

7 basic sewing terms

**SEWING BASICS I
FOR BEGINNER SEWISTS**

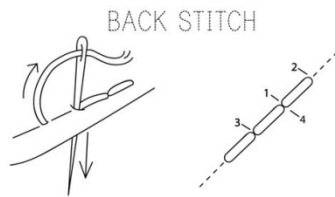
BY: A FASHION ADDICT

7 Basic Sewing Terms

You'll Need to Know

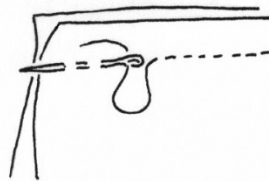
#1

Back Stitch - When beginning a new stitch, place your fabric, about 1/4 inch under your needle from the edge of fabric and according to your machine's settings, you'll hit your back stitch button (below is a screenshot of my machine). Back stitching allows your stitches to lock in and make sure that your stuff stays in place! A sewing **must**.



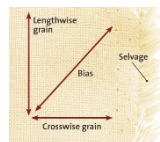
#2

Baste, or Basting Stitch - A long stitch, either by hand or machine. If using your sewing machine, you will adjust your stitch length to the longest setting on your machine. Basting is used to test fitting, or to hold folds in [your pleated skirts](#).



#3

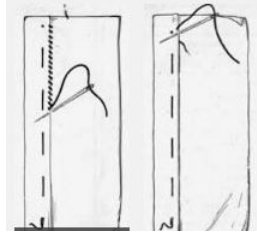
Grain Lines, or Fabric Grain - When working with fabric that has a drape, you'll notice that some fabrics will have natural lines in it; lengthwise, crosswise or bias 'wise' grain. I'm not sure what all of this means, but if you were to look this up, this is what you'll find! :)



The key here is.... This is important when dealing with your commercial pattern pieces. The patterns will direct you for placing your fabric according to the grain lines in your fabric. This assists with the drape of the overall garment.

#4

Hemming - This finishes your garment. This, just like a seam allowance, is given with commercial patterns. You can adjust the size of the hem according to your preference. There are different types of hems that you can do, but the most basic hem is to fold according to your instructions, typically 1/4 in. I will actually fold twice, 1/4 inch and then another 1/4 inch, so the cut edges are not visible.



#5

Interfacing, or Facing – Interfacing is used as a hardener or to thicken fabric between your outer layer/main fabric and your lining fabric. This fabric typically has a sticky side, that you will attach to the wrong-side of your main fabric. The non-sticky side will eventually be placed against the wrong-side of your lining fabric.



To apply interfacing, you'll need to follow the manufacturer's instructions that typically come with this fabric.

You'll use interfacing for installing collar, for example. No one wants a flimsy collar!

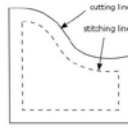
#6

Ironing - Not exactly a concept that I expect you to be UN-familiar with, but this is important in sewing! You'll see this step mentioned in your pattern instructions. Don't skip this step. This also assists in locking in your seams and helps the overall look once you're done. I had to learn this on my own... I wasn't always an iron-er! But I'm doing better now.



#7

Seam Allowance – You will see this term used frequently, no matter the video tutorials or paper patterns. This is the space in between where you will cut your fabric and where you will stitch, or sew your fabric. Your seam allowance is used as your guide when machine sewing.



The standard seam allowance is 5/8 in. You will line your fabric up, under your presser foot along the seam allowance lines on your machine.

