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Tricia Waddell shows how stay stitching curves minimize fabric distortion and under stitching secures lay flat facings and linings.



**Techniques:** **Staystitching curves** (to minimize fabric distortion) and **Understitching** (for lay flat facings and linings)

By Tricia Waddell, Editor in chief of *Stitch* magazine

### Staystitching

Staystitching is one single row of stitching stitched to one layer of fabric to reinforce and prevent seams from stretching and distorting in the stitching process. Staystitching is used to reinforce angled, curved, or shaped edges such as necklines, armholes, waist curves, etc. before a facing or lining is applied.

1. Sew the staystitch 1/8" inside the seamline using a small stitch length (2.0 mm is good).
2. Staystitch directionally! Stitch from the outside edge/edges to the center or from the top of the garment to the bottom.

### Understitching a Facing/Lining

Understitching is used to secure a facing or lining to keep it from rolling to the right side of a garment. In this example it is used to secure a waist facing on a skirt.

1. First sew the facing to the garment. Clip the seam allowances approximately every 1/2" to allow the sewn edge to spread to match the shape of the garment.
2. Grade/layer the seam allowance on the non-interfaced/garment side if necessary.
3. Turn and press the seam allowance toward the facing.
4. Turn the garment right side up and stitch the seam allowance to the facing approximately 1/8" from the seam.
5. Turn the facing to the inside of the garment, roll the seam slightly to the facing side, and press.

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