



SEW-lutions Guidelines

Your Guide
to
Successful
Sewing

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Fold-Down Casings

A casing is a fabric tunnel through which elastic, ribbon, a drawstring or a curtain rod is fed to gather fullness. Casings are used to make closures for bags and purses or to cinch a jacket around the waist or a sweatshirt hood around the face.

There are two ways to make a casing: Fold the fabric edge over and stitch the edge in place the desired distance from the fold, or you can add a separate piece of fabric to create the channel. Casings should be at least 1/8" wider than the elastic and at least 1/4" wider than a drawstring. If the casing is too narrow, elastic may curl or a drawstring may bind up and not slide freely. If the casing is too wide, elastic will twist. Fold-down casings work best on straight edges. Applied casings work better for curved edges. See Guideline 11.126 for applying a casing.

Tip: All seams should be pressed and seam-finished before a casing is stitched.

Fold-Down Casings for an Elastic Waist Garment

Turn under the raw edge 1/4" or serge-finish. A basic fold-down casing is made as follows: With a seam gauge, measure and mark the desired depth of the casing. Press the casing upper edge to the wrong side along the marks. Pin the casing lower edge in place, keeping the width of the casing even. Stitch the casing lower edge leaving a 2" opening for inserting the elastic or drawstring.

With a bodkin or safety pin, insert the elastic into the casing (2). Stitch the elastic ends together. Pin the opening in place, and carefully stitch the opening closed. Remove the basting on the intersecting seamlines.

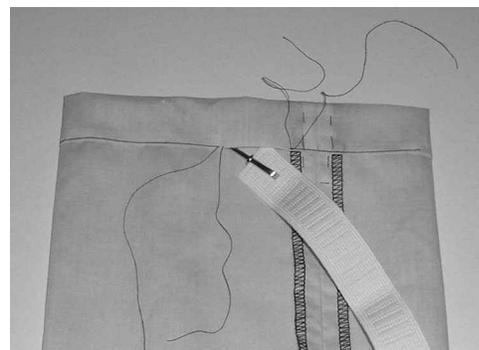
Make It Easy!

Machine or hand-baste the edges of the seam allowances to the outside of the project prior to stitching the casing (1) or the curtain rod or elastic will get hung up on the inside seam allowances. After the casing is stitched in place and you insert the elastic or drawstring, remove the basting.

Tip: When you baste seam allowances to the garment, use a contrasting thread. It will be much easier to remove.

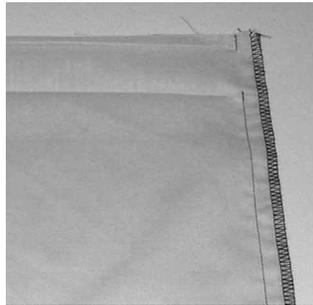


1) Baste seam allowances to garment in the casing area.

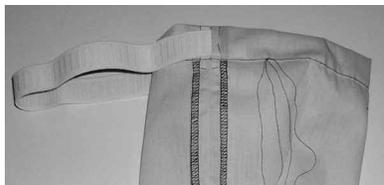


2) Run elastic through casing; be sure the elastic doesn't twist.

An in-seam opening allows you to stitch the entire casing closed. The elastic is inserted through the open part of an intersecting seam. The pattern should have markings for the opening, usually in the center-back seam. When stitching the intersecting seam, begin at the casing upper edge, and stitch to the first mark; backstitch. Skip to the next mark, backstitch, and sew the remaining portion of the seam (4). Fold down the casing, and stitch the entire casing along the lower edge. Insert the elastic through the opening of the seam (5). Close the opening with a slipstitch or whipstitch (6). 🖨️



4) *Stitch to casing upper edge and backstitch. Skip to casing lower edge, backstitch and stitch the rest of the seam.*



5) *Insert elastic through opening.*



6) *Whipstitch opening closed.*

Add a Heading

A heading is extra fabric at the upper edge of a casing. A narrow heading makes a crisper edge. A wider heading creates a ruffle; these are often seen on feminine curtains, skirts, pants or shorts. To create one, add the necessary additional amount to the casing width, add a second row of stitching the desired distance from the casing upper edge (3).



3) *Curtains that hang from a casing usually have a wide heading.*