



ESSENTIAL SEWING TERMS



Sewing Machine: A machine used to stitch fabric together



Needle: A sharp, pointed tool used for hand or machine sewing



Thread: A long strand of fiber used to sew fabrics together



Bobbin: A small spool that holds thread for the bottom stitch on a machine



Backstitch: Sewing backward a few stitches to secure the beginning or end of a seam



Hem: A finished edge, usually folded and sewn



Seam: Where two pieces of fabric are sewn together



Topstitching: A visible line of stitching for decoration or reinforcement



Seam Allowance: The area between the edge of the fabric and the stitch line (usually 1/2")



Grainline: The direction of the fabric threads; parallel to the selvage



Selvage: The tightly woven edge of the fabric that doesn't fray



Notches: Small marks used to match pattern pieces correctly



Ease: Extra space in a garment for movement and comfort

BONUS

Always press seams as you go for a professional finish.

Use matching thread colours unless decorative stitching is desired.

Keep your seam ripper nearby; it's a beginner's best friend!