

Fabrications

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Sewing Fine Fabrics ASG Lansing Chapter - July 17, 2017 presented by Janet Dapson

#1: Work slowly and carefully!

- Use a pattern that you have used before that fits you well.
- Take your time and enjoy the challenge.

#2: Always test techniques on scraps.

- needle type/size; stitch length/width; marking; seam finishes; interfacings & stabilizers; buttonholes; pressing; serging; fancy stitches

#3: General helpful hints

- Choose fabrics suggested by the pattern.
- Do necessary pattern alterations before cutting fabric.
- Wash fabric before cutting or steam dry-cleanable fabrics.
- Tear for crossgrain; align crossgrain and selvage.
- Refold fabric to prevent the appearance of vertical lines where the fabric had been folded on the bolt.
- Trim pattern pieces along cutting lines for your size before laying onto fabric.
- For very fine or slippery fabrics, place fabric over a layer of tissue paper to stabilize during cutting. Finely serrated shears may be helpful.
- If using rotary cutter, use a new blade, preferably tungsten.
- Use good quality polyester thread (such as Gutermann).
- Use a new needle in the sewing machine.

#4 Lightweight wovens: silk, cotton, rayon

- Use size 8 or 9 microtex (sharp) needle.
- Use a round hole foot (and plate if needed).
- 1/4" foot is handy for French seams and rolled hems.
- Clover 6-in-1 Stick'n'Stitch Guide is helpful for edge stitching, topstitching, seam widths.
- Interface with PerfectFuse Sheer or Light; use the pattern piece as a guide for the correct shaping before fusing.
- For shirt tail hems:
Using the 1/4" foot, stitch 1/4" from raw edge of hem with a 3.5 mm stitch length to ease curves. Turn to inside along stitching line, then turn under 3/8" for hem. Snip easing threads where needed to smooth; press. Hand or machine stitch hem to finish.

#5 Lightweight knits: ITY, cotton, rayon, wool, linen

- Use a very narrow zigzag (0.5 mm) or the machine's "stretch stitch" to allow give without breaking thread.
- Decrease pressure on the presser foot; use slow to medium speed; may need to use a walking foot.
- If fabric stretches too much while sewing, a PerfectSew stabilizer may be used.
- Use Ultra Soft Double-Sided Fusible tape by LJ Designs for extra stability to prevent rippling on hems.

NOTES: