

How To

Sew A French Seam

By Fiona-Grace Pepler

(Photographed by Catherine Pepler)

Read Fiona-Grace's Blog at www.threadspace.blogspot.com



Equipment Needed

- * Scissors
- * Tape Measure
- * Sewing Machine
- * Iron
- * Pins

French seams allow you to hide the raw edges of your fabric inside the seams to prevent fraying and create a neat finish.

They are ideal for sheer fabrics like organza where overlapped edges would be visible from the right side.

While French seams aren't usually as suitable for thicker fabrics for garments, the extra bulk they create can be used to give support and structure to quilted bags and boxes.

They can also be used where raw edges would irritate the skin, for instance metallic threads, or in lightweight clothes for infants.

Its tricky to make them sit flat on all but the gentlest of curves, so stick to straight seams, at least to start with.

N.B: To make the images more legible, the right side of the fabric has been marked with a small safety pin. Dark sewing thread has also been used to highlight the technique.



Step One

First, pin the two pieces **wrong** sides together, and sew as you would an open seam. Use a 1/4 inch seam allowance.

Step Two

Trim your seam allowance down to about 1/8 inch.



Step Three

From the wrong side, press the seam to one side.

Step Four

Fold along the seam, right sides together, and press to give yourself a sharp edge.



Step Five

Finally, sew another seam 1/4 to 3/8 inch in from the edge.



Step Six

Fold wrong sides together and press to give a clean finish.

