

# Perfect lapped seams

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<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/perfect-lapped-seams>

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Lapped seams are a great way to help reduce bulk when it comes to sewing certain fabrics like fleece, and many heavy wools whose raw edges won't fray. The exposed raw edge give the garment a clean, flat seam with an organic and modern styling detail. But, achieving a perfectly executed lapped seam requires an acute attention to details to make them look professionally done vs. that homemade look. The key to a perfect lapped seam is to use a rotary cutter, mark on the wrong side and use an edge/joining presser foot.

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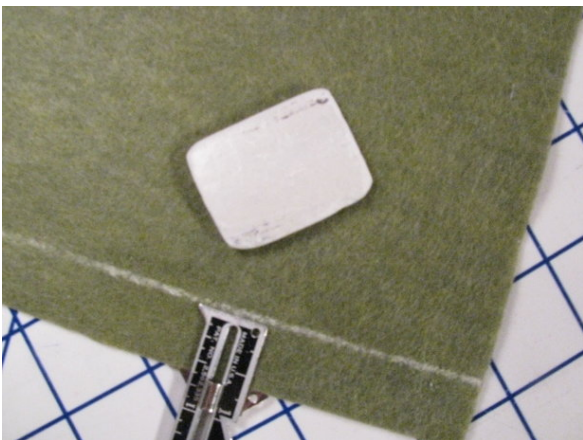
## Step 1 — Trim the seam edge



Cut all your pattern pieces to include the 5/8 inch seam allowances. Place the two pieces that will be joined/lapped (ie: front bodice joining back bodice at side seams) right side up (the piece that will feature the exposed seam is facing up) - that will be referred to as the 'outside flap'. Take the outside flap piece and trim 1/2 inch off of the seam allowance using a rotary cutter and straight edge ruler.

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## Step 2 — Mark the wrong side



On the wrong side of that same piece now mark a line 5/8 inch from the newly cut edge.

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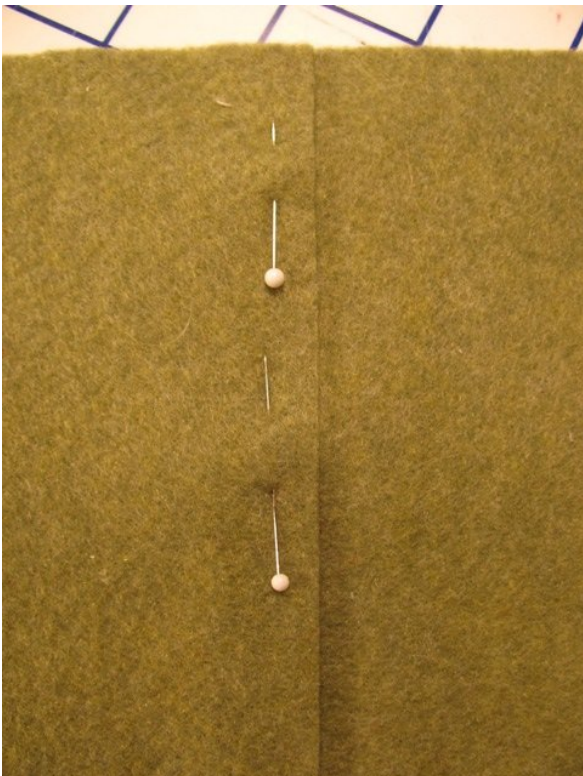
## Step 3 — Line up under flap



Take the under flap and line it up to the 5/8 inch marking (the wrong sides are now facing up) and pin in place. If using leather, real or fake, tape the seam in place.

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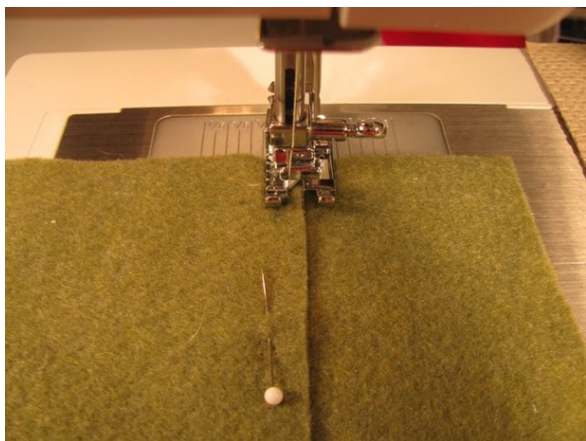
#### **Step 4 — Reposition pins to right side of garment**



Reposition pins to the right side.

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## Step 5 — Stitch edge seam



Using an edge/joining presser foot, topstitch the seam approximately 1/8-1/4 inch from the edge. Typically a slightly larger than normal stitch length is best, but use what looks best for the type of fabric you are sewing.

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## Step 6 — Finished seam



A lapped seam can have a single stitched seam line for a clean, modern look, or a double stitched line for a strong, durable seam.

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