
THE LITTLE
BOOK OF
SEAM
FINISHES /

IN THE
FOLDS /

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ABOUT IN THE FOLDS PATTERNS

In the Folds patterns are designed to inspire and encourage modern makers to create garments that are beautiful both inside and out. Through selected techniques and construction details, **In the Folds** aims to encourage thought-provoking and memorable making experiences - helping you enjoy each stitch in the process.

The Little Book of Seam Finishes has been designed as a reference for you - with the most common seam finishes carefully illustrated and explained, with tips for getting them just right.

Be sure to always have a practice run on a scrap of fabric (the same fabric you will use for the final garment). It is also a good idea to consider the final application of your seams. Do you need a finish that is hard wearing? Discreet? Extra clean and tidy as the seams will be exposed? Knowing these things will help you select the right seam finish for the application.

SLOW SEWING

In the Folds patterns are designed to include thoughtful details and interesting techniques so that you can enjoy the process of making the garment as much as the end result.

If we slow down and take in every stitch, we can better our skills, appreciate the amazing things we can do with our hands, understand the process more fully and create garments that will be worn, loved and cared for long into the future.

It takes time to learn which finish will work best for a particular garment type and fabric. Try not to get too worried about making mistakes and see it as a learning opportunity. In time you will get the hang of selecting the right finish for the project.

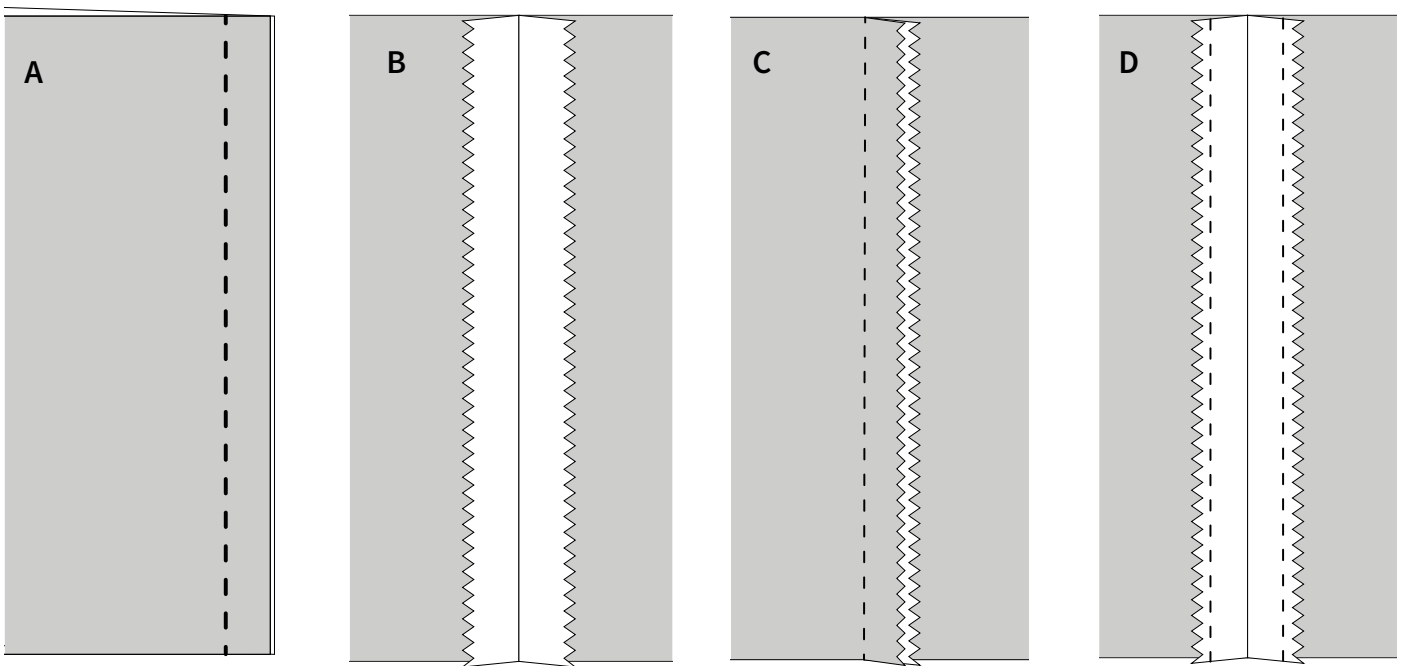
I'd love to see your work in progress. Find me on Instagram **@inthefolds** and tag your photos with **#littlebookofseamfinishes**

Happy sewing!

PINKED SEAMS

To finish seams with pinked edges, you will require pinking shears (a pair of scissors with zig-zag blades). The zig-zag cut will help prevent the seam allowance from fraying.

What's this finish for? This finish is best suited to stable and tightly woven fabrics. It is also good for minimising bulk in heavier weight fabrics. You will sometimes see this finish in vintage clothing. Pinked seams can also be used to finish seams that will not be exposed (such as seams hidden by a lining etc.), or to minimise bulk in the seams. It's also an effective finish for curves.



To finish a seam with *pinking shears*:

A Pin the pieces you are joining together with right sides together. Stitch with a **1.2cm (½in)** seam allowance (or what your pattern specifies).

B Press seam allowance open. Take pinking shears and carefully trim the raw edges of the seam allowance. You can choose how wide you would like the finished seam allowance.

C Consider grading the seam allowance with pinking shears (cutting off more width from one side of the seam allowance than the other) so that when the seam allowance is pressed together, there is less bulk in the seam.

D For extra strength, consider stitching a line down each side of the seam allowance (close to the pinked edge). The aim of this is that if the edges do fray, they shouldn't be able to fray beyond the stitch line.

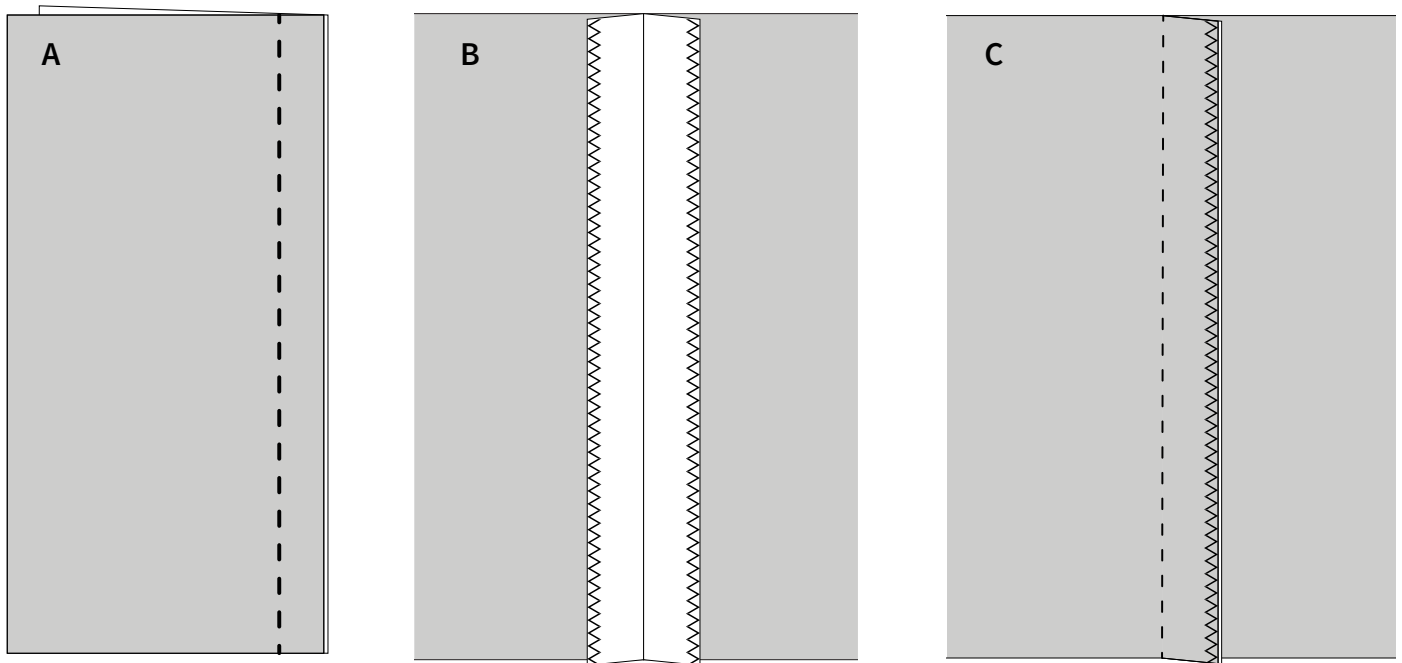
Would you like to give this seam finish a go?

You can try this seam finish by sewing the [Rushcutter dress](#) or [Collins top](#).

ZIG-ZAG FINISH

Zig-zag finish is one of the quickest and simplest ways to finish raw edges, as you can do it on your regular sewing machine (as long as it has a zig-zag stitch function).

What's this finish for? This finish is best suited to midweight, stable fabrics. On certain lightweight fabrics you run the risk of the fabric being pulled into the teeth or bobbin opening on your machine (so always have a test run before trying it on your garment).



To finish a seam with a *zig-zag stitch*:

A Pin the pieces you are joining together with right sides together. Stitch with a **1.2cm (½in)** seam allowance (or what your pattern specifies).

B Press seam allowance open. Switch your machine from straight stitch to zig-zag stitch and stitch close to the raw edge (it is a good idea to have a practice run on some scrap fabric if this is your first time).

C Alternatively, press seam allowances to one side and stitch. If your fabric is thick or bulky, you could consider trimming back one side of the seam allowance by a few millimetres (this is called 'grading' the seam allowance and will reduce bulk in the seam). Sew a line of zig-zag stitches close to the edge - capturing both layers.

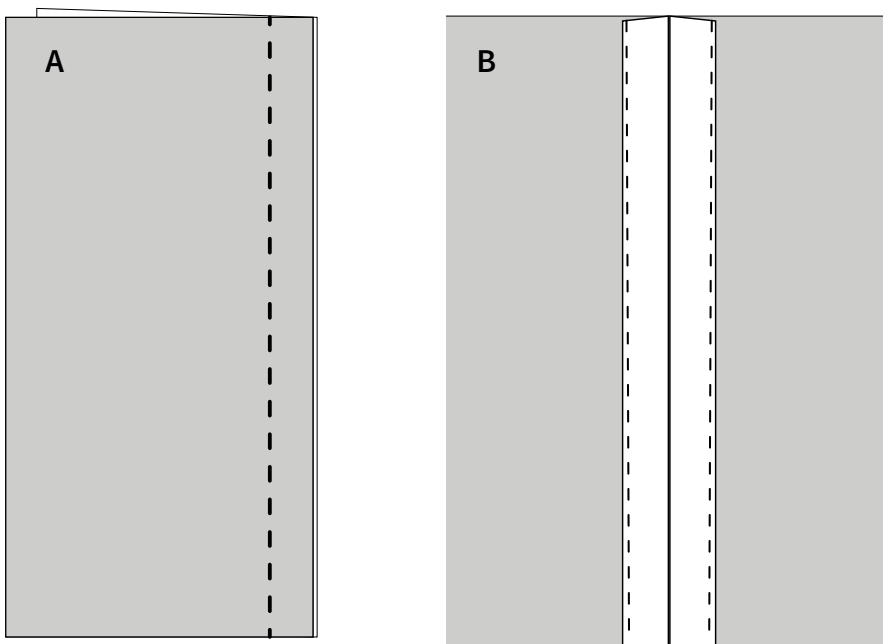
Would you like to give this seam finish a go?

You can try this seam finish by sewing the [Rushcutter dress](#), [Darlow pants](#), [Collins top](#) or [Barkly skirt](#).

TURN AND STRAIGHT STITCH

One of the simplest ways to finish a seam is to turn back the raw edges of the seam allowance and stitch. This is a good finish for you to try if you don't own a serger / overlocker and don't have a zig-zag stitch on your regular sewing machine (or would like something a little cleaner).

What's this finish for? This finish is suitable for almost all fabrics, although will work better on straight seams, rather than curves. If working with lightweight or sheer fabrics, it is suggested that you consider French seams (see p 8) before choosing this option. This finish will work best for seams that will be pressed open. Be careful applying this finish to heavyweight fabrics as it will add bulk to the seams.



To finish a seam with a *turn and straight stitch*:

A Pin the pieces you are joining together with right sides together. Stitch with a **1.2cm (½in)** seam allowance (or what your pattern specifies).

B Press seam allowance open. Carefully turn under the raw edge of the seam allowance on both sides and press. Stitch close to the edge to finish (pin before stitching if you feel the need).

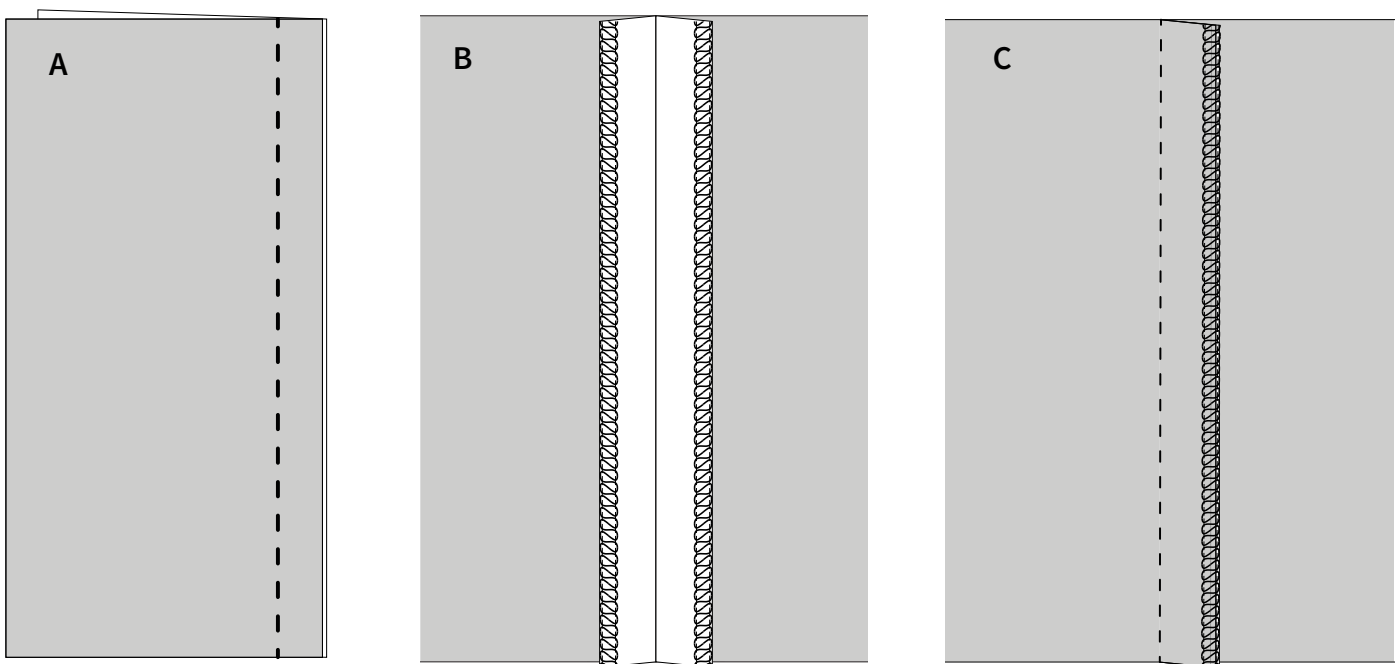
Would you like to give this seam finish a go?

You can try this seam finish by sewing the [Rushcutter dress](#) or [Collins top](#).

OVERLOCKED / SERGED FINISH

Overlocking / serging is one of the most versatile finishes. It is quick and easy and works well for almost all fabrics. It does require an additional machine though (an overlocker / serger). It gives a store-bought look to clothing, as this is the way most clothing bought off the high-street is finished. You can consider changing the width of the overlocker stitch, depending on your fabric. For example, consider turning down the stitch width for lightweight fabrics. You can use a 3 or 4 thread overlocker to finish seams.

What's this finish for? You can use this finish on almost all fabrics - including knits. Bear in mind that it is not the prettiest of finishes, so consider other finishes if your seams will be visible / exposed (consider French seams for sheer fabrics (p 8), and bias bound finish for exposed seams (pp 11-14)).



To finish a seam with an *overlocker / serger*:

A Pin the pieces you are joining together with right sides together. Stitch with a **1.2cm (½in)** seam allowance (or what your pattern specifies).

B Press seam allowance open. Using your overlocker / serger, stitch along the raw edge to finish the edge. You can trim the edge with the overlocker as you sew if you like (this is a good option if your fabric is already fraying).

Please note: if pressing your seams open, consider overlocking the seams before stitching the seam together. This makes overlocking quite a bit easier (my patterns always tell you to overlock the seam before stitching).

Although I'd suggest sewing the seam first if your fabric is prone to stretching.

C Alternatively, press seam allowances closed (together) and overlock the edges together.

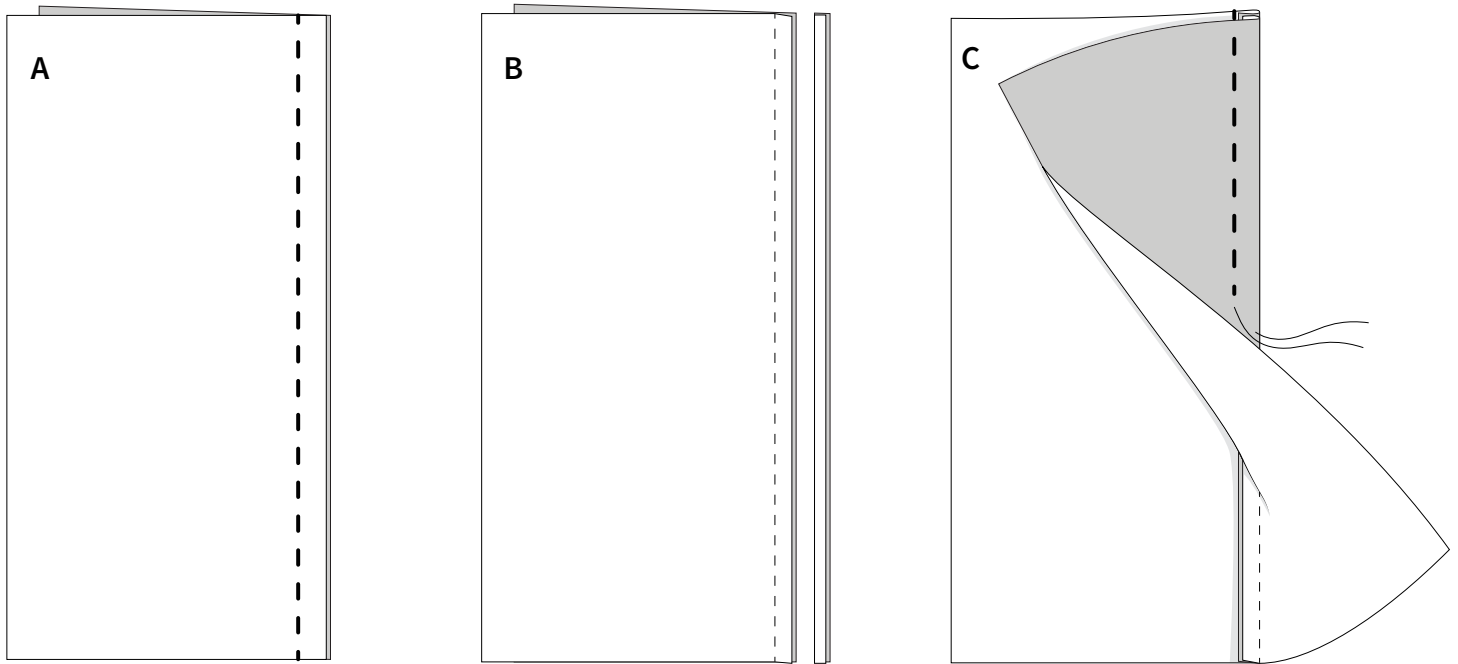
Would you like to give this seam finish a go?

You can try this seam finish by sewing the [Rushcutter dress](#), [Darlow pants](#), [Collins top](#) or [Barkly skirt](#).

FRENCH SEAMS

French seams are great for light to midweight fabrics, especially those that are prone to fraying. French seams are also the best choice of finish if you are using a sheer fabric. French seams will give you a beautiful and clean finish, without the need for an overlocker / serger - so a great option if you do not have one. Although French seams can be a little time consuming, they are very satisfying and give one of the most beautiful finishes possible.

What's this finish for? This finish is suitable for lightweight to midweight fabrics or sheer fabrics.



Please note, the example uses a seam allowance of **1.2cm (½in)**. Adjust measurements if your seam allowance is larger (I would recommend not using a seam allowance any less than **1.2cm (½in)** for French seams).

To sew a *French seam*:

A Pin the pieces you are joining together with *wrong sides together*. Stitch with a **6mm (¼in)** seam allowance.

B Trim down the seam allowance by about half (2-3mm). Be careful not to leave any threads, as these can end up poking through the finished seam if you are not careful. Press seam allowance to one side.

C Turn the pieces so that the fabric now has *right sides together* and the raw edges are sandwiched in between the two layers of fabric. Pin another seam, this time enclosing the raw edges inside the seam. Stitch with a **6mm (¼in)** seam allowance.

Press seam allowance flat to one side (direction will depend on whereabouts the seam is located on the garment, although generally seams are pressed to the back).

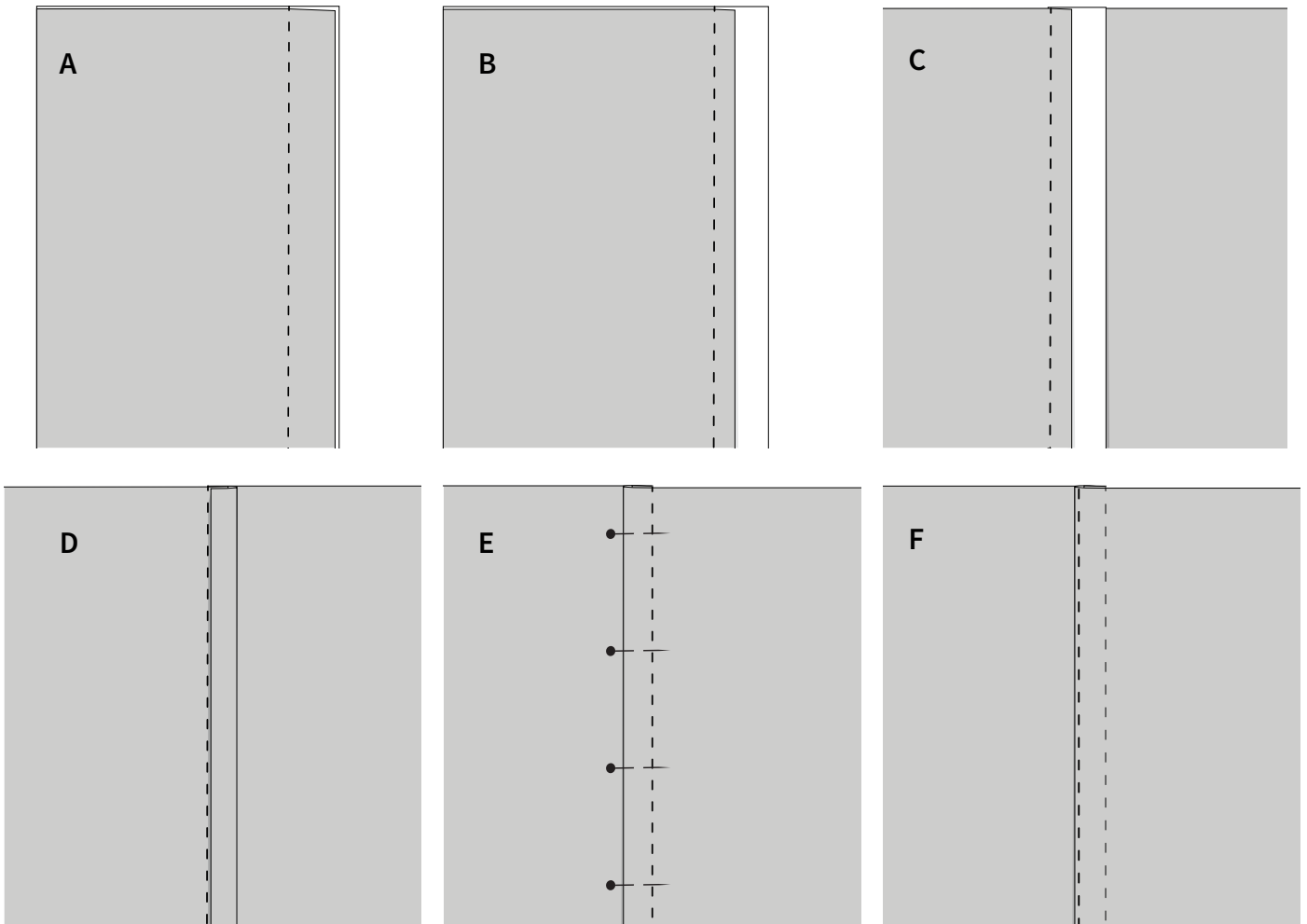
Would you like to give this seam finish a go?

You can try it by sewing the [Rushcutter dress \(View B\)](#). You can even learn how to do French seams on in-seam pockets!

FLAT FELLED SEAMS

Flat felled seams are one of the strongest seam finishes. The raw edges are enclosed inside the seam (like French seams), but it's pressed flat and stitched to keep the seam nice and flat.

What's this finish for? Flat felled seams are suitable for hard wearing items such as jeans and jackets. You will also sometimes use this finish for making shirts.



To sew a *flat felled seam*:

A Pin the pieces you are joining together with right sides together. Stitch with a **1.2cm (½in)** seam allowance (or what your pattern specifies).

B Trim down one side of the seam allowance to **6mm (¼in)**.

C Press the seam allowance to one side.

D Turn the wider side of the seam allowance over the narrow side. The raw edge of the wider side should sit about **1mm** back from the stitch line. Press well when you are happy with where the edge is sitting.

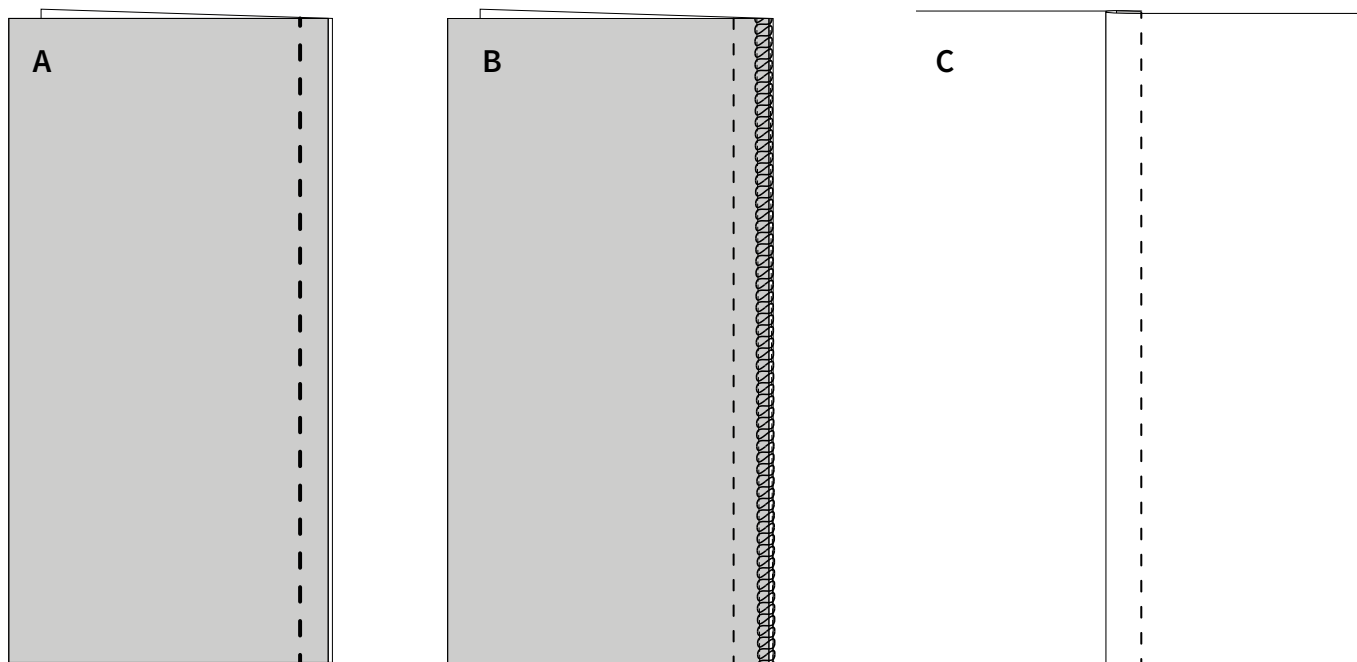
E Flip the seam allowance over to the other side of the seam, so that the raw edge is now enclosed in the seam. Press and pin.

F Carefully stitch close to the fold, to complete the seam.

MOCK FLAT FELLED SEAMS

A mock flat felled seam gives you the look of flat felled seams, without the added bulk. They are also a bit quicker to do than traditional flat felled seams. Although they look the same from the right side, they are not as hard wearing as real flat felled seams and the finish on the inside is not as clean.

What's this finish for? Garments that you would like to have the appearance of flat felled seams, such as shirts and jeans.



To sew a *mock flat felled seam*:

A Pin the pieces you are joining together with right sides together. Stitch with a **1.2cm (½in)** seam allowance (or what your pattern specifies). Press seam allowance open.

B Finish the seam allowance closed (together) with an overlocker/serger (or zig-zag stitch). Press the seam allowance to one side.

C Turn the fabric over to the right side. Use your fingers underneath the fabric to ensure that the seam allowance is still pushed to one side*. Stitch the seam allowance in place by stitching **6mm (¼in)** from the seam line.

**You can pin the seam allowance before stitching if you'd prefer.*

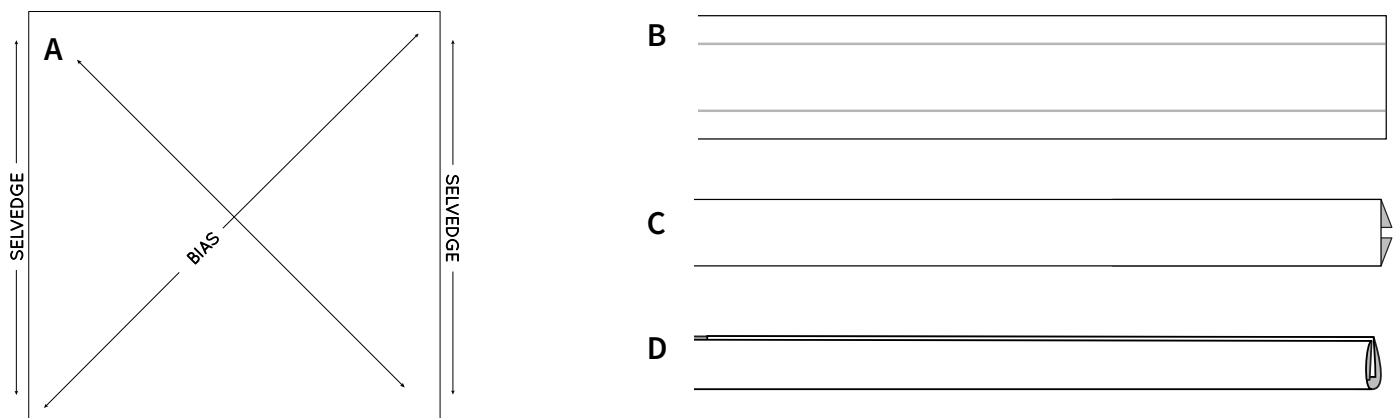
BIAS BINDING (AN INTRO)

Bias binding is a strip of fabric cut on the bias (diagonal to the grainline / selvedge) that can be used in a variety of applications. By cutting the fabric on the bias, it gives the fabric a small amount of stretch, which makes it ideal for finishing curves and wrapping around seams (in the case of bias bound seams).

You can make your own bias binding or purchase it by the metre / yard from a store. If purchasing, you will need to buy **25mm (1in)** single fold bias binding for the following applications. If you are making it yourself, you will need to cut **3.5cm (1½in)** strips from a square of fabric and then fold the bias binding with a bias tape maker (18mm (¾in) size) or fold and press by hand - more details in the following pages. The reason for the difference in width is that when buying pre-made bias binding, the width on the label refers to the width of the exposed part of the binding, rather than the width of the binding when it's pressed flat.

I recommend using a lightweight cotton fabric for binding, such as cotton lawn or cotton shirting. Consider using a contrasting colour or print to add a fun pop of colour to the inside of your garment.

UNDERSTANDING BIAS BINDING



A The bias grain of the fabric runs at a 45 degree angle to the selvedges. Before cutting binding strips from a piece of fabric, ensure the fabric is square. This will ensure you cut the fabric on the true bias.

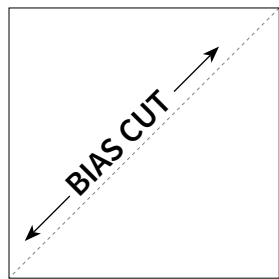
B Bias strip pressed flat

C Single fold bias tape, pressed and ready to be applied (the applications on the following pages use single fold bias tape).

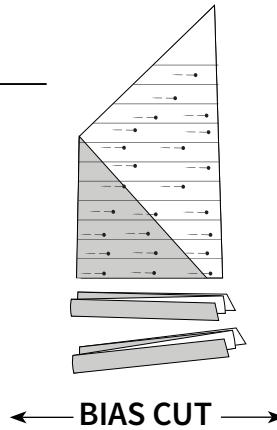
D Double fold bias tape has another fold through the centre. It is made the same way, just folded and pressed one more time.

PREPARING BIAS BINDING

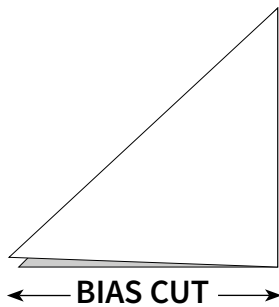
CUTTING BINDING



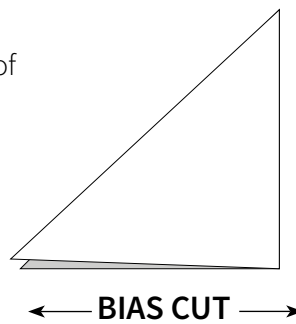
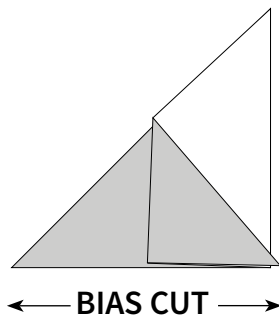
A Take your square of fabric and fold along the diagonal. Press and then carefully cut along the crease.



B Take one of the triangles of fabric and fold in half again and press.

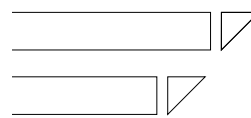


C Flip back one corner and line up bottom edges. Press. Repeat on the other side.



D Check that all layers are lined up neatly along the bottom edge. Mark binding width 3.5cm (1½in) with a clear ruler and chalk. Pin through all layers before cutting with scissors or rotary cutter.

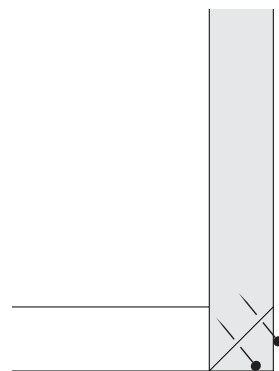
E Repeat process with the remaining triangle of fabric.



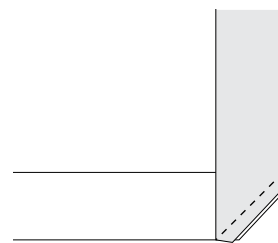
F Remove pins and square off each end of the strips by cutting the binding at a right angle.

JOINING BINDING

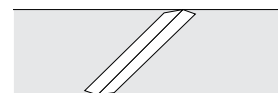
For longer seams you may need to join pieces of binding together.



A With right sides together, align two bias pieces together at a 90-degree angle. Mark a diagonal line, joining the "corners" of the square that has been created by the overlapping binding pieces. Pin along line.



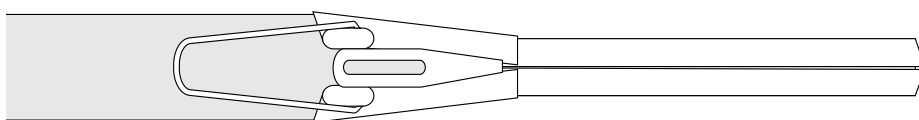
B Stitch along line. Trim seam allowance down to 6mm (¼in).



C Press seam allowances open.

PRESSING BINDING

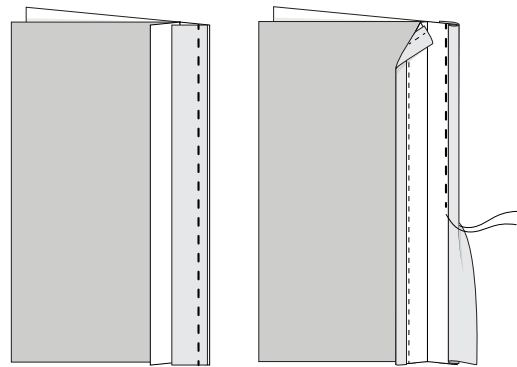
Press the binding to help you apply it. Feed it through an 18mm (¾in) size bias maker and press, or press by hand—pressing each long edge in by 9mm (⅜in).



SEWING BIAS BINDING

There are two commonly used seam finishes with bias binding: *bias bound seams* and *Hong Kong binding*. The finish chosen will depend on the location of the seam.

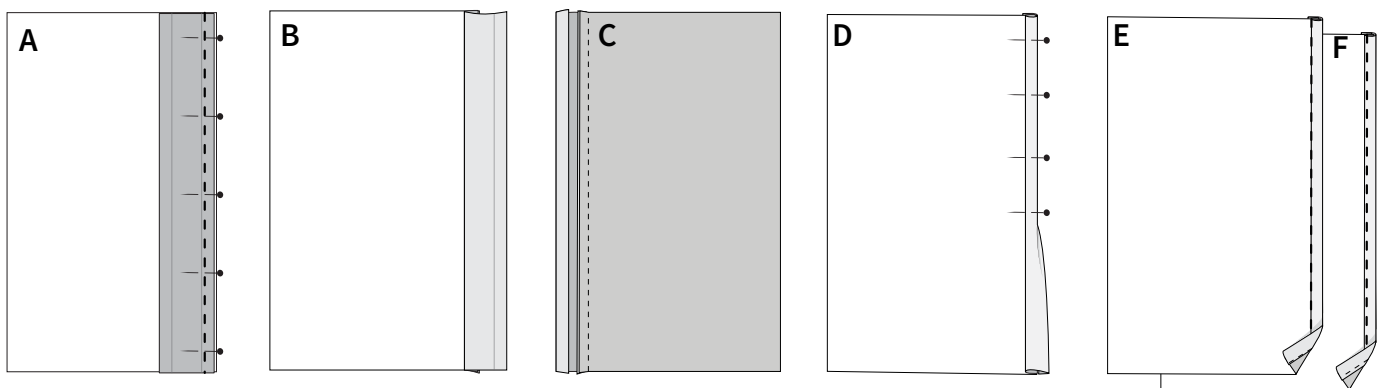
Please note: it is common to sew a seam before binding the seam allowance (as illustrated on the right). I prefer to bind the seam allowance before sewing the seam when the seam will be pressed open, as it is generally easier to manage. These instructions guide you through that method.



BIAS BOUND SEAM

Bias bound seams are strong and hard wearing. This seam finish gives you a beautiful and clean finish and also adds visual interest to the inside of garments. Bias bound seams gives you a clean finish on both the right and wrong side of the seam by wrapping binding around a raw edge.

What's this finish for? Great for seams that will be exposed (such as in unlined jackets), formal wear and also centre back seams (it can be a really nice finish either side of a zip opening).



To sew a *bias bound seam*:

A Take a length of bias binding and place along the edge you will be finishing (right sides together) - lining up the raw edges. Pin in place. Stitch binding in place with a **6mm (1/4in)** seam allowance (this will be just inside of the first crease line on the binding).

B Turn bias binding to the right side and press seam allowance towards binding.

C Fold the other side of the binding along the crease and press.

D Wrap binding around the seam allowance and press. The folded edge of the binding (on the back of the seam) should overlap the first stitching line by 1-2mm. The seam allowance should fill the binding - but can be trimmed if required. If the seam allowance doesn't fill the binding, stick to the original fold of the binding. Pin binding from the right side - being sure to check that you are catching the folded edge of the binding on the back.

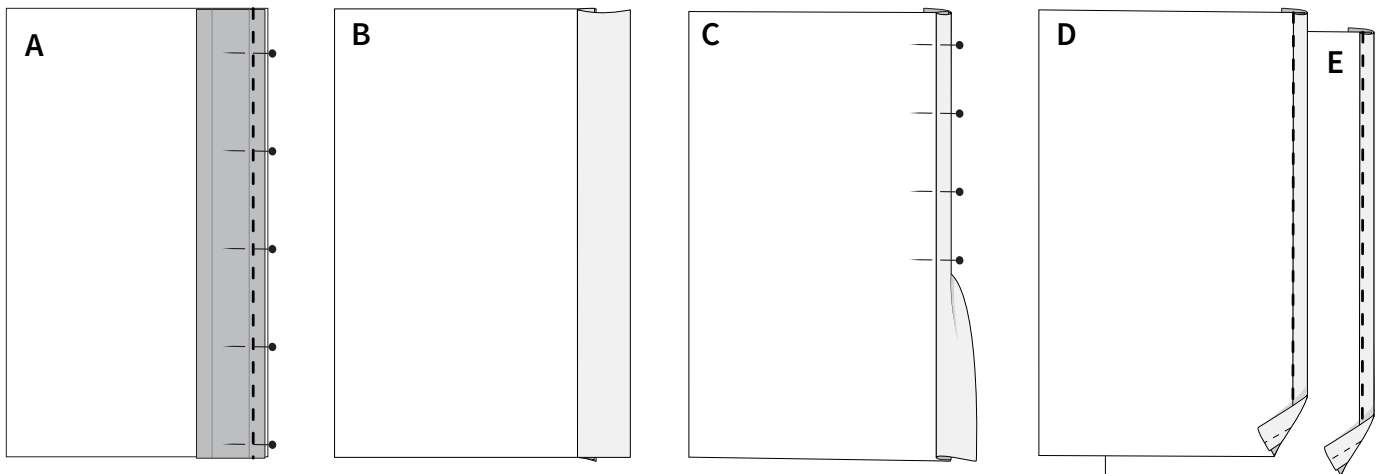
E Carefully stitch binding by stitching in the ditch.

F If you would prefer, you can stitch just to the side of the ditch (on the binding) as illustrated (this is a little easier to do if you are a beginner).

HONG KONG BIND

A Hong Kong binding is strong and hard wearing. This seam finish gives you a beautiful and clean finish and also adds visual interest to the inside of garments. From the right side, a Hong Kong bind looks the same as a bias bound seam - it is just finished differently on the unexposed side of the seam.

What's this finish for? Great for seams that will be exposed (such as unlined jackets). A Hong Kong bind is an alternative to bias bound seams. It is especially suited to thick or bulky fabrics. It is also suitable for seams where the back of the seam will not be exposed and you would like to minimise bulk, such as the edge of facings and waistbands.



To sew a *Hong Kong bind*:

- A** Take a length of bias binding and place along the edge you will be finishing (right sides together) - lining up the raw edges. Pin in place. Stitch binding in place with a **6mm (1/4in)** seam allowance (this will be just inside of the first crease line on the binding).
- B** Turn bias binding to the right side and press seam allowance towards binding. Press the rest of the binding flat.
- C** Wrap binding around the seam allowance and press - keeping the remainder of the binding flat on the back side of the seam (rather than folded like it was in the previous method). Pin binding from the right side - being sure to check that you are catching the binding at the back at the same time.
- D** Carefully stitch binding by stitching in the ditch.
- E** If you would prefer, you can stitch just to the side of the ditch (on the binding) as illustrated (this is a little easier to do if you are a beginner).

Would you like to give this seam finish a go?

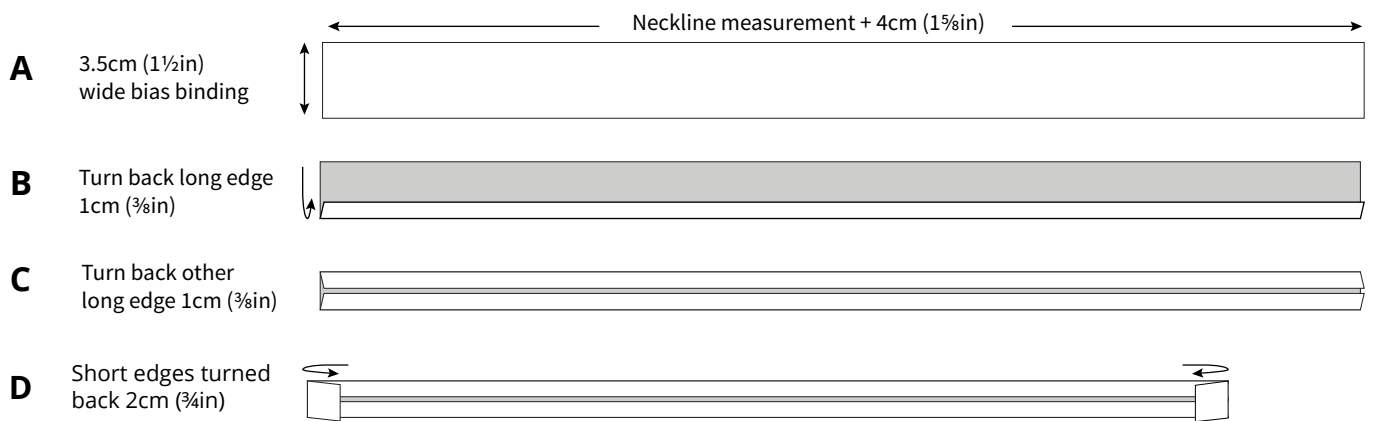
You can try both *bias bound seams* and *Hong Kong binding* by sewing the [Flynn jacket](#).

BINDING NECKLINES

Bias binding is a great finish for curves, therefore it's a really good option for finishing a neckline. It gives a lovely clean finish, whilst also providing extra strength around the neckline.

What's this finish for? You can use this finish for almost all woven fabrics. If your main fabric is thick or bulky, consider using a lighter weight fabric for the binding.

PREPARE BIAS BINDING



To prepare *binding for a neckline*:

Using a tape measure, measure around the neckline of the garment, starting from the centre back on one side, and continuing around the neckline until you reach the centre back on the other side of the back opening.

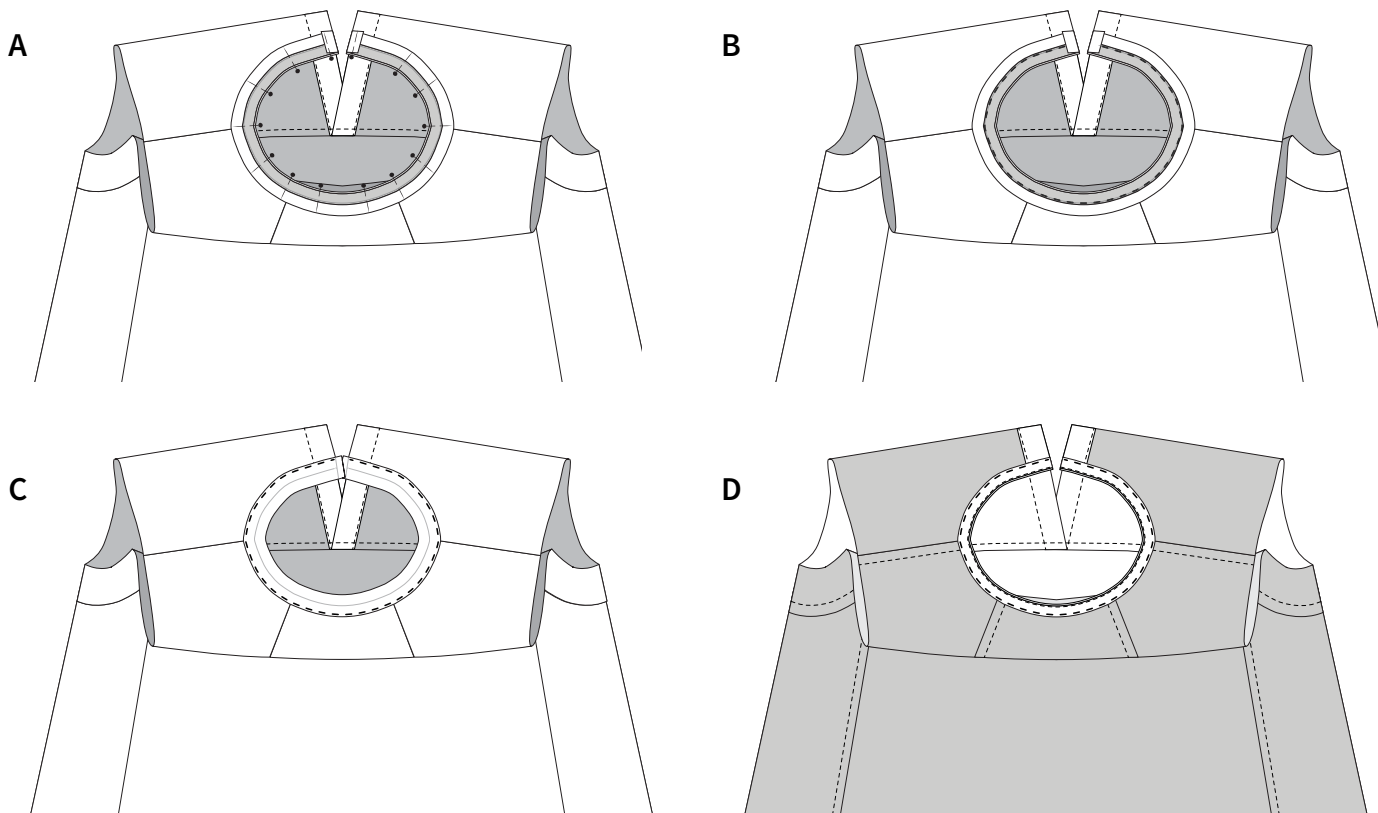
A Cut a piece of bias binding about **4cm (1½in)** longer than your neckline measurement. If you are making your own binding, it needs to be **3.5cm (1½in)** wide. For more details about making your own binding, look to p 11).

B If you have made your own binding, place it right side down and press one long edge of the binding under by **1cm (¾in)**.

C Repeat for the other (long) side.

D Press both short edges under by **2cm (¾in)**.

Example continues on the following page.



To sew *binding to a neckline*:

A With right sides together, align the fold on one of the short edges of the bias binding with the centre back on one side of the opening. Repeat on the other side. Pin the edge of the binding to the neckline, being careful to distribute it evenly around the neckline. If you like, you can fold the binding in half before you get started and place a pin in the centre and then line the pin up with the centre front of the garment.

B Stitch the binding to the neckline with a **1cm (3/8in)** seam allowance. Trim down the seam allowance around the neckline by **6mm (1/4in)**, and then clip and grade.

C Flip the binding to show the right side. Using your finger, press the seam allowance towards the binding and understitch the seam allowance to the binding.

D Turn the garment inside out and fold the binding to the inside of the neckline, rolling the seam line towards the inside of the garment slightly (the understitching will help with this). With the raw edge of the binding folded under, press the binding flat around the neckline. Pin in place. Stitch close to the folded edge of the binding. Give the neckline a good press from both the right and wrong side.

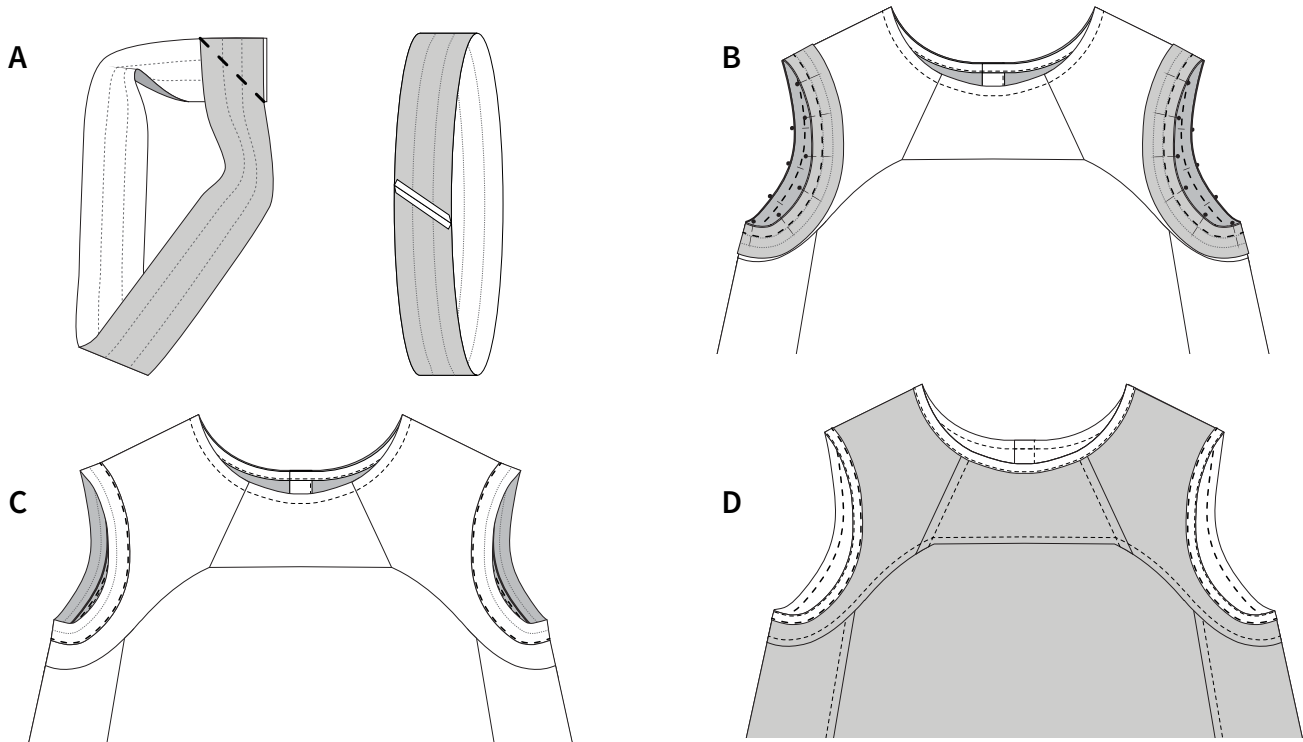
Would you like to give this seam finish a go?

You can try applying bias binding to a neckline by sewing the [Rushcutter dress](#) or [Collins top](#).

BINDING ARMHOLES

Bias binding is a great finish for curves, therefore it's a really good option for finishing armholes. It gives a lovely clean finish, whilst also providing extra strength.

What's this finish for? You can use this finish for almost all woven fabrics. If your main fabric is thick or bulky, consider using a lighter weight fabric for the binding.



To sew *binding to an armhole*:

A Measure the armholes and cut a piece of bias binding the length of the armhole. Prepare the binding in the same way you prepared the neck binding (p 15). With right sides together, bring the short ends of the binding together at a right angle. The overlap will create a square - stitch across on the diagonal, to get a clean join (mark the line with a pin if you feel the need). Trim back the seam, close to the stitch line, and press the seam open.

B With right sides together, pin the binding to each of the armholes - being careful to evenly distribute the binding around the armhole (position the seam so it will be hidden, but won't add bulk by being on top of a seam). Stitch the binding to the armhole with a **1cm (3/8in)** seam allowance. Trim down the seam allowance around the armhole by **6mm (1/4in)**, and then clip and grade.

C Flip the binding to show the right side. Using your finger, press the seam allowance towards the binding and understitch the seam allowance to the binding.

D Turn the garment inside out and turn the binding to the inside of the armholes, rolling the seam line towards the inside of the garment slightly (the understitching will help with this). With the raw edge of the binding folded under, press the binding flat and pin in place. Stitch close to the folded edge of the binding on each armhole.

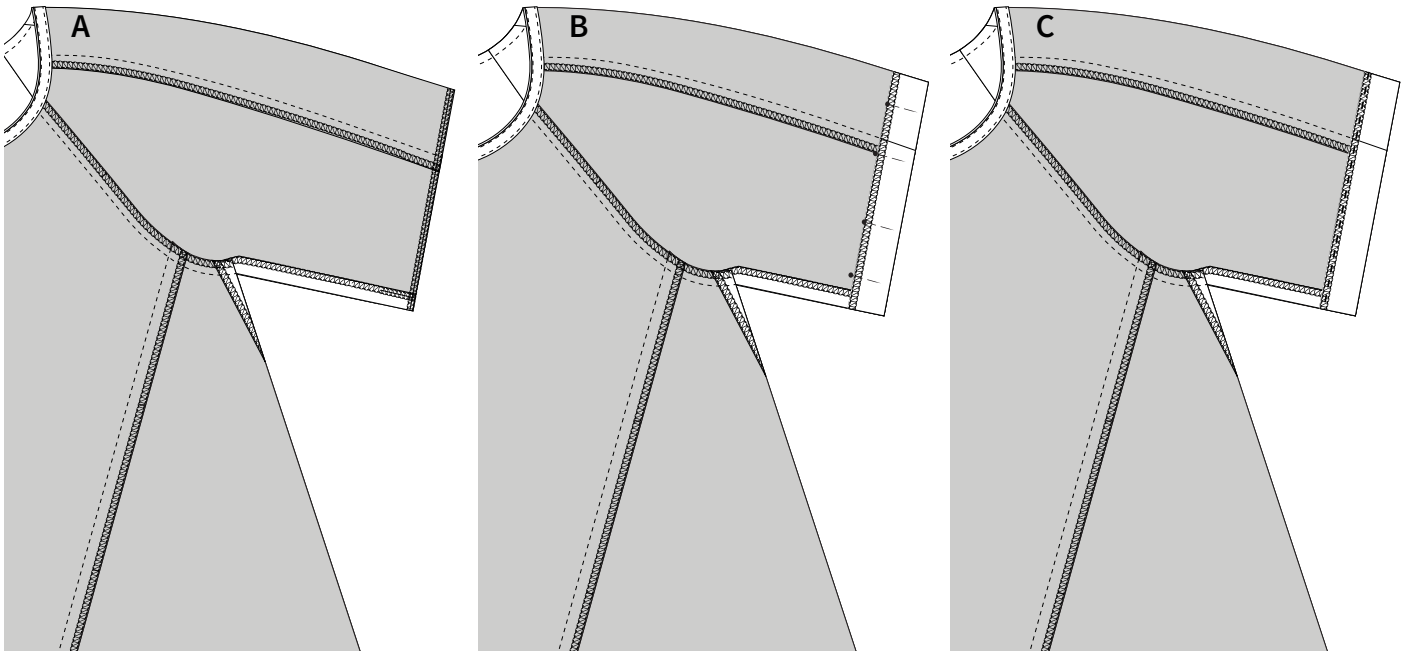
Would you like to give this seam finish a go?

You can try applying bias binding to armholes by sewing the [Rushcutter dress \(View B\)](#).

TURNUED UP HEM

One of the simplest ways to finish a hem is to finish the raw edge with an overlocker / serger and then turn it up and stitch. You will often see this finish in ready made garments.

What's this finish for? This finish is suitable for most woven fabrics. For dressier or more high-end items I would suggest enclosing the raw edge inside the hem (p 19), rather than overlocking.



To sew a *turned up hem*:

A Finish the raw edge of the hem with an overlocker / serger or zig-zag stitch.

B Turn back the hem according to the pattern or your preference. If the hemline is curved or the part of the garment you are hemming is tapered or flared, you won't be able to turn it up more than **1.2cm (½in)** or so, without causing puckering. If you would like a larger hem, or if your hem is curved or the garment is tapered / flared, consider using a hem facing (see p 20). Use a measuring tape, ruler or hem guide to check that the hem allowance is correct - checking every 5cm (2in) or so the whole way around the hem. Press and pin in place.

C Stitch in place - stitching close to the finished edge. If your fabric has a stripe that is running parallel to the hemline, consider stitching from the right side and using a stripe as a guide, to ensure the stitching appears straight from the right side.

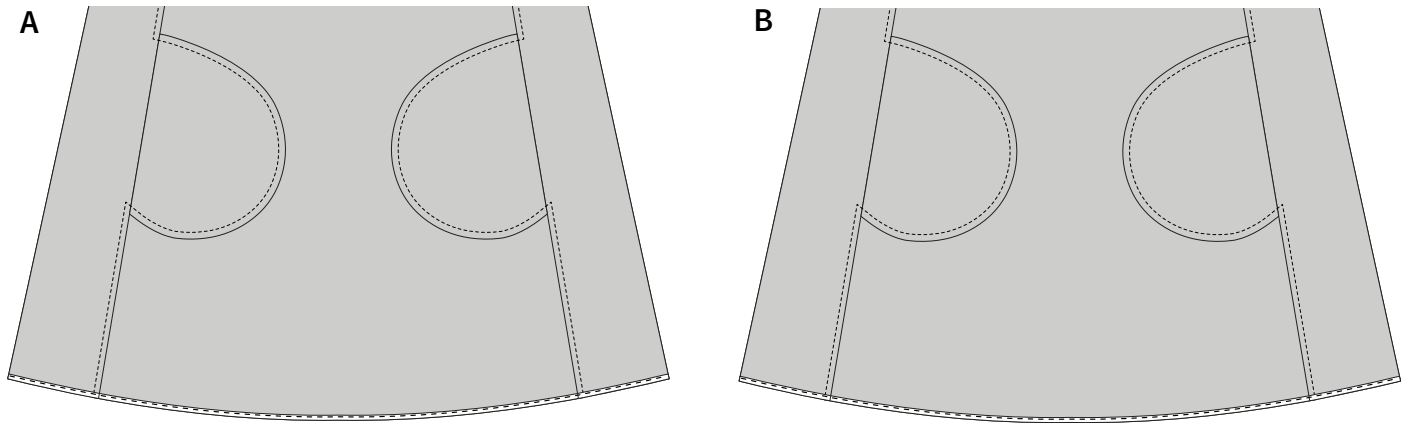
Would you like to give this seam finish a go?

You can try this method of hemming by sewing the [Collins top](#) or [Acton dress \(View A\)](#).

ENCLOSED HEM

An enclosed hem is a simple way to finish a hem, whilst also giving a cleaner finish than the previous method.

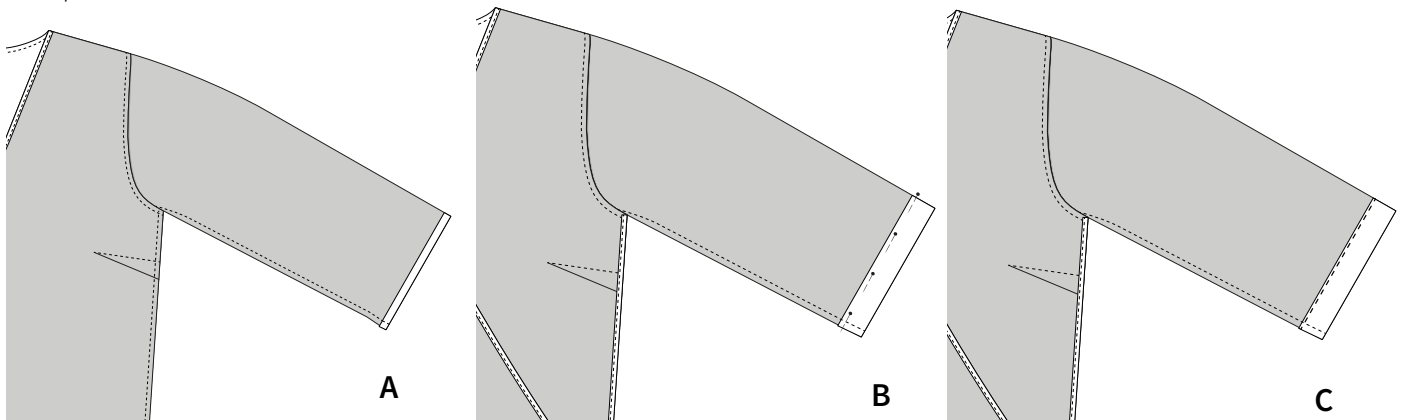
What's this finish for? This finish is suitable for lightweight to midweight fabrics (it will create too much bulk for heavyweight fabrics). It is also suitable for sheer fabrics.



To sew a *narrow enclosed hem*:

A Turn up the hem by **6mm (1/4in)** and stitch. You can simply do this with your finger rather than pressing and pinning.

B Turn the hem by another **6mm (1/4in)** and press. Pin hem in place and stitch along the original stitch line to complete the hem.



To sew a *wide enclosed hem*:

A Turn up the hem by **1cm (3/8in)** and press.

B Turn the hem by another **3cm (1 1/4in)*** and press. Pin hem in place, checking it is even at regular intervals.

C Stitch in place by stitching close to the folded edge.

**You can make this measurement more or less - depending on your preference.*

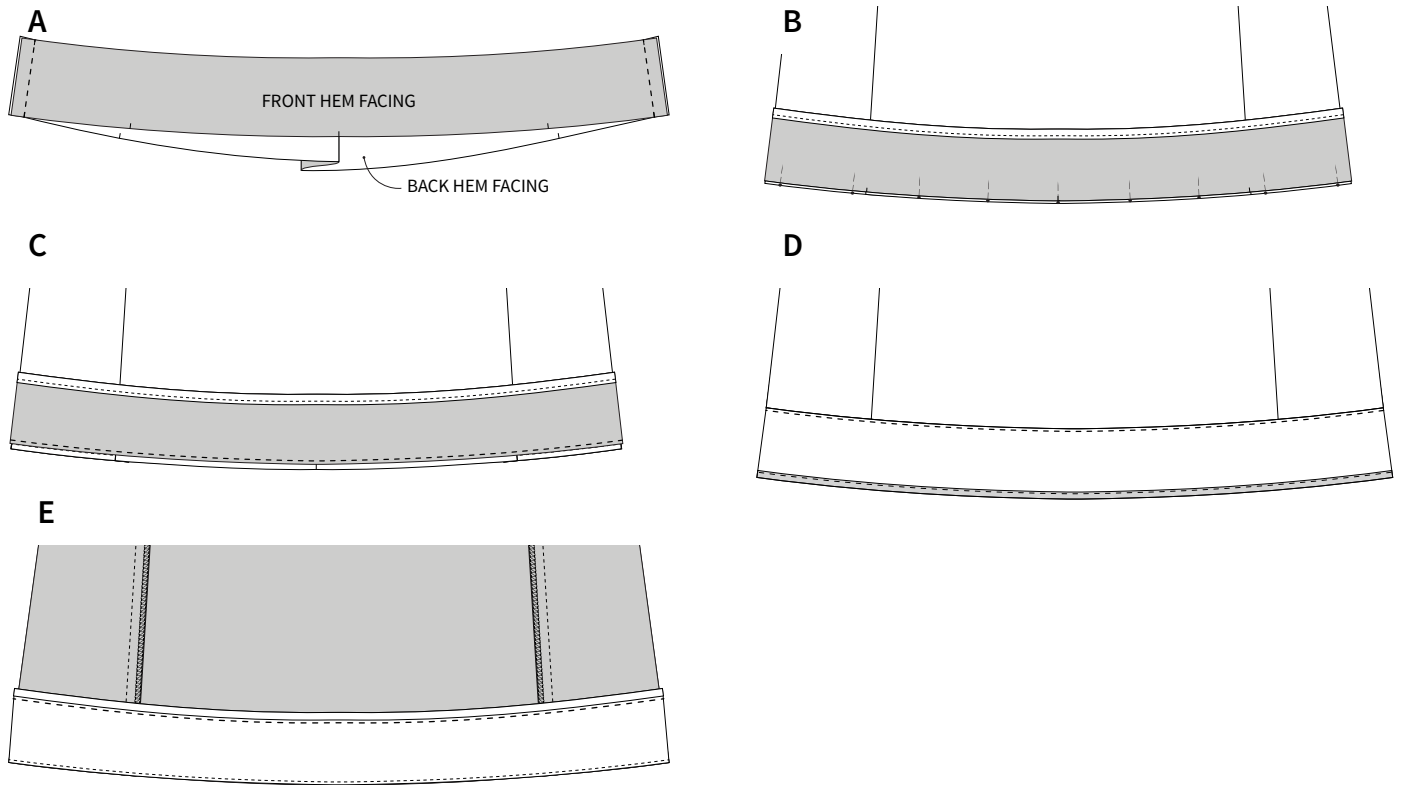
Would you like to give this seam finish a go?

You can try these methods of hemming by sewing the [Collins top](#), [Acton dress \(View B\)](#) or [Barkly skirt](#).

HEM FACING

Hem facings work well for midweight to heavyweight fabrics. They give a clean finish, whilst also adding extra weight to parts of a garment that often need it - such as skirt and pant hems.

What's this finish for? Midweight to heavyweight fabrics. Hem facings work particularly well on skirts and dresses. They can be used on straight hems, but are also commonly used on curved hemlines.



To attach a *hem facing*:

A Take the FRONT HEM FACING and BACK HEM FACING and, with right sides together, pin together at the side seams. Stitch seams with a **1.2cm (½in)** seam allowance. These seams will be enclosed in the hem so do not need to be finished (unless fabric is prone to fraying). Press both seams open, and finish the top edge of the facing (the edge that will not be stitched to the hem of the garment). Consider using a contrast binding for an interesting feature (for a Hong Kong bind, see p 14).

B Pin the HEM FACING to the garment with right sides together. Start at the centre front notch, and work your way around the facing, matching each seam line with the appropriate notch. Stitch in place with a **1cm (¾in)** seam allowance.

C Trim back the seam allowance of your HEM FACING to minimise bulk in the hem.

D Flip the HEM FACING down to show the right side and lay the seam flat. With the seam allowances pushed towards the HEM FACING, understitch the seam allowances to the facing.

E Turn the HEM FACING to the inside of the garment, being sure to roll the seam line slightly to the inside, and press. Stitch the hem in place (by hand or machine) close to the edge of the facing.

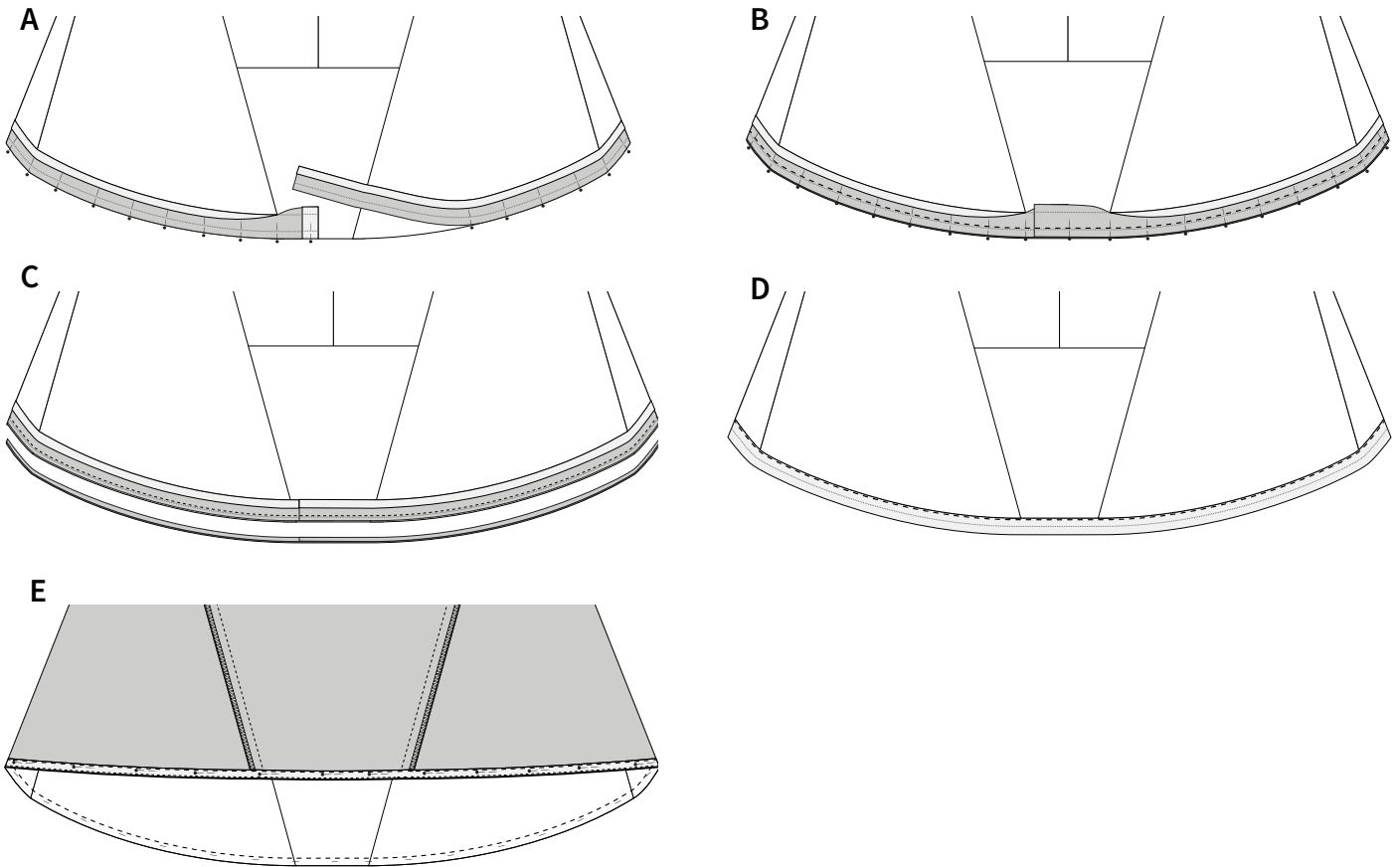
Would you like to give this seam finish a go?

You can try this method of hemming by sewing the [Rushcutter dress](#) or [Darlow pants](#) or [Barkly skirt](#).

BINDING A HEM

Finishing a hem with bias binding gives a beautiful and clean finish.

What's this finish for? This finish is suitable for lightweight to midweight fabrics. It is also a good option for exposed hems.



To *bind a hem*:

A Take a length of binding at least **5cm (2in)** longer than the circumference of your hem (for notes on making your own binding, see p 11). Fold one short end under by about **2cm (3/4in)** and begin pinning the binding to the hemline with right sides together.

B Continue pinning the binding until the end overlaps the beginning. Trim off any excess length before stitching with a **1cm (3/8in)** seam allowance.

C Trim down the seam allowance by about **6mm (1/4in)**.

D Flip the binding to the right side, and with your fingers, press the seam allowance towards the binding. Understitch seam allowance to the binding.

E Turn the garment inside out and flip the bias binding to the inside of the garment. Fold the raw edge of the binding under before pressing and pinning in place. Sew hem by stitching binding in place, close to the folded edge.

Would you like to give this seam finish a go?

You can try this method of hemming by sewing the [Collins top](#).

GLOSSARY

BASTE

Sew temporary stitches to hold pieces in place before sewing permanently. Basting can be done by hand or machine (on a long stitch length). Consider using a contrasting thread when basting to make stitches easier to remove later.

CLIP

Snip into the seam allowance (perpendicular to the raw edge) getting close to the stitch line, to help open up curved seams or corners.

DRILL HOLE

Drill holes are small holes marked on a pattern, often used to indicate a dart point or other design features, such as the location of patch pockets, belt loops or pivot points (any feature that is located in an area where you are unable to notch a seam).

FINISH

Neaten the raw edges of your project using an overlocker, zig-zag stitch or binding.

INTERFACING

A (normally) fusible fabric that is used to stiffen or strengthen fabric, in certain parts of a garment. It is often used in collars, cuffs and button plackets.

GRADE SEAM ALLOWANCES

Minimise bulk by trimming down raw edges in varying widths. Trim down the seam allowance that will sit closest to the body close to the stitch line. Trim the next layer, leaving a slightly wider seam allowance than the first, and so on until all layers are trimmed back.

NOTCH

A notch is a small cut in the fabric that helps guide you while you are sewing. It can be used to indicate seam allowance, dart arms, the location of design details or indicate key points on the pattern (like the centre front or centre back).

Notches are also used to indicate balance points (points on your pattern that help you sew the right pieces together, as well as help you when you are sewing long or curved seams).

PRESS

Use an iron to press seams flat, using steam (if appropriate for your fabric).

RIGHT SIDE / WRONG SIDE

The right side of the fabric is the side you would like to see on the outside of the finished garment, while the wrong side is the side that will be hidden inside the garment.

TRIM

Cut back a seam allowance to make a seam easier to manage or less bulky.

SEAM ALLOWANCE

The space between the stitch line and the raw edge of the fabric. The seam allowance varies throughout. In the Folds patterns, depending on the seam. For example, larger seam allowances are required for centre back and side seams, while smaller seam allowances are required for curved seams so that you can achieve a clean finish.

STAYSTITCH

'Staystitching' is a line of stitching inside the permanent stitch line (so it remains hidden inside the seam allowances) that is used to reinforce curved and bias cut seams, so that they do not stretch or distort during the sewing process.

UNDERSTITCH

Stitch the seam allowance to a facing or binding, close to the seam edge. This helps the facing (or binding) roll to the inside of the garment, preventing it from being seen on the outside of a garment.

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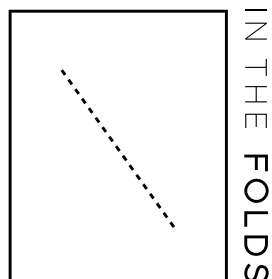
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