

! ROSIE'S TIPS & TRICKS: GLOSSARY

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WORDS PRINTED IN ITALIC ARE EXPLAINED IN THIS GLOSSARY AS WELL.

BASTING

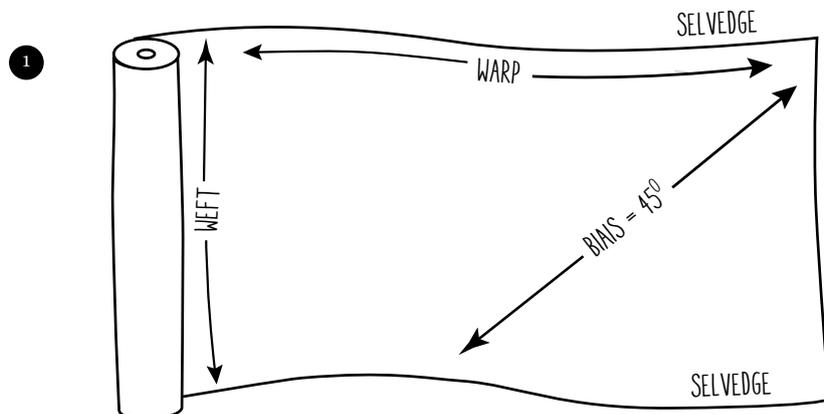
This can be done either by hand (using thicker basting yarn) or by machine. It is a larger stitch that temporarily fixates pieces of fabric in its place. The basting yarn is removed again after it is stitched together by machine.

Sometimes pattern marks, *notches* or *darts* are also basted onto the fabric with a loose basting stitch. The loops are then cut open so that the pattern pieces can be removed again. This technique is solely used for marking, so not for fixation.

BIAS CUT

The Bias direction is precisely a 45 degree angle to the width and length direction of your fabric (see illustration 1 below). Fabric that is cut on the bias grain has several advantages. It gives a beautiful drape and a bit of stretch. But it also makes it possible to work around curved seams without the fabric or hem curling up. This is the reason that *bias tape* (made from fabric that is cut on the bias) can be used around armholes or around other curvy edges.

But....sorry... there is also a downside (or complexity) to bias cut fabric. The drape and stretch causes the fabric to deform a little. How much is dependent on how loose or tight the fabric is woven and the weight of the fabric. By deforming, I mean a longer and therefore more narrow pattern piece. What helps is to hang your fabric in the cross grain direction for at least 24 hours before cutting it. When making a circle skirt you also have to take this characteristic in consideration, to prevent your hem from being uneven. You will notice that the area where the skirt is hanging on the bias grain will become a bit longer. So before hemming a circular skirt, it is advised to hang it for 24 hours, then re-cut the hem straight and finish it off.



BIAS TAPE

Bias tape or bias binding is a narrow strip of fabric and comes in a variety of widths. It is *cut on the bias* which gives it some stretch and makes it more fluid and more drapable. Bias tape is used in making *pipings cord*, *bounded seams*, finishing raw edges, etc. You can purchase Single-fold or Double-fold bias tape.

You can also make bias tape yourself. See tutorial: **How to make piping cord** on Rosie's Tips & Tricks Page. A helpful tool for this is a tape maker which comes in a variety of widths (see image 2). The fabric strip is fed through the device, which folds the fabric. The folds are then pressed into place.



BLIND FINISHING

A method to clean finish a seam in such a way that the stitches are invisible on the outside of the garment.

BOUND EDGE

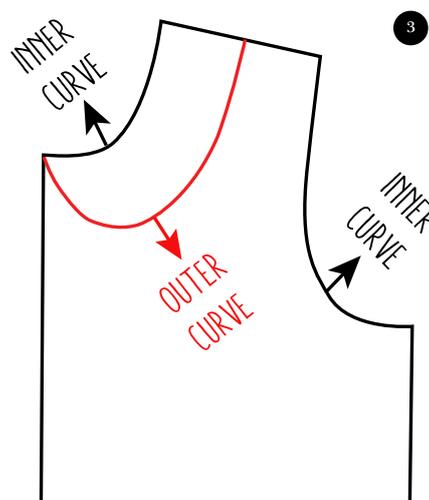
Is a way to clean finish *raw edges* around for example armholes, necklines or *facing* by encasing the edges with bias tape. Because the edge is encased you will see the binding on both in- and outside. On the Internet you can find a ton of instruction videos how to make a bounded edge.

CLIPPING

When a seam is curved it can start to pull or wrinkle. To help them lay flat you need to clip the *seam allowance* inwards. Be aware not to cut too deep into the stitching!

For 'Inner Curves' you can clip the *seam allowance* with little v-shaped cuts. This way the clipped seam pieces don't bump into each other. For 'Outer Curves' just clipping the *seam allowance* curve is sufficient as they won't bump but will fan out.

See the difference between an 'inner curve' (neckline and armhole) and 'outer curve' (rounded collar) in the illustration to the right (image 3).



CUTLINE

This the line alongside you will need to cut the pattern out of the fabric.

DARTS

A dart in a pattern is a pointy shape that you transfer to your fabric and then stitch closed. Darts are added into a pattern to give your garment shape. It's an indispensable trick to transform 2 dimensional (flat drawings) into a 3 dimensional garment. In Rosie & Me patterns, where the garment is designed around women's curves it is extremely important to have darts help create the best fit. Sometimes you might not find any darts in a pattern. The shaping is then created by using different design techniques like *pleating*, *gathers* or via cut seams. When stitching a dart it is important to start at the widest part and to then stitch to the point. Don't finish the thread but let the two end threads hang loose. Tie the ends together in a little knot. This method prevents a bulge from back stitching at the end and the knot keeps it from coming undone when washing it. Make sure the darts are stitched and pressed neatly without any points and bulges at the end. You can use a *tailor's ham* to help press the rounded shape.

EASE

This is extra width that was added into a pattern on top of the body measurements. The amount of ease is partly based on the fabric type (non stretch vs. woven). For a woven fabric you need more ease to be able to breath and move around without any restrictions. But the amount of ease is also determined by the design itself. It may sound strange but sometimes patterns even come with a negative ease. A good example is a bathing suit that is smaller than your body measurements. But due to the fabric stretchability it will still fit around your body. So far Rosie & Me patterns have only been drafted for woven fabric and therefore all patterns have extra ease added to them. More about this subject you can read in the tutorial ***Woven vs. Knit*** which can be found on Rosie's Tips & tricks page.

FACING

Facing is used to clean finish edges for example armholes or necklines by stitching a pattern piece on the inside of the garment. This is usually a separate pattern piece but it can also be that it is included in a pattern piece and that you need to fold it inward. You can clean finish a garment with facing without visible stitching, but you can also topstitch the facing. It's advisable to baste the facing on the inside so that it stays in its place. Stay stitching can help as well. To help you during your projects we have added these extra tips with our sewing instructions.

GRAINLINE

Fabric has a length (warp) and width (weft) direction (see image 1 on page 1). The Grainline for all Rosie & Me patterns is in the length direction of the fabric. The grainline is marked on each pattern piece with a double arrow. When you come to "Lay out your pieces", you will match the direction of the arrow with the lengthwise grain of your fabric. Pin or use weights to hold your pattern pieces in place. It could be that the arrow that is drawn on the pattern piece has a 45 degree angle. In that case you still place the arrow in a straight line with the fabric length, resulting in a pattern piece that will be cut on the *bias*.

GRAINLINE CONTINUED

It could also be that the arrow is missing, but that the pattern piece has a remark 'place on the fold here'. Since the fold of your fabric is also in the lengthwise direction, this will still be your grainline. Following the arrows and placing them properly on your fabric will result in the best drape of your fabric. If you ever experienced a pant leg that keeps twisting to the sides, then you know what happens when a pattern piece was not cut on the straight grain. So laying and cutting out your pattern pieces is a precise and important step for creating a satisfying result.

HEM ALLOWANCE

The amount of extra *seam allowance* that is added to the hem in the pattern.

INTERFACING

Material that is used to give parts of your fabric more body or make them less stretchy. There is quite a variety of interfacing you can choose from. The most commonly used has little tiny dots of glue on one side and can be iron-pressed on to the wrong side of your fabric. But it is also possible to buy non adhesive interfacing which you hand sew against your fabric. Then there is a variety of weights, stiffness and choice between woven and knits. Choose the kind that suits your purpose and fabric type the best.

LOCKSTITCH

An interlocked stitch is created on a serger machine. This is different from a standard sewing machine. The stitch is made around the edge of the *seam allowance* and used to finish off *raw edges*. It is also possible to finish these *raw edges* on a standard sewing machine by using a *zig zag stitch*.

A lockstitch can be made by using 3 or 4 threads. A 4 threads lockstitch is also used to stitch a knitted garment together and is therefore more than just a stitch for finishing of *raw edges*.

NOTCHES

These are markings on your pattern pieces to help you stitch the pieces correctly together. Notches can be placed where for example fabric needs to be gathered, to mark the beginning or end of a pocket opening, or as corresponding points to match up with a different pattern piece. It can also help to check if you didn't accidentally turn a pattern piece upside down.

For all Rosie & Me patterns single notches are used on all the front pattern pieces and double notches (1 cm or 3/8 inch apart) on all the back pattern pieces. This can also help you to recognize if you are working with a front or back pattern piece.

PIPING CORD

Folded *bias tape* filled with thin cord and then stitched closed closely alongside this cord. So it is a cord filled tunnel (see image 4). It is commonly used for finishing edges or to accentuate cut seams. On Rosie's Tips & Tricks page you will find several piping cord tutorials: like **how to make piping cord** yourself and how to use it on the **Brooke** and **Daisy** pattern for an extra finished look.



PLEATS

An even fold or series of folds in fabric used for either decoration or shaping. Pleats can partly be stitched closed or completely fall open. There are several types of pleats like single pleats, double pleats, flat pleats, box pleats and a lot more varieties to these.

PRESSING

Pressing is not the same as ironing! Normally when you iron, you move the iron back and forth. But when you press, you hold the iron in one spot and give it pressure.

It is important to press every stitched seam. This helps to set the stitches and makes for a tight and clean seam. There will be reminders in the sewing- instructions to first press your seams before you continue to the next sewing step. Before you press seams 'open', you first press over the stitched seam. Then you open the seam and press the seam open on the *wrong side*. When you use delicate fabric or fabric that shows marks easily you can use a *Tailor's ham*.

RAW EDGE

The cut edge of the *seam allowance*.

SEAM ALLOWANCE

The amount of fabric that was added to a pattern to be able to stitch it together. Rosie & Me patterns that are made with seam allowance have 1 cm (=3/8 inch) added to them.

TAILOR'S HAM

This is a tight pillow that can be used as a curved mold when *pressing* or ironing curved areas of your garment. For example *darts*, sleeves, collars or as mentioned under *Pressing* for helping to press seams open that tend to leave press marks. You can buy this piece of 'ham', but of course you can also make your own! Google 'how to make a tailor's ham' and you will find lots of nice video's patterns and construction tips.



TOPSTITCH

A straight machine stitch, stitched on the outside of a garment. It is used for decoration, but can also help fixate a seam.

UNDERSTITCH

A stitch to assist the *facing* or lining from peeking out by stitching and un-seen stitch. To do this you fold both seam allowance towards the *facing*. Make sure to first *clip* the *seam allowance* if necessary. Then sew with the *right sides* up through both your *facing* and *seam allowance* 3mm (1/8 inch) away from the seam line. Press the *facing* inwards again. You will now see a stitching on the *wrong side* of your garment, and not on the *right side*.

ZIGZAG STITCH

Machine stitch that is used to finish of the *raw edge* of a seam. You can set the length and width according to your own wishes.