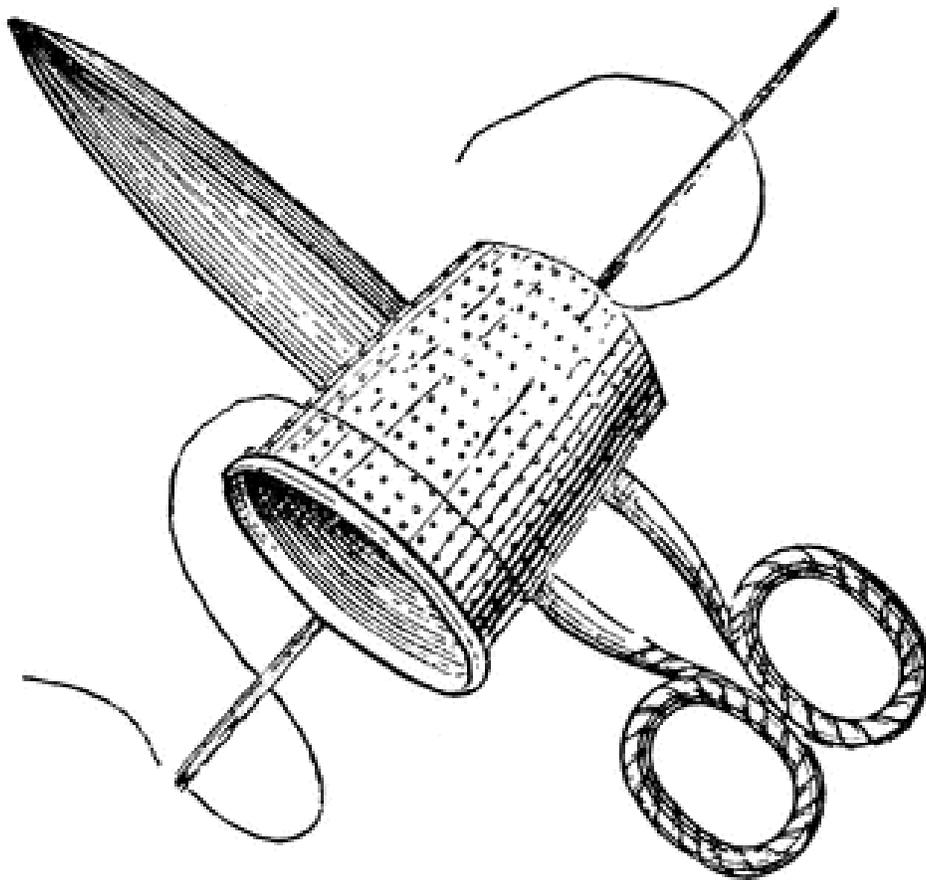


# Cass County Sewing Guidelines



# INTENT OF CASS COUNTY SEWING GUIDELINES

It is the intent and purpose that the Cass County Sewing Guidelines be used as a tool for sewing project leaders, exhibitors and their parents, along with judges for the Cass County Fair and/or style revue.

## SEWING MACHINE TROUBLE CHART

PART	TROUBLE	CAUSE	REMEDY
Tensions	Imperfect stitch	Tension out of adjustment	Adjust upper tension. If both are too tight, loosen both. If both are too loose, tighten.
Feed	Material does not feed through	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dirt around feed dog</li> <li>2. Feed dog set too high or too low</li> <li>3. Too much tension on presser foot</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clean</li> <li>2. Adjust feed dog so bottom teeth are flush with throat flats</li> <li>3. Loosen spring tension on top of presser foot bar</li> </ol>
	Seam does not feed through	Usually too much pressure on presser foot	Loosen spring tension on top of presser foot bar
Stitches	Staggered stitches	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Too little pressure on presser foot</li> <li>2. Incorrect action of thread take-up spring</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increase tension by screwing down screw on top of presser bar</li> <li>2. Adjust spring if possible or replace with new one</li> </ol>
	Looped stitches on bottom of cloth	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Machine not threaded correctly</li> <li>2. Upper tension much too loose</li> <li>3. Thread catches on rough places on shuttle or between shuttle and carrier</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. See instruction book for correct threading</li> <li>2. Tighten upper tension</li> <li>3. Smooth rough places with fine emery-paper</li> </ol>
	Looped stitches on top of cloth	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bobbin not correctly threaded</li> <li>2. Lower tension much too loose</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. See instruction book for correct threading</li> <li>2. Tighten lower tension</li> </ol>
	Skipped stitches	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Crooked needle</li> <li>2. Needle too small for thread</li> <li>3. Needle threaded incorrectly</li> <li>4. Needle set wrong side out</li> <li>5. Needle set too high or too low</li> <li>6. Excessive oil on shuttle or shuttle race</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Replace with new needle</li> <li>2. Replace with larger needle</li> <li>3. See instruction book for correct threading</li> <li>4. Set needle so thread lies in long groove</li> <li>5. Set needle so that when shuttle point or bobbin point crosses the needle the point or hook is 1/16 inch above the eye of the needle</li> <li>6. Wipe off excessive oil</li> </ol>
Machine	Runs hard	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lack of oil</li> <li>2. Thread in hand wheel bearing</li> <li>3. Gummed oil in bearing</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clean and oil</li> <li>2. Dig thread out with pin</li> <li>3. Clean and oil according to instruction manual</li> </ol>
	Set cannot turn	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Gummed or rusted bearings</li> <li>2. Thread jammed in needle bar housing</li> <li>3. Thread jammed in shuttle (rotating and oscillating machines)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clean and oil according to instruction manual</li> <li>2. Tap the top of needle bar slightly with hammer and move hand wheel</li> <li>3. Remove the jammed threads</li> </ol>
Thread	Breaking upper thread	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Machine threaded incorrectly</li> <li>2. Needle set too high or too low</li> <li>3. Needle threaded incorrectly</li> <li>4. Bent needle</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. See instruction manual for correct threading</li> <li>2. See #5 under skipped stitches</li> <li>3. See instruction manual for correct threading</li> <li>4. Replace with new needle</li> </ol>

Thread	Breaking upper thread	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Needle rubbing against throat plate, presser foot , or attachment</li> <li>6. Sharp edges on eye of needle</li> <li>7. Needle too fine for thread</li> <li>8. Upper tension much too tight</li> <li>9. Rough or sharp places on shuttle</li> <li>10. Insufficient clearance between shuttle and carrier</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. (a) Replace needle if bent (b) Adjust presser foot so its slot in central over hole in throat plate (c) Some machines have adjusting screws for alignment</li> <li>6. Replace with new needle</li> <li>7. See instruction manual for correct size of needle and thread</li> <li>8. Loosen upper tension</li> <li>9. Smooth off with fine emery paper or replace with new shuttle</li> <li>10. Adjust by means of screw to provide clearance</li> </ol>
Thread (continued)	Breaking lower thread	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lower tension much too tight</li> <li>2. Shuttle incorrectly threaded</li> <li>3. Rough hole in throat plate</li> <li>4. Bobbin too full</li> <li>5. Bobbin wound unevenly</li> <li>6. Sharp place on shuttle tension spring</li> <li>7. Sharp edge on shoulder of bobbin</li> <li>8. Dirt or thread jammed in bobbin or shuttle carrier</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Loosen lower tension</li> <li>2. See instruction manual for correct threading</li> <li>3. Usually takes new plate</li> <li>4. Do not wind bobbin so full</li> <li>5. Wind bobbin evenly</li> <li>6. Replace with new spring</li> <li>7. Replace with new bobbin</li> <li>8. Clean</li> </ol>
Material	Puckered material	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. One or both tension(s) tight</li> <li>2. Dull needle</li> <li>3. Wrong size needle</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adjust tension – see instruction manual</li> <li>2. Change needle or sharpen old one</li> <li>3. See instruction manual for size needle and thread</li> </ol>

## FIRST YEAR SEWING PROJECTS (ANY AGE)

Sewers should complete a project with a minimum of these skills and concepts gained:

1. Sewing machine operation and safety.
2. Proper handling of fabric.
  - a. Pre-shrinking
  - b. Grain-lines
  - c. Keeping item clean
3. Pattern pieces, pattern guide-sheet, pattern envelope identification and reading skills.
4. Seam construction
  - a. Size and kind
  - b. Seam finishes
5. Pressing techniques
6. Hems
  - a. See note below.
7. Appearance of final product
  - a. Clean
  - b. Well pressed
  - c. Loose threads removed
  - d. Fits the wearer

Suitable fabrics include:

Tightly woven

Without nap

Cotton or cotton/polyester blend

**ABSOLUTELY NO KNIT FABRICS FOR FIRST YEAR SEWING PROJECTS!**

Garment suggestions include:

Apron, skirt, shorts, or slacks with an elastic or drawstring casing, simple jumper, pullover blouse or shirt, vest, or wrap-around garment

Machine hems are acceptable on all garments when a pattern guide sheet states that it should be done. It is **REQUIRED** that if a machine hem is done on a **FIRST THROUGH THIRD YEAR SEWER'S GARMENT**, an example (12" TO 18" in length) of his/her hand hemming work be brought in with garment for judging.

## SECOND YEAR SEWING PROJECTS (ANY AGE)

NOTE: Youth not following guidelines of fabric and construction techniques will not be considered for construction awards.

Garments should be made with a progression of skills with each new year's experience building upon the past year's experience.

Strong emphasis should continue on fabric handling, pressing techniques, machine operation, sewing construction skills and pattern reading skills. Refer to all instructions given to first year project members and continue to include and emphasize those skills.

If you are making more than one garment, remember all garments must complement each other for showing/evaluation purposes in the ensemble category.

### SKILLS:

1. Repeat from first year – fabric handling, pressing techniques, machine operation, construction skills, pattern reading skills.
2. Youth member must select at least one or more of the following NEW skill options that was not included on their previous year's garment:

Facings	Gathers	Fasteners such as:	hook and eye	snaps
Waistbands	Darts		Velcro	zipper
Casings	Pockets		buttons/button holes	

3. Fabric suggests are:  
Tightly woven  
Cotton or cotton/polyester blend  
Without nap  
**ABSOLUTELY NO KNIT FABRICS**
4. Machine hems are acceptable on all garments when a pattern guide sheet states that it should be done. It is **REQUIRED** that if a machine hem is done on a **FIRST THROUGH THIRD YEAR SEWER'S GARMENT**, an example (12" TO 18" in length) of his/her hand hemming work be brought in with garment for judging.

## THIRD YEAR SEWING PROJECTS (ANY AGE)

NOTE: Youth not following guidelines of fabric and construction techniques will not be considered for construction awards.

Garments should be made with a progression of skills with each new year's experience building upon the previous year's experience.

Strong emphasis should continue on fabric handling, pressing techniques, machine operation, sewing construction skills and pattern reading skills. Refer to all instructions given to first and second year project members and continue to include and emphasize those skills.

If you are making more than one garment, remember all garments must complement each other for showing/evaluation purposes in the ensemble category.

Skills – Exhibitor must select at least two or more of the following NEW skill options that were NOT included in their previous year's garment:

Facings	Darts	Cuffs	Fasteners such as:	Hook & eye	Snaps
Waistbands	Pockets	Trims		Velcro	Zipper
Casings	Sleeves	Gathers		Buttons/button holes	
Collars					

Fabrics can now be included as a skill choice. Fabric options include:

Nap fabrics	Matching plaids	One-way directional materials	Quilted fabrics
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Machine hems are acceptable on all garments when a pattern guide sheet states that it should be done. It is **REQUIRED** that if a machine hem is done on a **FIRST THROUGH THIRD YEAR SEWER'S GARMENT**, an example (12" TO 18" in length) of his/her hand hemming work be brought in with garment for judging.

## FOURTH YEAR SEWING PROJECTS (ANY AGE)

NOTE: Youth not following guidelines of fabric and construction techniques will not be considered for construction awards.

Garments should be made with a progression of skills with each new year's experience building upon the previous year's experience.

Strong emphasis should continue on fabric handling, pressing techniques, machine operation, sewing construction skills and pattern reading skills. Refer to all instructions given to first and second year project members and continue to include and emphasize those skills.

If you are making more than one garment, remember all garments must complement each other for showing/evaluation purposes in the ensemble category.

Skills – Exhibitor must select at least three or more of the following NEW skill options that were NOT included in their previous year's garment:

Facings	Collars	Fasteners as listed in previous years.
Waistbands	Cuffs	
Casings	Trims	
Gathers	Linings	
Darts	Lapels	
Pockets	Pleats	
Sleeves	New type of hemming technique	
New Seam constructions such as: flat felled, French seam, welted, topstitched		

Fabrics are also included as a skill choice, and include:

Nap fabrics	Matching plaids	One-way directional materials
Quilted fabrics	Knits	Sheer weight
Loosely woven	Wool	

*Remember – if the exhibitor's fabric is a tightly woven fabric without nap, that is an acceptable choice of material, however it is **NOT** a skill choice.*

A fourth year exhibitor is not required to bring a sample of hand-stitched hem.

## FIFTH AND SIXTH YEAR SEWING PROJECTS (ANY AGE)

NOTE: Youth not following guidelines of fabric and construction techniques will not be considered for construction awards.

Garments should be made with a progression of skills with each new year's experience building upon the previous year's experience.

Strong emphasis should continue on fabric handling, pressing techniques, machine operation, sewing construction skills and pattern reading skills. Refer to all instructions given to first and second year project members and continue to include and emphasize those skills.

If you are making more than one garment, remember all garments must complement each other for showing/evaluation purposes in the ensemble category.

**Fifth Year Skills** – Exhibitor must select at least five or more of the following options:

Facings	Collars	Fasteners as listed in previous years plus:
Waistbands	Cuffs	Buttons/buttonholes – machine, hand, bound
Casings	Trims	
Gathers	Linings	
Darts	Lapels	
Pleats		
Sleeves	New type of hemming technique	

### **Pockets**

Welted	Bound	Patch	Set in seam
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### **New Seam constructions such as:**

Flat felled	French seam	Welted	Topstitched
Machine stretch stitch			

**Fabrics** are also included as a skill choice, and include:

Nap fabrics	Matching plaids	One-way directional materials
Quilted fabrics	Knits	Sheer weight
Loosely woven	Wool	

*Remember – if the exhibitor's fabric is a tightly woven fabric without nap, that is an acceptable choice of material, however it is **NOT** a skill choice.*

**Sixth Year Skills** – Exhibitor must select at least six or more of the above skills.

No longer required to bring a sample of hand-stitched hem.

## SEVENTH YEAR AND BEYOND SEWING PROJECTS (ANY AGE)

NOTE: Youth not following guidelines of fabric and construction techniques will not be considered for construction awards.

Garments should be made with a progression of skills with each new year's experience building upon the previous year's experience.

Strong emphasis should continue on fabric handling, pressing techniques, machine operation, sewing construction skills and pattern reading skills. Refer to all instructions given to first and second year project members and continue to include and emphasize those skills.

If you are making more than one garment, remember all garments must complement each other for showing/evaluation purposes in the ensemble category. Also, if you are making an ensemble, you must make ALL the pieces. For example, if a blouse is needed in the ensemble, you must make it.

Exhibitor must select at least six or more of the following skill options:

Facings	Collars	Fasteners as listed in previous years plus: Buttons/buttonholes – machine, hand, bound
Waistbands	Cuffs	
Casings	Trims	
Gathers	Linings	
Darts	Lapels	
Pleats		
Sleeves	New type of hemming technique	

### Pockets

Welted	Bound	Patch	Set in seam
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### New Seam constructions such as:

Flat felled	French seam	Welted	Topstitched
Machine stretch stitch			

**Fabrics** are also included as a skill choice, and include:

Nap fabrics	Matching plaids	One-way directional materials
Quilted fabrics	Knits	Sheer weight
Loosely woven	Wool	Silk
Sequined		

No longer required to bring a sample of hand-stitched hem.