

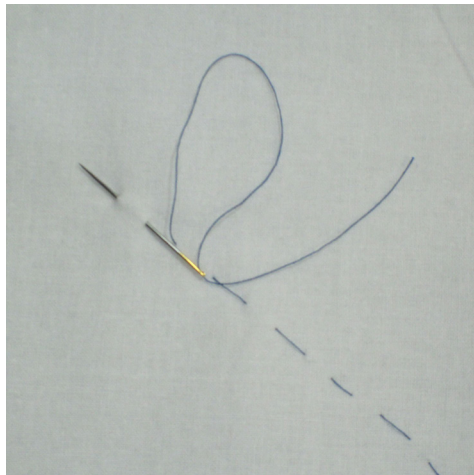
Sewing Basics - Basting

By Nancy Fiedler



Basting is the technique used to temporarily hold layers of fabric together. There are several methods. What follows is a description of these different methods and when you may want to use them.


Hand Basting:

Using a hand needle and single strand of thread gives you complete control of the fabrics. Hand basting is especially useful in garment sewing for setting in sleeves and arranging draped fabrics for couture looks. Simply thread the needle with a thread in a contrast color, this will make it easy to remove it. Make running stitches, approximately 1/4" - 1/2" long, across the area to be basted together.



Machine Basting:

Basting with the machine is fast and easy. Janome machines with sewing applications  have a basting function. 

The machine will automatically default to the longest stitch length setting by selecting "Auto". 

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Basting Interfacing:

At the sewing machine, select the straight stitch center needle position or basting function. Use the + width button to move the needle to the right.

- 7mm machines - 4mm
- 9mm machines - 5mm


Set the stitch length to 5mm and place the interfacing on the wrong side of the fabric. Sew in place with a 5/8" seam allowance and trim the excess away, close to the stitching.



Basting a Seam for Fitting:

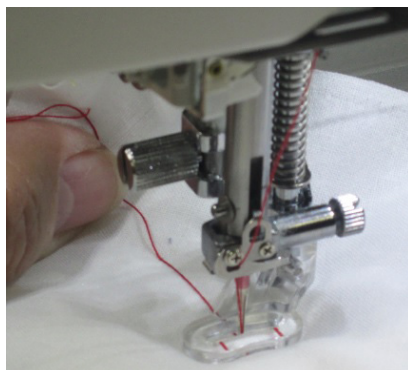
At the sewing machine, set the stitch length to 5mm. This will make it easy to remove any unwanted stitches. Sew the seam at the desired seam allowance. After fitting and the adjustments have been made, sew the seam with a normal stitch length of 2.4mm.

Manual Basting Stitch:

Many Janome machines have the manual basting stitch.  This is a quick way to baste large pieces together with long stitches that will remove easily. This is especially useful to create a quilt sandwich. This stitch is easy to find in machines with sewing applications.



After selecting the stitch, attach the PD-H darning foot and then drop the feed dogs. Lower and raise the needle one time and pull the bobbin thread to the top. Hold both thread tails, keep the fabric taut and step on the foot control. The machine will take one stitch, ending needle up. Pull the fabric back 1/4" - 1/2" and step on the control again. Repeat across the area to be basted.



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Spray Adhesive:

Another method to hold layers together is to use Web Bond. This spray adhesive does not dissipate in the air. The adhesive appears as a web on the surface to be adhered.

Shake can to mix, then spray 10" - 12" from the surface and move the can swiftly for a light cover. If overspray occurs, simply use an alcohol wipe to remove the excess and then adhere the layers together. Too much Web Bond has been applied if build-up on the needle occurs. If so, clean the needle with an alcohol wipe.

