



DON'T FALL APART AT THE SEAMS

There are many different seam types and stitching methods used in the textile industries. It is important to know which are the most suitable for your products to provide the best quality possible to the consumer, while also balancing manufacturing efficiencies and cost.

SEAM CATEGORIES

There are eight main seam categories that relate to six classes of stitching:

1. Superimposed Seams
2. Lapped Seams
3. Bound Seams
4. Flat Seams
5. Decorative Seams
6. Edge Neatening Seams
7. Applied Seams
8. Single Ply Seams



Superimposed seam

The most widely-used seams fall into the superimposed category. They are created when at least two pieces of material are superimposed on each other and stitched near an edge.



Lapped seam

Lapped seams are a good option for adding strength, especially when sewing thicker materials. The edges of the components are folded or overlaid and then stitched together. Larger textile goods, such as umbrella canopies and extra-wide drapes, will often use lapped seams in their construction.



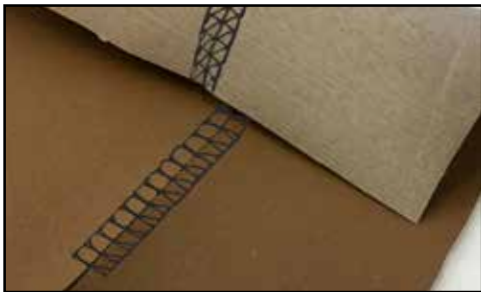
Bound seam

Bound seams will help create a finished look on the inside or outside of a sewn product at a seamed edge, and they can improve weather resistance as well. Examples of this application in outdoor products can be found in furniture covers and tents. They are created by sewing a strip of binding material over the cut edge seams of the main fabric components.



Edge neatening seam (serging)

Edge neatening seams, including one of the most common called serging, will help prevent fraying at the cut edges of a material. They can also help create a clean, finished look to the inside of a product. For example, using a neatening seam on a cushion will provide an improved customer experience when the casing is removed from the fill for washing, and then re-stuffing. Stitch class 500 over-edge stitches are used here. Hemming and blind stitching are other common types of edge neatening seams.



Flat seam

Flat seams, often used in apparel manufacturing of undergarments, can help reduce the bulk of seams found in the other categories. The fabric pieces are typically sewn together edge-to-edge with a class 600 cover chain stitch.



Applied seam

An applied—or attaching—seam is used when adding a decorative edge to materials such as a lace or fringe.



Decorative seam

Decorative—or ornamental—seams can be applied to pillows or other products to create an attractive aesthetic that adds texture and character to the finished good.



Single ply seam

A single ply seam is used when just one piece of material is folded along the edges and stitched. Cushion tie strings often use these seam types.

STITCH CLASS GROUPS

1. **Stitch Class 100, Single Thread/Single Needle Chain Stitches:** Using a single, intra-looping thread that is not secured, these stitches require tacking at the beginning and end. Hemming and blind stitching are common examples.
2. **Stitch Class 200, Hand Stitches:** These stitches are rarely used and can include special machinery needs. This single thread method is not suitable for longer length sewing.
3. **Stitch Class 300, Lock Stitches:** Lock stitches are created by interlacing a top, needle thread with a bottom bobbin thread.
4. **Stitch Class 400, Multi-Thread Chain Stitches:** These stitches are produced with an upper needle thread and lower looper thread. They are typically stronger than class 300 and can be beneficial to use on heavier materials.
5. **Stitch Class 500, Over-Edge Stitches:** One or more threads, including one needle thread and two or more looping threads, are used for these stitches to finish a cut edge of material. This helps reduce fraying and can improve the overall aesthetic of a product, even having decorative uses.
6. **Stitch Class 600, Covering Chain Stitches:** Using no fewer than three groups of threads, with two groups visible on both sides of the material, these stitches can sometimes have as many as nine individual threads visible. The three thread groups include a needle group, a top cover group, and a bottom cover group. They are typically used for flat seam sewing and topstitching.

While this is a lot of information to absorb, it is just a brief overview of available seam categories and stitch classes. Within each, there are many variations and options that can be selected. Choosing the most appropriate of each for a textile good is a vital step in making sure a quality product leaves the sewing room.

Other sewing factors like material type, seam size, thread type, stitches-per-inch, and needle size can come into play when planning out product construction. Easy Way Products' design and production teams have many years of experience in these topics, and are always willing and able to work with you to determine the best approach for manufacturing your lifestyle furnishings.



Easy Way Products is the premier provider of lifestyle furnishings for the retail market. From cushions and pillows to table runners and drapes, we work with you to create unique and beautiful designs to complement your outdoor furniture lines.

For more information or to discuss which seam type and sewing method is right for your product, **give us a call at (513) 731-5640.**