

# FCS Sewing and Clothing ID Definitions

February 1, 2017

## Fabrics

1. Aida Cloth- Beautiful even-weave cloth, popular for cross stitch work, crewel embroidery, and other stitchery.
2. Cotton- Good material for first time sewers to use. Has a good hand and little elasticity. Considered a heavy weight material. Used for everyday clothing.
3. Felt- A fabric of matted, compressed animal fibers, such as wool or fur, sometimes mixed with vegetable or synthetic fibers.
4. Fleece- Fabric with a soft deep pile.
5. Muslin, Unbleached- Sturdy cotton fabric of plain weave, used especially for sheets.
6. Selvage - Uncut edge on both the right and left side of the fabric as it is woven. The way it is finished makes it unsuitable for fabrication.
7. Silk- Material with a smooth texture and high luster. A light weight material with a somewhat poor cover. Used in blouses and under garments.
8. Spandex- A strong fiber with medium weight and good elasticity. Used for clothing and swimsuits.
9. Wool- A rough fiber with good crimp. Has a stiff drape and good cover. Use in carpets and some clothing
10. **Interfacing** is used to add stiffness to fabric. The **interfacing** you'll find in a craft store today is **fusible**, and it's applied to the wrong side of the fabric with an **iron**.
11. **Knit®** is a fusible **knit interfacing** and supple stabilizer for dresses, jackets, and pants. It is best used with light to midweight **knits**, wovens, sweater **knits**, and machine **knitted** fabrics and is excellent with fabrics such as wool, flannel, and gabardine.
12. **Woven, fusible interfacing**. It provides crisp support for collars, cuffs, yokes, pockets, facings, and other detail areas of a garment. It can also add body and permanent stability when used as a backing for needlework and punch embroidery.

## Trims and Fasteners

1. Batting- Cotton, wool, or synthetic fiber wadded into rolls or sheets, used for stuffing furniture and mattresses and for lining quilts
2. Bias Tape- Narrow strip of cloth that is cut on the bias (diagonal to the grain of the fabric) that can be used finish or decorate clothing.
3. Button - A generally disk-shaped fastener used to join two parts of a garment by fitting through a buttonhole or loop.
4. Decorative Trim- Trim that is used to decorate the edges of material.
5. Elastic- A flexible stretchable fabric made with interwoven strands of rubber or an imitative synthetic fiber.
6. Fold Over Elastic - Can be used to encase the edge of a seam by folding along the center indentation.

7. Hook and Eyes- Clothes fastener consisting of a small hook and metal loop. Used as closures at the tops of shirts, dresses, skirts or pants.
8. Ribbed Elastic- Provides maximum cross strength. Found in pants and short
9. Rick Rack- Strips of material that can be different shapes and widths, which are used to decorate material.
10. Ruffle Elastic - Soft elastic with shiny, narrow ruffles on each side.
11. Sew on Snaps- Used as closures at the tops of garments.
12. Craft **cover buttons**: for garments, jewelry and accessories. Craft **cover button** kits have a mix of **button** backs that have shanks, and backs that are flat for a variety of DIY craft uses. **Cover buttons** (without teeth): for garments, and wearable and home accessories.

## Sewing Machine Parts

1. Balance/Hand Wheel - The balance or hand wheel is used when you want to manually move the needle up and down. The hand wheel can be pulled out when you want to disengage the needle (run the spool of thread without the needle going up and down). The hand wheel raises and lowers the needle. You must always pull the hand wheel towards yourself to prevent tangling of the threads.
2. Bobbin Case/Bobbin - The bobbin case is a small case into which the bobbin is inserted and threaded, and then is inserted into the sewing machine. The Bobbin is a cylinder on which thread is wound for sewing. Holds the bottom thread.
3. Bobbin Winder -On a sewing machine it is a device that winds bobbins. The bobbin is the spool of thread that is below the presser foot. It provides the lower portion of thread that is interlocked with thread from the needle and thus creates a stitch.
4. Feed Dogs - It is the part under the needle plate, where the teeth are used to move it forward. It is the feeder mechanism which is typically used to pull fabric through a sewing mechanism.
5. Foot Control - A device which is placed on the floor rather than the table, which is stepped on. Used to apply power to the sewing machine or serger.
6. Presser Foot - The presser foot holds the fabric in place during sewing. The presser foot must be lowered before you begin to sew or fabric will not move through the machine!
7. Presser Foot Lifter -The presser foot is used to hold the fabric down to the needle plate so it can be sewn smoothly. When you sew, the presser foot should be down; when you're done sewing, lift it up with the presser foot lifter.
8. Power Switch - Turns the sewing machine on and off.
9. Spool Pin - Holds the spool of thread
10. Stitch Length Regulator -The mechanism that allows you to adjust the length of your stitches.
11. Stitch Width Regulator - The mechanism that allows you to adjust the width of a wide stitch, such as a zigzag stitch.
12. Sewing Machine Needle - A sewing machine needle consists of: a **shank** - clamped by the sewing machine's needle holder; **shoulder** - where the thick shank tapers down to the shaft; **shaft** - a length suitable for driving the eye and thread

- through the material and down to the bobbin; **groove** - cut in the back of the shaft to release the thread into a loop that aids the hook or shuttle to pick up the thread; **scarf** - provides extra room for the hook or shuttle to pass close by; **eye** - carries the thread; and **point** - penetrates the material by parting the threads or cutting a hole.
13. Thread Take Up -The take up lever is used in threading the sewing machine and to keep the thread tension at the proper level. If the take up lever is threaded improperly, the thread will knot up and jam in the machine.
  14. Thread Guide -Part of the upper threading sequence, they direct the flow of thread to keep the thread going straight in one direction.
  15. Throat Plate - The throat plate is a metal plate with openings for the needle and or the feed dogs.
  16. Upper Tension Regulator -A sewing machine feature that sets the balance between the bobbin and needle threads. On some sewing machines the tension has one permanent setting. On other machines the tension can be set or is adjusted automatically according to the type of fabric.
  17. Zipper Foot -A sewing machine attachment that is designed for installing zippers; the design of the foot allows the needle to stitch close different items such as zippers and cording.

## Techniques

1. Appliqué – To attach a small piece of fabric to a larger piece of fabric, to create a desired design.
2. Center Zipper Application - A centered zipper is a zipper that is sewn in with an even amount of fabric on each side of the zipper. The teeth of the zipper under the area where the fabric would create a seam if there were not a zipper.
3. Dart- A tapered tuck sewn to adjust the fit of a garment.
4. Gather- To draw into small folds or puckers, as by pulling a thread through cloth.
5. Hem- An edge or border on a piece of cloth, especially a finished edge, as for a garment or curtain, made by folding an edge under and stitching it down.
6. Lapped Zipper Application -A lapped application zipper has one line of fabric showing on the outside with the appearance that all of the fabric is on one side. It is most commonly seen in slacks and skirts.
7. **Bound buttonholes** are one of these beautiful features that will instantly make your handmade garment stand out. This type of closure is mostly found on traditionally tailored jackets and coats, along hand pad-stitching, back-stays and beautiful hand-stitching.
8. Pleat- A fold in cloth made by doubling the material upon itself and then pressing or stitching it into place.
9. Seam Allowance – The area between the stitching and raw, cut edge of the fabric.
10. Under-Stitching – Under-stitching assists a facing or lining to stay to the inside and remain un-seen. It is a stitching that is sewn as close to the seam line as possible holding the graded seam allowance to the facing or lining.
11. **An invisible zipper** is a **zipper** that is installed in the seam of two pieces of fabric in such a way that the **zipper** is recessed in the seam and "**invisible**", as the name suggests. It is predominantly used for garments, especially skirts and dresses, but

it can also be found in bags and home décor items.

## Tools

1. Acrylic Ruler - Ruler used in crafts and clothing showing different measurements. May come in different shapes and sizes.
2. Ball Point Bodkin - A sharp slender tool used to insert elastic into casings, to turn bias tubing, and to weave ribbon cording. Handy tool to use instead of a safety pin.
3. Crewels- Needles with long eyes for easy threading.
4. Cutting Mat- Mat that is place down to protect the table surface while cutting.
5. Dress Form: Used to help form a garment to your specific measurements.
6. Dressmaker's Ham- pressing aid for used on hard to reach areas.
7. Emery Bag- Used to sharpen and remove rust from needles.
8. Iron- A metal appliance with a handle and a weighted flat bottom, used when heated to press wrinkles from fabric.
9. Ironing Board- A long, narrow padded board, often with collapsible supporting legs, used as a working surface for ironing.
10. Loop Turner- Used for turning binding and inserting cord into tubing.
11. Measuring Tape- Used for measuring larger pieces of fabric and body measurements.
12. Needle Threader- Used to thread machine or hand needles.
13. Pattern - A plan, diagram, or model to be followed in making things: *a dress pattern*.
14. Pattern Weights - Keeps pattern pieces in place without pinning.
15. Pin Cushion- A small cushion used for holding pins for easy access.
16. Pinking Shears- Used for finishing seams.
17. Pins- Used for holding material together while sewing. Come in two forms: dressmaker or silk pins are fine and sharp and are the best to use.
18. Point Presser w/clapper - Use tailor board for shaping, pressing crisp edges and sharp points, collars and lapels. Use clapper to flatten seams, folds, tucks, creases, enclosed edges, like facings and collars
19. Press Cloth- Used to help keep shine in fabric. Can be damped to provide moisture for more steam. Unbleached muslin about 14" X 30" in size.
20. Pressing Machine- Used to press material.
21. Rotary Cutter- A wheel with a sharp edge that is used to cut fabric, used on a cutting mat.
22. Safety Pins- A loop shaped pin that fastens into itself with its points under a protective cover to prevent accidental opening or injury.
23. Scissors- Used for cutting paper and clipping fabric. Scissors may have straight handles.
24. Scissor Sharpener - Re-sharpens and smoothes worn blade edges.
25. Seam Ripper- Used to take out seams as well as making buttonholes.
26. Seam Roll - For pressing seams open on long and narrow areas.
27. Sewing Gauge- a short ruler that has a moveable slide for marking hems, seams, and other areas.
28. Sharps - Needles with small round eyes.

29. Shears- Used for cutting fabric, not paper. Shears are 7-8 inches long, are sharp, and have bent handles making them easier to cut with.
30. Tailors Chalk- Used for marking sewing details on fabric.
31. Tapestry Needle Threader - For threading needlepoint and tapestry yarn needles quickly and easily.
32. Thimble- Used to protect your fingers when hand sewing.
33. Thread- Fine cord of a fibrous material, such as cotton or flax, made of two or more filaments twisted together and used in needlework and the weaving of cloth.
34. Thread Rack- Rack that is used for holding spools of thread.
35. Tracing Paper - Paper used to mark sewing details on fabric.
36. Tracing Wheel - Wheel used along with tracing paper to transfer sewing details to fabric.



Oklahoma State and New Mexico University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, State and Local governments cooperating. Oklahoma State University and New Mexico State University offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability of status as a veteran, and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

