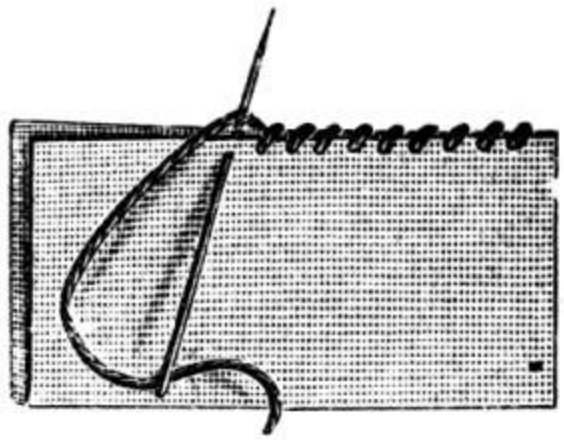
Widow Maker's Crafternoon

EPISODE 121 · CRAFT GUIDE

Top or Over-Sewing Stitch

The secret to a flat seam? Loose hands and a good thimble.



From Encyclopedia of Needlework (de Dillmont, 1886) · public domain

"Not too tight, pressed just right."

1. **Pin the Selvedges**
   Line up the two selvedges evenly and tack or pin them together before you start sewing.

2. **Insert the Needle**
   Insert your needle from right to left, catching the first thread of the selvedge and passing through both edges.

3. **Sew Right to Left**
   Continue sewing from right to left, spacing your stitches no more than three threads apart.

4. **Keep Thread Loose**
   Don't pull the thread too tight as you go. A snug seam beats a puckered one.

5. **Flatten with Thimble**
   When the seam is done, press it flat with your thimble so the selvedges lie side by side.