

BACK STITCH

Causing your sewing machine to sew in reverse for 1/4" - 1/2", and then continuing forward again in order to reinforce the stitches at the beginning or end of a line of stitches. This is done by pressing the reverse button located on your sewing machine (see owners manual for location).

BATTING (OR PELLON)

A layer of insulation or padding between the front and back fabric pieces of a quilt.

BOBBIN

A small wheel of thread that is housed inside a sewing machine directly under the needle (see owners manual for location and instruction on threading the bobbin).

CASING

A fabric tunnel through which elastic or drawstring can be threaded to draw up the fabric. To make the casing, fold the fabric over 1/4" with wrong sides of fabric together, and iron it down. For the second fold, add 1/4" to the width of the elastic or drawstring, fold the fabric over the width of the second fold, and iron it down. Stitch the casing with the wrong side of fabric facing up. Stitch completely around the garment ending 1" before the center-back seam.

GATHER STITCH

Used to create a gather or ruffle.

Set your sewing machine to a wide stitch width (see owners manual for instruction on how to do so). Then stitch 5/8" away from the edge of the fabric, making sure to backstitch only at the beginning, and leaving 3" of extra thread at the end.

HEM

An edge of fabric that has been folded over, folded over again, and sewn to stay that way.

MACHINE SETTINGS

The type of stitch and stitch length. See your machine manual for instructions on how to adjust these settings.

RIGHT/WRONG SIDE OF FABRIC

The Right side of the fabric is the side that you wish to see on the finished product (outside of a garment).

The Wrong side is the side you do not wish to see (inside of a garment).

SEAM

A line of stitches that joins two edges or pieces of fabric together.

SEAM ALLOWANCE

The area between the edge of the fabric and the line you are sewing. A $\frac{5}{8}$ " sewing allowance means that you sew your seam $\frac{5}{8}$ " inside the edge of the fabric. Most sewing machines have lines carved in the metal plate under the needle for your convenience.

SHEARS

Shears are longer and heavier than standard scissors. Shears have blades longer than 6" and often have one small handle with a hole that fits the thumb and one large handle with a hole that will fit two or more fingers. Scissors and shears aren't really the same thing and are meant to perform different tasks. Shears are used for the heavier cutting jobs, whereas scissors are best used for lighter cutting jobs such as trimming or clipping threads.

WHIP STITCH

Sewing by hand to close up an opening. You do this by always inserting your needle and thread from the front of the fabric (near the edge you wish to close) to the back of the fabric. Then bring the needle over the top of the edge and back to the front. Repeat until the opening is closed. The end result looks similar to the binding of a spiral note book.