



## SEW-lutions Guidelines

Your Guide  
to  
Successful  
Sewing

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### Simple Seam Finishes

A seam finish is applied to the seam's raw edges to keep the fabric from raveling and to make the seam look neat and clean. A good seam finish not only adds longevity to a garment, it adds professionalism. When choosing a seam finish, consider the following: your equipment, the type and weight of the fabric, how much the fabric ravel, whether the garment will be lined, how you'll launder or care for the project, and the amount of wear it will receive.

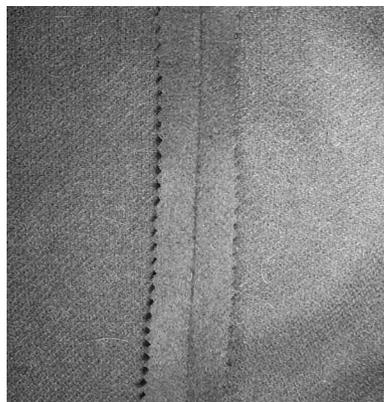
There are many seam finishes, and, no matter what type of fabric you're using, you'll find that one of these techniques will be suitable for your fabric.

#### Pinked Seams

**Equipment Needed:** pinking shears

**Suitable Fabrics:** most fabrics except lightweight knits

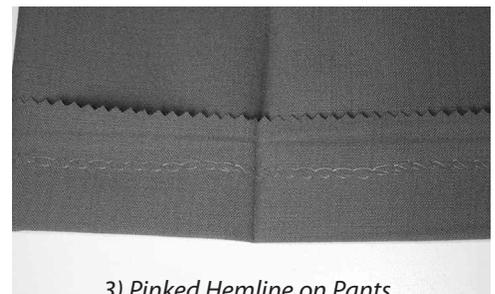
A pinked seam means the seam allowances are trimmed with pinking shears (1). Pinking shears give an attractive edge; however, they only minimize raveling, especially if the garment is laundered.



1) Pinked Seam



2) Pinked and  
Stitched Seam



3) Pinked Hemline on Pants

To truly prevent raveling, add a row of straight stitching just shy of the pinked edge (2). Pinking alone works better for items that will be dry-cleaned. Often menswear pants have a pinked hem (3).

## Clean-Finished Seams

**Equipment Needed:** conventional sewing machine

**Suitable Fabrics:** very light- to medium-weight fabrics—sheers, voiles, silks and any fabric where a double layer won't add bulk to the seamline

This is a beautiful finish, especially on fine fabrics, that requires no special equipment. It's suitable for the inside of an unlined jacket as well as most any garment as long as the doubled fabric won't add bulk to the seam (4).



4) Clean-Finished Seam

Turn under the seam edge 1/8", and stitch close to the fold (5). If the fabric is prone to ravel a great deal, turn under 1/4".



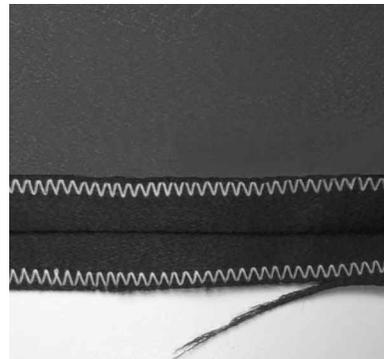
5) Turn under seam edge; stitch close to fold.

## Zigzag-Finished Seams

**Equipment Needed:** conventional sewing machine with zigzag stitch

**Suitable Fabrics:** most fabrics

Set your machine for a short, medium-wide zigzag stitch. Stitch close to—but not over—the fabric edge. Trim the fabric edge close to the stitching if necessary (6). If the fabric has a lot of body or is stiff, you can let the right-hand swing of the needle stitch over the edge.



6) Zigzag near edge; trim close to stitching.