

Using a Felling Foot

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<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/using-a-felling-foot>



I love flat felled seams because they're enclosed (so the fabric doesn't fray) and strong. The ancient instructions that came with my ancient felling foot left were a little light on the details. Here are the deets. I'm using a Phaff 41242 foot.

Step 1 — Prepare seam allowance

The seam made with a felling foot requires much narrower seam allowances. Depending on the seam allowance on your pattern, and the size of your felling foot, you will need to trim some of your seam allowance off before you begin. You may want to test out your foot first to see how much seam allowance is needed. For my foot, I need about 1/4" seam allowance. Make sure you're confident about fit before using a flat felled seam, since alterations are difficult and letting the seam out is impossible.

Step 2 — Line up seam



Place the two fabric pieces together so that the lower layer sticks out 1/4 inch past the top layer. Again, if you have a wider foot, your lower layer will have to stick out a little farther. If you want one row of stitching to show on the outside of the garment, start with right sides together. If you want two lines of stitching to show, start with the wrong sides together.

Step 3 — Place the fabric under the foot



Place the fabric under the foot with the lower layer folded over the upper level. A stiletto is useful for getting everything lined up just right. Once you start sewing, the foot will continue to guide the fabric so that the lower piece of fabric encloses the edge of the upper piece.

Step 4 — First line of stitches



Sew that first line of stitches! Afterwards, press it, open it up and check the underside to make sure the enclosed edge is covered for the whole length of the seam.

Step 5 — Second line of stitches



Spread the two pieces apart with the enclosed edge raised and facing up. Guide the raised edge into the foot.

Step 6 — Done!



Finish sewing the second line of stitches, press and you're done!

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