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Sure-Fit Designs™

Sewing Construction Steps:

a General Guide for Garment Assembly



Help! How do I sew my garment together?

When you don't have a construction guide sheet to help you sew your garment together, follow these industry standards and steps that make sense and that will make your task that much easier.

Glenda the Good Stitch

Sure-Fit Designs™

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Help! Where do I begin my sewing project?

When you've sewn for ages your mind often kicks into gear when constructing a garment. What do you do first? What do you sew next? If you've sewn for years, you most likely know the order in which pieces should be sewn. But for the novice, it might not be so obvious. Use these guidelines and you'll generally be well on your way to a comfortable level of knowing how to sew a garment together.

First, do as much work on a major pattern piece as possible before joining to another major piece. All darts, pleats, tucks and style lines (like princess lines) should be sewn first. Sew side seams and shoulder seams only when you can't do anything more on the major piece. This makes pressing easier, simplifies the sewing process, makes the garment easier to handle in the machine and the entire construction process will take less time.

Before you begin a project, read and think through these steps first, then analyze them in relation to the garment and pieces you want to sew. Eliminate those steps that don't apply, but stay with the general flow of steps.

1. Attach any interfacing. Whether for a blouse, dress, coat, shirt or waistband of pants or skirt, do this first.
2. Darts, tucks, pleats. Sew these next.
3. Sew style lines. Does your pattern have style lines like princess lines or yokes? Anything that is not a shoulder or side seam should be sewn now.
4. If your project has pockets, apply them to the major piece taking care that they are balanced from one side to the other.





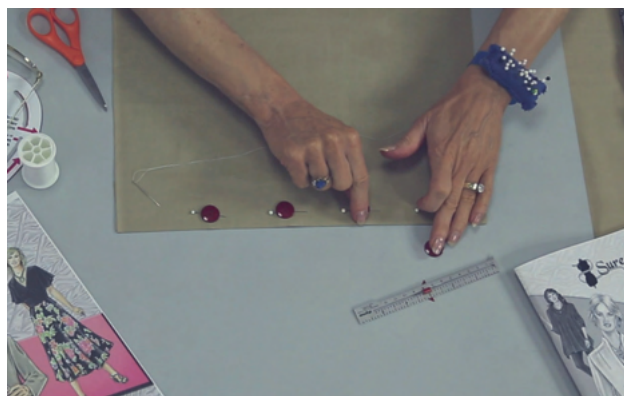
5. Insert the zipper. If possible insert the zipper while the major piece is still flat, but if it is a dress with a waist seam and the zipper extends into the skirt, it will be applied later.
6. Shoulder seams generally come next.
7. Sew a 'shirt-style' sleeve. The lower, flatter sleeve cap lends itself to sewing into the front and back armscye at this time.
8. For shirts, sew side seams from hem up through underarm to sleeve hem edge. For pants, sew inseams and side seams. For a dress, if the design has an attached skirt, sew the skirt and bodice side seams separately, but don't attach the skirt to the bodice yet.

9. For pants, sew crotch seams.
10. Sew waistband or facings for pants/skirts. Finish elastic waists at this time.
11. Collar. Prepare collar if applicable. Make sure facings have been prepped. Attach collar and facings.
12. Sleeve, if applicable. Prepare sleeve detailing like plackets, gathers, etc. before stitching the underarm seam. Apply cuff if applicable.



13. Set in sleeve.
14. Neckline/armhole facings. Sew the neckline or armhole facings if there is no collar.
15. Dress waist seam. For 2-piece dresses, sew bodice to skirt at waistline.
16. Apply zipper. For dresses with waistline seams, add the zipper now.

17. Finish hem.
18. Closures. Buttons, buttonholes, hooks and eyes, frog closures, snaps should be sewn at this time.
19. Belts, bows or additional trimmings may happen at this time.



The more you sew, the more your confidence grows.

(Adapted from Industry Guide to Sewing Order by Connie Crawford)

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