

Clothing and TEXTILES

UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAMMING

Sewing Technique: Flat-Felled Seam

The flat-felled seam is a self-enclosed seam. It is ideal for visible seams and seams in unlined jackets. Self-enclosed seams are strong, sturdy seams that will endure a lot of wear and laundering. To have a clean result, self-enclosed seams must be constructed with precise stitching as well as careful pressing and trimming.



Note: When using a flat-felled seam in a garment with symmetrical seams, such as in a shoulder, be sure to press both seams in the same direction.

1. With wrong sides together, create your seam. Press seam open and then to one side.

2. Lift the top seam allowance and trim the inner seam allowance to approximately one third of the top allowance.

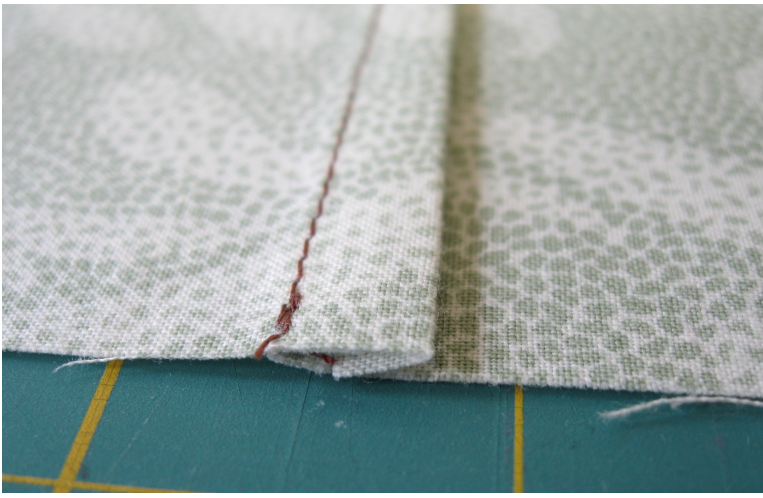


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CONSTRUCTION**



3. Tuck the top seam allowance under so that it encases the inner allowance. Press.



4. Stitch the folded edge to the garment approximately 1/16" away from the fold.

Industry Standards for a Well-Constructed Seam Finish

- Correct tension is used for the fabric type and weight
- Proper seam technique was used for this type of garment
- Seam has even width throughout
- No puckers or twists in the seam
- Seam is secure
- Seam is clipped/notched/trimmed/graded when needed
- Seam is smooth and lies flat
- Seam achieves proper fit
- Fabric designs match, such as plaids or stripes
- Seam is pressed for clean finish

Sources:

Readers Digest Editor. (2002). *New Complete Guide to Sewing*. China: Readers Digest. Creative Publishing. (2009). *Complete Photo Guide to Sewing*. Minneapolis: Creative Publishing International, Inc. Cole, Julie, & Czachor, Sharon. (2009). *Professional sewing techniques for designers*. New York, Fairchild Publications, Inc.

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