

Lesson 6.3 Fabric and Material Faults

This Lesson is about specific faults that can be found in fabric and materials (trimmings).

This subject is touched on in Lesson 5.3

Manufacturing Faults & Tolerances. This

lesson goes into more depth to stress the

importance of identifying faults below sewing.

If you have completed Lesson 5.3 you will

know that on receipt of cut work, you need to carry out checks and refer to the product specifications, quality standards or samples. You to check against the list below before you start sewing:

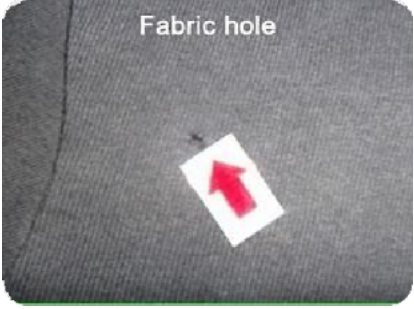





- The fabric and trimmings are the right type, colour, shade
- All components are the correct (size, style etc)
- The right number of component parts are included
- There are no cutting faults
- There are no sewing mistakes made by a previous operator
- You are using the right thread (type and colour)
- You have the right number of consumable items to complete the job (e.g., trim, labels, zips, fasteners etc.)
- That all components are undamaged and meet quality standards

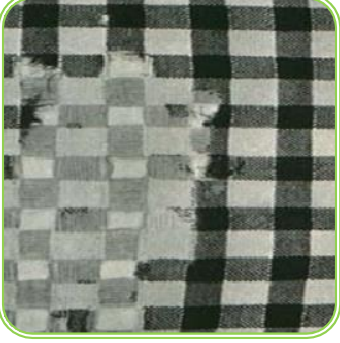
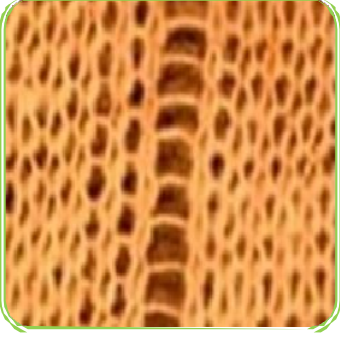
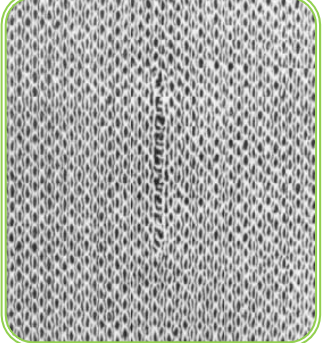
These checks will ensure the job is done correctly, identify defective components and help to ensure all finished items meet the acceptable quality level.

This lesson is specifically about fabric and materials (trimming) faults, because though these should be spotted at the cutting or distribution stage they can be missed. It is important for a production sewing machinist to keep vigilant and identify these faults **before** sewing as it is the machinist who will be held responsible, for example, if the faults listed below are identified before stitching, it would prevent the production (and incurred costs) of an item that does not meet acceptable quality standards.

Therefore, you must check, identify, and report fabric faults before starting any operation. Typical faults to look for include:

Fabric Faults

 <p>Fabric hole</p> <p>A close-up photograph of a grey fabric with a small, irregular hole. A white square sticker with a red arrow points directly to the hole.</p>	 <p>A photograph of a blue and white striped fabric with a significant vertical tear and fraying. A small red and white label is attached to the fabric near the tear.</p>	 <p>A photograph showing the edge of a fabric with red, white, and blue stripes. The fabric has been cut very close to the selvedge, resulting in a frayed and uneven edge.</p>
<p>Holes</p>	<p>Rips and tears</p>	<p>Cut close to selvedge</p>
 <p>A photograph of a red fabric with a faint, irregular stain or mark on its surface.</p>	 <p>A photograph of a purple fabric showing a distinct horizontal line or change in the weave pattern, indicating a weave fault.</p>	 <p>A photograph of a grey fabric with a subtle horizontal gradient or shading across its surface.</p>
<p>Marks and stains</p>	<p>Weave Fault</p>	<p>Shading</p>

		
Print error	Ladder/holes	Weave (weft) fault

Materials (Trimmings) Faults

Trimming are materials and items applied to a product during production, to ensure the item meets the design specification. Trimmings must meet quality standards; they are an expensive element of a product and application of a faulty trimming can make a perfect product into a reject.

The sewing machinist is responsible, for applying trimmings and must identify any problems before stitching, this prevents the make-up of an item that does not meet acceptable quality.

Your company may have a formal fault reporting procedure, but in general on receipt of a bundle of work that includes trimmings, the machinist must check the content against the specification or sample, check the working order of the

trimming i.e., zips, poppers, sliders etc, and report any defects. The trimming in question will then assessed and replaced if necessary.

Typical material and trimming faults to look for include:



Incorrect buttons



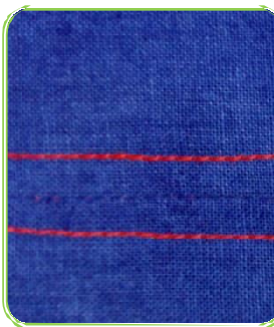
Faulty zips



Incorrect labels



Broken popper



Incorrect thread



**Faulty binding,
tape or elastic**



Faulty accessories



**Faulty motifs or
incorrect pocket
position**

As a production sewing machinist, if you work on, or with faulty components, **you** are responsible for an item that does not meet the acceptable quality level. This is because you did not check the components before sewing the item. Remember the golden rule.

THE GOLDEN RULE
Do not add quality to a faulty product
Do not add poor quality to a perfect product

Please watch the video tutorial below for more detail on fabric and material faults



<https://vimeo.com/586212322/4e86b29409>

Knowledge Challenge 6.3

1. Highlight the key reason why it is important to check all the product components for faults before sewing?
 - To ensure you are not wasting time working on a product that will not meet quality standards
 - To ensure there are no components missing before starting the job
 - To ensure faulty components are hidden or mended whilst sewing
2. You have been given the job of making up a skirt. There are seven components as follows:
 - Back x 2
 - Front x 1
 - Waistband
 - Zip
 - Size label
 - Wash label

All of the checks listed below are important. But highlight the first three key checks you would complete when opening your bundle of work.

- Check that you have a spare spool filling as you sew.
 - All the components required to complete the job are within the bundle.
 - Check the stitch length setting is correct.
 - The components are not damaged, and they all meet quality standards.
 - The components are the right size, colour, and fabric type.
 - Check your machine setting against specifications.
3. A finished product reaches final quality inspection, and a print flaw is found in the fabric of the item, making it a reject. There are three key points where this could have been detected, but who is ultimately responsible for the item getting to the finished stage and why?
- The fabric purchaser for not checking the fabric on delivery
 - The cutter for not checking the fabric before cutting
 - The sewer for making up faulty components and not detecting the fault before starting work.
4. Sewing and finishing a product that has fabric or trimming faults has three key results. Identify them from the list below:
- A product that meets quality acceptance levels
 - A faulty product that cannot be sold or must be reduced in price
 - Best use of production and staff time
 - Wasted production time
 - Wasted resources and unnecessary costs