

# WOVEN SEWING PERMIT



## Working with non-stretchy fabrics

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It may not be used as learning material in a paid sewing lesson.

Direct others to the Pattern Orchard website to obtain their own copy.

The information provided in this tutorial is general in nature. Different terminology may be used by sewers from different backgrounds and the sewing equipment used is based on commonly purchased items available in 2017 in Australia. Some older or newer equipment may have settings or options that differ from the examples given.

**Please share the [www.patternorchard.com](http://www.patternorchard.com) link with anyone who is interested in learning to sew or furthering their sewing skills. There are free Learning Patterns available on the website for personal use or donations for charities.**

**Tag #PatternOrchard on social media when sharing photos of items made from a Pattern Orchard pattern to spread the word about this free resource.**

This tutorial is suitable for most kids over the age of 8 with adult supervision for all sewing practice. Never leave kids unsupervised around sharp objects or machines.

Plain language is used to gradually introduce some basic sewing terminology.

Read through this document and complete the check list on page 9 to achieve your Woven Permit. Only pages 8 & 9 need to be printed.



# WOVEN SEWING PERMIT

## Topics covered

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## Before you start

Learning something new can come naturally or be a fun challenge. Approach every lesson without worries at the back of your thoughts, with a clear workspace, full stomach and well rested. Remind yourself that every skill takes time and patience to learn well. Your first attempt is practice so use scrap fabrics first.

You choose what to sew. Stick to items you know you can achieve or challenge yourself with new fabrics, techniques or tools. Learn as much as you want to learn.

Each of the Pattern Orchard sewing permits teaches a different set of skills.

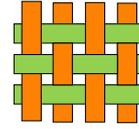
Start with the Learners' Permit, then move on to any of the other S.E.W.I.N.G. Permits. They do not need to be completed in order. Choose the skills that you want to focus on. Read through "Pick a Pattern" on the website to help you choose a suitable sewing pattern to start with after finishing each Permit.

Sewing can be a relaxing, creative and productive outlet. Enjoy.

# Woven Fabrics

## Structure

Baskets are made by weaving leaves/vines/wood.



A woven fabric is created by weaving fibres together.

Woven fabrics are not stretchy. The ends of each row (weft) and column (warp) need to be finished so that the weave does not fray (come undone).

There are many varieties of weaving including twill weave, satin weave and more to create a different look and feel to the fabric.

## Examples

The following list of woven fabrics starts with heavier and ends with lighter fabrics.

Leather: Wallets, boots or bags. Leather for sewing can be bought in different weights but is generally quite thick. Caution - keep bulk down with minimal seams.

Denim: Jeans. This thick fabric is ideal for durable or warmer clothing and now comes in light stretch variations for comfort.

Drill/Twill: Shorts, pants or skirts. A more sturdy option than quilting cotton often used for school shorts and tradies clothing as it is long wearing.

Calico: Ham bags, grocery bags. Calico offers a cheap alternative to quilting cotton that is great for making up a trial muslin of an item before cutting into good fabric.

Corduroy: Overalls, pants or even décor. Corduroy has a high pile (brushed) with parallel ridges on one side. This offers extra warmth making it perfect for Winter clothing, but the extra bulk can be thick to sew through if there are many layers.

Flannelette: Pyjamas or bedding. Typically used for Winter button down pyjamas, Flannel is a brushed woven that offers a little extra warmth. Not a very durable fabric as it requires a little extra care and should be pre-washed before sewing.

Quilting cotton: Patchwork quilts, clothing or décor. Quilting cottons, including homespun and broadcloth are a very general all-round fabric with many uses.

## Examples (continued)

Poplin: Bedding, clothing or décor. Poplin is a newer alternative to quilting cotton which requires a little less ironing. A very strong all round medium weight fabric.

Satin: Formal gowns, skirts or pyjamas. Satin has one shiny side that gives it a slippery texture. It can be a little fiddly to sew with and can be damaged by pins.

Taffeta: Formal gowns or curtains. Dubbed the 'twisted woven', taffeta has a crumpled look and a shiny finish.

Crepe: Summer dresses or tops. Crepe has a distinct crumpled look to it and should not be ironed.

Chiffon: Light scarves or formal wear. Chiffon is a sheer fabric that is often layered over other fabrics to make formalwear. It can be very slippery to sew and frays quickly.

Organza: Wedding decorations or curtains. This very sheer fabric is more commonly made from synthetic fibres today but has been made from silk. It requires a lot of care to sew and is often used as an over-layer for shine.

Muslin: Baby wraps. A very loosely woven cotton fabric, it offers a light fabric option that does not sweat like synthetic alternatives. Can be used for filtering liquids such as in cheese making.

Next time you are at a fabric shop, try feeling each different fabrics and thinking of something at home made from that same feeling fabric.

One of the most common mistakes made by beginners is using the wrong fabric for the job. Stick to recommended fabrics listed on the pattern you are using or a fabric that is similar to feel. If you are sewing a particular item, pick a fabric that you have seen that item made from before.

# Working with Wovens

## Cutting

Cutting tools were covered in the Learners' Permit. Grainlines are covered in the Garments Permit. It is important to know both before sewing with wovens.

It is mentioned in the Stretch Permit that many stretchy (knit) fabrics do not require cut edges to be finished, however with woven fabrics the cut edges will fray and need to be finished to prevent the fabric from falling apart.

There are many different ways to go about finishing a raw woven edge. These will be detailed more on the next page and you can learn how to sew some of these features via the free learning patterns available on the Pattern Orchard website.

## Needles

Sewing machine needles have a number engraved on them to tell you how sturdy they are. The higher the number, the more durable the needle. Standard weight is around 80/12 to 90/14 universal. For heavy duty sewing go for a 100/16 leather. For lighter weight fabrics a lower weight needle is used. 

Most machines take a standard needle type. Take the current machine needle with you to the store the first time you go needle shopping in case yours is different.

## Sewing Tips

- Woven fabrics do not stretch, therefore getting woven edges to line up requires precision. Cut carefully and pin everything to ensure accuracy.
- Woven edges can fray between cutting and finishing. A larger seam allowance can reduce the risk of a woven edge fraying during sewing.
- When gathering fabric (such as girls skirts) with either gathering stitches or elastic, a heavier fabric can make the gathered sections quite bulky. Sew slowly, use big clips and a heavy weight needle if needed.
- To reduce bulk when sewing corners, trim off the corner fabric before turning out the right way.

# Finishing Edges

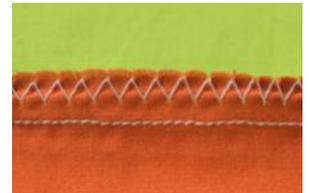
## Seams

Once cut, a woven fabric edge can be finished with one of many techniques. Learn to sew some of these edge techniques in the free learning patterns at [www.patternorchard.com](http://www.patternorchard.com).

Pinking Shears: zig zag scissors. Ideal for edges with a light curve. Reduces fraying but does not prevent it entirely. Pinking shears are a quick way to finish items from low-fraying fabric that may not need to last a long time such as dress-up costumes for kids.



Zig Zag Stitching: sewing side to side. Helps prevent fraying by casing them between the threads. A good choice for adding strength to items like stuffed toys. Does not require any special equipment as most machines can zig zag.



French Seam: sewn wrong sides together, trimmed, turned, then sewn right sides together. This option gives a strong finish with the raw edges encased inside the seam, but leaves the seam free to flop from side to side.



Flat Felled Seam: one side of the seam allowance is trimmed, then the other side of the seam allowance wraps around the first and is pressed to shorter side, before being stitched down. This seam option is often found on jeans as it is very strong and flat.



Clean Finish Seam: the seam is pressed open, edges folded under themselves and stitched in place. This seam is great for thicker fabrics as it reduces bulk. Also ideal for light fabrics to add strength as there are 3 lines of stitching to secure the seam.



Overlocking: a specialty machine that wraps thread around the raw edge. Ensure your seam allowance is big enough to fit the overlocking between the seam and raw edge. Commonly used on retail clothing as it is fast to sew.



# Hems

The hem of an item is typically the bottom edge such as the bottom of a dress, skirt or curtain. There are many different techniques for hemming. A few are listed here.

Bias Binding: can be used for hems or seams. Additional strip of fabric is cut at 45 degree angle. Strip is folded in half lengthways and the strips raw edges are then folded to the centre of the first fold. The strip then hugs a raw edge of another fabric and is sewn on to cover the edge. Ideal for curved hems.



Standard Folded Hem: edge is folded up once, then again and sewn in place. A commonly used method of hemming. The deeper the folds, the more fabric is used for the hem. A heavier hem is good for adding weight to the bottom of a skirt to prevent it flying up.



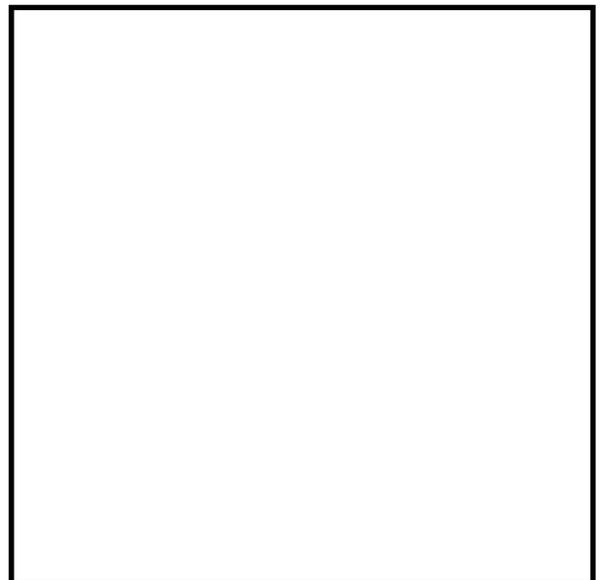
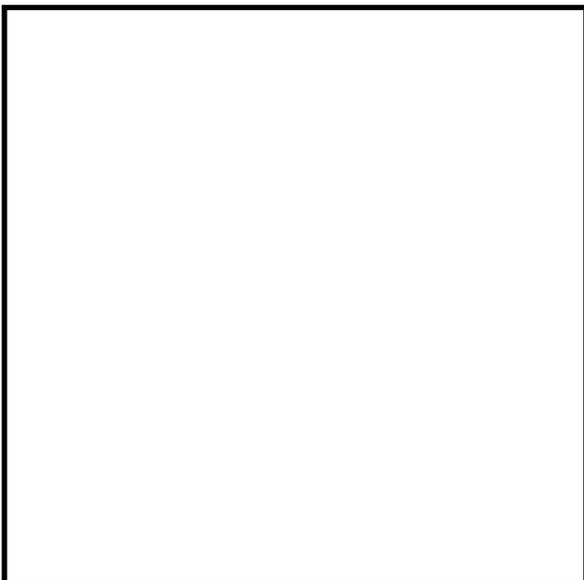
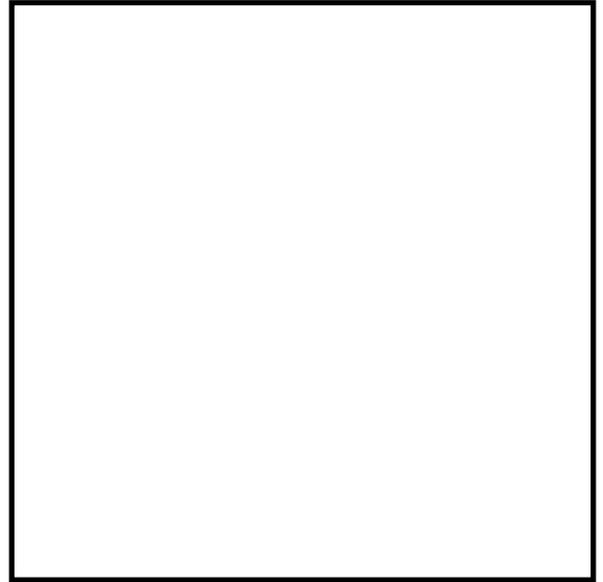
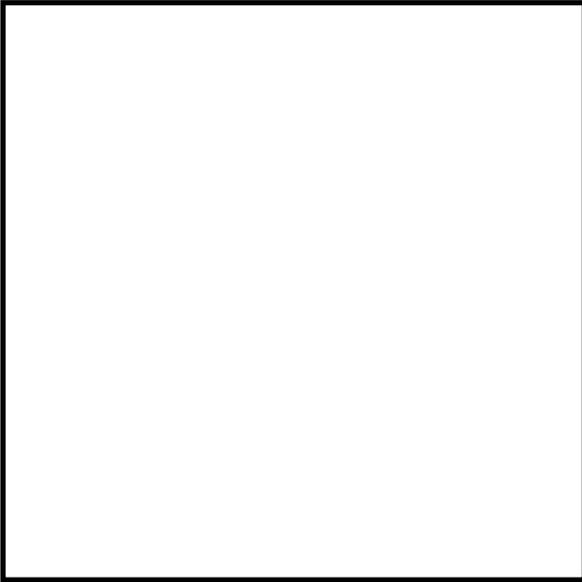
Rolled Hem: narrower version of a standard hem. Typically used in areas where the edge is designed to lift up to reduce weight, such as flutter sleeves and twirly skirts. A rolled hem foot can make this method much easier to sew.



# Wovens Permit

## Practice

Print this page. Using the descriptions from page 6, sew 4 different seam types and paste them on this page. For more info on how to sew some of the methods, check out the learning patterns available on the Pattern Orchard website.



# Woven Sewing Permit

## Check list



Read & understand the entire Wovens Permit document



Investigate your clothing to find the different fabric seam types used to make them



Find as many items with each of the seam types from page 6



Complete the page 8 practice paper sewing sheet



Remove the needle from a sewing machine to find the numbers engraved on the end (see page 5)



Once all of the above have been ticked, you are now ready to attempt your first sewing project! Head to [www.patternorchard.com](http://www.patternorchard.com) to find more information about choosing a good first pattern as well as free patterns for you to try.

You can now fill out your name and the date on your Wovens Permit license card below. Cut it out and keep it to remind you of how long you have been sewing for. Congratulations!

**Woven Sewing Permit**



[www.patternorchard.com](http://www.patternorchard.com)