

Figure 13. Bar tack.

Bar tack (figure 13) is a reinforcement tack used at points of strain, such as buttonholes or corners of pockets. Fasten the thread, and bring the needle through to the right side. Take two or three long stitches—the length the bar tack needs to be—in the same place. Catching the fabric underneath, make closely spaced blanket stitches around the thread to cover the long stitches.

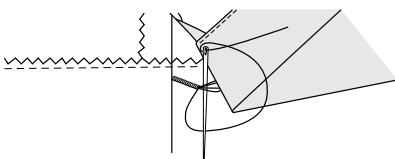


Figure 14. French tack.

French tack (figure 14) is similar to a bar tack. It connects two separate garment sections, such as the bottom edge of a coat and bottom edge of the lining, while still allowing each piece to move independently. To make a French tack at the hem edge, take a small stitch through the top of the garment hem edge and another small stitch directly across from it in the lining. Leave 1 to 2 inches (2.5 to 5 cm) of slack between stitches. Repeat three to four times. Then work closely spaced blanket stitches over the threads.

Decorative stitches

There are several decorative stitches. Here are a few common ones for you to learn.

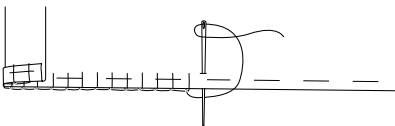


Figure 15. Blanket stitch.

Blanket stitch (figure 15) is often used to cover fabric edges decoratively. It is traditionally an embroidery stitch, but it can also be used in garment construction. For the first, and each succeeding stitch, insert the needle through the fabric from the right side and bring it out at the edge. Keeping thread from the previous stitch under the point of the needle, draw the needle through, forming the stitch over the edge.

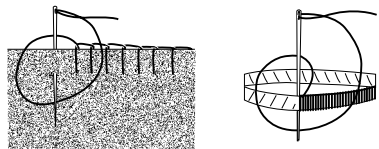


Figure 16. Buttonhole stitch.

Buttonhole stitch (figure 16) is used as a decorative stitch at the edge of the fabric and for hand-worked buttonholes. Work from right to left, with the point of the needle toward you and the edge of the fabric away from you. Fasten your thread and bring it out above the edge. Loop thread from the previous stitch to the left, then down to the right. Insert the needle from the underside, keeping the looped thread under both point and eye of the needle. Pull the needle out through the fabric, then away from you to place the purl of the stitch on the fabric's edge. For a buttonhole, stitches should be $\frac{1}{8}$ inch (3 mm) deep with no space between.

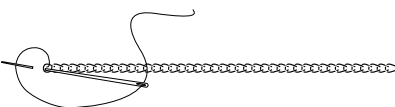


Figure 17. Chain stitch.

Chain stitch (figure 17) is a continuous series of looped stitches that form a decorative chain. Work from right to left. Fasten the thread, and bring it to the right. For each stitch, loop the thread around, insert the needle just behind where the thread emerges, and bring it up over the looped thread a stitch length in front of that point. Pull thread through, to the left, to form the looped stitch.

References

Reader's Digest. (2005). *Complete Guide to Sewing*. (2005). Pleasantville, NY: The Reader's Digest Association.

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Photos by Pamela Rose, © Oregon State University.

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