



Lesson 3.7: Seam Alignment

THE TASK: Create a continuous loop that demonstrates , aligned and matched seams.

LEARNING OUTCOME: By completing this task you will:

- Learn how to control the machine
- Gain fabric handling and manipulation skills
- Learn how to match seams to meet quality standards
- Create straight, aligned, and matched long seams
- Understand the importance of using the correct seam allowance
- Understand the importance of continuous spool fill and get used to doing this as you sew
- Get used to working to quality standards at speed

PREPARATION: To prepare to complete this task you must:

- Cut 8 lengths of fabric approximately 25cm x 15.cm, use the kind of fabric/thread as used in production
- Thread machine with contrast thread, ensuring a full spool is inserted
- Ensure second thread is filling a spare spool/bobbin Set machine stitch to the correct length (2 or 3)
- Check tensions to ensure a well-balanced stitch
- Set auto cut off or have snips to hand
- Ensure the right type of needle is inserted and it is undamaged
- Create and position a continuous loop

QUALITY STANDARD: To meet the quality standard you must ensure



- The stitch is even and well balanced
- 10/12 per inch/ 2.5 cm (2 / 3 setting depending on the machine)
- Seam allowance must be 1.25cm (half inch)
- All Seams must match to a tolerance of 3 to 5mm.
- Three seams must be perfectly matched







Note: Seam allowance must be as stated on all seams sewn to ensure the product fits together properly. In industry if a product does not fit together properly and seams cannot be aligned this must be reported so the item can be returned to be recut.

WORK SAFELY: To complete this task you must follow the safety rules below:

- ensure a finger guard is fitted on the machine
- long hair is tied back
- flat, closed shoes are worn
- no scarfs or long obstructive jewellery is worn
- the chair is set at the right height and positioned correctly, and all tools are to hand
- turn the machine off when not sewing

CARRY OUT THE TASK To carry out the task see the instructions below:

		
1. Cut 4 lengths of fabric approximately 25cm x 15.cm.	2. Create two strips, each consisting of eight pieces. Stitch the pieces together to form two strips of eight. Important. All	3. Take stripe 1, wrap it underneath and around the machine bed and join the final seam to create Loop 1 Ensure the front of the

Take each strip and cut into 4 even pieces	seam widths must 1.25c, (half inch)	seams are upper facing.
		
<p>4. Push loop 1 to the side. Create and apply Loop 2 by wrapping strip 2 underneath and around the machine bed and join the final seam.</p> <p>Ensure the back of the seams are upper facing</p>	<p>5. You will now have two loops, either side of the presser foot. Loop 1 to the right (seam facing up) and Loop 2 (seam facing down)</p>	<p>6. Match 1st seam of each loop, position raw edge of the fabric to the right of the presser foot. Ensuring the seams are matched and the bottom seam is away from you and the top seam is towards you. (this creates a flat finish) Start to sew, build up speed while keeping the edge of the fabric to the edge of the presser foot.</p>
		

7. Continue sewing, on approach to the next seam stop and, align fabric matching the seams, keep the edge of the presser foot to the edge of the fabric and continue until you are back to where you started

OPTIONAL

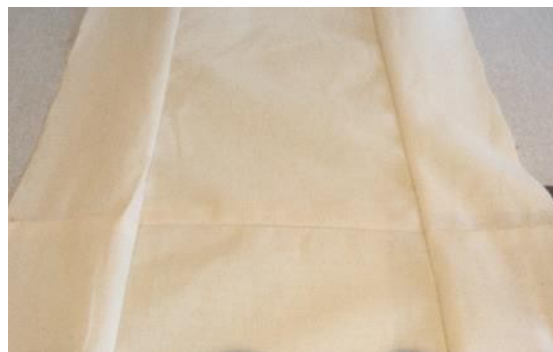
Turn the loop to sew the other side, position the second-long edge to the edge of the presser foot, repeat the exercise matching and aligning the seams as you sew

PLEASE NOTE: This section is optional and not demonstrated in video

OPTIONAL

On completion of the second seam, remove the loop from the machine (by cutting anywhere between the short seams). Take the flat loop and cut along the center to access the right side of the seams.

PLEASE NOTE: This section is optional and not demonstrated in video



Now assess the seam match.

Do the seams match against the quality standard required which states:

All Seams must match to a tolerance of 3 to 5mm.

Three seams must be perfectly matched

If not keep trying until you meet the standards required.

Watch the process video below, this will provide further detail on how to prepare and carry out this task.



Unit 3.7 Seam Alignment

 <https://vimeo.com/580219154/56e02b9e42>

Do not proceed onto the next task until you have matched the seams to meet the quality standard and completed the Skills Challenges below:

Skills Challenge 3.9

1. Identify two reasons why sewing seams using the correct seam allowance is important.

- Because makes seam strong and secure
- Because it ensures that the product fits together properly with seams aligned
- Because it ensures a neat and tidy product finish
- Because it helps to ensure consistent product size and fit

2. What two things can you do to ensure that seams are well matched?

- By meeting sewing targets and deadlines
- By cutting excess fabric if necessary
- By matching, aligning and manipulating seams as they are sewn
- By reporting any problems with cut work that does not fit together properly

3. What would you do if a product does not fit together properly, and it is difficult to align seams

- Cut the fabric pieces so they to fit together properly
- Report the issue, so it can go back to the cutter for amendments
- Stretch the fabric as you sew so the item fits together