

# Clothing and TEXTILES

UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAMMING

## Sewing Technique: Basting Stitch

The purpose of a basting stitch is to secure fabric in place while constructing a garment. This stitch is a temporary stitch that is to be removed after the garment is complete. The following tutorial outlines the steps associated with constructing this type of stitch.



1. Cut a piece of fabric to a finished size of 4"x6". Fold fabric in half to create a fold line in the sample. (The stitch can be applied to a project that is in progress instead of on the sample that is being created for this tutorial.)

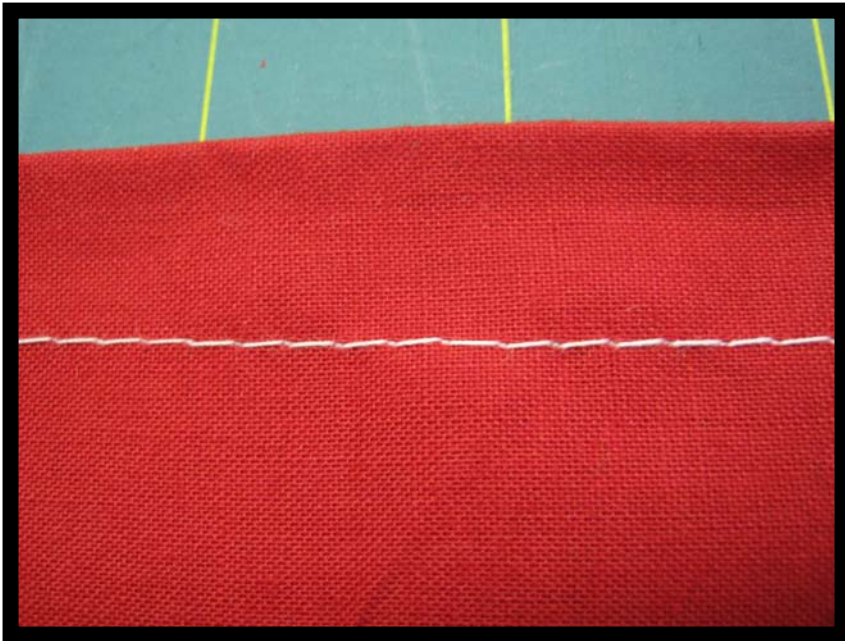
2. Adjust the stitch length on the sewing machine to a length of 4 or 5. The tension of the machine can be changed using the tension regulator on the machine. If the tension on the machine is adjusted to a higher number (clockwise) the amount of pressure on the threads is increased. A lower number (counterclockwise) decreases the pressure. Most machines mark the point at which even pressure is applied to the thread with a red line or mark.



3. From the fold line, measure a 5/8" seam allowance. Sew a straight stitch using the folded edge as a guide. A basting stitch should not have a back stitch at the beginning and end of the stitch. Since this is a temporary stitch, it needs to be removed easily when the garment or project is complete.



4. Once complete, it will be evident that the stitch is much larger when basting than the stitch length used for other applications. Once the permanent stitch is in place, the temporary basting stitch can be removed with a seam ripper.



Note: This tutorial correlates with the following Utah Clothing and Textiles 2 State Standards and Objective(s):

Standard:

4. Students will use correct construction techniques at the intermediate level.

Objective:

1. Practice intermediate stitching techniques  
b. Identify and demonstrate stitching techniques.

References:

Readers Digest Editor. (2002). *New Complete Guide to Sewing*. Pleasantville, NY: Readers Digest Association Inc.

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Cole, Julie, & Czachor, Sharon. (2009). *Professional sewing techniques for designers*. New York, Fairchild Publications, Inc.

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This publication is issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Noelle E. Cockett, Vice President for Extension and Agriculture, Utah State University.(FC/Clothing&Textiles/2012-10pr)