

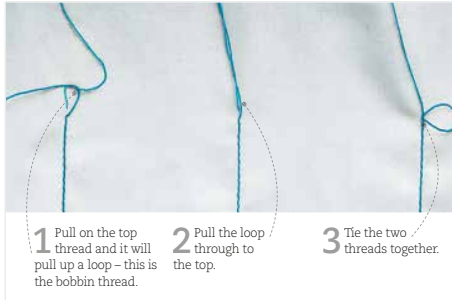
MACHINE STITCHES AND SEAMS

Fabric is joined together using seams, whether it be for an item of clothing, craft work, or soft furnishings. The most common seam is a plain seam, which is suitable for a wide variety of fabrics and items. However, there are many other seams to be used as appropriate, depending on the fabric and item being constructed. Some seams are decorative and can add detail to structured garments.

SECURING THE THREAD

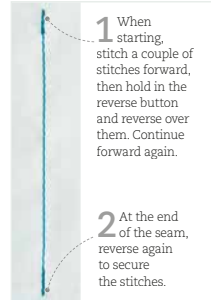
Machine stitches need to be secured at the end of a seam to prevent them from coming undone. This can be done by hand, tying the ends of the thread, or using the machine with a reverse stitch or a locking stitch, which stitches three or four stitches in the same place.

TIE THE ENDS



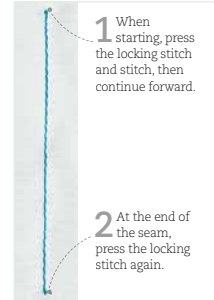
- 1 Pull on the top thread and it will pull up a loop – this is the bobbin thread.
- 2 Pull the loop through to the top.
- 3 Tie the two threads together.

REVERSE STITCH



- 1 When starting, stitch a couple of stitches forward, then hold in the reverse button and reverse over them. Continue forward again.
- 2 At the end of the seam, reverse again to secure the stitches.

LOCKING STITCH

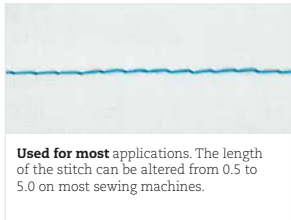


- 1 When starting, press the locking stitch and stitch, then continue forward.
- 2 At the end of the seam, press the locking stitch again.

STITCHES MADE WITH A MACHINE

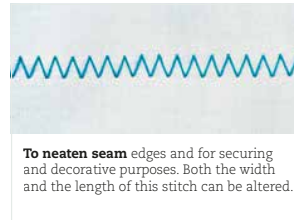
The sewing machine will stitch plain seams and decorative seams as well as buttonholes of various styles. The length and width of all buttonholes can be altered to suit the garment or craft item. Stitch length and width can also be adjusted. On most machines, the number settings equate to millimetres (used in this book), but some brands use stitches per inch.

STRAIGHT STITCH



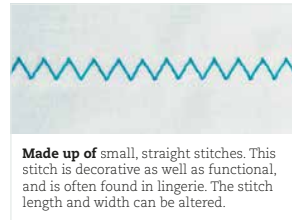
Used for most applications. The length of the stitch can be altered from 0.5 to 5.0 on most sewing machines.

ZIGZAG STITCH



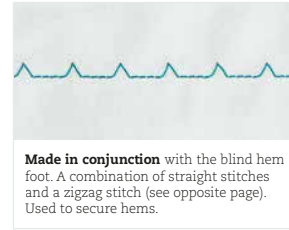
To neaten seam edges and for securing and decorative purposes. Both the width and the length of this stitch can be altered.

3-STEP ZIGZAG STITCH



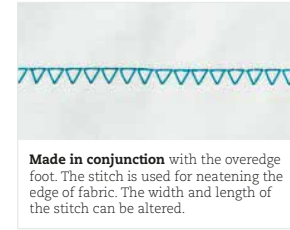
Made up of small, straight stitches. This stitch is decorative as well as functional, and is often found in lingerie. The stitch length and width can be altered.

BLIND HEM STITCH



Made in conjunction with the blind hem foot. A combination of straight stitches and a zigzag stitch (see opposite page). Used to secure hems.

OVEREDGE STITCH



Made in conjunction with the overedge foot. The stitch is used for neatening the edge of fabric. The width and length of the stitch can be altered.

STRETCH STITCH



Also known as a lightening stitch. This stitch is recommended for stretch knits, but is better used to help control difficult fabrics.

BASIC BUTTONHOLE STITCH



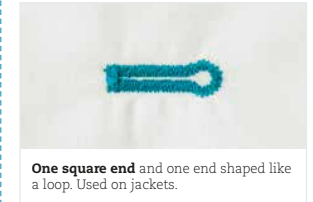
Square on both ends. Used on all styles of garment.

ROUND-END BUTTONHOLE STITCH



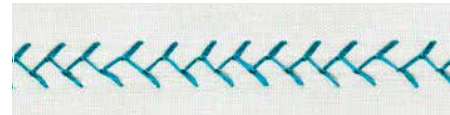
One square end and one round end. Used on jackets.

KEYHOLE BUTTONHOLE STITCH



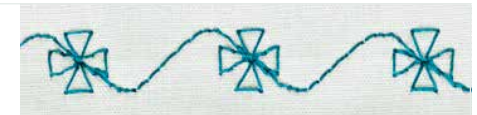
One square end and one end shaped like a loop. Used on jackets.

DECORATIVE STITCHES

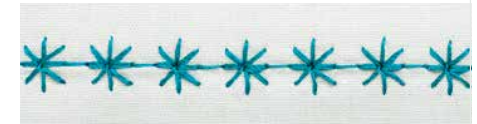


Sewing machines are capable of producing decorative linear stitches. These can be used to enhance the surface of work or a seam as they add interest to edges. Or, when worked as many rows together, they can be used to create a piece of embroidered fabric.

CORN STITCH

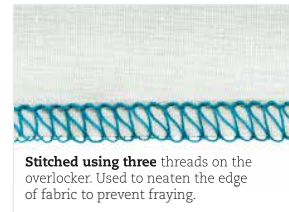


FLOWER STITCH



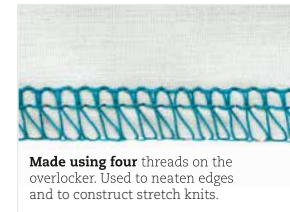
STAR STITCH

3-THREAD OVERLOCK STITCH



Stitched using three threads on the overlocker. Used to neaten the edge of fabric to prevent fraying.

4-THREAD OVERLOCK STITCH



Made using four threads on the overlocker. Used to neaten edges and to construct stretch knits.

MACHINE ARROWHEADS



This is a built-in stitch on many sewing machines. Used to secure weak points.