

DYNAMICS OF CLOTHING II

UNIT IV: ***EQUIPMENT***

TOPIC A: **EQUIPMENT USE**

OBJECTIVE: Students will exhibit proficiency in the use of specialized equipment for sewing and pressing.

CONCEPT: Technology has provided some very sophisticated equipment for use in sewing and pressing. Learning to perform as many techniques as possible on this equipment broadens one's skill base and makes the seamster more efficient as well as more employable.

COMPETENCIES:

1. Review basic equipment needed for sewing and pressing.
2. Exhibit proficiency using specialized equipment for sewing and pressing.
 - a. Thread and adjust serger as needed.
 - b. Perform a wide variety of serger techniques.
 - c. Demonstrate use of pressing ham, counter-top presser, needle or velva board, commercial iron, and other applicable pressing equipment.
 - d. Perform a wide variety of sewing machine techniques, with and without special attachments.

**OPTIONS/ACTIVITIES****SUPPLIES NEEDED**

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|----|---|---|
| 1. | Sewing Equipment Crossword Puzzle | Copies of student activity guide (II-IV-13 and II-IV-14) |
| 2. | Serger Video | Video of choice Video machine |
| 3. | Serger Seam Techniques (Use only if techniques NOT included in <u>Dynamics of Clothing I</u>) | Copies of student activity guide (II-IV-16 and II-IV-17) Owner's manuals for sergers Teacher samples Fabric for samples Sergers |
| 4. | More Fun Serger Techniques | Copies of student activity guide (II-IV-18 through II-IV-19) Owner's manuals for sergers Teacher samples Fabric for samples Sergers |
| 5. | More and More Fun Serger Techniques | Copies of student activity guide (II-IV-20 through II-IV-21) Owner's manuals for sergers Teacher samples Fabric for samples Sergers |
| 6. | Sergering With Decorative Threads (Teacher Demo) | Owner's manuals for serger(s) Fabric and decorative threads for samples Serger(s) |
| 7. | More Pressing Matters | Copies of student activity guide (II-IV-28 through II-IV-30) Pressing equipment Butcher paper Samples for demonstration |
| 8. | What Will This Sewing Machine Do? | Copies of student activity guide (II-IV-34 through II-IV-38) Owner's manuals for machines Teacher samples Fabrics for samples Machine accessories Double needles |

**OPTIONS/ACTIVITIES****Option 5: More and More Fun Serger Techniques**

This option includes several techniques that are more advanced. The teacher may elect to cover these collectively or individually.

Option 6: Serging With Decorative Threads (Teacher Demo)

Demonstrate the use of a variety of decorative threads and machine tension settings, using the information provided as a guide. Due to time restrictions, it is not anticipated that students will be able to master these techniques at this level. They will be included in level 3, Designer Sewing, for student mastery. Refer to the owner's manual for your specific sergers and/or Sewing With Sergers and Creative Serging.

Option 7: More Pressing Matters

Using the teacher background information provided, review the pieces of pressing equipment introduced in Dynamics of Clothing I, and then introduce the remaining pieces of pressing equipment. Exhibit each piece and demonstrate the uses for each piece. Include some consumer information or tips about each piece.

Some things to include during the demonstration:

- the difference between ironing and pressing, using two pieces of loosely woven fabric. Explain how the fabric can become distorted with ironing, particularly ironing off-grain.
- reviewing the three steps of pressing a seam.
- how and why press cloths and brown paper strips are used.
- pressing a dart on a tailor's ham vs. a flat surface.
- use of a pressing mitt (along with precautions).
- pressing the seams on a pocket with a cardboard template.
- how the tip of the iron can be used to flatten gathers within the seam allowance area.
- pressing straight and curved hems.
- how moisture helps to steam set a crease or seam in place.
- how steam can be used to mold fabrics, especially woolens.
- how steam can be used to shrink out fullness in sleeve seam.
- how to handle fabrics that turn shiny when pressed.

Have the students complete the corresponding student activity guide as the teacher demonstrates. It is suggested that the teacher have the students bring a long sleeved, collared shirt from home to iron in class for credit sometime during the week. As the students sew, have them demonstrate their skills in using the pressing equipment.

For a bulletin board to support the seam pressing steps, make three samples, pressing each one to a different stage and hang them on the wall. Cut out three irons and place on the seamlines. Number the steps.



OPTIONS/ACTIVITIES

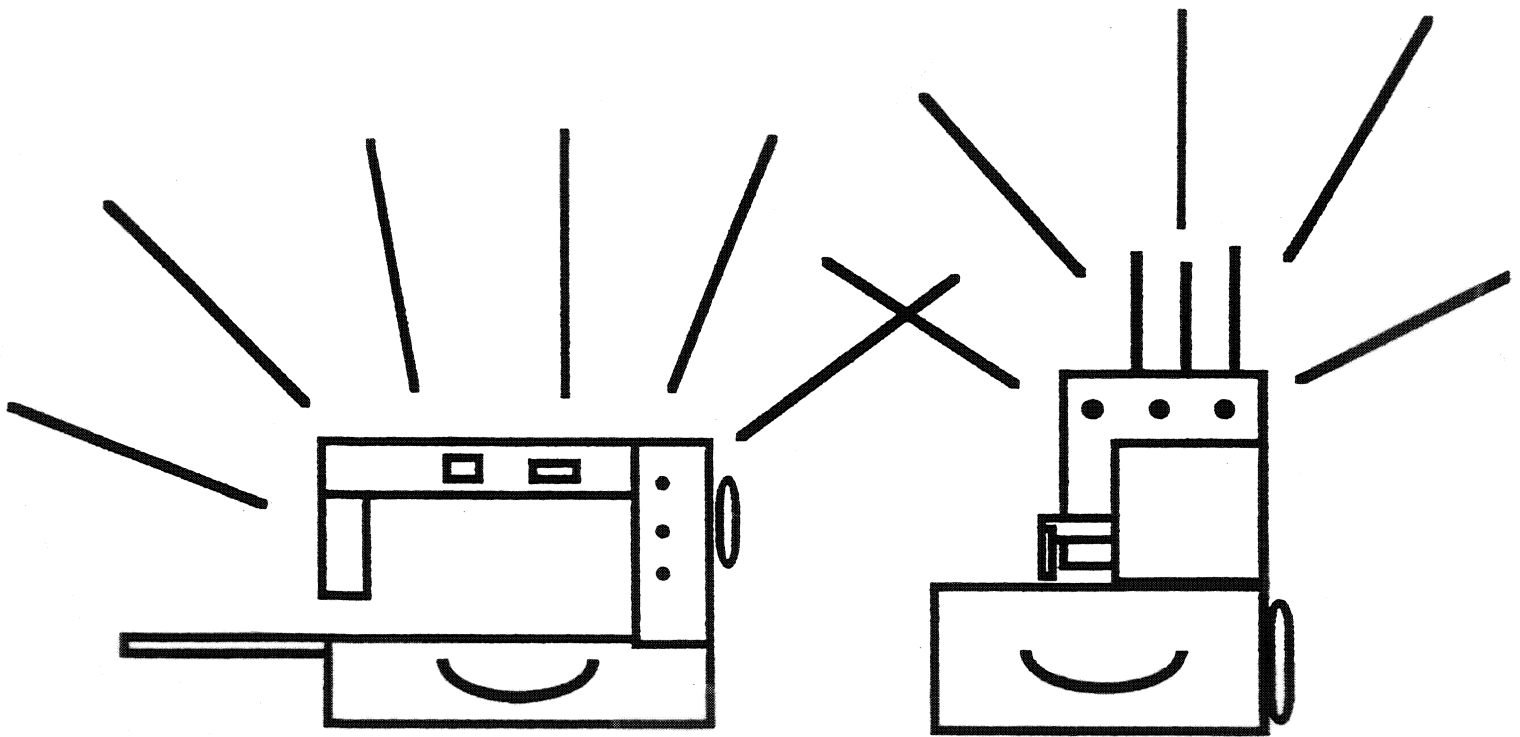
Option 8: What Will This Sewing Machine Do?

Note: This is a good activity to use during the first week of the term while students are bringing supplies and selecting projects. This also allows the students to have a better understanding of the machine(s) and develop skills.

Have the students complete the samples on the student activity guide. The teacher may choose to not have every student do every one, or may want to just assign certain ones at different times. These could be broken into smaller segments, if desired.

The teacher will need to demonstrate many of these techniques for the students and should have samples of the techniques ready for reference.

The booklet, FEET SMARTS, published by Update Newsletters, is an excellent, well-illustrated resource for use with this option. See Resource section for specifics.





RESOURCES

Books and/or Booklets

The June Tailor Method of Custom Detail Pressing.

- can be purchased from Nancy's Notions Catalog

Pressing Matters, Butterick Company, Inc., 1993.

Focus on Pressing, McCall Pattern Co., 11 Penn Plaza, New York, NY 10001, 212-465-6824.

Sewing Essentials and Tailoring, Singer Sewing Reference Library.

Clothing Concepts and Construction, Vanderhoff, Prentice Hall.

Successful Sewing, Mary Westfall, Goodheart-Willcox Co.

Sewing With Sergers. (Book 1), Gail Brown and Pati Palmer, Palmer/Pletsch Associates, P. O. Box 12046, Portland, OR 97212, 503-274-0687.

Creative Serging. (Book 2), Palmer, Brown, and Green, Palmer/Pletsch Associates, P. O. Box 12046, Portland, OR 97212, 503-274-0687.

A Guide to Fashion Sewing, Connie Amaden-Crawford, Fairchild Books and Visuals, 7 West 34th Street, New York, NY 10001, 1-800-247-6622.

Videos

Generic Serger Sewing I - available from Nasco, P.O. Box 901, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538-0901, 1-800-558-9595, Catalog No. WA10769H.

Sewing With Sergers: Basics - available from Home Economics School Service, P.O. Box 802, Culver City, CA 90232-0802, 1-800-421-4246, Catalog No. PML 103V-82.

Sewing With Sergers: Advanced - available from Home Economics School Service, Catalog No. PML 104V-82.

Creative Serging - available from Home Economics School Service, Catalog No. PML 105V-82.

Creative Serging II - available from Home Economics School Service, Catalog No. PML 106V-82.



EVALUATION/TEST QUESTIONS

1. Review basic equipment needed for sewing and pressing.
2. Exhibit proficiency in use of specialized equipment for sewing and pressing.
 - a. Thread and adjust serger as needed.
 - b. Perform a wide variety of serger techniques.
 1. It is okay to stitch over pins with the serger.
 - A. True
 - B.* False
 2. If you are using a three-spool serger, you must always use four threads.
 - A. True
 - B.* False
 3. Many different types of thread can be used on the serger to create a variety of effects.
 - A.* True
 - B. False
 4. The four-thread carriers on the four-spool serger are called: (fill in the answers)
1) Left needle 2) right needle 3) top looper 4) bottom looper
 5. The three basic functions of the serger that are done simultaneously are: (fill in the answers)
1) Stitch seam 2) overcast edge 3) trim off excess fabric
 6. To rethread the serger, one should simply pull all of the previous color out of the machine and start again.
 - A. True
 - B.* False
 7. The easiest way to change thread on a serger is:
 - A. Cut the old thread, pull it out, and rethread the serger with new thread
 - B.* Cut the old thread, tie the new thread to it, and pull thread through
 - C. Cut the old thread, pull it out, tie the new thread to it, and rethread the serger

**EVALUATION/TEST QUESTIONS**

- c. **Demonstrate use of pressing ham, professional presser, needle board, and other applicable pressing equipment.**
1. One method of preventing iron shine is to use:
 - A. A sliding motion when pressing
 - B. A dry iron whenever possible
 - C.* A press cloth
 2. Which of these garments could be pressed at the highest temperature?
 - A.* Cotton
 - B. Silk
 - C. Dacron
 3. Which of the following statements about pressing is true?
 - A. Silk should be pressed with a hot iron and moisture
 - B. Wool should be pressed with a warm, dry iron
 - C.* Synthetic fabrics should be pressed with a cool iron
 4. When doing slow, detailed pressing, it is suggested that the temperature dial be set:
 - A. One step higher than the setting for that particular fabric
 - B.* One step lower than the setting for that particular fabric
 - C. On the setting for that particular fabric
 5. When pressing a garment:
 - A. A lifting and lowering motion is used
 - B. A sliding motion is used
 - C. Moisture is seldom used
 - D.* Both A and C answers are correct
 6. It is recommended that garments be pressed with the grain of the fabric to:
 - A. Eliminate puckering
 - B.* Avoid stretching the garment out of shape
 - C. Give shape to the garment
 7. Seams should be pressed:
 - A. As soon as they are stitched
 - B.* Before they are crossed by another line of stitching
 - C. When the garment or alteration is completed
 8. Darts should be pressed on:
 - A. A flat surface
 - B.* A curved surface
 - C. A point presser



EVALUATION/TEST QUESTIONS

- 9. When pressing a completed hem, one should:
 - A. Use a sliding motion and press around the hem
 - B. Press from the top of the hem to the bottom
 - C.* Use more pressure on the fold line than on the top edge of the hem

- 10. Excess fullness in a hem may be eased in by:
 - A.* Placing the side of the iron parallel to the raw edge of the hem
 - B. Placing the iron perpendicular to the raw edge of the hem
 - C. Making small pleats in the edge of the hem

Select the letter of the piece of pressing equipment which could be used for each of the types of pressing listed in questions 11-13.

| <u>Types of Pressing</u> | <u>Pressing Equipment</u> |
|--|---------------------------|
| <u> B </u> 11. Flattening seams | A. Pressing ham |
| <u> A </u> 12. Molding curved areas of garments | B. Beater |
| <u> D </u> 13. Pressing pile fabrics | C. Point presser |
| | D. Needle board |
| 14. Before cleaning an iron, make sure it is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A.* Cool B. Warm C. Hot | |
| 15. To clean starch or sizing from a non-coated soleplate, rub the spots with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. #3 steel wool B.* Paste made from scouring powder and water C. Vinegar | |
| 16. If melted plastic or man-made (synthetic) fibers stick to the iron, do NOT try to remove them by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A.* Cooling the iron, rubbing the iron several times over wax paper, and removing any remaining residue with scouring powder B. Heating the iron until the residue softens, scraping it off as much as possible with a thin piece of wool, and then using scouring powder to remove any remaining residue C. Heating the iron until it is slightly warm, rubbing the iron several times over waxed paper sprinkled with salt, and then wiping it off | |
| 17. To avoid clogging the iron, fill steam irons with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Hot water B. Tap water C.* Distilled water | |

**EVALUATION/TEST QUESTIONS**

18. Most man-made fabrics should be pressed with a:
 - A.* Cool iron
 - B. Warm iron
 - C. Hot iron

19. Which of the following is not an essential ingredient for pressing most fabrics?
 - A. Heat
 - B.* Moisture
 - C. Press cloth

20. One method of preventing shine when pressing is to use:
 - A. A sliding motion
 - B. A dry iron whenever possible
 - C.* A press cloth

21. Which of these fabrics could be pressed at the highest temperature?
 - A.* Cotton
 - B. Silk
 - C. Dacron

22. To prevent flattening or matting, a pile or napped fabric should be pressed:
 - A. Using a pressing pad
 - B.* Using a needle or velva board
 - C. Using a tailor's ham

**EVALUATION/TEST QUESTIONS**

- d. **Perform a wide variety of sewing machine techniques, with and without special attachments.**
1. Topstitching:
 - A. Keeps the seams from coming apart or the stitching from coming out
 - B. Adds life to the garment by preventing raveling
 - C.* Provides decoration; keeps edges flat and keeps facing from rolling to the right side.
 2. Overlocking a seam can only be done with a serger.
 - A. True
 - B.* False
 3. Buttonholes can be made with any machine that sews a zigzag stitch.
 - A.* True
 - B. False
 4. To topstitch a rounded area with a double needle, one should:
 - A. Stitch to the corner; stop; pivot the fabric 45 degrees one time; and continue.
 - B.* Stitch to the beginning of the corner; stop; pivot the fabric slightly; stitch two to three stitches; stop; pivot slightly; stitch two to three stitches, etc.
 - C. Stitch to the corner area and try to hold the fabric so one side doesn't feed as fast as the other.
 5. Flat buttons can be sewn on easily using the _____ stitch.
 - A. Hem
 - B.* Zigzag
 - C. Decorative
 - D. Straight
 6. The feed dogs should be _____ while sewing on buttons.
 - A.* Lowered and disengaged
 - B. Raised and engaged
 - C. Left normal
 7. A blind hem stitch can be accomplished by folding the garment portion back so the edge of the hem is exposed for stitching.
 - A.* True
 - B. False

