

Understanding Different Types of Hem Stitches

Welcome to our blog post about hem stitches! Hemstitching is an essential skill for any sewist.

Hemming stitch is not only a beautiful and decorative stitch that adds a professional finish to any garment, but it also helps to stop the fabric from fraying and adds strength and stability to the seam. In this post, we'll explain different types of hem stitches and how to use them. We are covering everything from basic hand stitches to more advanced machine stitches, so you'll be able to find the perfect hem stitch for any project. Let's get started!

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Types of Hem Stitches

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Please note that hemming can be done both by hand or by using a sewing machine. But many people prefer hand sewing in order to add decorative stitches to the hem. We are discussing here six types of hemming stitches in detail.

1. What is a Simple Hemming stitch or simple running stitch

Used on almost every garment. Can be replaced by a simple running stitch also, but to enhance the beauty of a garment, hemming is used as a most important stitch. This is almost invisible on the right side of the garment and has very small stitches on the wrong side.

How to Sew a Simple Hem by Hand:

Once you are ready to begin sewing your hem, make sure you have a single thread in your needle. Then, you need to take a very small margin of the cloth or a single strand from the turned-in surface. This is what will help you achieve a neat edge and a finished look. Once you have your single strand of cloth, carefully pass the needle through it and the surface of the cloth. With each stitch, be sure to keep your stitches small and even to ensure the best results. Used on sleeves, neck, skirts, etc.

A Simple hemming stitch can be done using a sewing machine by doing a running stitch.

2. What is a Slip Hem Stitch?

Similar to simple hemming but the stitches are taken at a little distance from each other. It's usually used on slippery materials like silk, nylon, etc.

How to sew a slip hem by hand:

As the name signifies, this stitch is similar to hemming but in a more lateral (slipping) position. Used to finish cuffs, necklines, etc. Watch the below video to understand the steps required to do a slip hem.

3. What is a blind hem stitch or invisible hem stitch?

As the name suggests this stitch is almost invisible to the naked eye. It has to be done with great care to give a neat finish. It is used mainly in men's wear.

How to sew a blind hem by hand:

Sewing a blind hem by hand can be a challenge, but with a few simple steps, you can create a professional look. When creating the blind hem, it is important to ensure that the turned-in part is stitched so closely to the main body of the garment that it takes only one strand of thread at a time. This makes the hem almost invisible, giving the garment a sleek, polished look. Follow the above video to understand each step of doing a blind hem.

Blind hem can be done using a sewing machine as well. There are specially built blind hem foot available in the market as well. But sometimes doing it by hand makes it better.

4. What is a narrow hem stitch?

Stitching is done very close together. Usually to finish men's garments like shirts, coats, etc. It is considered to be very strong.

How to sew a narrow hem:

Stitches are placed as close as possible using a single thread. The turned-in part is firmly stitched in place using this method of taking the needle in and out of the turned-in and the rest of the garment.

Narrow hem can be done using a sewing machine or simply by hand. The below video shows you how to sew a narrow hem using a sewing machine.

5. What is a rolled hem stitch?

Used on fine materials. Edging of saris, edges of rills, puff sleeves, etc are finished using rolled hem.

How to sew a rolled hem by hand:

Similar to simple hemming but instead of taking a straight band of cloth as the trend in portion a small edge is rolled between the thumb and forefinger and the stitch is put on the inside surface.

The below video shows you how to sew a rolled hem by hand. The rolled hem stitch is basically done by hand and not by machine.

6. What is a Circular or curved hem stitch?

A type of hem only, but used on bias-cut cloth. When one needs to turn a straight edge on a bias cloth, it is difficult to do so, that is when this stitch comes in handy. Used on umbrella cut

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frocks etc. when the edge of the garment is always cut on the bias.

How to sew a circular or curved hem:

Sewing a curved hem can be tricky, but with a few simple steps, you can achieve a beautiful result. To begin, the bias-cut cloth is turned inside out and then a temporary stitch is put in loosely. Next, the thread is pulled a little to give small gathers. After that, the gathers can be spread out and then hemmed into place. With some patience and practice, you can master this technique and create stunning garments!

The below video shows you how to sew a curved hem using a sewing machine.

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