

Flat Fell Seams

11.330

Page 1



SEW-lutions Guidelines

Your Guide
to
Successful
Sewing

© 2008 Sewing & Craft Alliance
Permission is granted to
educators and retailers to
reproduce these publications
as-is as a handout for
educational purposes only.
They may not be altered,
changed or added to in any
manner. No commercial or other
use, distribution, or
reproduction is permitted.

Get free projects and
more SEW-lutions
Guidelines at
www.sewing.org



If you take a look at your favorite pair of jeans, a tailored shirt or the seamline of boxers, you'll likely see a flat fell seam. It's characterized by one or two lines of visible stitching and no raw edges showing on either side, making a durable seam with a professional look. The flat fell seam is equally at home on reversible garments, where it's important that both sides are totally finished.

Flat fell seams can be made on the inside or outside, depending on the look desired, and for a more casual look, or on very heavy fabrics, stitch a mock flat fell seam for a similar appearance with less bulk.

Inside Seaming

To create a flat fell seam on the garment inside, stitch a traditional 5/8"-wide seamline right sides together.

Press the seam allowances to one side (be consistent in direction throughout the project wherever you opt for this seam type).

Trim the lower seam allowance to 1/8" from the stitched seamline (1).

Fold the upper seam allowance over the trimmed portion and press in place (2). For a more secure hold, use a narrow strip of fusible web or a glue stick to hold the foldover in place. It's important that the foldover remains a consistent width along the seam, and also for all the other seams in the project.

Press the folded seam allowance flat (3); then edgestitch close to the fold (4).

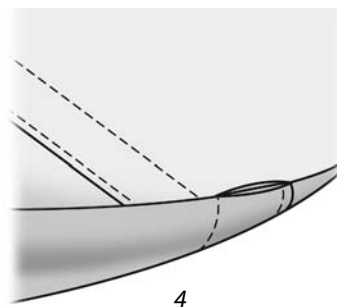
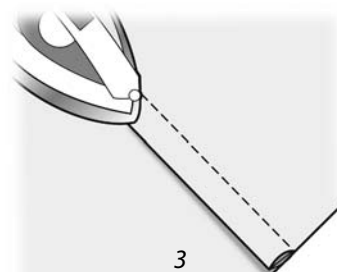
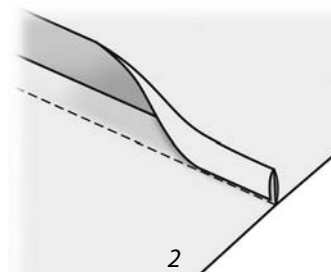
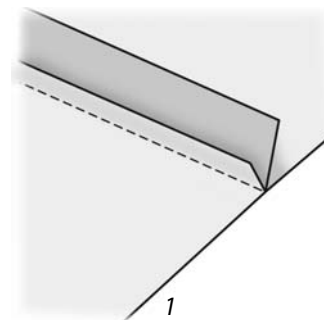
A second parallel row of topstitching may be stitched next to the original seamline from the right side.

Outside Seaming

Stitch the project seam wrong sides together, then follow the directions above.

Accent Stitching

Many flat fell seams are accented with specialty threads for more prominent stitching lines. On denim, jeans thread is the perfect choice. On fine fabrics, a lightweight rayon thread adds sheen, or metallics lend a little sparkle.



Mock Flat Fell Seams

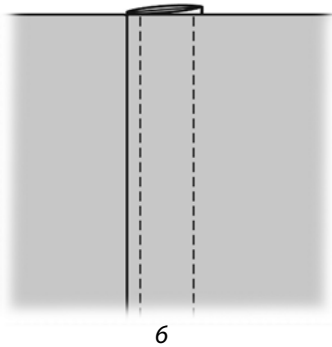
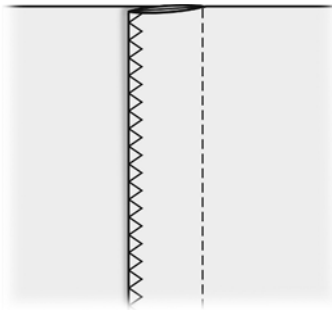
Great for use on heavier fabrics and quicker to make than their true-fell counterparts, mock flat fell seams look much the same from the outside and are lighter weight.

To create a mock flat fell seam, stitch a plain seam right sides together along the 5/8" seamline.

Press both seam allowances to one side and serge or zigzag finish the edges together (5).

From the project outside, stitch two parallel lines anchoring both seam allowances on the underside (6).

For quicker topstitching, use a twin needle so you're stitching both visible rows at the same time. For more information, see Guideline 17.227 Twin-Needle Sewing. 🖱️



Hemming Garments with Flat Fell Seams

Crossing over flat fell seams at hemlines can be tricky, as often the presser foot doesn't want to go up and over the many thicknesses. Use a handy device called a Hump Jumper to help even out the extra layers as the machine approaches the seamed area, and then use it on the other side to avoid a drop off (7). This helps to keep the stitches even as well, especially obvious if it's in a contrasting thread.

