





To attach a gathered edge to a straight edge, pin the right sides of the fabric together at any points of matching, such as notches or center front and center back seams. Temporarily fasten the bobbin threads at one end by winding them in a figure 8 around a pin. Pull the bobbin threads at the opposite end by sliding the fabric along the bobbin thread until the edges match in length (figure 8). Secure the threads around a pin in a figure 8, and repeat from each end until the edges match and the gathers are evenly distributed. Pin crosswise to the cut edge as needed to hold the gathers in place and keep them from slipping or bunching (figure 9).

Readjust the sewing machine to the correct length of stitch for seams before stitching the gathered and straight edges into a seam. Stitch on the seamline with the gathered side up. Watch to be sure the gathers are evenly distributed. You can use a long needle or seam ripper to guide the gathered area under the presser foot when the eased side is up.

Press the seam allowance flat as it was stitched, using the tip of the iron. Finish the gathered seam edge. Open the garment flat with the straight edge folded back. This leaves the gathers so you can press them. Again, press the seam allowance with the tip of the iron, being careful not to press folds in the gathered section (figure 10). When you press the gathered area, direct the point of the iron into the gathers (figure 11).

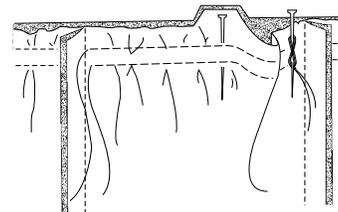


Figure 8. Fasten and pull bobbin threads to evenly distribute gathers.

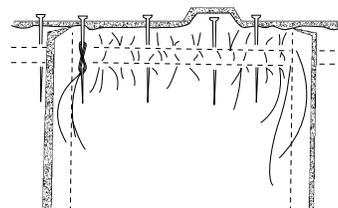


Figure 9. Pin to hold gathers before stitching.

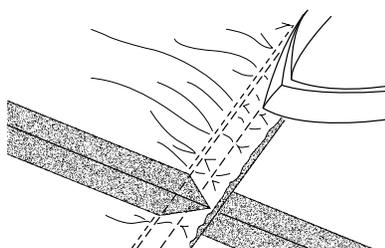


Figure 10. Press seam allowance with point of iron.

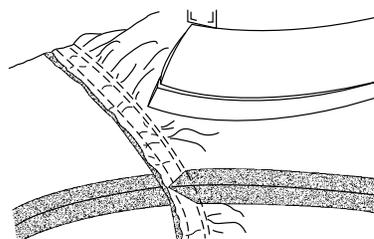


Figure 11. Press gathered area, directing point of iron into gathers

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