

# DYNAMICS OF CLOTHING I

**UNIT IV:**            *CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS*

**TOPIC A:**            **CONSTRUCTION**

**OBJECTIVE:**        The students will be able to perform numerous construction techniques and complete one or more sewing projects.

**CONCEPT:**        Sewing is a wonderful skill to have and is useful in many aspects of life. The ability to sew is not only practical and often economical but a medium for creativity and artistic expression.

**COMPETENCIES:**

1. Incorporate and complete the following suggested construction techniques in various projects:
  - a. seams and seam finishes
  - b. darts, tucks, and pleats
  - c. zippers
  - d. pockets
  - e. sleeves
  - f. facings
  - g. collars
  - h. waistbands and/or cuffs
  - i. hems and hem finishes
  - j. closures
  - k. finishing touches  
(topstitching, gathering, understitching, casings)
  - l. sewing on knit fabrics
2. Follow pattern information, marking guides, and sewing guidelines.
3. Utilize appropriate pressing methods throughout construction.
4. Demonstrate mastery of construction techniques on samples and/or sewing projects.
5. Utilize time-management skills to complete project(s).





**ACTIVITIES/OPTIONS**

**SUPPLIES NEEDED**

10. Fabric Fasteners

Copies of student guidelines developed by teacher  
Materials for samples

11. Keeping You In Stitches

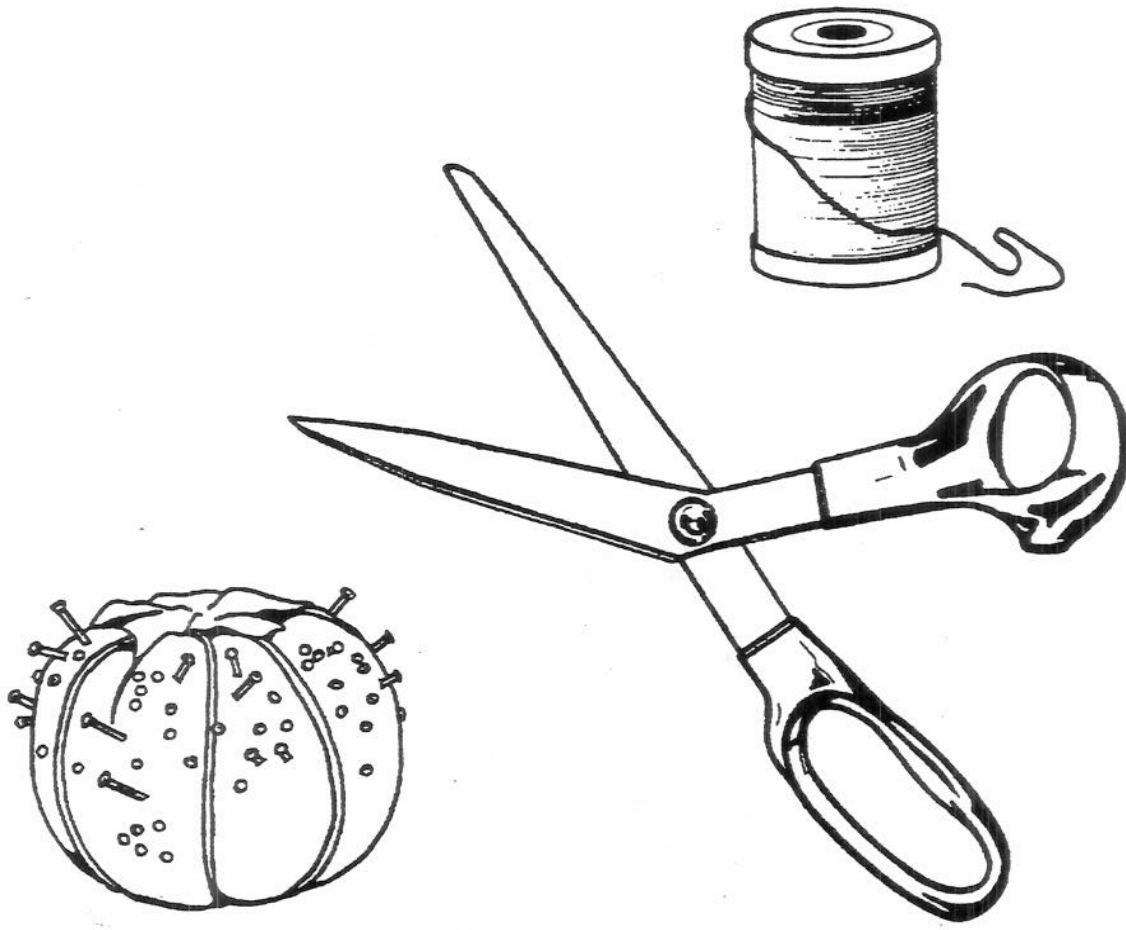
Overhead transparency (I-IV-47)  
Copies of student activity guide (I-IV-48 through I-IV-50)  
Materials for samples

12. Stitch 'Em Up!

Copies of student activity guide (I-IV-54)

13. Pressing Matters

Copies of student activity guide (I-IV-58)  
Pressing equipment and samples





### TEACHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION

**Note #1: About the Teacher Resources**

Included in the binder, MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES, is a copy of the textbook, A GUIDE TO FASHION SEWING, from Fairchild Books and Visuals. Index tabs have been integrated throughout this resource to facilitate use. This is an excellent resource that outlines most sewing techniques in a step-by-step manner with clear illustrations. Additional resources for particular techniques have been added at the end of the corresponding sections.

It is important to note that the materials in this textbook are copyrighted and the teacher does not have the right to make copies for classroom distribution. It has been provided as a teacher reference, and each teacher will need to purchase some copies of the textbook for classroom use. (Purchasing information is included in the RESOURCE section of this topic.)

However, the teacher is free to copy any resources developed by the Utah State Office of Education included in this curriculum.

**Note #2: About Mini-Lessons**

Mini-lessons for some of the construction techniques and terms are included in this topic. These are particularly useful for "lesson days" or can be adapted for individualized instruction packets.

There are a lot of mini-lessons that can be developed utilizing the information provided in this curriculum. Some mini-lessons have been included in Options 3 through 14. Some suggestions for additional mini-lessons are:

- Hems
- Measuring and fitting
- Zippers (more than one)
- Pockets (more than one)
- Gathering and easing
- Collars
- Sleeves
- Casings
- Knit construction methods
- Attaching waistbands and/or cuffs
- Color (See Unit II Topic B)
- Line and design (See Unit II Topic A)
- Matching plaids (See Unit III Topic C)



## ACTIVITIES/OPTIONS

## Option 1 - Continued

d.	Pockets	
	Patch pockets	173-176
	Also <u>Successful Sewing</u>	283-285
	Front hip pockets	189-192
	In-seam pockets	193-195
	Pockets with flaps	196-200
	Also <u>How To Do Pockets</u> , a video from Meridian Education Corporation	
	See Option 6	
e.	Sleeves	
	Set-in sleeves	227-229
	Raglan sleeves	233-234
	Also <u>Successful Sewing</u>	319-329
f.	Facings	
	Neckline or armhole	324-327
	Understitching	375
	Also <u>Successful Sewing</u>	305-307
	See Option 7	
g.	Collars	
	Flat or roll collars	262-265
	Collars with front and back facings	271-273
	Collars with partial facing	274-276
	Collars without facing	277-279
	Also <u>Successful Sewing</u>	311-313
h.	Waistbands and/or cuffs	
	Barrel cuffs	253-256
	Waistbands (general)	334-336
	Traditional pant/skirt waistband	337-339
	Elastic waistline	340-341
	Casings	n/a
	Also <u>Successful Sewing</u>	339-345
i.	Hems and hem finishes	
	Marking and turning hems	350-352
	Hand hemming stitches	353-354
	Machine hemming stitches	355
	Also <u>Successful Sewing</u>	347-350
	Also <u>Hemming Stitches</u> , a video from Meridian Education Corporation	
	Machine blind hem	355A
	Serged hems	355B



## ACTIVITIES/OPTIONS

**Option 1 - Continued**

j.	Closures	
	Buttons and buttonholes	358-362
	Velcro closures	363
	Hooks and eyes	364
	Also <u>Successful Sewing</u>	351-353
	See Options 8, 9, and 10	
k.	Finishing touches	
	Topstitching	369
	Gathering fabric	370-371
	Also <u>Successful Sewing</u>	199, 205, and 223
	See Options 11 and 12	
l.	Sewing on knit fabrics	
	Seams	102-104
	Reinforcing shoulder	n/a
	See <u>Successful Sewing</u>	280
	Hems	356A-356B

**Option 2: Seam Finishes**

Using the student activity guide, SEAM FINISHES, go through the three main seam finishes used, their purposes, how they are done, etc., with the students. Then have the students do samples of each of the three seam finishes.

**Option 3: Pressing a Plain Seam**

Make an overhead transparency or a large poster of PRESSING A PLAIN SEAM and explain the importance of the steps of pressing the seams as you sew. Demonstrate the steps and review the basic pressing equipment. The advantage of a large poster would be that it could be hung in the room near the pressing area for reference throughout the course.

**Option 4: At the Heart of a Dart**

Demonstrate how to make basic darts, identifying the guidelines for making same. Or, an overhead transparency of page IV-A-34 can be used as a discussion guide. Give each student a copy of the student activity guide, AT THE HEART OF A DART, and follow the directions for completing some sample darts.

**Option 5: Zip In A Zipper!**

Have students do a sample of several kinds of zipper applications. It is always good if the teacher has step-by-step examples which the students can refer to. Students generally need some type of step-by-step instructions.



**ACTIVITIES/OPTIONS**

Meridian Education Corporation has a video, [HOW TO PUT IN A ZIPPER](#), that demonstrates the process of placing and stitching in a lapped zipper and a centered zipper along with other zipper information. A student activity guide that corresponds to the video is included in the resources for this option.

Note: Because it is costly to have the students buy zippers for samples, the teacher can prepare "mock" zippers that the students can practice with for very little expense. The "mock" zippers are made by cutting fabrics strips 3 inches wide. Turn one edge in 1 inch and press; turn the other edge over the first edge and press again. The strip is now 1 inch wide. Zigzag down the middle of the strip, using a wide, relatively short zigzag. Cut into 7- or 8-inch pieces and you have "mock zippers." Or, the teacher can have the students make their own.

**Option 6: Patch Pocket with Mitred Corners**

Following the directions on the student activity guide, [PATCH POCKET WITH MITRED CORNERS](#), demonstrate the procedures. Then have each student follow the instructions and complete a sample pocket.

Note: The patch pocket sample could be incorporated into some other simple project with other techniques to learn, such as locker organizers, a throw pillow with a pocket, or some other creative idea.

**Option 7: Facings, Interfacing, and Understitching**

Following the directions on the student activity guide, [FACINGS, INTERFACING, AND UNDERSTITCHING](#), demonstrate the procedures for applying a facing and interfacing, and understitching. Then have each student follow the instructions and complete a sample facing. Again, this technique could be incorporated with a sampler project of some type that is more fun than just a sample.

**Option 8: Button, Button—What Kind of Button?**

The teacher will need to have six different articles of clothing without any buttons, and a box with a large variety of button cards. Be sure there are appropriate and inappropriate button choices in the box. Number the button cards for the students to identify their choices.

Have the students read the information provided on the resource, [BUTTON, BUTTON—WHAT KIND OF BUTTON?](#) When they have finished reading, give each student a copy of the corresponding student activity guide and have them choose appropriate buttons for the articles of clothing displayed. Go over the choices with the students as a class for further discussion.



**ACTIVITIES/OPTIONS****Option 9: Better Buttonhole Bureau**

Demonstrate some of the guidelines about buttonholes provided in the teacher background information. Explain how to mark, space off, etc., for accurate placement. Give each student a copy of the student activity guide, BETTER BUTTONHOLE BUREAU, and have them make a sample set. The teacher will need to review the specific procedures and settings for the sewing machines in the classroom.

**Option 10: Fabric Fasteners**

Introduce the various types of fasteners used on clothing. Give each of the students a copy of some guidelines from the resources identified. Have the students complete samples of a variety of fasteners.

Note: NASCO has a kit of enlarged fasteners for demonstrations called FASTENER FUN. They could also be used for a bulletin board to support this activity.

**Option 11: Keeping You In Stitches**

Introduce this lesson by using an overhead transparency of WHAT IS A STITCH? Explain that there are many types of stitches, and although it is confusing at first, they will all quickly come to make sense.

Give each student a copy of the student activity guide, KEEPING YOU IN STITCHES, and introduce all of the "stitch words." Have the students do samples of some of the stitches upon completion.

Note: If desired, this lesson could be broken into two parts by introducing the machine stitches one day and the hand stitches another day. Also, the teacher may want to add a place for machine settings on the student activity guide.

**Option 12: Stitch 'Em Up!**

This is a crossword puzzle of all of the "stitch words." It can be used as a review, for extra credit, as an introduction, or as a quiz.

Alternate Strategy: The "stitch words" could easily be made into a game like Old Maid with the students matching a definition and drawing to a term. The "old maid" could be the "Stilted Stitcher."

**Option 13: Pressing Matters**

Begin by having the students complete the true/false questionnaire, PRESSING MATTERS. When the students have completed the questionnaires, go over each statement and explain the reasons for the correct answers. The teacher should have a variety of pressing equipment ready for demonstration throughout the discussion.

**ACTIVITIES/OPTIONS**

Demonstrate in small groups how to **iron** a shirt and pants, and how to **press** sewing projects. Assign students to bring a long sleeve, collared shirt to iron in class for a grade in the next few days.

**RESOURCES****Books**

Crawford, Connie-Amaden, A GUIDE TO FASHION SEWING, Fairchild Publications, 7 West 34th Street, New York, NY 10001, 1-800-247-6622. ISBN: 0-87005-748-0; Catalog No. 784-0.

Westfall, Mary G., SUCCESSFUL SEWING, Goodheart-Willcox Publishing, 123 West Taft Drive, South Holland, IL 60474, 1-800-323-0440. ISBN: 0-87006-809-1; Catalog No. 1-56637-010-8. Instructor's Guide: Catalog No. 1-55637-011-6.

Weber, Jeanette, CLOTHING, Glencoe Publishing, P. O. Box 543, Blacklick, OH 43004, 1-800-334-7344. ISBN and Catalog No.: 0-02-640161-4; Teacher's Resource Binder: 0-02-6410163-0.

Taylor, June, THE JUNE TAYLOR METHOD OF CUSTOM DETAIL PRESSING, available in Nancy's Notions catalog.

McCalls Pattern Co., FOCUS ON PRESSING.

Singer Sewing reference library, SEWING ESSENTIALS and TAILORING.

Vanderhoff, CLOTHING CONCEPTS AND CONSTRUCTION, Prentice Hall Ind.

**Videos**

HOW TO PUT IN A ZIPPER, Meridian Education Corporation, Dept. H-92, 236 E. Front Street, Bloomington, IL 61701, 1-800-727-5507. Catalog No. 2113.

SEAMS AND DARTS, Meridian Education Corporation, Dept. H-92, 236 E. Front Street, Bloomington, IL 61701, 1-800-727-5507. Catalog No. 2109.

HOW TO DO POCKETS, Meridian Education Corporation, Dept. H-92, 236 E. Front Street, Bloomington, IL 61701, 1-800-727-5507. Catalog No. 2115.

HEMMING STITCHES, Meridian Education Corporation, Dept. H-92, 236 E. Front Street, Bloomington, IL 61701, 1-800-727-5507. Catalog No. 2108.

**Teaching Aids**

FASTENER FUN, Nasco, 901 Janesville Ave., Fort Atkinson, WI 53538-0901, 1-800-558-9595. Catalog No. W09393H.

---

**ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION QUESTIONS**

1. Incorporate and complete the following suggested construction techniques in various projects:

a. Seams and seam finishes

Note: The teacher will need to supply samples for the first three questions.

1. The seam finish on sample "A" is:
  - A. Serged
  - B.\* Zigzagged
  - C. Clean finished
  
2. The seam finish in sample "B" is:
  - A. Zigzagged
  - B.\* Clean finished
  - C. Serged
  
3. The seam finish in sample "C" is:
  - A.\* Serged
  - B. Clean finished
  - C. Zigzagged
  
4. Unless otherwise stated, the width of a seam is:
  - A. 1/4 inch
  - B. 3/8 inch
  - C.\* 5/8 inch
  - D. 3/4 inch
  
5. Fabric grain is maintained through the machine-stitching process by:
  - A. Machine basting
  - B.\* Stitching directionally
  - C. Pin basting
  
6. To ensure accurate matching of even plaids before machine stitching, one should baste the seams with:
  - A. Pins
  - B. Machine basting
  - C. Slipstitching
  - D.\* Any of these methods will work
  
7. The process of zigzagging the edges of a seam is called:
  - A.\* Overcasting
  - B. Staystitching
  - C. Understitching



**ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION QUESTIONS**

8. When using zigzagging for a seam finish, it should be:
  - A. In the middle of the seam allowance
  - B.\* Over the edge of the seam
  - C. Close to the stitched seam
  
9. The twill tape that is used to stabilize a seam is stitched to the:
  - A. Right side of the garment
  - B.\* Wrong side of the garment
  - C. Either side of the garment
  
10. Cutting V-shaped wedges from the seam allowance to eliminate bulk and allow the seam to lie flat is called:
  - A.\* Notching
  - B. Clipping
  - C. Grading
  - D. Trimming
  
11. Cutting into the seam allowance to allow an outside curve to lay flat is called:
  - A. Notching
  - B.\* Clipping
  - C. Grading
  - D. Trimming
  
12. Notches should be cut:
  - A. Into the seam allowance
  - B.\* Away from the seam allowance
  - C. Straight with the seam allowance to omit the notch
  
13. When pinning two already-stitched seams:
  - A. The pins should be placed through the middle of the seamline
  - B. The pins should be placed on each side of the seamline
  - C.\* The seams should be pinned together and the seam allowances pinned flat
  
14. Which of the following is not true about temporary or basting stitches?
  - A.\* Stitches are short
  - B. Stitches are usually a contrasting color
  - C. Stitches are easy to remove



**ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION QUESTIONS****b. Darts, tucks, and pleats**

1. Darts are used to:
  - A. Make holes in the fabric for marking
  - B.\* Shape a garment to the body contour
  - C. Both A and B answers are correct
2. Darts should be pressed as stitched first, then pressed toward the direction they will be sewn.
  - A.\* True
  - B. False
3. Vertical darts should be pressed:
  - A. Toward the sides
  - B.\* Toward the center
  - C. It doesn't make any difference
4. Horizontal darts should be pressed:
  - A.\* Toward the bottom
  - B. Toward the top
  - C. It doesn't make any difference
5. Three areas where darts are commonly found are:  
- bustline    - waist/hips    - back neck
6. It is best to stitch a dart:
  - A. From the point to the wide end
  - B.\* From the wide end to the point
  - C. It doesn't make any difference
7. Backstitching should be done at:
  - A.\* The wide end of the dart
  - B. The point of the dart
  - C. Both ends of the dart
8. It is best to tie the threads at:
  - A. The wide end of the dart
  - B.\* The point of the dart
  - C. Both ends of the dart

**ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION QUESTIONS****c. Zippers**

1. To topstitch evenly when applying a zipper, you can use 1/2-inch wide cellophane or masking tape as a topstitching guide.  
A.\* True  
B. False
2. The centered zipper application may be used in:  
A. Dresses  
B. Sportswear  
C. Jackets  
D.\* All of the above
3. When choosing a conventional zipper, you should match the \_\_\_\_\_ to the garment.  
A. Length  
B. Weight  
C. Color  
D.\* All of the above
4. When inserting a zipper, the seam allowance should be at least \_\_\_\_ inch wide.  
A. 1/4  
B. 3/8  
C. 1/2  
D.\* 5/8
5. Preshrinking zippers before inserting them is one way of preventing a puckered zipper.  
A.\* True  
B. False
6. The most commonly used methods of zipper applications are:  
A. Long, short, and medium length  
B.\* Lapped, centered, sport  
C. Neckline, waistline, and front
7. You should position the zipper foot on the side of the needle opposite the zipper teeth or coil.  
A.\* True  
B. False











**ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION QUESTIONS****g. Collars**

1. Most collars need to be:
  - A. Staystitched
  - B.\* Understitched
  - C. Stitched in the ditch
  - D. All of the above

**h. Waistbands and/or cuffs**

1. In most instances, you need to interface the cuffs and/or waistband.
  - A.\* True
  - B. False
2. The cuff should lap toward the front when the sleeve is positioned on the body.
  - A. True
  - B.\* False
3. The buttonhole is placed on the front cuff edge.
  - A.\* True
  - B. False
4. Cuffs and/or waistbands should be pressed:
  - A. After each commercial on television
  - B. After the construction is totally completed
  - C.\* After each step during construction
5. Cuffs should be constructed according to the directions on the pattern guide.
  - A.\* True
  - B. False
6. The interfacing fabric should be lighter in weight than the cuff fabric.
  - A.\* True
  - B. False
7. Seam allowances of cuff ends are trimmed to \_\_\_ inch or less and tapered to a point at the cuff corner.
  - A. 5/8
  - B. 1/2
  - C. 3/8
  - D.\* 1/4















