

Topstitching and Trim

Thread used may be heavier than usual. Should be as close as possible to major color of garment, unless contrasting stitching intended. Buttonhole twist should be used only on dry cleanables as silk will fade. Size of stitch on sportswear should be regular length stitch or smaller. On other items, should be long stitch. Clip completely to termination points. Reduce size of stitch at termination points.

Uneven distance from edge: Try quilting foot or tape on bed of machine when sewing sharp corners.

Stretched look to trim, or puckers: Apply outside edge (longer) on curved edges first. Try basting stitch where edge should be as a handy guide. Wash trim before sewing.

Sulky seams at trimming: Whenever possible, braid should go over seams not into them.

Topstitching too tight: Relax tension on upper thread slightly, then under threads won't show, and stitching will stand out more.

Match of Designs

Plaid, strip, etc., do not match: Side seams are easier matched at cut edge of the skirt or any point below bust dart, as dart throws off pattern.

Symmetrical design off center: Center front should be the center of a design, so that pattern will continue across the body.

Pattern does not continue around body: Sleeves should be matched at back underarm and front underarm, so pattern will continue around arm.

JUDGING AT THE FAIR

Judging at the Tanana Valley State Fair is accomplished through a network of volunteers. Judges are recruited & chosen for their expertise in a particular area, and it is through their generous donation of time & knowledge that we are able to showcase your achievements. Judges are trained by the superintendent & through the Fair Office to follow the guidelines set down by the Fair Association. They are expected to:

- be fair & consistent in their judging;
- provide positive comments & constructive criticism to the exhibitor;
- follow the Fair Association's mission to educate participants through their evaluation.

SAMPLE JUDGING SHEET

Division 9A Sewing		
ID # _____	Exhibit Tag # _____	Class _____ Lot _____
Judge's Initials _____		
	POINTS POSSIBLE	SCORE
<u>INSIDE WORKMANSHIP</u>	40	_____
Seams (uneven stitching, not meeting, trimming, grading, etc.)		
Basting threads not removed		
Finishing of raw edges not suited to fabric		
Buttons, zippers, snaps, etc. (too tight, loose etc.)		
Pressing (seams, finished edges, etc.)		
Comments: _____		
<u>OUTSIDE WORKMANSHIP</u>	40	_____
Design match		
Pockets, trim, topstitching		
Fasteners, buttons, snaps, zippers		
Seams matching		
Pressing		
Comments: _____		
<u>GENERAL APPEARANCE</u>	10	_____
Suitability of fabric/design/occasion		
Harmony of color & texture		
Balance of design elements		
Pressing sufficient for "finished look"		
Comments: _____		
<u>DIFFICULTY OF PROJECT</u>	10	_____
1 - 10 points according to amount of detail involved (i.e., apron = 1-2 points; 3-piece suit = 9 - 10 points)		
Comments: _____		
<u>TOTAL</u>	100	_____
<u>OVERALL COMMENTS</u> _____		

We have tried to create a lot for everything, but if you cannot find an appropriate lot in which to enter an item, please contact the Division Superintendent or call the Office anytime between the hours of 9 am & 5 pm, Monday through Friday - 452-3750 or e-mail exhibits@tvfsa.org.

The Tanana Valley State Fair seeks to highlight and enhance appreciation for Interior Alaska by showcasing competitive & commercial exhibits. The Fair educates and entertains all participants by providing opportunities to share a rich variety of individual and community endeavors. The Fair encourages and welcomes involvement by all.

Tanana Valley State Fair Association
1800 College Rd, Fairbanks, AK 99709-4173
452-3750



DIVISION 9A EXHIBITOR'S HANDBOOK

Welcome to the world of Competitive Exhibits! As an exhibitor at the fair, you are entering into a long standing tradition of education & competition that began in the Tanana Valley in 1924.

This handbook will provide you with entry and division information as well as judging criteria and sample judging sheets.

ENTRY RULES

- Get your Fair I.D. number & exhibit tags from the Office. Fill out Exhibit Tags before you arrive on entry day.
- Pick your Best: You may enter only one exhibit per lot.
- **Know your entry day** Check Guide for dates, & pick-up day is the Monday following the Fair
- Prepare your entry: Read the paragraph on preparation & presentation and present your exhibit in the best way possible.
- Tell us about your entry: If a class has special instructions, be sure to include this information on a 3"x 5" card attached to your entry.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Judging in Sewing and Junior Sewing classes is primarily based on construction and workmanship. Although construction will influence fit and appearance, judging is on the overall finished appearance. The Fashion Show, (see Division 9B) is different in that judges are interested in the finished product; how it looks, how it fits, how it suits the wearer.

Garments sewn with a serger sewing machine will be judged the same as those items sewn with a regular sewing machine.

Listed below are some common problems encountered in clothing construction & possible solutions. Not all entries in this division are clothing, but many of the same criteria are used.

Seams

Sagging or stretched seams: All seams should be sewn "directionally" or from wide points to narrow points to avoid stretching of the fabric.

Uneven seam allowance: Stitch seams equidistant from the cut edge then trim seams consistently even.

Seam opens where crosses: Reduce size of stitch where seams cross to make tighter and stronger (i.e. underarm)

Bump on seams where cross: Stitch as above, press each seam open before stitching cross seam. Trim seam allowance shorter on the seam closer to the body.

Runs in knits: Check needle for damage. Use two rows of stitches. Always use a ballpoint needle on knits.

Seams pulling on thin knit: Use lighter thread &/or smaller needle.

Finishing

Finishes depend on the type and weight of fabric. Generally, knits do not need any finishing. Other types include turn and stitch, bound, overcast, machine serged, and pinking techniques. Judging is based on whether the technique used achieved the intended result.

Interfacings

Ridge on facings: Trim edges plain, or eliminate facings where possible for a more finished look.

Interfacing askew from grain: Fused interfacing contrary to grain; press on before cutting, just touching a few spots to hold, then cut interfacing, being sure both are exactly on grain.

Iron-on interfacing too stiff: Test a sample before making garment, using softer interfacing.

Easing

When easing, put part to be eased on bottom, part to be stretched on top for better control and straighter seams (except for set-in sleeves -- see Sleeves).

Sleeves

Fullness of sleeve at top, (bubble effect): Fullness should be greatest in the middle "third" of the sleeve, unless designed for extra gathering there.

Ease not evenly distributed: Set-in sleeve should be sewn with sleeve up and garment down for proper control of ease.

Threads used for gathering should be completely removed.

Cuffs

Bump or bulk at cuff corner: Cuffs are easier to put on if ends are sewn after cuffs are attached to garment. Use small stitches at corner and trim excess.

Placket opening imperfect, seems to pull out: Placket opening without continuous lap can be learned, is easier and neater.

Continuous lap placket pulls out: Reinforce termination point with small stitching.

Pressing

Ridges in seam allowance: Press with the grain toward center of body (wider to narrow) to avoid stretching.

Ridges showing in darts & seam allowance: Press seam open with tip of iron in well. Turn to right side, press seam directionally to allow padding of ironing board to cushion seam.

Use pressing cloth, if necessary. In delicate fabric, place paper between seam allowance and garment, and press on right side.

Shiny places: Pretest fabric to see if iron makes it shiny. Use pressing cloth to avoid shiny spots.

Hems and facings show through on right side: Press hem and facing in place before hemming, pressing on wrong side, never allowing iron to cross edge of hem or facing.

Pleats and bubbles in curved seams: Press all curved seams over curved surface.

Pleats & creases not crisp: To stabilize knits - use aluminum foil under and pressing cloth over fabric. Dampen cloth with vinegar/water solution. Do not use excess heat - let dry in place.

Darts, Tucks, and Pleats

Darts pull out, or have bump at end: Sew from wider to narrower (to point), reducing size of stitch as approach point, then to 0 last 3 stitches. (No need to tie threads.) Remove from machine toward back.

Darts show through where pressed: Press from wrong side beside dart, from right side using pressing cloth.

No fullness at bust: Darts should terminate 1" before crown of bust to release fabric where fullness is needed.

Pleats not consistent: Use 3 rows of stitching to anchor them in place.

Kick pleat seems to pull downward: Support by cutting away on diagonal not as pattern shows. Instead, cut on diagonal from top to top of kick pleat.

Necks and Collars

Facings ride up: Only use pattern for facing if going to line garment. Facings lie smoother and more professionally if you make your own pattern with longer front and back.

Facing rolls to right side: Understitch facing to garment from shoulder seam or farther if it will not show.

Ridges in neck or collar edge: Trim (grade) seam so one will lay on the other - shorter side on the inside of the garment, longer side to outside.

Collar rolls to front: Seam grading should be reversed at roll line, part to outside is longer. Allow over (or front) part to be longer than under (or inside) part, thus creating a natural roll.

Notched collar not matching: Easier if baste single thread through point for accurate placement of end of collar, terminating points will always match. Attach under-collar to coat, upper-collar to facing. Stitch from edge to termination

point, reducing size of stitch to hold securely, stop on termination point.

Collar not consistently even or symmetrical.

Ridges in interfaced collar: Interfacing in a woven collar should be on the under-collar. Interfacing in knit collars should be on the seam so ridges won't show.

Seam in under-collar of knit shows: Eliminate seam of all under-collars in knits, will show through when pressed.

Knit bias pulls: Crosswise grain of knit has more stretch than bias - use crosswise grain if possible.

Waist

Sides pulled downward: Apply seam or twill tape to the skirt before pattern for facing if going to line garment.

Buttons, Zippers and Other Openings

Buttons pucker: Interface behind button with self fabric (or fabric with same characteristics) for stability. Make shank according to weight of fabric, using pin or wooden match between button & fabric.

Buttonholes weak: Interface for support.

Buttonholes uneven: Mark on interfacing, then baste through to right side, stitching location lines first, then termination points accurately.

Buttonhole looks stretched: Try making larger buttonholes, 1/8 - 1/4" larger than diameter of button to allow button to slip through easily.

Zipper puckers: Basting first will hold in place. Wash zipper before sewing.

Zipper opening bubbles or is uneven: Press seam open perfectly or seam will bubble at opening.

Pockets

Pockets uneven: Easier to place pockets before garment is put together.

Pocket corners bulky or do not lay smoothly: Try mitering corners, and stitching where you want to turn under, turn, press, then apply.

Pocket sags: Interface wrong side of garment where top edges of pocket is stitched, using self fabric. Lay seam tape along top edge of pocket (inside) and stitch to facing to give added support.

Welt pocket pulls out: Interface wrong side of garment as above, using straight grain of interfacing, 4" wide & 2" longer than welt opening. Reduce size of stitch at termination points for security.

Welt pockets with rounded corners: Clip completely to termination points. Reduce size of stitch at termination points.

Hems

Shiny hem on right side: Press on right side with pressing cloth.

Knit hem loose or puckers: Excess steam works better than excess heat in fusing interfacing. Place aluminum foil on ironing board first to reflect moisture and heat. Pressing cloth will protect iron. Use up and down motion with iron, never twist it. Let dry in place.

Fusible hem stiff: Can use 1/2" strip at cut edge for softer look.