

Stitching the ditch

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<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/stitching-the-ditch>



I found this term curious, and so looked into what it was, only to discover that I'd started using this technique quite by accident. It really is very simple, but requires a steady hand and much concentration. This technique is great for getting facing to stay down, and largely does away with a need to painstakingly hand stitch it down. This purple dress has had its ditch stitched, and it is pretty much invisible.

Step 1 — As Is



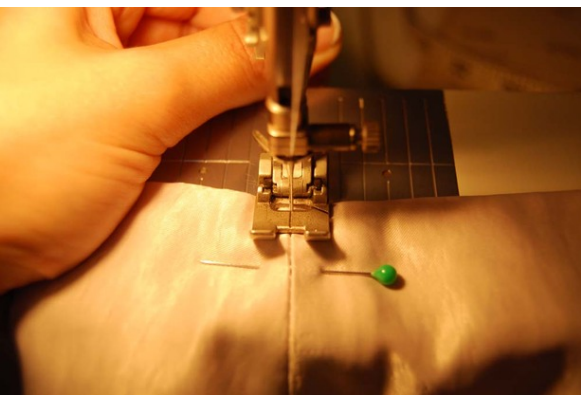
This is a finishing technique, so make sure the rest of the garment is complete. This is the blouse shoulder seam as is, before using the technique.

Step 2 — Pin down



Fold the facing in, as it will lie on the finished garment, and carefully pin it down; see the end for errors in this regard. If your seam runs north-south, pin east-west; it seems to balance things out a bit more.

Step 3 — Line up and first stitch



You're ready to start sewing. Make sure you use a thread the same colour as the fabric, as if you do make a bit of a mistake, it will make it less visible; also, ensure your needle is in the central position. Line the needle and the seam up carefully, and make the first stitch by hand, ensuring the

needle goes into the ditch created by the two seams.

Step 4 — Stitching



While you stitch, slowly and three or four stitches at a time, gently pull the two seams apart to more fully reveal the ditch; and make it easier to hit with your needle. I wouldn't recommend securing the stitching by means of reversing over the first and last few stitches - this creates bulk, and can be messy. Rather secure with a knot on the inside, or your preferred method.

Step 5 — Finished



This is what the finished shoulder and underarm seams look like. On mine, I didn't have the right colour thread for this fabric; I could never find the right one, so just used white, which is why this stitching the ditch is not entirely invisible. Also, it's late at night, and I'm a little tired - hence the

error next.

Step 6 — Possible errors



I was tired, and therefore a little sloppy when I was pinning down the underarm seam; I didn't check the underside, and just made sure it looked good on top. This is a mistake, as the side seam now doesn't lie flat; yes, my arms will cover it, but I'll always know it's there.

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