Hand Stitches

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Your Guide to Successful Sewing

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Stitch **Best Use** Running, Gathering Basting Secure fabric layers that won't be subjected to stress • Decorative purposes in lieu of machine topstitching • Baste temporarily in preparation for machine or hand sewing Backstitch • Hand-set a zipper or attach Use whenever strength is important Catch Hem heavy or bulky fabrics Stitch Secure facings Diagonal • Same as for basting Useful for slippery fabrics **Basting** Overcast • Finish raw edges, especially loosely-woven fabrics Slip Stitch Close seams on stuffed animals or pillows Attach linings

Hand Stitches

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Stitch	Best Use
Tailor's Tacks	Mark fabric for construction: darts, folds, match points, etc.
Whipstitch	Join one finished edge to another
Buttonhole/Blanket	Overcast edges Make hand-stitched buttonholes Decorative or functional depending on closeness of stitches
French Tack	Secure facings Join lining and garment hems at side seams
Prick/Pick Stitch	A variation of backstitch used as decorative element along a garment edge or parallel to a seamline
Blind Hem Stitch	• Hem a garment

