

# SECTION V

## Needle and Thread Division → Non Performance

All categories are for female contestants only. Contestants must make girls'/ladies' garments and must not receive help on their projects other than instructions. Contestants are allowed to submit one entry per category. **All fashions must meet ACTS dress requirements.** Do not submit mini-skirts, slacks, pantsuits, shorts, bathing suits, sleepwear, slits in skirts/dresses, or garments with low necklines. These rules also apply to the subjects used in **Needlework** entries. Thin or "see-through" fabrics must be fully lined WITH OPAQUE MATERIAL. LACE MATERIAL IS SEE-THROUGH. NO CHILDREN'S GARMENTS EXCEPT CROCHET OR KNITTING.

Projects must be completely finished to be eligible. No serged seams.

The contestant is encouraged to be creative and vary from the pattern. If this is done, the differences should be explained. Points are given for originality.

### GARMENTS

**Coordinates (350)** Two pieces only; Select one of the combinations: skirt & blouse, jumper & blouse, 2-piece dress or culottes & blouse. **USE APPROPRIATE FABRIC.**

**Dresses (351)** Church dresses, casual dresses, tailored dresses. Jacket dresses may be included in the one-piece dress category.

**Formals (352)** These are "special occasion" dresses. Tea length and floor length are acceptable. This could include a formal with a jacket\* or a dressy skirt and blouse. The outfit should be made from "fancy" type fabrics: such as taffeta, crepe de chine, silks, chiffon, velveteen, and velvets etc.

\*Jackets might be a nice addition if you are having trouble finding a modest formal pattern.

Use Form CF40, CF49 and Progress Control Form CF9.

**Coats/Suits (353)** Outerwear coats, jackets or raincoats. Fully lined, dress length coats will receive more points. Outerwear jackets and ¾ length coats (lined or unlined) are acceptable. Use Form CF43, CF49 and Progress Control Form CF9.

### NEEDLECRAFT

*No needlework entries should attempt to portray the face or image of Christ.*

**Counted Cross-Stitch (355)** No stamped cross-stitch accepted. Pictures must be framed. The back of all work must be accessible for judging. Examples: tablecloths, place mats, pictures, samplers. Use Form CF46, CF49 and Progress Control Form CF9.

**Embroidery (356)** Decorating fabric with embroidery floss or thread. The back of all work must be accessible for judging. Pictures must be framed. No counted cross-stitch. See "Counted Cross-Stitch" category. "Punch and sew" embroidery will not be accepted. Only regular "needle and thread" embroidery will be judged. Examples: scarves, pillowcases, tablecloths, hand towels, placemats, borders for skirts, pillows, pictures, samplers. Use Form CF46, CF49 and Progress Control Form CF9.

**Crochet (359)** Examples: baby afghans (no dimension smaller than 36 inches and no dimension larger than 48 inches), shawls, tablecloths, bedspreads, dresses, sweaters, baby garment sets (sweater, cap, mittens, or booties). Use Form CF47, CF49 and Progress Control Form CF9.

**Knitting (360)** **Machine knitting not allowed.** Examples: baby afghans (no dimension smaller than 36 inches and no dimension larger than 48 inches), shawls, tablecloths, bedspreads, dresses, sweaters, baby garment sets (sweater, cap, mittens, or booties). Use Form CF47, CF49 and Progress Control Form CF9.

**Quilts (361)\*** Quilts may be machine or hand constructed. (Hand constructed quilts will receive higher points.) *Minimum size 50"X 70"* Use Form CF48, CF49 and Progress Control Form CF9.. Use Form CF48, CF49 and Progress Control Form CF9.

**Afghans (362)** (\*Afghans can be either crocheted or knitted. No baby afghans in this category. *Minimum size 50"X 70"*. Use Form CF47, CF49 and Progress Control Form CF9.

\* Afghans and Quilts must have been started and completed within fifteen months of Convention and must not have been entered in any other contest. **ALL OTHER NEEDLE/THREAD ENTRIES MUST HAVE BEEN STARTED AFTER THE CLOSE OF THE PREVIOUS CONVENTION.**

NOTE: **Latch-hook** (Not allowed.)

### **Check List for Needle and Thread:**

1. Pattern (only those pieces used)
2. Progress Control Form (CF9) One (1) copy. Please document the time spent making the project. This is very helpful to the judges. It shows the time and effort involved in the project. Explanation of the project: write a report about your garment. It is important to note any changes that were made to the garment regarding: fitting, design, sewing technique or modesty.
3. Needle/Thread Report (CF49) One (1) Copy.
4. Judge's Forms – Three (3) copies with student's name, school name, address, and entry.
5. Remember to include a picture of the garment being modeled. Fitting is an important part of sewing.
6. A 3x5 index card **MUST** be attached to each piece of the entry with student's name, school name, school address, city, state, zip, and category entered to the garment.
7. In an attached zip lock plastic bag include: pattern, Progress Control Form, Needle/Thread Report, and 3 copies of Judge's Forms.

### **Hints from the Needle and Thread Judge**

The qualities the judges look for are originality and careful attention to details. High points are given for neatness, cleanliness, uniformity, and precision (finishing for presentation).

### **Garments**

1. Make sure the student reads and understands the guidelines and judges of the category before choosing a garment. Garments submitted for judging should fit the criteria of the chosen category.
2. Have the students select an outfit that would use as many of the areas that are being judged as their ability allows. Garments that use more details as set-in sleeves, zippers, collars, etc. will receive higher points.
3. Be creative. Fit your pattern to meet your body shape and size, and the color should be appropriate for your personal color palette. It is very important to be modest. Pay close attention to where seams, buttons, decorations, necklines, and hemlines are positioned.
4. Remove all gathering and stay-stitching. Grade all seams and top stitch facings. Blind hemstitch all hems, hiding as much of the stitching as possible. Attach hooks and eyes as smoothly as possible (no bulky stitches). Smooth sewing adds points in two areas, "Hand Stitching" and "Overall Beauty." Finish seams, even those under your lining. (A portion of the lining must be left open for judging).
5. A proper seam finish should be used according to the type of material. Wools are usually bound, crepes need French seams. Zigzag and pinked seam finishes are the easiest and will receive the least points. **Serging is only allowed for finishing of edges before the garment is sewed together.**

6. Bound buttonholes, where appropriate, will receive higher points than machine button holes. Cover all shoulder pads. Try to stay away from “key hole” openings. Replace them with buttons and buttonholes or a zipper.
7. Keep a diary or record of the time you spent on your project. Also save your receipts so you can calculate your cost.
8. Have the student check with sewing books to learn proper techniques. (i.e. proper seams etc).

**Pressing** – Pressing is just as important as sewing! Sew, then press! Press each seam or construction detail before it is joined to another garment section.

1. Pressing is different than ironing. In pressing, you lift the iron up and down. In ironing, you move the iron back and forth.
2. When you press, use a steam iron or cover the fabric with a damp press cloth.
3. Choose the correct iron temperature for your fabric.
4. Press on the wrong side of the fabric.
5. Press the seam flat. This evens out the stitches and makes it easier to press the seam open.
6. Next, press the seam open. Press over a seam roll (or rolled up towel) to prevent the seam edges from making an imprint on the right side of the fabric.
7. You can also place paper between the seam and the fabric to avoid an imprint.

**Needles** – A new needle should be used that is the proper size for the fabric. This is especially important on delicate fabric.

**Types of Seams** – Seams need to be chosen to be appropriate for the chosen fabric and pattern. Please see Convention manual V-3. More advanced seam edges, score higher points. Serged seams will be allowed. (See note on next page).

**French Seam** – This seam encases both raw edges and looks like a narrow tuck on the inside. It’s the traditional choice for sheer fabrics. Use a narrower seam for curved areas. French seams are stitched twice: first on the right side, then on the wrong side. This seam within a seam is used on undergarments, blouses, and dresses of sheer fabrics. This is an excellent seam for fabrics like satin which ravel a lot.

**Flat Fell Seam** – Use this seam on clothes that will receive hard wear. Flat-felled seams are used for durable jeans, active sportswear, and reversible garments. Stitch a plain seam on the right side of the garment. Trim one edge to 1/8 inch. Crease the wider edge and turn over the trimmed edge. Baste. Press. Stitch. \*Singer 101 Sewing Secrets shows a way to make this seam without trimming one edge.

**Seams with Bound Edges** – This seam is suitable for unlined garments of heavy fabric. Crease seam binding near center. Arrange over seam edges, with wider part of binding on the underside. Stitch. Note: Bias tape (double fold) may also be used.

**Rolled and Whipped Seam** – This finish is used on sheer fabrics. It may also be used on a seam that is pressed open or to one side. After trimming seam allowance to 3/8 inch, roll edge toward the seam as narrow as possible. Sew rolled edge with whipped stitches.

**Open Seam Overcast** – Overcasting prevents raveling. Use this finish on fabrics that do not fray to excess. Take diagonal stitches about 1/8 inches deep about ¼ inches apart. Do not pull stitches too tightly.

**Plain Seam, Stitched Edges** – You may finish edges of a seam by turning each edge under about ¼ inch and stitching on your machine. Use a fairly long stitch and loosen the tension. You can use a zigzag, or running zigzag stitch. Stitches can make a ridge on delicate fabrics. You may want to select a different seam finish for sheer fabrics.

**Over Locked or Serged Seams** – Serging does take practice and skill. Please be careful that all fabric is kept out of the way of the cutter blade. You can have some tragic results if you are not careful. Serged seams are nice on unlined garments. Serged seams will not count as much as other advanced seam finishes.

**Seams for Knit Fabrics** – 1. Stitch seam. Use a straight stitch for vertical seams. Use a zigzag for horizontal seams. This allows the seam to stretch as the fabric does. 2. Stitch the seam again, seeing ¼” away from the first stitching through both layers of fabric. A wide zigzag works best because it stretches like the fabric does. 3. Trim the seam close to the second stitching.

**Pinked Seam** – If the fabric is firmly woven, edges may be pinked before seam is pressed. Use pinking shears for this purpose.

**Plain Seam** - No finish. Used only on fabrics that does not ravel. This type of seam would receive minimum points compared to other seam finishes.

Other Seam finishes include Mock Flat-fell, Welt seam, Topstitched seam. Check your sewing books for method.

#### **Sources:**

Short Cuts to Home Sewing – The Butterick Company

Singer Library – 101 Sewing Secrets

Singer Library – Sewing for Style

Let’s Sew – by Nancy Zieman

#### **NEEDLEWORK**

It is best not to have any knots or loose ends. When working with an even number of threads, you may cut your thread twice the length needed, fold in half, thread loose ends through eye of needle, bring needle up from back side of fabric, go down and catch loop end of thread with needle. Now you have started your work without knots or loose ends. To tie off without knots, simply hide ends in same color thread.

When framing your needlework picture **DO NOT PUT GLASS** in the frame. The glass distorts stitches and makes judging difficult.

#### **QUILTS**

Quilting stitches (the stitches that go through all layers of the quilt) are what the judges are looking for. "Tying" is very easy, and cannot compare to actual "quilting." Hand quilting will receive higher points than machine quilting.

#### **Judges Criteria**

Pattern submitted, creativity such as pattern changes, color changes, and originality as well as overall beauty should be taken into consideration. The technique, difficulty of pattern, fabric count, gauge, and uniformity of stitches is very important. Finishing thread ends securely, preferably no knots, and blocking are to be taken into consideration along with overall beauty.. Has the proper documentation been submitted?