



Designation: D4965 – 96 (Reapproved 2008)

Standard Terminology of Seams and Seam Finishes Used in Home Sewing¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This terminology provides a uniform, easily understood language for the definitions and descriptions of seams and seam finishes used in home sewing.

1.1.1 These seams and seam finishes may be produced on a conventional sewing machine or by hand.

1.1.2 These terms and definitions are not necessarily applicable to the apparel manufacturing industry.

1.2 This terminology provides a common base for use in the preparation of educational materials and pattern guide sheets for home sewing.

1.3 Other seam types or finishes may be more appropriate if equipment other than the conventional sewing machine is available.

1.4 For other terms associated with textiles, refer to Terminology D123.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

D123 Terminology Relating to Textiles

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

back side, *n*—in textile materials, the side of the material that faces innermost in the completed product. (Ant. **face side**, *right side*. Syn. *wrong side*.)

bound seam-finish, *n*—in home sewing, a seam finish in which another material is used to enclose the cut edges of one or more seam allowances. (Compare **Hong Kong seam finish**.) (See Fig. 1.)

DISCUSSION—A bound seam-finish is made by (1) enclosing the cut seam allowance edge(s) in another fabric and (2) machine stitching through all thicknesses close to the edge of the binding. Material used may be strips of lightweight bias-cut woven fabric or lightweight knit fabric such as tricot or net. If tape or binding is used, the wider fold side of the tape or binding is positioned underneath the seam allowance. Usually each seam allowance edge is enclosed individually; however, seam allowances may be placed together and treated as one, such as the armseye seam allowances of an unlined jacket or on a bound neckline.

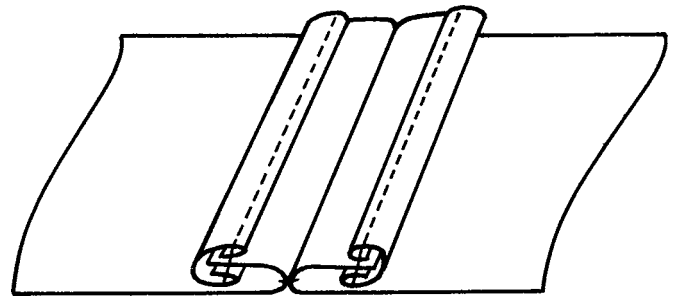


FIG. 1 Bound Seam Finish from Back Side of Fabric

clean-finish seam finish, *n*—in home sewing, a seam finish in which the cut edge is folded under and the fold line is edge stitched. (See Fig. 2.) (Syn. **turned and stitched seam finish**.)

DISCUSSION—A clean-finish seam finish is made by (1) turning under each cut edge of a plain seam allowance approximately 3 to 6 mm ($\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ in.) and (2) stitching close to the folded edge. A stabilizing line of stitching 3 to 6 mm from a curved cut edge will facilitate turning before stitching close to the fold.

complex seam, *n*—in home sewing, a seam made in two or more steps. (Ant. **plain seam**.)

DISCUSSION—Complex seams have one or more stitching lines as part of their construction and include double-welt seams, flat-felled seams, French seams, lapped seams, mock French seams, slot seams, tucked seams, and welt seams. They do not include plain seams or seam finishes or decorative additions to seams.

double-welt seam, *n*—in home sewing, a complex seam formed on the inside of the product, in which one trimmed seam allowance is enclosed and two rows of stitching are visible on the face side. (Compare **welt seam**. Syn. *mock flat-felled seam*.) (See Fig. 3.)

DISCUSSION—A double-welt seam is made like a welt seam except that it has a second row of topstitching close to the original seamline. The three rows of stitching visible on the back side are the original seam line, the row of stitching through the outermost layer of the sewn product and the wider of the seam allowances, and the row added near the original seam line.

edge-stitched seam finish, *n*—in home sewing, a seam finish in which machine stitching is placed close to the cut edge of each seam allowance. (Compare **zigzagged seam finish**.) (See Fig. 4.)

¹ This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D13 on Textiles and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D13.54 on Subassemblies.

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