

# JOB ROLE – SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR

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



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# **UNIT 3: BASICS OF GARMENT CONSTRUCTION**

## **Session 2: Different Type of Seams**

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# Session Objectives

The students will be able to:

- Define seams
- Explain type of seams
- Demonstrate different type of seams

# Introduction

Seams refer to the stitching line where two pieces of fabric are stitched together. It is an application of a series of stitches or stitch types to one or several thickness of material. Decorative seams are mainly used for decorative purposes while functional seams are used mainly for the purpose of construction. Performance of the seams means the achievement of strength, comfort, durability and elasticity. Seams should be as strong as the fabric. Seams are commonly machine stitched but one can hand stitch a seam using back stitch.

To prevent fraying, enough quantity of fabric should always be left between the line of stitching and the fabric edge.

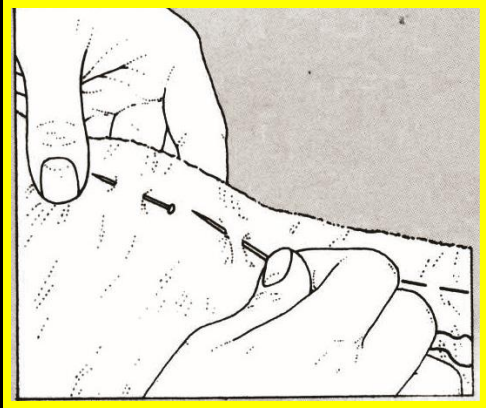
Some commonly used seams are given below:

**(i) Flat seam:**

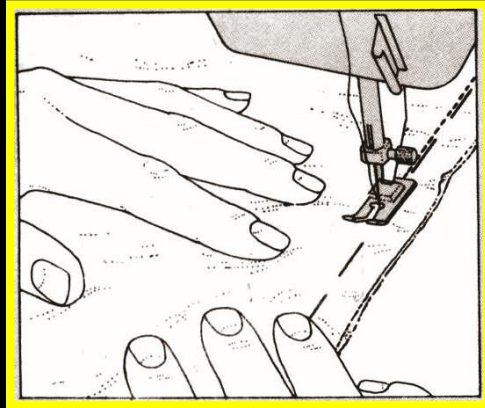
It is the basic functional seam, joining the edges of two pieces of fabric. This seam is used on medium weight fabrics where there is no special strain on the seam.

**Method:** With the right sides of the fabric facing, pin the fabric together at both the ends of the seam line and at intervals along the seam line leaving an allowance of about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches properly, close to the seam line. Then stitch along the seam line, back stitching a couple of stitches at each end to secure the seam, and remove the pins.

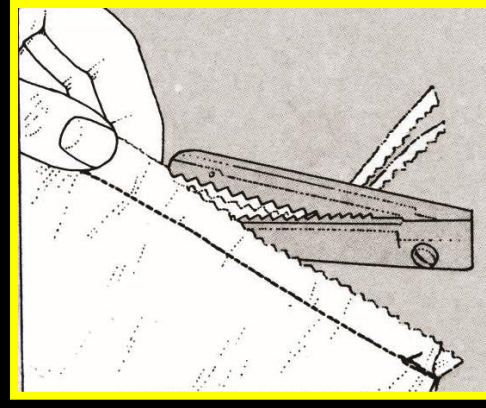
Press the seam as stitched and then press it open, using a pressing cloth between the iron and the fabric.



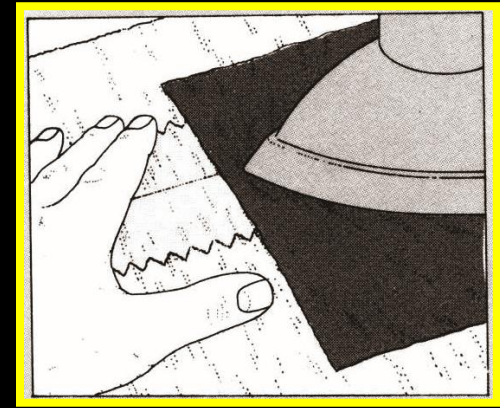
a



b



c



d

## (ii) Channel seam:

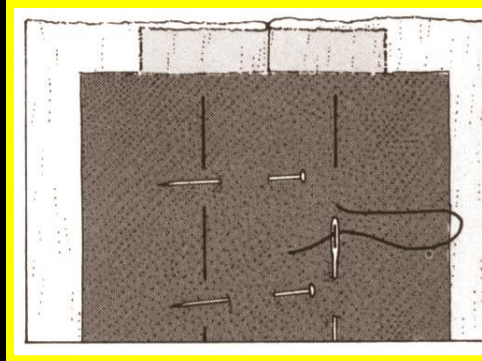
It is a decorative seam mostly used in trousers, pockets of jeans, jackets, etc. it has a strip of fabric behind it which is visible through the seam fold.

**Method:** With the right sides of the fabric together, pin and tack along the seam line. Press the seam open and cut an underlay of the same or contrasting fabric 1 inch wider than the two seam edges. With the wrong side of the work facing you, centre the right side of the underlay on the seam and pin in the position. Pin and then stitch an equal distance, each side from the seam depression. Remove the pins and tacking, then press as stitched.

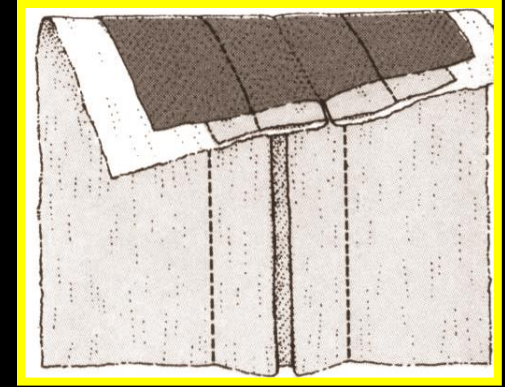




a. Tacked fabric together



b. Underlay pinned to seam

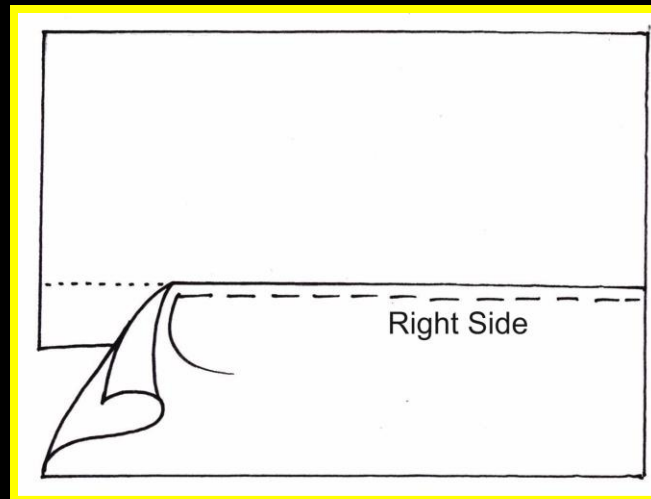


C. Completed seam

### (iii) Lapped seam:

This seam is used for joining sections of interfacing to avoid bulking, that is mass of fabric getting thick.

**Method:** Lap one edge of the fabric over the other with the seam lines directly over each other. Tack and then stitch along the seam line with a wide zigzag stitch or a straight stitch. Trim the seam edges.

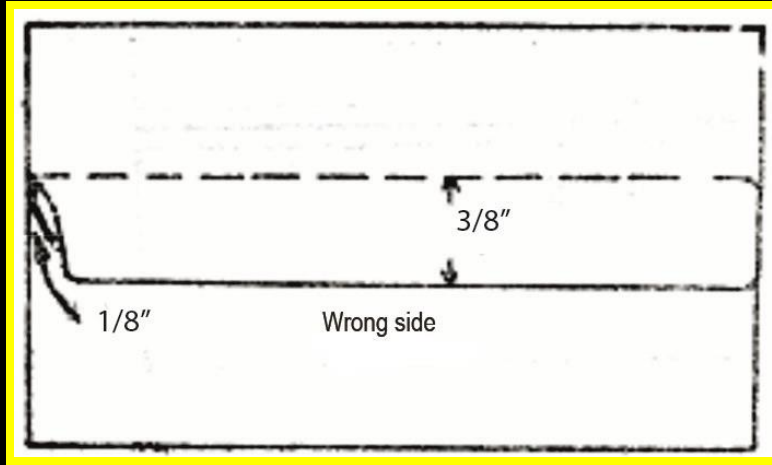


#### (iv) Flat felled seam:

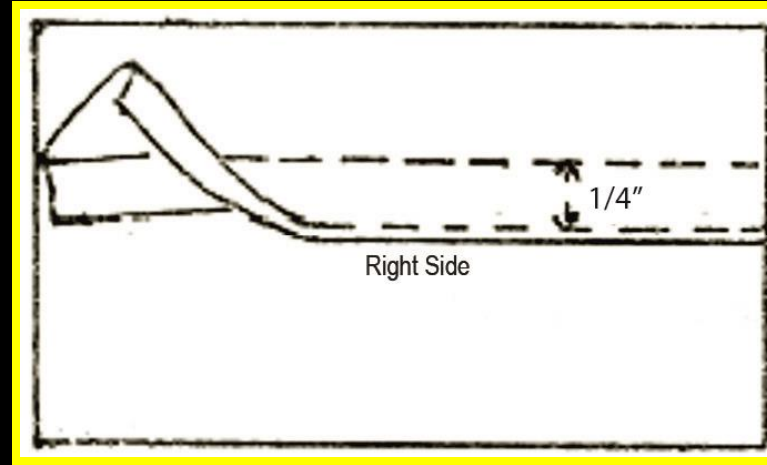
This is a flat, durable and strong seam used mainly on men's sports shirts, work clothes, children's clothes and pyjamas.

**Method:** Place the fabric pieces to be joined at the wrong side facing, and then stitch on the seam line. Press both seam allowances together in the same direction and trim the under seam allowance to 1/8 inch and the upper one to 3/8 inch. Turn under the raw edge of the wide seam allowance so as to make a smooth fold of 1/4 inch wide. Stitch close to the folded edge on the right side of the garment.

# Flat felled seam



a



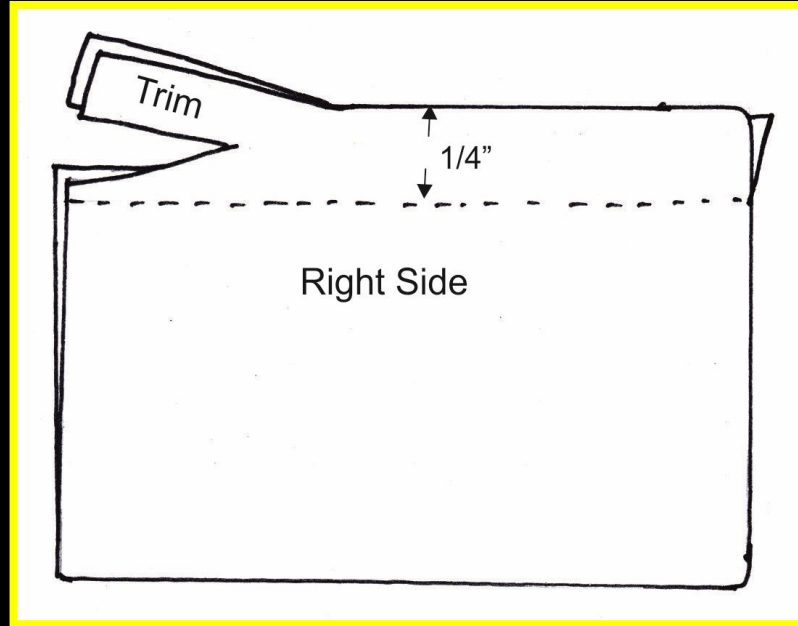
b

### (v) French seam:

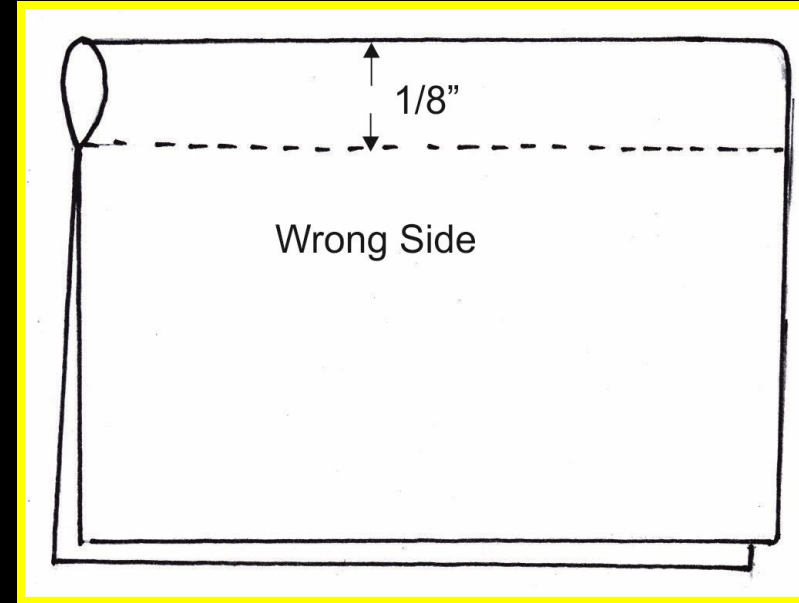
It is a narrow seam generally used for fine fabrics or for those fabrics which fray easily. When finished, it should be about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch or less in width.

**Method:** Place the wrong sides of the fabric together, pin and tack in position close to the seam line. Stitch  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch to the right of the seam line to the end of the seam. Press and then trim the seam allowance to  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch. Press the seam open. Then turn the right sides of the fabric together. Fold on the stitch line and press. Tack in position. Stitch along the seam line and press.

# French seam



a



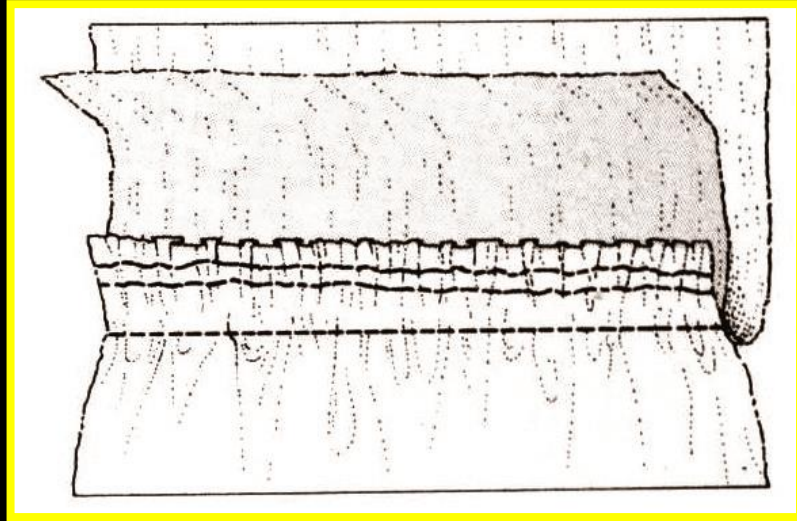
b

**(vi) Manuta maker's seam:**

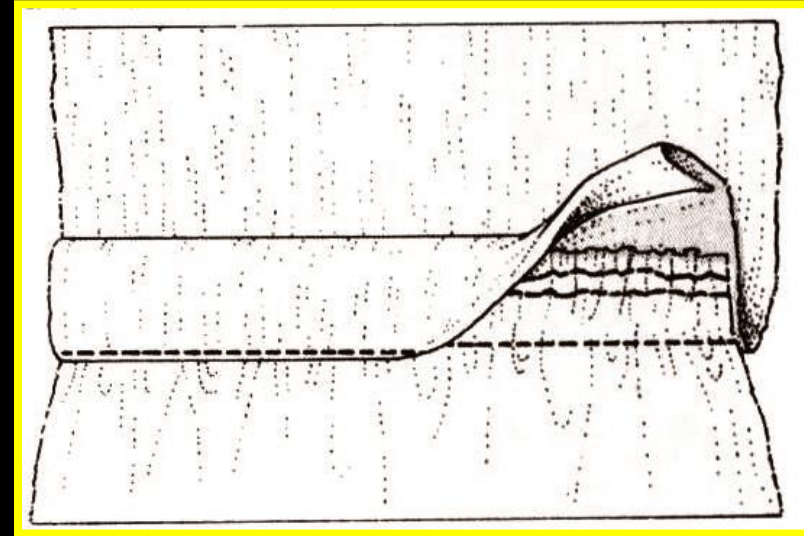
It is used to attach a frill to a straight piece of fabric.

**Method:** With the right sides of the fabric together, tack along the seam line and stitch. Trim the frill seam allowance to  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch. Double fold the other seam allowance over the raw edge down to the seam line. Stitch very close to the seam line then remove tacking and press the seam upwards, keeping away from the frill.

# Manuta maker's seam



a



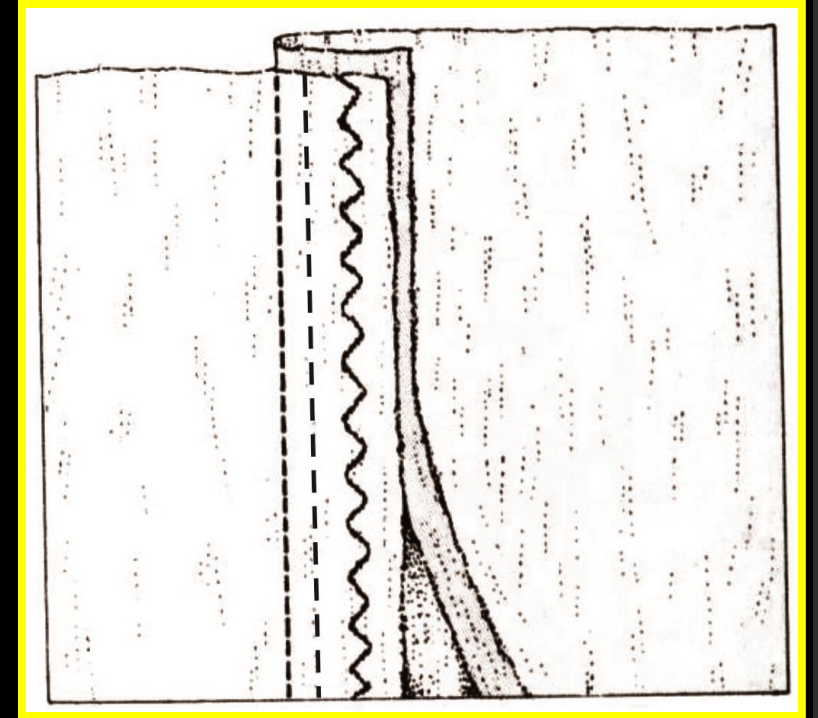
b



### (vii) Double stitch seam:

It is used mainly for sheer fabrics.

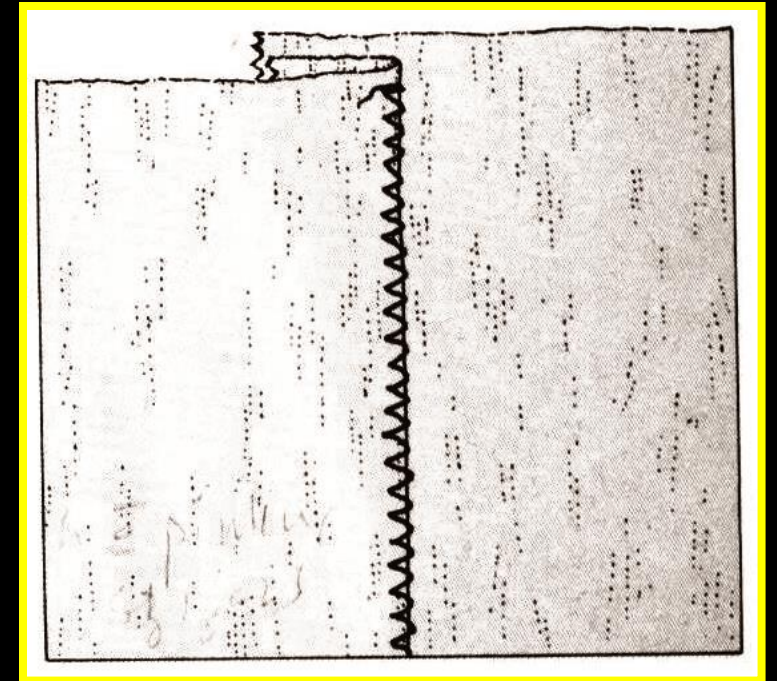
**Method:** To make this seam, take the right sides of the fabric together, tack and stitch along the seam line and press as stitched. Make another line of stitching in the seam allowance  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from the first line, using a fine multi stitch zigzag or straight stitch. Then trim the raw edge using a scissors or a pinking shear to prevent the fabric from fraying.



### (viii) Lingerie seam:

It is used to mainly for making very fine seams. It is so named because of its use in lingerie.

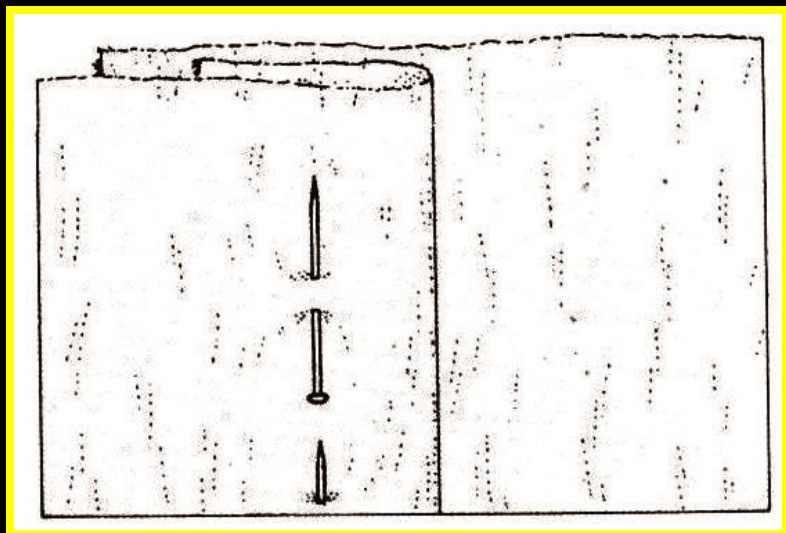
**Method:** To make the seam, take the right sides of the fabric facing; pin, tack and then stitch along the seam line. Then press as stitched. Finish the seam edges with pinking scissors and press both seam allowances to one side stitch seam edges on the right side with small stitches of zigzag.



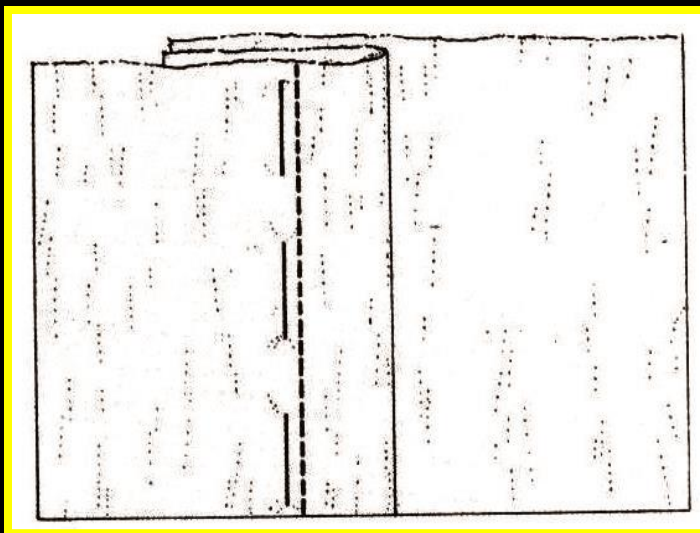
### (ix) Tucked seam:

It is a decorative seam and generally used as a design feature on a garment.

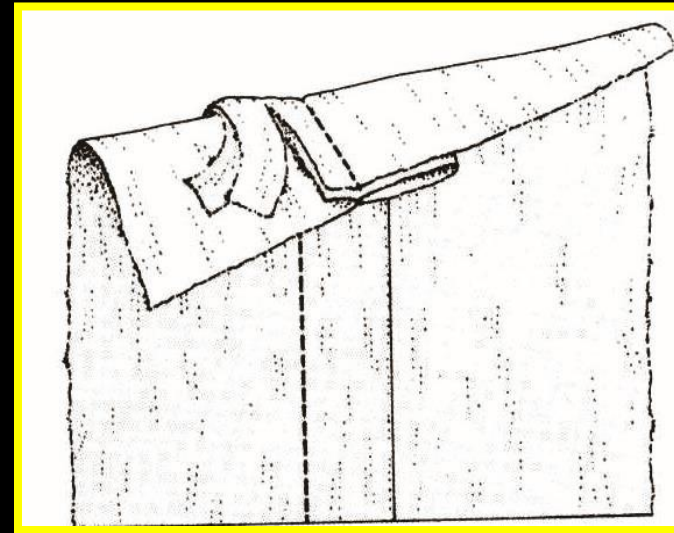
**Method:** To make a tucked seam, take the right side of the fabric facing you, turn under the seam allowance on one piece of fabric, and then pin into place. Place the folded edge of the seam line on the right side of the second piece of fabric, putting the edges together . Tack and stitch the desired width from the folded edge. Remove tacking threads and trim off the seam edge underneath the seam. Press as stitched.



a



b



c

# Summary

In this session, you have learnt about the stitches used in sewing or garment construction, its various types and method of their construction.

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