

# Seam Finishes

## Part 2

11.230

Page 1



### SEW-lutions Guidelines

Your Guide  
to  
Successful  
Sewing

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## More Seam Finishes

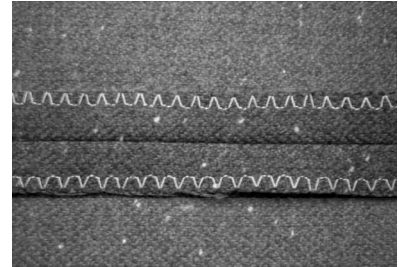
Basic seam finishes were covered in Guideline 11.115. This guideline covers slightly more advanced techniques for finishing seams.

### Machine Overcast Finish

**Equipment Needed:** sewing machine with an overcast or blind-hem stitch.

**Suitable Fabrics:** most fabrics

Also known as an overedge stitch, this alternative to the zigzag stitch consists of three to six straight stitches and one zigzag stitch (1). For the overcast stitch, position the fabric edge to the right of the needle; if using the blindstitch, position the fabric edge to the left of the needle.



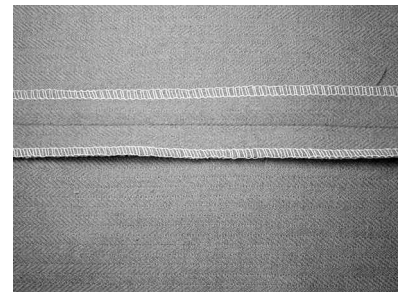
1) Overcast or Overedge  
Seam Finish

### Serged Seam Finish

**Equipment Needed:** serger

**Suitable Fabrics:** all fabrics

You may serge the seam edge before or after sewing the seam (2). Place the fabric to the left of the needles, and serge along the fabric edge. If you're not using the cutting blades, position the fabric edge so the thread snugly wraps the raw edge. If the loops hang off the fabric edge, move the fabric slightly to the right.



2) Serged Seam Finish

### French Seam

**Equipment Needed:** conventional sewing machine

**Suitable Fabrics:** lightweight fabrics—fine silks, synthetics, sheers, etc.

The French seam is a self-enclosed seam that is first stitched with the fabric wrong sides together and then refolded and stitched with the fabric rights sides together. It gives a beautiful, professional edge to garments—especially on sheers and unlined jackets. Although this finish

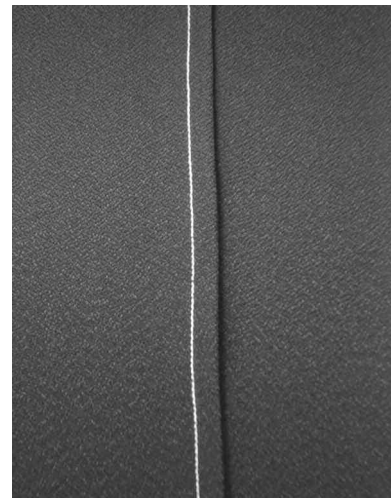
11.230

requires accurate seaming and good pressing, it's made up of three simple steps. It's a great finish for unlined window treatments and for garments that will receive much wear or have visible seams. Accurate trimming and proper pressing are the keys for successful French seams.

Making a French seam: With wrong sides together, stitch the seam  $\frac{3}{8}$ " from the fabric edge. Trim the fabric  $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the stitching (3), and press the seam open. Refold and press the seam with the fabric right sides together. Stitch  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the folded edge. Press the seam to one side (4). 🖱



3) *Stitch  $\frac{3}{8}$ " from edge; trim  $\frac{1}{8}$ " from stitching.*



4) *Stitch  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from fold; press to one side.*