

PLEASE NOTE:

All patterns have been created by me through the decades. My sewing skills have been taught by my dear Mamma and dear sister Ang and a lot of self teaching and experimenting. There are so many ways of sewing techniques, stitches etc, the sewing tutorials that I have created are my way of sewing, some are fairly standard and others might make seasoned sewers cringe. Find your way to sew and create and enjoy. Please note that this terminology is what I have used in and on my patterns.

BASIC SEWING A TO Z OF SEWING

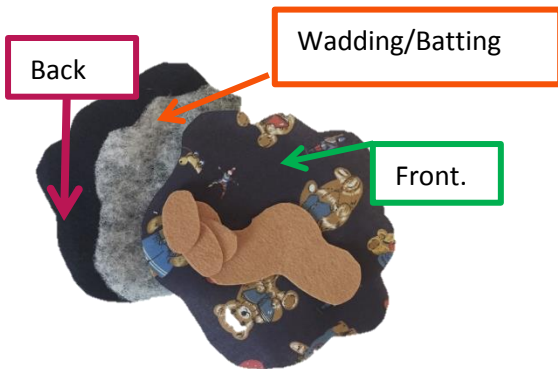
A

Applique – Placing a decorative or shaped piece of fabric on top of another and stitching the two together, by hand or machine.



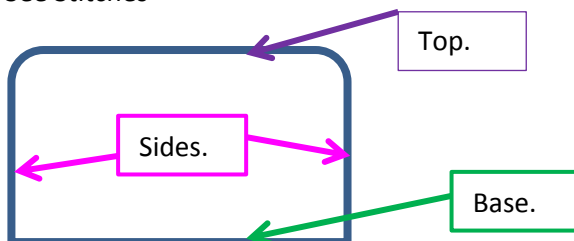
B

Back – the underneath/underside of a product – eg Drinks coaster has a front and back.



Backstitch - See Stitches

Base -



Baste/Basting – see tack/tacking

Batting - See wadding

Bias Binding & Tape - Strips of fabric cut on the bias, folded and used to neaten off edges.



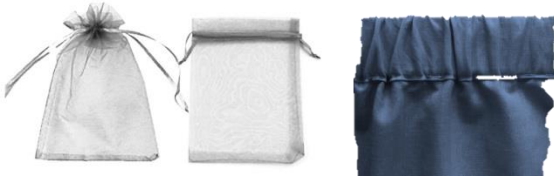
Blanket stitch – See Stitches.

Blind hem stitch – See Stitches.

Braid- see Trim.

C

Casing – When fabric is folded and stitched to create a “tube” for elastic or rope/cord.



Clip – When curved seams and corners are cut, so that when your project is turned to the right side, it lies flat.

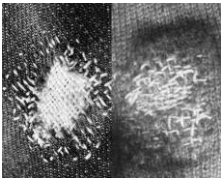


Cross stitch – See Stitches.

Curve – creating a curve for aprons and other projects, using a plate. See Tips and Tricks.

D

Darning – A stitch used to repair holes, mainly in socks. This can be done in various ways and by hand or machine. It is a straight that is sewn from side to side and then top to bottom. The top to bottom stitches are woven in between the side to side.



E

Embroidery – Various types of decorative stitches. See Embroidery Stitches.

Embellish/embellishment – A decorative item, such as a small ribbon rose or jewels, beads etc. Can also be known as trim.



F

Fat quarter – A piece of fabric cut only in a quarter of a metre – (25 cm x 25 cm)

Feather stitch - See stitches.

Finishing/Finish off – this is a general term used to neaten your final product. Cut excess threads, neaten seams, etc.

Fold line – This is found on patterns and it means that the fabric must be folded and the pattern piece needs to be placed on the fold of the fabric, pinned and cut. See Tips and Tricks on decoding patterns.

Front/Right side – See Right Side

G

Gather - This is a technique is used to create even “pleats”, create fullness. You can use a wide hand stitch or machine stitch to do this.



H

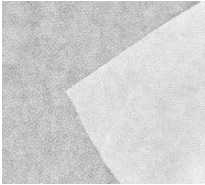
Haberdashery – see Notions.

Hem – This is the completed edge of a finished product. The fabric is turned inward and stitched to create the neat finish.



I

Interfacing – is a type of fabric that stiffens your main fabric to give structure and stiffen your project. You can use interfacing in your bunting creations.



J

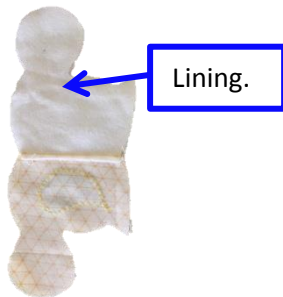
Jack of all Trades – when it comes to sewing and being creative, you will be amazed at all the different techniques you will use and create.

K

Knot – whenever you are hand sewing, you will create a knot to hold your thread to the fabric, so that your stitches do not come undone.

L

Lining – Normally a plain piece of fabric use to finish the inside of a product or to hide seams and stitches from the front fabric.



M

Mark/Marking – Washable and non-permanent marks made on the fabric, in order correctly position the applique, stitch lines, etc.

N

Needles – See Needles

Needle threader – A tool used to help you thread your sewing needle.

Notions – accessories for sewing projects – buttons, zips, threads, etc.

O

Overlock – a specific stitch that an Overlocker/Serger creates to cut and finish fabric edges.

Overlocker/Serger – a machine used to create the overlocking stitch.

P

Patchwork – When several pieces of different shapes/sizes of fabric are sewn together to create an image or pattern.

Pattern – This is what you buy to create your project. It is made from paper and you cut it out and place on your fabric.

Pleat – A type of fold, where the fabric is doubled up on itself.



Q

Quilting – a specific sewing skill/craft, using small pieces of fabric.

R

Raw edge – as it says. This is the edge of fabric that has been cut, but not stitched.



Right side - This is always the front of the fabric, the one that will be facing outwards.



Running Stitch – See Stitches

S

Seam allowance – This is the space between the raw edge/edge of the fabric and the stitching line. This is normally 15 mm.



Seam ripper - see Tools

Side of pattern – see Base.

Stay stitch - see Stitches.

Straight Stitch – see stitches.

T

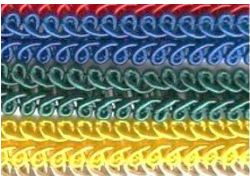
Tack/Tacking- see stitches.

Tools – See sewing Tools

Top of pattern – See Base.

Topstitching – see stitches

Trim – decorative ribbon or lace.



Trim – When you neaten off your finished product, by cutting away any excess fabric, batting, threads etc.

U

Unicorn – sewing is so magical and fun.

W

Wadding /Batting – Type of material used to stuff or pad a project.



Wrong side – This is the underside of the fabric, the one that does not have the design/print on it.

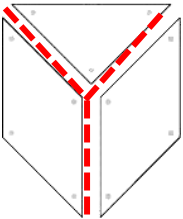


X

X marks the spot. I often use a cross stitch to mark a position of where a button or eyes for a face, etc.

Y

Y-seam, this is used mainly for quilting and it is where 3 seam meet and need to be stitched together.



Z

Zigzag stitch – See Stitches