

Preparing for Life and Career © 2013
Chapter 24: Getting Ready to Sew—Glossary

adjustment lines. Lines that show where to lengthen or shorten the pattern piece to change the fit of the garment.

backstitching. Stitching used to secure the threads at the start and end of each seam.

basting. Long, loose stitches.

casings. An enclosure for elastic or a drawstring that gathers the garment snugly to the body.

clipping. Technique used on seams that form an inward curve to reduce fabric bulk and help the garment lie flat.

crosswise grain. The yarns that run across the fabric from one selvage to the other (horizontally).

cutting lines. The bold, solid outlines on each pattern piece.

darts. A stitched fold that gives shape and fullness to a garment so it fits the curves of the body.

dots. Symbols used in a pattern piece to aid in matching seams and other construction details.

easing. A smooth stitch used to make fabric fit into a smaller space.

facings. Pieces of fabric used to cover raw edges in garment openings, such as armholes and necklines.

fasteners. Zippers, buttons, hooks and eyes, snaps, and hook and loop tape.

gathering. A heavier stitch used to make fabric fit into a smaller space.

grading. Technique used on heavier fabrics or seams with three or more layers to reduce fabric bulk and help the garment lie flat.

grain. The direction yarns run in a fabric.

grain line. Heavy line with arrows on both ends on the pattern piece.

guide sheet. Detailed step-by-step directions on how to cut and sew your garment.

hem. A finished edge on a garment.

lengthwise grain. The straight grain or *grain line* in a fabric.

multisized patterns. Sewing patterns with several sizes printed on the pattern tissue.

notches. Diamond-shaped symbols along the cutting line in a pattern piece indicating exactly where to join pieces together.

notching. Cutting V-shaped sections from the seam allowance to reduce fabric bulk and help the garment lie flat.

notions. Items that become a part of a garment or project, such as thread, buttons, snaps, zippers, tapes, trims, and elastic.

off-grain. Fabric that does not have the crosswise and lengthwise yarns crossing at right angles. The fabric will look crooked and is hard to handle.

on-grain. Fabric that has the crosswise and lengthwise yarns at right angles to each other.

pattern. A basic model that helps you put together a garment or project.

seam. A row of stitches that holds two pieces of fabric together.

seam allowance. The fabric between the stitching and the fabric edge.

selvages. Smooth, closely woven edges that do not ravel on a fabric.

staystitching. A line of regular machine stitches on a single thickness of fabric used to prevent garment pieces from stretching out of shape.

trimming. Technique used on lightweight fabrics to reduce fabric bulk in seams.

understitching. Line of stitching along the edge of a facing to keep it from rolling to the outside.