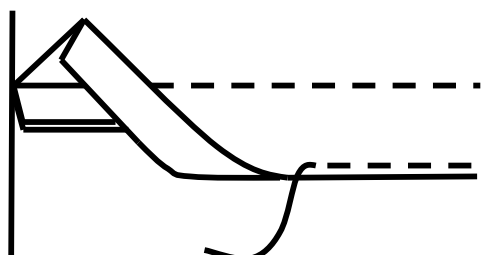


Enclosed Seams for Reversible Garments

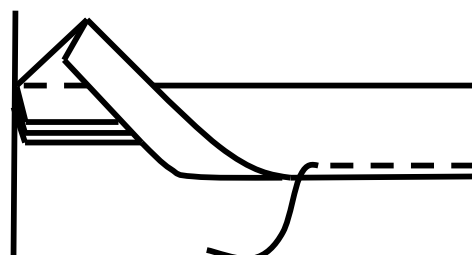
Making a reversible jacket or other garment requires forethought and planning prior to cutting out and/or sewing. Unless your selected pattern is specifically designed to be reversible, you may have to modify the order and/or method of construction. Once your order of construction has been determined, decide on the type of enclosed seam. In lieu of sewing two separate garments and then sewing together, use attached and enclosed seam lines, which streamline construction and add to the durability of the garment. There are several options. Your choice will be determined by the weight and type of fabric you have chosen.

Flat Fell or Flat Felled Seam

A flat fell or flat felled seam is used on jeans and sportswear. It is good for using with a double-faced fabric to achieve a finished appearance on both sides of the garment. If your fabric is heavy or bulky or you are using two layers of fabric, you may want to increase your seam allowance to $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch or wider to leave more fabric to turn under. When constructed, one side of the garment will have a double row of stitching visible; the reverse side will have a single row of stitching. Start with a plain or conventional seam. Press the seam allowances to one side and trim the underneath seam allowance to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide. Fold and press under the upper seam allowance and sew through all thicknesses close to the fold.



Flat Fell



Stitched and Bound

Stitched and Bound Seam

A stitched and bound seam has a similar appearance to the flat fell seam but has a more uniform appearance when used on curved seams. It requires an added layer of fabric, which can contribute to bulk. A lightweight fabric is recommended for the binding strip if the fashion fabric is bulky. The binding strip must be cut on the bias when sewing curved seams. Straight seams can be bound with straight grain binding strips. Single fold $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch bias tape may also be used.

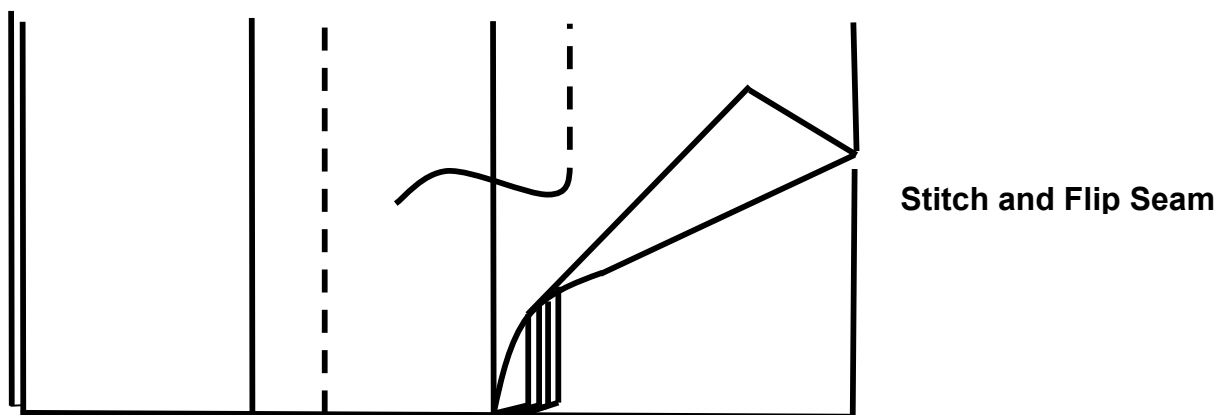
Cut binding strips $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide from self fabric or lightweight coordinating fabric. With right sides together align binding strip with raw edge of seam allowance. Sew seam through all layers. Trim entire seam allowance to $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch. Turn under remaining binding edge, fold over top of the trimmed seam allowance, press flat, and stitch close to fold.

When using premade bias tape, unfold one edge and align crease with the seam line. Sew seam following the crease line of the bias tape. Trim seam allowance and press bias tape over and sew close to folded edge.

Stitch and Flip Seams

Stitch and flip seams can be used when the outside and the reverse side of the garment are made from two separate fabrics. Careful evaluation of your pattern is required and pre-fitting the pattern is a must. The seams may be topstitched to add stability to the seam or simply pressed to one side. This seam method is similar to the quilt-as-you-go method of machine quilting. When selecting a pattern, look for one that has minimal seam lines that will allow you to work out towards the edge of the garment one way or the other.

It is recommended that you make several sample seams using 6-inch by 4-inch scraps of your fabrics until you fully understand the process. Start with three pieces from each fabric. Place two like pieces together with right side together; do this for both fabrics. Put one set on top of the other and sew a seam down one side through all four layers. Press the seam as it was sewn to set the seam. Trim seam allowances to $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch. Flip the top piece over and press towards the seam allowances. Turn over; flip the bottom piece over seam allowance and press. The seam allowance is now enclosed between the two layers of fabric. Topstitch to secure enclosed seam. For the next seam, place corresponding pieces with right sides together against each side (front and reverse) and repeat steps : sew, press, trim, flip, press, and topstitch. At each seam line make sure the two layers of fabric match at the edges before moving onto the next seam.



All interfacing should be applied prior to garment construction. Fusible interfacing is recommended when using this technique. Garment construction can start at a center back seam or the neckline, depending upon your chosen method for finishing the neck edge of the garment. If the entire outside edge, including the neckline with or without a collar, will be finished with binding, start at the center back seam and work your way out to the sides and around to the front. If a completed collar needs to be sewn into the neck seam, sew the shoulder seams first for each fabric and start the stitch and flip process enclosing the completed collar in the neckline seam.

A combination of the three aforementioned techniques may be needed to complete your reversible garment. With careful planning, sleeves and side seams can be applied using any of these techniques. Always make a seam sample with your chosen fabrics to test each technique before deciding which one is the best choice for each seam depending upon its location on the garment.

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