

# JOB ROLE – SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR

Sector – Apparel, Made-Ups and Home Furnishing  
(Qualification Pack Code: AMH/Q 0301)



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# **UNIT 1: INTRODUCTION TO SEWING MACHINE**

## **Session 2 (Part-2): Terminology Related to Sewing and Garments**

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# Session Objectives

The students will be able to:

- Describe the terminologies related to sewing and garments

# Introduction

There are some special terms related to sewing and garments which a Sewing Machine Operator should know. Following are the terms related to sewing and garments.

## Terminologies

### Organza:

- A lightweight, transparent and plain weaved fabric.
- The most commonly used fibres are silk, nylon, polyester, or rayon.

## Overcast stitch:

- A slanting stitch used around cut edges or open parts to prevent raveling.

## Pattern:

- Template of a paper or cardboard which is used to trace different parts of a garment before cutting and assembling .

## Pile:

- A surface effect on a fabric formed by upright yarns, cut or loops of yarn raised from the surface of the fabric.

## Pinning:

- Attaching pins for keeping the fabric and pattern in place.

## Plain weave:

- Each weft yarn passes alternately over and under each warp yarn.

## Pleat:

- To gather a wide piece of fabric to a narrower circumference is known as pleat.

## Ply:

- It is one of the strands in a yarn.
- It also determine the thickness of yarn.

## Point presser:

- A small tool used to insert into a tight corner or small space for ease of pressing.

### Point turner:

- A tool used to turn a sewn corner to the right side with a sharp, crisp point.

### Polyester fabric:

- It is a generalised term for any fabric, which is made using polyester yarns or fibres .

### Pre-shrink:

- Washing the fabric before cutting to allow it to shrink depending upon the type of fabric.

### Princess seam:

- It is a lengthwise seam passing through the apex and giving shape to the garment .

## Pucker:

- It is tightly gathered or contracted into wrinkles or small folds.
- It is due to incorrect density of stitches, blunt point needle, insufficient backing, and incorrect thread tensions.

## Raw edge:

- Fabric ends with an unfinished look.

## Rib weave:

- It is a variation of plain weave with cords in the warp or weft direction.

## Ripping:

- To cut or tear apart in a rough or vigorous manner to rip open a seam.

## Rubber ring:

- This is a ring on the bobbin winder which comes in contact with the nut of the balance wheel.

## Ruffles:

- It is a pleated piece of fabric often used as trim on clothes.

## Seam:

- A line along which two or more fabrics are joined by fusion, glueing, sewing, stapling.

## Seam allowance:

- It is the area between the edge and the stitching line on two (or more) pieces of material being stitched together .

## Seam finish:

- Any technique that finishes the raw edges of a seam.

## Seam roll:

- It is a cylindrical-shaped long tool used to press open long seams.

## Selvedge:

- It runs parallel to the lengthwise grain of the fabric which is tightly woven finished edge of fabric.

## Sewing needle:

- It is a fine cylindrical piece of metal with a sharp point at the lower end, a hole or eye in it, used in sewing.

## Sewing threads:

- It refers to special types of yarns that are designed to pass through a sewing machine.

## Shank:

- The back of a button through which the thread passes, to attach the button to the garment .

## Shears:

- It is a cutting instrument in which two blades move past each other.

## Sheer:

- A transparent or very lightweight fabric as sheer chiffon, crepe, georgette or voile.

## Shirring:

- It is a process to gather by means of drawn or elasticised threads in parallel rows.

## Shuttle:

- It holds the bobbin case and moves to form the loop as the machine is operated.
- It is fitted below the feed dog.

## Skipped stitches:

- When there is no needle thread or looper thread movement during certain respective portions of the stitch cycle.

## Snagging:

- In fabrics, a yarn or part of a yarn pulled or plucked from the surface.

## Snap tape:

- It is perfect for keeping bodysuits closed and taut that is, not loose.
- Mainly made up from metal or plastic.

## Stabiliser:

- It is a fabric under the layer used to hold the shape of the fabric/garment or support its strength.

## Staple yarn:

- It is produced from short-length fibres called staple.

## Stay stitch:

- Stitching placed on or just outside the seam line, used to stabilise the fabric .

## Stitch:

- When loop or loops of one or more threads bound with each other, either by interlooping, interlacing, intralooping or combination of these three while sewing fabric, each unit of such configuration is called stitch.

## Stitches per inch (SPI):

- A stitch per inch (SPI) is measured by counting the number of stitches found within one inch.

## Stitch length:

- Length of a stitch determined by the movement of the feed dog.

## Strand:

- A general term for one component of a rope, thread, or ply yarn, or any of the fibres that are twisted or plaited together.

## Stretch fabric:

- The fabric in which the properties of stretching and recovery that is, coming back to its original position, have been produced.

## Stripe:

- A design consisting of bends or straight lines against a plain background.

## Tacking:

- Fastening pieces of fabric together, mostly temporarily, with stitches.

## Tassels :

- A bunch of loosely hanging threads or cords knotted at one end and attach for decoration of garments.

## Terry:

- It is a woven fabric , usually cotton, or a blend with manufactured fibre, with loops pile on one or both sides.

## Thread tail:

- The left-out thread, unfinished or untrimmed threads on the edges.

## Thread tension:

- The degree of tightness of stitches in machine sewing or the state of the thread being stretched tight

## Top stitch:

- It is a row of continuous stitches on the top or right side of a garment or any other article.

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- It is a row of continuous stitches on the top or right side of a garment or any other article.
- It is used most often on garment edges such as necklines and hems, where it helps facings to stay in place and gives a crisp edge.

## Trim:

- It is any decorative item, ribbon, lace, etc., that is put on a garment or other item that is being sewn.
- The word trim is also used to define the act of trimming excess seam allowances or fabric with scissors.

## Trimming materials:

- Additional material used for decorative or functional purposes on a garment.

## True bias:

- Also called true across, it refers to a bias of 45 degree to the selvedge.

## Tucks:

- A flattened, stitched fold in a garment or material.

## Twill weave:

- It is a type of textile weave with a pattern of diagonal parallel ribs.

## Upholstery fabric:

- Any fabric used as upholstery, for e.g. to cover furniture .

## Velvet:

- It is a warp ply fabric with shorts closely woven cut pile that gives the fabric a rich, soft texture .

## Voile:

- It is a lightweight, sheer fabric, made of hard twisted yarns in a low count plain weave.

## Warp:

- It is the lengthwise yarns used in the weaving operation.

## Weft:

- The crosswise yarn that interlaces with warp in weaving is known as weft or filling yarns.

## Worsted:

- The yarns spun wholly from combed wool to ensure that all the fibres are reasonably parallel. The fabrics made from such yarns are called worsted fabrics.

## Yarn:

- It is a continuous strand of textile fibres that may be composed of endless filaments or shorter fibres twisted or otherwise held together.

## Yoke:

- It is a part of a garment that fits over the shoulders, neck, and to which the main part of the garment is attached.

## Zigzag stitch:

- The Z-shaped stitches used to finish raw edges.
- It may be used for decoration purpose also.

# Summary

In this session, you have learnt about the terminology related to sewing and garments.

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