

Name:

Sample # 18-Easing and Gathering

Date:

Lesson 19 Easing and Gathering

Objectives

This lesson will help you to

- explain the meanings of the sewing terms *easing* and *gathering*.
- practice easing and gathering.

Words to Know

easing
gathering

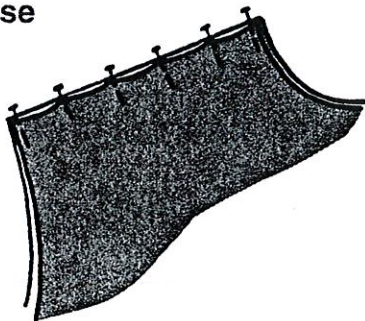
Gathering Information

Imagine a garment made only of straight pieces of fabric. It wouldn't be very comfortable—or very interesting. To give clothes a better fit and to add interest, fullness is often worked into a garment. Easing and gathering are the two main ways to add fullness.

What Is Easing?

Easing is making a larger piece of fabric fit with a smaller piece of fabric as a seam is sewn. It allows extra fabric to be provided at certain points on the body. For instance, extra fabric is allowed in the back shoulder to make room for the shoulder bone. The front shoulder does not need to have the same fullness. Therefore, the extra fabric in the back shoulder must be eased in with the lesser fabric of the front shoulder.

How to Ease



There are two methods for easing in fullness. The method you select will depend on the amount of fullness that must be eased.

Method 1. Select this method when you have only a small amount of fabric to ease. Begin by pinning the two edges of the fabric pieces together. Then distribute the remaining fabric evenly across the seam, pinning as you work. Place pins $\frac{1}{2}$ inch apart to help hold the eased fabric in place. Stitch the seam with the

(Continued)

Name:

Sample # 18-Easing and Gathering

Date:

Lesson 19 Easing and Gathering

Objectives

This lesson will help you to

- explain the meanings of the sewing terms *easing* and *gathering*.
- practice easing and gathering.

Words to Know

easing
gathering

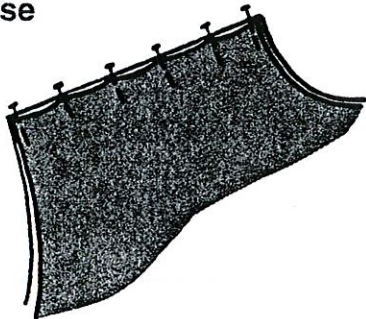
Gathering Information

Imagine a garment made only of straight pieces of fabric. It wouldn't be very comfortable—or very interesting. To give clothes a better fit and to add interest, fullness is often worked into a garment. Easing and gathering are the two main ways to add fullness.

What Is Easing?

Easing is making a larger piece of fabric fit with a smaller piece of fabric as a seam is sewn. It allows extra fabric to be provided at certain points on the body. For instance, extra fabric is allowed in the back shoulder to make room for the shoulder bone. The front shoulder does not need to have the same fullness. Therefore, the extra fabric in the back shoulder must be eased in with the lesser fabric of the front shoulder.

How to Ease



There are two methods for easing in fullness. The method you select will depend on the amount of fullness that must be eased.

Method 1. Select this method when you have only a small amount of fabric to ease. Begin by pinning the two edges of the fabric pieces together. Then distribute the remaining fabric evenly across the seam, pinning as you work. Place pins $\frac{1}{2}$ inch apart to help hold the eased fabric in place. Stitch the seam with the

(Continued)

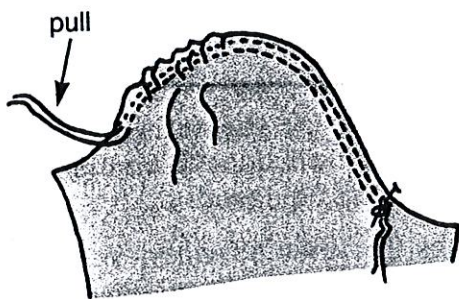
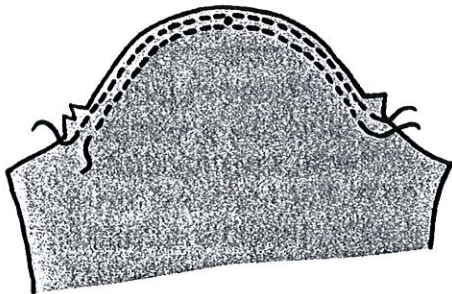
eased side up. Be sure the finished seam lies flat with no visible folds or gathers.

Method 2. Select this method when you have a greater amount of fullness to ease. Stitch a row of basting stitches along the seamline where the seam is to be eased. Pin the two edges of the fabric pieces together. Pull on the top thread of the basting stitches to distribute the fullness. Pin and stitch as directed for Method 1. Remove basting stitches.

What Is Gathering?

Gathering means to work in fullness. Generally, gathering is used to work in a greater amount of fullness than easing.

How to Gather



To gather, sew two rows of basting stitches across the area to be gathered. Stitch one row $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the edge of the fabric and the other row $\frac{3}{4}$ inch from the edge. The $\frac{3}{4}$ inch stitching will be removed later because it will appear on the outside of the garment. Do not backstitch. Also, leave "tails" on the thread at each end of the stitching row.

Never try to take a shortcut by using only one row of stitching. The two rows are needed to achieve even gathers.

After stitching, place a pin at one end of the stitches. Wrap the ends of the two threads around the pin securely. This will keep you from pulling the threads completely out of the fabric as you pull from the opposite end.

Now pull on the two top threads at the opposite end. With your other hand, help the fabric "gather up" along the threads. Adjust the gathers to the required length. Make sure the gathers are evenly distributed. Pin the gathered fabric to the flat piece. Pin and stitch the seam. Remove the $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch row of basting stitches.



Helpful Sewing Hints

If you have a problem with threads breaking as you gather, you might want to consider using one of the following methods:

- Try using heavy-duty or buttonhole thread on the bottom. The threads will not break as easily as they are pulled to gather the fabric.
- Zigzag over thread. With the wrong side of your fabric up, take one stitch with the sewing machine. Pull the bobbin thread up through the fabric. Next pull both the bobbin thread and the top thread until they extend the length to be gathered. Stitch over the two threads with a medium zigzag being careful not to catch the threads in the stitching. Pull on the threads to adjust the gathers. (A small cord or heavy-duty thread may be placed along the surface to be gathered instead of using thread from the sewing machine.)

Activity 19-1: Practicing Easing

Supplies needed:

thread	sewing machine
shears	bobbin
fabric	pattern pieces 19A and 19B

Cut out the pattern pieces from a sewing scrap. One piece represents a front shoulder. The other represents a back shoulder. To ease, follow the directions in the "How to Ease" box.

Activity 19-2: Practicing Gathering

Supplies needed:

thread	sewing machine
shears	bobbin
fabric	pattern pieces 19C and 19D

Cut out the pieces from a fabric scrap. Gather fabric piece 19C to fit fabric piece 19D. Follow the directions in the "How to Gather" box.

Name _____

Date _____ Period _____

Activity 19-3: Evaluating Learning

The easing and gathering samples you completed in Activities 19-1 and 19-2 will be evaluated using the form below. Also, in the space provided at the bottom of this page, write definitions of *easing* and *gathering*. Write the definitions in your own words—what *easing* and *gathering* mean to you.

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Easing				
There are no tucks or puckers.				
Seams fit together (ends of seams match).				
Threads are clipped.				
Seam is pressed.				

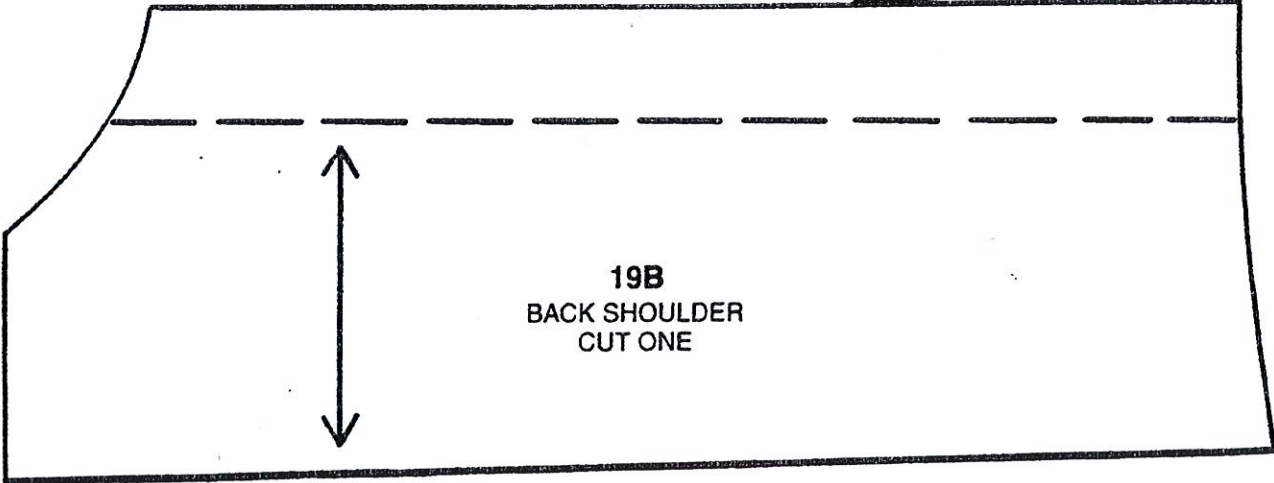
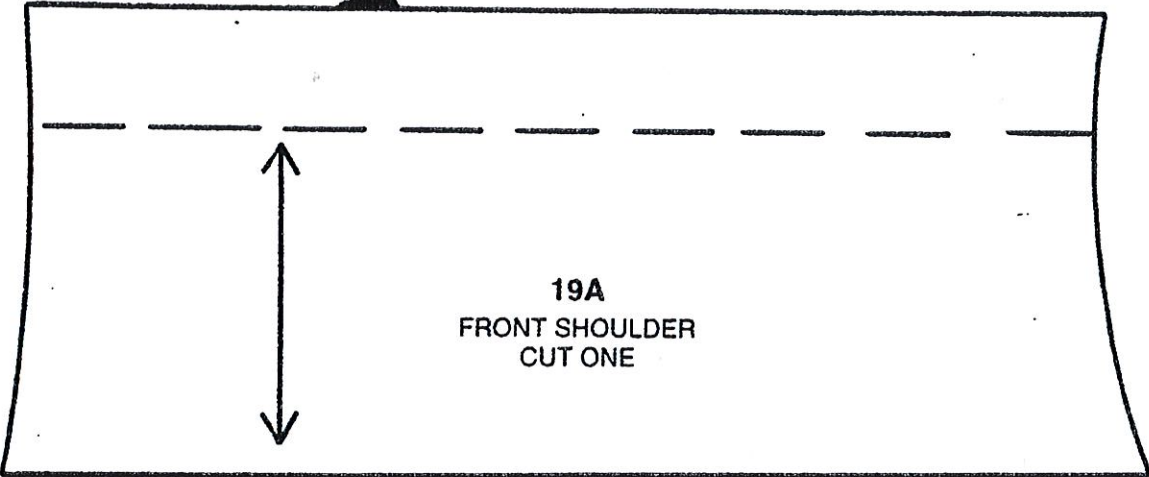
Gathering				
Two rows of gathering stitches were used— $\frac{1}{2}$ inch and $\frac{3}{4}$ inch from the seam edge. (This can be seen by whether or not gathers are even.)				
The $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch row of stitching has been removed.				
Stitching is straight and even.				
Gathers are uniform and neat.				
Threads are clipped.				
Seam has been pressed.				

In your own words, write definitions of *easing* and *gathering*. Include in your definitions how each is done.

easing _____

gathering _____

Pattern pieces for Activity 19-1



Pattern pieces for Activity 19-2

