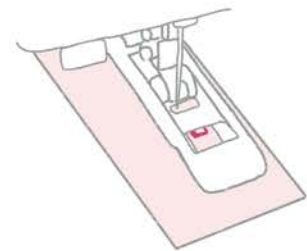


PULL AND PUSH  
DOWN THE LEVER

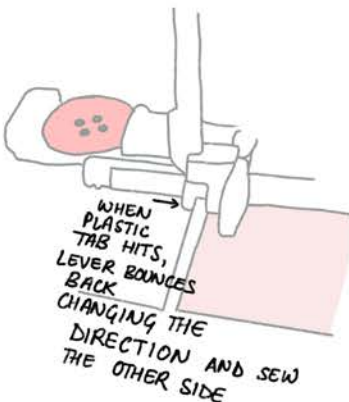
STEP 3: Pull down the buttonhole lever and push it.

STEP 4: Start sewing the buttonhole on the fabric.

### STEP 4



### STEP 5



WHEN  
PLASTIC  
TAB HITS,  
LEVER BOUNCES  
BACK  
CHANGING THE  
DIRECTION AND SEW  
THE OTHER SIDE

STEP 5: Lever reads how big the button is and when the plastic tab hits, the lever bounce back to turn around and sew the other side.



Starting your sewing journey? Fabulous! Don't stress the slip-ups—they're part of the process. Every stitch, whether straight or slightly wild, is a stylish step forward. Embrace the thrill of experimenting with different fabrics, bold patterns, and new techniques. Mistakes? They're not failures—they're fashion lessons in disguise. The joy is in the making—watching something unique take shape under your fingertips is pure creative magic.

And while you're crafting runway-ready pieces, don't forget your tools. Show your sewing machine some love with regular cleaning and care—it's your trusty sidekick, after all. Keep your scissors sharp, your workspace chic, and most importantly, take care of *you*. Sewing isn't just a skill—it's a form of self-care, a moment to breathe, create, and recharge. So make time for it, enjoy every moment, and keep that creativity flowing.

Happy sewing! 💕✂️🧵

Soonjoo

Owner, Designer, Maker

[FashionWanderer.com](https://FashionWanderer.com) & [PatternsForLess.com](https://PatternsForLess.com)