



CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE GUIDELINES

At the beginning of each project, have each student complete a construction schedule. He/she can learn to follow the steps on the pattern guide and estimate fairly well the amount of time it will take to finish the project. For most projects, it is better if a student can finish within three (3) to four (4) weeks. (If he/she works on something longer than this, he/she tends not to wear or use it.) The construction schedule is a means of keeping students moving, helping them set weekly goals, and making the best use of class time. It also lets a student know exactly what he/she is to do every day during the class period. And last, but not least, it helps the student to begin to read and follow the pattern guides and become a more independent seamster. It is important for the teacher to check each construction schedule against the pattern guide to be sure it is realistic before a student begins his/her project.

A couple of construction schedules have been included as examples, but each teacher will probably need to customize one for his/her specific operation. The four-day-week plan is particularly useful when a teacher sets aside one day per week for "lessons" or instruction, and therefore is probably more suitable for Level 1 classes. The five-day-week plan is better suited to advanced level classes. It can easily be adapted for alternative scheduling.

To begin with, make an overhead transparency of the construction schedule you plan to use and lead the students through some of the first entries. With a little help, they will be able to take over quickly. (A sample construction schedule for a pair of pants is included with the resources.)

A couple of tips: remind the students about school holidays and check the planners regularly throughout construction. Some teachers like to sign off each day, others once or twice a week. Give extra credit to the students who finish ahead of schedule and be sure to include time management as an integral part of the project grade.

Note: If the teacher prefers, the construction schedule can be used as a journal, allowing the student to record what he/she accomplished during each class period. The teacher can check these regularly to determine how well the student is utilizing his/her class time.