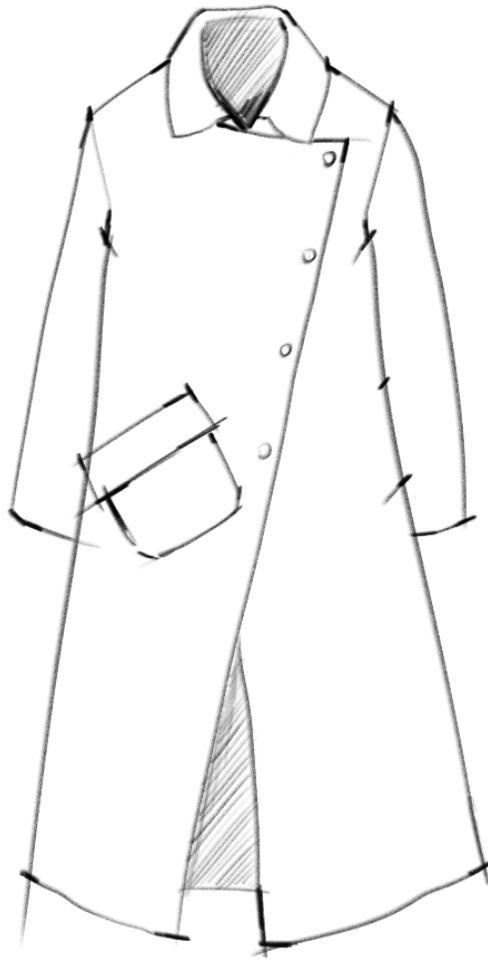




The School of Making



THE ASYMMETRICAL TRENCH PATTERN

with trench and peacoat lengths

For use with *Alabama Stitch Book*, *Alabama Studio Style*, *Alabama Studio Sewing + Design*,
Alabama Studio Sewing Patterns, and *The Geometry of Hand-Sewing*

theschoolofmaking.alabamachanin.com

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ABOUT THIS PATTERN

The Asymmetrical Trench pattern, designed to be used in tandem with The School of Making Book Series, is a modern take on a classic style. Fitted in the shoulders with a roomy drape, this pattern includes two length variations: peacoat and trench. Both variations offer a double-breasted front and an optional storm shield. Add the optional stripe appliqué to the front or use our Pockets Pattern for a utilitarian look. The Asymmetrical Trench measures approximately 47", and The Asymmetrical Peacoat measures approximately 31".

PATTERN SIZING

	XS	S	M	L	XL	XXL
Chest	28 – 30"	30 – 32"	32 – 34"	36 – 38"	40 – 42"	44 – 46"
Waist	23 – 24"	25 – 26"	27 – 28"	30 – 32"	33 – 35"	35 – 36"
Hips	32 – 33"	34 – 35"	36 – 37"	38 – 39"	40 – 42"	43 – 44"

APPROXIMATE YARDAGE REQUIRED

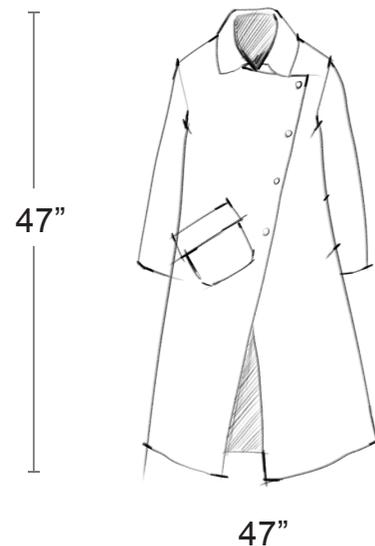
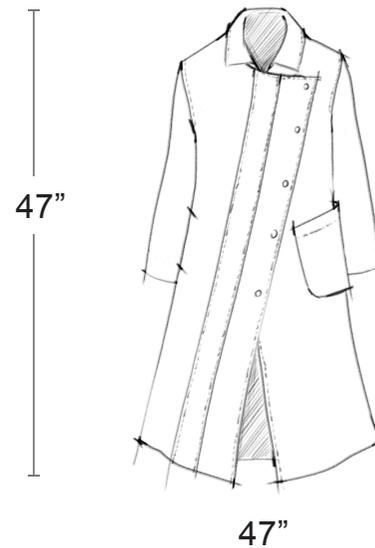
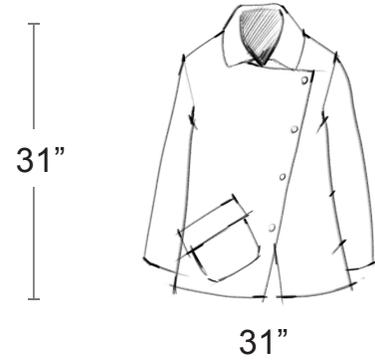
VARIATION	SINGLE LAYER	DOUBLE LAYER
Trench	3.75 yards	7.5 yards
Peacoat	2 yards	4 yards

**Yardage measurement taken with fabric folded across the grainline with the exception of the collar and back overlay on the trench, where the fabric is folded along the grainline.*

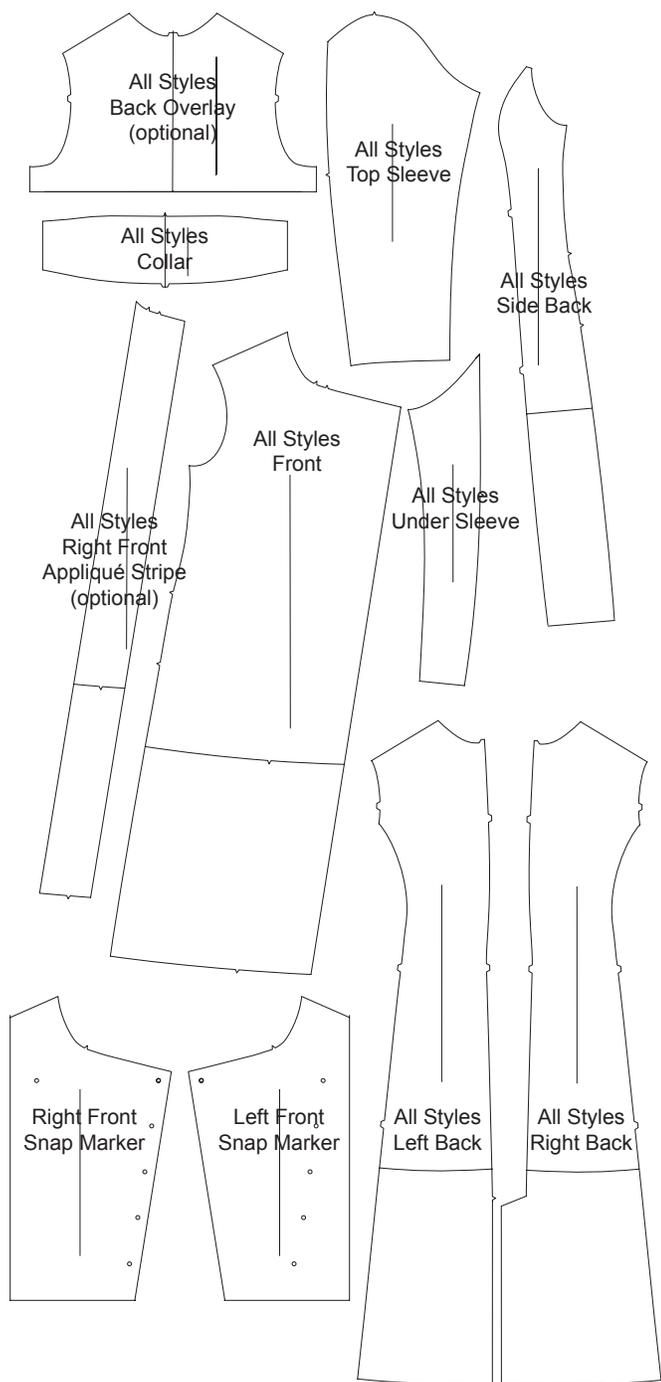
TO NOTE BEFORE BEGINNING

All fabric should be pre-washed, dried, and wrinkle free. Seam allowance is 1/4" unless otherwise noted.

LENGTH VARIATIONS



THE ASYMMETRICAL TRENCH MASTER PATTERN



THE ASYMMETRICAL TRENCH PATTERN INSTRUCTIONS

SUPPLIES

The Asymmetrical Trench Pattern
60"-wide cotton jersey fabric in one color, for top layer (see chart on page 2 for yardage)
60"-wide cotton jersey fabric in one color, for backing layer (same as for top layer)
Paper scissors
Tape
Garment scissors
Tailor's chalk or disappearing-ink fabric pen
Hand-sewing needle
Button Craft thread
All-purpose thread (for basting)
Pins
#7 Snaps (6 for Trench and Peacoat)

1. CUT THE PATTERN

This garment provides two length variations (trench and peacoat), a storm shield option, and six sizes (from XS to XXL). There is also an optional right appliqué stripe. A side-seam pocket is included with this pattern, and you may use The Pockets pattern from The School of Making to add a variety of pockets and details to your final garment. Once you've chosen your pattern variation and size, use your paper scissors to cut out the desired pattern variation. Cut as close to the black line as possible.

2. CUT TOP-LAYER PATTERN PIECES

To prevent the cotton jersey from stretching, lay the fabric flat on your work surface, fold to create two layers, and gently pat the cotton jersey into place with your fingertips.

Find your grain line by locating the vertical lines that run along the length of the fabric's right side. Next, lay your paper pattern pieces on top of your fabric, making sure the pattern's marked grain line runs in the same direction as the fabric's grain line. Trace your pattern pieces with tailor's chalk or a disappearing-ink fabric pen. You may hold or weight the pattern instead of pinning to prevent skewing the fabric or causing small nicks and holes in your pattern



and fabric. Cut just inside of your traced line to remove it entirely.

See the chart below to organize your total number of pattern pieces, top-layer pieces, and backing-layer pieces for double layered garments.

	# of pattern pieces	Total # cut top-layer pieces	Total # cut backing-layer pieces	Total # cut Pieces for a double-layer garment
Trench or Peacoat	8	16	12	28
Trench or Peacoat- Right Appliqué Stripe	9	17	12	29
Trench or Peacoat- Storm Shield	9	17	13	30
Trench or Peacoat- Storm Shield & Right Appliqué Stripe	10	18	13	31

3. CUT BACKING-LAYER PATTERN PIECES

Lay out the backing-layer fabric flat, fold to create two layers, and gently pat the cotton jersey into place with your fingertips. Excluding 1 collar and the pocket bags, repeat the process in Step 2 to cut 13 backing-layer pieces with the storm shield, and 12 pieces without the storm shield. Use your cut top-layer pieces as pattern guides. See the chart above to organize your total number of cut backing-layer pieces.

4. BASTE NECKLINE AND ARMHOLES

To ensure that the neckline and armholes don't stretch while you're constructing your garment, use a single strand of all-purpose thread to baste around the neckline and curved edges of each piece.

5. ADD STENCILING (OPTIONAL)

If you choose to stencil your project, add your design to the right side of the cut top-layer pieces, and let stenciled images dry thoroughly. You may choose to stencil one layer

of your collar and pocket flaps. At The School of Making, we generally do not stencil our pocket bags as they are hidden on the inside of the garment; however, you may choose to stencil both layers, creating a patterned pocket bag.

Embellishment will be completed in Step 6b.

6A. ADD RIGHT APPLIQUE STRIPE

See page 9 of this document for basic sewing instructions or reference our Alabama Studio Book Series for more in-depth instruction.

If you choose to use the right front appliqué stripe included in the pattern, line it up with notch A and B at the top and notch C at the hem of your top layer of your right front panel. You can either use a straight stitch or a decorative stitch on both sides of the appliqué piece. You also have the option to leave the edges raw or tuck them under 1/4" (6mm).

6B. ADD EMBROIDERY AND EMBELLISHMENTS

For all over embroidery or embellishment on your garment, you will need to clean finish the center front to notch B. If you are making the trench length, you will also clean finish the right back vent and left back vent before embellishing. See steps 8, 9, and 10 for instructions on clean finishing these pieces.

Once you have your front, right back, and left back pieces clean finished, add embellishment as desired using one of our Alabama Studio Series books for inspiration. If you are adding beads, avoid beading in the 1/4" (6mm) seam allowance. If you are creating an embellishment that cuts away the top layer avoid cutting closer than 1/4" (6mm) to the clean finished seams, so you can hide your seam allowance.

After completing embellishment, continue on to step 7.



7. PREPARE FOR CONSTRUCTION

Choose whether you would like your garment to have inside or outside floating or felled seams (see our Alabama Studio Book Series). Pin the fabric's wrong sides together for seams visible on the outside of the garment; pin with fabric's right sides together for seams that are finished on the inside of the garment. If you choose to make your garment with outside floating or felled seams, trim off all exposed notches before felling your garment's seams.

When pinning knit seams for construction, it is important to follow a method we call "pinning the middle." With right sides together for inside seams and wrong sides together for outside seams, start by pinning the top of your seam, and follow by pinning the bottom. After pinning both top and bottom, place one pin in the middle, between the two initial pins. Continue by pinning in the middle of each set of pins until your seam is securely pinned and ready to sew.

Unless otherwise noted, all of our garment patterns use a 1/4" (6mm) seam allowance.

8. CLEAN FINISH THE CENTER FRONT

For embellished garment: Working with your front pieces, lay the top layer of your right front right side up on a flat surface. Lay the backing layer of your right front down on the top layer, also right side up (if you are choosing to have outside seams you will lay the wrong side of the top layer on the right side of the bottom layer).

For basic garment: Working with your front pieces, lay the top layer of your right front right side up on a flat surface. Lay the backing layer of your right front on the top layer with the wrong side facing up. This will give your garment a more finished look if you choose to wear it open instead of snapped.

With notches and raw edges aligned, pin into place. Thread your needle, love your thread,

and knot off. Using a straight stitch and stitching 1/4" (6mm) at the fabric's cut edges, sew the center front seam, checking the tension as you work. Start at the hem of the garment, pivoting 1/4"(6mm) from the top corner and continuing your stitches to notch B. Begin and end your seam by wrap-stitching its edges to secure. If you choose to make your garment with outside floating or felled seams, trim off all exposed notches before felling your garment's seams.

Clip through the center of notch B, stopping 1/16" (1.5mm) away from the stitch line.

Once complete, trim the corners and turn the front pieces. Press using a pressing cloth and topstitch 1/4" (6mm) from the side and top edges, if desired.

Repeat this step for your left front pieces. Pin or baste around the remaining raw edges completing your two front pieces.

9. CLEAN FINISH THE RIGHT BACK VENT – TRENCH LENGTH

Working with your back pieces, lay the top layer of your right back down, right side up. Lay the backing layer of your right back on top, right side up also (if you are choosing to have outside seams, you will lay the wrong side of the top layer on the right side of the bottom layer). Line up the raw edges at the vent. Starting at the bottom of the vent, stitch 1/4" (6mm) from the fabric's cut edge. Continue to stitch all the way up to where the vent angles towards the center back seam. Begin and end your seam by wrap-stitching its edges to secure them.

Turn right sides out and press with a pressing cloth. Add an additional top stitch 1/8" away from the edge of the vent, if desired.

Pin or baste around the remaining raw edges. You have completed your back right piece.



10. CLEAN FINISH THE LEFT BACK VENT – TRENCH LENGTH

Take the top layer of the left back and lay it on a flat surface right side up. Take the matching backing layer and lay it on top of the top layer, also right side up, matching the notches and the cut edges (if you are choosing to have outside seams, you will lay the wrong side of the top layer on the right side of the bottom layer).

Starting at the bottom of the vent, wrap your raw edges and stitch 1/4" away from the fabric's cut edge. Stop your stitch at the center of the notch A. Clip through the center of the notch, stopping 1/16" away from the stitch line. If you choose to make your garment with outside floating or felled seams, trim off all exposed notches.

Turn right side out and press with a pressing cloth. Add an additional top stitch 1/8" away from the edge of the vent, if desired.

Pin or baste the layers together around the edges. This completes your back left piece.

If you choose to embroider your garment, return to Step 6. If you are creating a basic garment, continue on to step 11.

11. SEW THE CENTER BACK SEAM

With right sides together (or wrong sides together for outside seams) pin your right back and left back together, matching notches. Pin starting at the top back and continue down to the vent, lining up notch A at the top of the left vent with the top of the right vent. Thread your needle, love your thread, and knot off. Using a straight stitch and stitching 1/4" (6mm) from the fabric's cut edges, sew the center back seam together, checking your thread tension as you work. Wrap stitch at the top neck to secure the seam and knot off securely at the bottom.

Fell the seam (if desired) towards the left of your garment by folding over the seam allowances

and topstitching 1/8" (3mm) from the cut edges, down the center of the seam allowances, using a straight stitch and wrap-stitching the seam. If you choose to make your garment with outside floating or felled seams, trim off all exposed notches before felling your garment's seams.

12. SEW THE BACK VENT DOWN – TRENCH LENGTH

Your right back vent will now be under your left back vent. Line up the vents so they are spaced an equal distance apart down to the hem of the garment. Working from the inside of your garment, stitch 1/4" (6mm) down from the top edge of the right back vent, top stitching through all layers to secure the vent. At both ends of the stitch, add 3 whip stitches very close together to create a bar tack, securing the vent.

13. ATTACH THE SIDE BACK PANELS

With right sides together (or wrong sides together for outside seams) line up the right side panel with the right center back, matching notches. Using a straight stitch and stitching 1/4" (6mm) away from the fabric's cut edges, sew the side back seam together, checking your thread tension as you work. Wrap stitch at the top and the bottom of the seam.

Fell the seam (if desired) towards the side of your garment by folding over the seam allowances and topstitching them 1/8" (3mm) from the cut edges, down the center of the seam allowances, using a straight stitch and wrap-stitching the seam. If you choose to make your garment with outside floating or felled seams, trim off all exposed notches before felling your garment's seams.

Repeat this process with the left side of your garment.



14. ATTACH THE BACK OVERLAY/STORM SHIELD (OPTIONAL)

Take the back overlay/storm shield panel (you can choose to do single or double layer if your garment is not embellished) and lay it on top of the constructed back panel, matching the notches, neckline, armholes, and shoulder raw edges. Baste with all-purpose thread.

15. SEW SHOULDER SEAMS

With right sides together for inside seams (or wrong sides together for outside seams), pin the shoulder seams, with raw edges aligned, and sew the seams, starting at the top edge of the armhole and stitching 1/4" (6mm) from the fabric's cut edges across to the neckline. Begin and end each seam by wrap-stitching its edges to secure.

If you are making a garment without the optional back overlay/storm shield, fell your seams, if desired, towards the back of your garment down the middle of the seam allowance. If you choose to make your garment with outside floating or felled seams, trim off all exposed notches before felling your garment's seams.

If you are making a garment with the optional back overlay/storm shield (see Step 14), fell your seams, if desired, towards the front of your garment down the middle of the seam allowance. If you choose to make your garment with outside floating or felled seams, trim off all exposed notches before felling your garment's seams.

16. CONSTRUCT SLEEVES

With right sides together for inside seams (or wrong sides together for outside seams), pin your top and under sleeve together at the sleeve center, matching the notches. Thread your needle, love your thread, and knot off. Using a straight stitch, sew the pinned pieces together, starting at the top edge of the seam and stitching 1/4" (6mm) from the fabric's cut edges down to the bottom edge. Be sure to

begin and end your seam by wrap-stitching its edges to secure them.

Repeat this process with the other sleeve.

Fell each seam (if desired) towards the under sleeve by folding the seam allowances over to one side and topstitching them 1/8" (3mm) from the cut edges, down the center of the seam allowances, using a straight stitch and wrap-stitching the seam. If you choose to make your coat with outside floating or felled seams, trim off all exposed notches before felling your garment's seams.

17. ADD SLEEVES

Add sleeves by pinning your constructed sleeves to the armholes with the right sides together for inside seams (or wrong sides together for outside seams), matching the notch with the shoulder seam and sleeve's edges with the edges of the front and back of the garment. Pin pieces together securely, working in excess fabric with pins. Use a straight stitch to attach sleeves and then fell the seams toward the sleeves, if desired.

Fell each seam (if desired) towards the under sleeve by folding the seam allowances over to one side and topstitching them 1/8" (3mm) from the cut edges, down the center of the seam allowances, using a straight stitch and wrap-stitching the seam. If you choose to make your coat with outside floating or felled seams, trim off all exposed notches before felling your garment's seams.

18. ADD SIDE-SEAM POCKETS (OPTIONAL)

This pattern includes an optional side-seam pocket. You will set this pocket in each side-seam panel and attach it before pinning the front panels to the back panels.

You will need four side-seam pockets from your pattern piece. Attach two of the side-seam pockets to the corresponding pattern



pieces at the front side seam notches with right sides together and the straight edges aligned. Thread your needle, love your thread, and stitch 1/4" seam between the notches. Fold back the front pocket bags and topstitch the pocket opening between the notches. There will be 1/4" seam allowance not stitched on both the top and bottom of the pocket bag. Matching up your back pocket bags to the front pocket bags, stitch 1/4" (6mm) away from the edge all the way around the pocket bag.

Once the pockets are attached to the front panels, continue to the next step of sewing the side seams.

19. SEW SIDE SEAMS

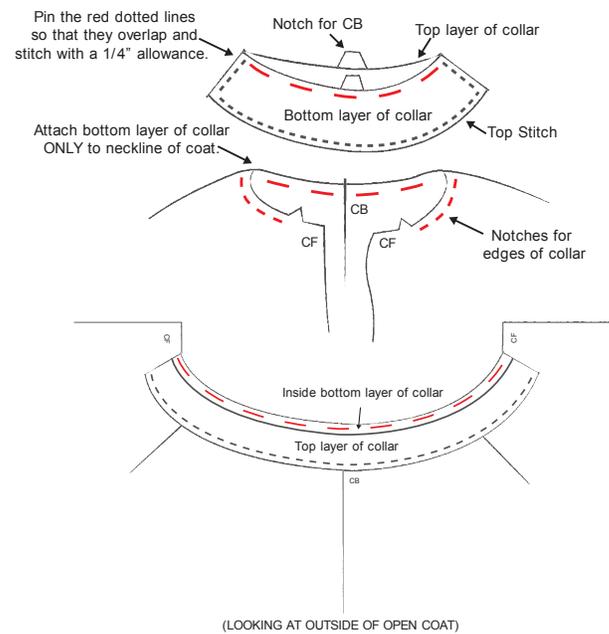
Turn your garment wrong side out for inside seams or right side out for outside seams. Pin together the front and back at the side seams and continue down the sleeves until the entire front and back are pinned together, being careful to leave the pocket opening free. Thread your needle, love your thread, and knot off. Using a straight stitch, sew the pinned pieces together, starting at the sleeve hem of the garment and stitching 1/4" (6mm) from the fabric's cut edges down to the hem of the garment body. Check your thread tension as you work. Be sure to begin and end your seam by wrap-stitching its edges to secure them.

Repeat this process with the other side.

Fell each seam (if desired) towards the back of the garment by folding over the seam allowances to one side and topstitching them 1/8" (3mm) from the cut edges, down the center of the seam allowances, using a straight stitch and wrap-stitching the seam. You will catch the back pocket bag seam allowance in the fell seam, continuing down the entire side. Once your side seam is stitched, add 3 whip stitches very close together to create a bar tack at the top and bottom of your pocket opening.

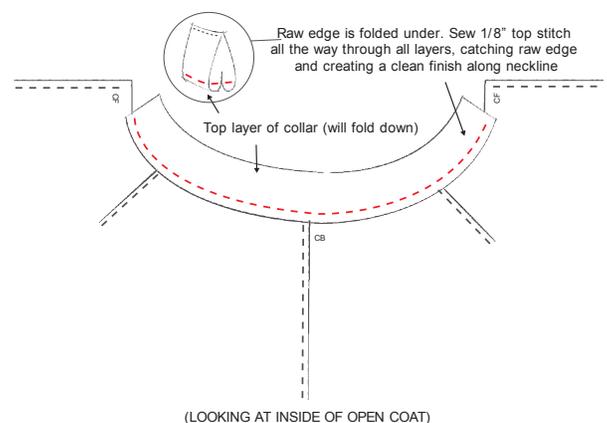
20. SEW COLLAR

With right sides together, pin the two collar pieces together, aligning raw edges and matching notches. Stitch the collar sides and top (with notch A) together using a 1/4" (6mm) seam allowance. Once complete, trim the corners and turn collar inside out so that right side of fabric is on the outside of collar. Press using a pressing cloth and topstitch 1/4" (6mm) from the side and top edges, if desired.



**Illustration is not to scale and does not represent the double breasted front of the coat*

Pin a single layer of the collar into the back neck, going from notch to notch and making sure that the center back of the garment is aligned with the center back of the collar. Thread your needle, love your thread, and knot off. Using a straight stitch, sew the pinned pieces together, stitching 1/4" (6mm) from the fabric's cut edges.



Turn the top layer of the collar up 1/4" (6mm) and baste into place, easing in any excess fabric. Thread your needle, love your thread, and knot off. Using a straight stitch, sew 1/8" (3mm) from the edge of both the inner and outer layers, sewing all the way through and securing both sides of the collar in place.

21. APPLY SNAPS

You will need 6 snaps for all coat variations.

Take your snap placement marker patterns and, with an awl or large safety pin, poke a hole through the paper marker so you can see through both sides.

To mark the right front snap placement, place the right front marker pattern on the inside of the right front piece, lining it up down the right center front edge as well as where the collar starts. Mark the 5 snaps along the right center front edge and the top snap on the left side.

To mark the left front snap placement, place the left front marker on the outside of the left front, lining it up down the left center front edge as well as where the collar starts. Mark the 5 snaps on the inside of the garment and the top snap by the left center front edge.

Place the male snap on the right side and the female snap on the left side when looking at your garment.

BASIC SEWING INSTRUCTIONS

Provided below are notes on our basic construction and sewing techniques. For more thorough instructions on stenciling, embellishment, and construction, reference one of our Alabama Studio books, shown on page 11.

LOVE YOUR THREAD

To love your thread, cut a piece twice as long as the distance from your fingertips to your elbow. Thread your needle, pulling the thread through the needle until the two ends of the thread are the same length.

Hold the doubled thread between your thumb and index finger, and run your fingers along it from the needle to the end of the loose tails. Repeat this several times to release the tension in the thread, and then double-knot your thread.

KNOTTING OFF

After bringing the needle up through the fabric, make a loop with the thread, then pull your needle through that loop, using your forefinger or thumb to nudge the knot in place, flush with the fabric. Then repeat this process to make a double knot. After making a second knot, cut the thread, leaving a 1/2" (12mm) tail.



In hand-sewing, your knot anchors and holds your entire seam. One important design decision we make when starting any project is how to handle the knots. There are two options: knots that show on the project's right side (outside) and knots that show on the wrong side (inside). Either of these knots can be used throughout an entire project.

EXAMPLES OF STRETCH AND NON-STRETCH STITCHES

We use three categories of stitches in our work: stitches that do not stretch, for construction, reverse appliqué, and other embellishments; stitches that do stretch, for sewing necklines, armholes, and other areas in a project that require "give"; and stitches that are purely decorative, for embellishment. Following are examples of non-stretch and stretch:

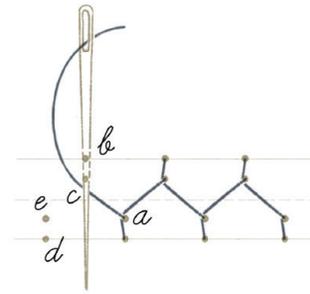
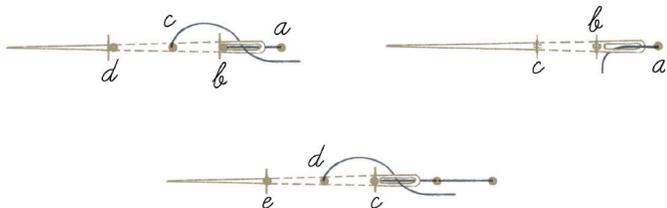
NON-STRETCH STITCH

Straight (Running) Stitch: Bring needle up at A, go back down at B, and come up at C, making stitches and spaces between them the same length (about 1/8" (3mm) to 1/4" (6mm) long).



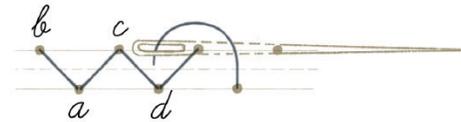
BACKSTITCH

Bring needle up to A, go back down at B, and come up at C. Then insert needle just ahead of B, and come up at D. Next insert needle just ahead of C, and come up at E. Continue this overall pattern.



STRETCH STITCH

Cretan Stitch: Bring needle up at A, go down at B, and come back up at C, making a downward vertical stitch while bringing needle over thread. Insert needle again at D, and come back up at E, making an upward vertical stitch while bringing needle over thread. Continue to repeat stitch pattern.

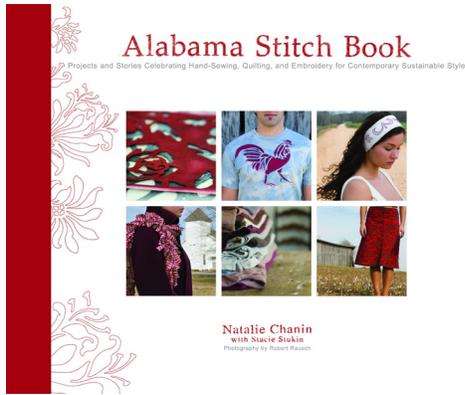


SEAMS

To start a seam, make a double knot, and insert the needle at point A. Wrap your thread around side of the fabric to the front, insert the needle back in at B, then come up at C, and stitch the seam. Also wrap stitch the end of your seam before knotting off.

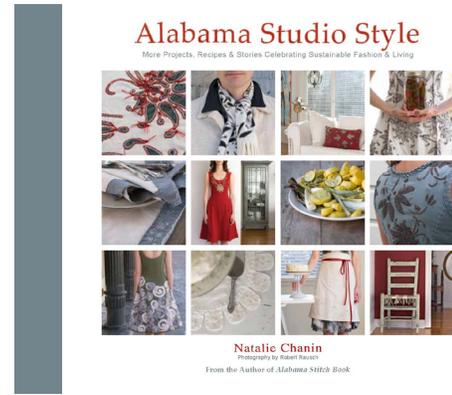


THE SCHOOL OF MAKING BOOK SERIES AT A GLANCE



Alabama Stitch Book

Alabama Stitch Book is a collection of stitching, beading, and embroidery instructions, stories, and projects from Alabama Chanin. Projects include our best-selling Corset, Swing Skirt, “boa” scarf, bandana, and more.



Alabama Studio Style

Alabama Studio Style expands upon the stitching, stenciling, and beading techniques introduced in *Alabama Stitch Book* and introduces twenty new clothing and home decor projects. This book also includes recipes and stories.



Alabama Studio Sewing + Design

An encyclopedic compilation of techniques used to create the Alabama Chanin line of organic cotton clothing. Included are dresses, skirts, tops, and accessories.



Alabama Studio Sewing Patterns

Alabama Studio Sewing Patterns explores fit, patternmaking, and how to create a garment to fit your unique shape. It includes three new patterns with several variations as well as previous open-sourced patterns on a disc at the back of the book.



The Geometry of Hand-Sewing

The Geometry of Hand-Sewing: A Romance in Stitches and Embroidery from Alabama Chanin and The School of Making by Natalie Chanin is a comprehensive guide to hand-stitching and embroidery. This book focuses solely on the stitches themselves taking embroidery stitches and breaking them down into different geometric grid systems that make learning even seemingly elaborate stitches as easy as child’s play.



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ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF MAKING

Alabama Chanin as a concept and a company began as a DIY enterprise. Workshop programming was a natural outgrowth of the emerging DIY initiative growing around us. Our experiences showed us that face-to-face and hand-to-hand contact helped our customers better understand the what, why, and how of our making processes and the importance of an organic supply chain. And our business continued to grow. DIY offerings expanded, our workshop offerings became more diverse, and our Journal content added additional DIY instruction, stories, and ideas.

Educational programming is one of the fastest growing and most exciting aspects of our business model. So, as the opportunities to educate our team and our customers began to multiply, we realized that we should create a specific home for this knowledge.

To fully embrace our growing model, we have developed an overseeing body that will direct and innovate learning initiatives and educational programs: The School of Making. All of our current and developing educational and training initiatives fall under the umbrella of The School of Making. This arm of the Alabama Chanin Family of Businesses oversees DIY and workshop programming, format, and content; it acts as a researching body for new subjects and new ways of disseminating information. Our hope is that The School of Making can be an active voice in our local community, our state, and the making community, at large.

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