



Things Judges Look For

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1. **Sewing on buttons** – Use double thread. Sew up and down three times and three times around the shank; put needle to under side and knot.
2. **Sewing on Hook & Eye** – Use single thread. Buttonhole stitch around circle and stitch down the throat of the hook. Pull threads through between fabric and hook and do not knot.
3. **Sewing on snaps** – Use single thread. Sew as for hook & eyes.
4. **Backstitch** – 3 or 4 stitches, just enough to lock.
5. **Understitching around neck, arms and collars** - Trim first, clip curves, stitch seam to facing 1/8 inch. You do not have to backstitch.
6. **Finish seams** – Do not use pinking shears. Zig zag, serge or straight stitch 1/8” from edge.
7. **Zippers** – Lap zippers are preferred. All zippers should end 3/4” from the edge and use a hook & eye, even with invisible zippers. Sew the zipper with a 6/8” seam.
8. **Hems** – Level A Grade 3 and 4 may turn down 1/4” or serge and machine stitch. The width must measure evenly. Use single thread for hand hemming. Use a back whipstitch or a blind stitch.
9. **When stitching the crotch** – Double stitch between notches and trim and finish seams. Crotch fit should not be too deep.
10. **When stitching set-in sleeves** – Double stitch around armhole. Trim between notches and finish seams.
11. **Elastic Waistbands** --- Sew a header and stitch in the ditch at side seams.
12. **Set-In Waistbands** – Use interfacing.
13. **Darts** – Stitch to the point and tie. Make sure matching darts measure the same length and width.
14. **Stitching** a point or right angle – Take 2 stitches across the point.
15. **Pinning** – Have pin perpendicular to the seam line.
16. **Pressing** – Press, press, press! Press open seams. Have a sharp crease for the hem. If you have a heavy fabric and you can see the pressmarks on the right side, use a light pressing cloth between seam allowance and under fabric.

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