



Lesson 5

Presser Feet, Zippers, Bias Binding, Gathering

Presser Feet

Most of the time, you'll use the universal foot that came with your machine. But, occasionally a special presser foot makes your sewing much easier.

So many presser feet...there are more presser feet than we can go over in this class, but I find that I can do all I need to do with 5 or 6 feet total. (For fun, on the second page of this handout you can look over a chart with a great deal more.)

Common Presser Feet



1. Universal Foot

The foot you will use most of the time. Can be used to sew a straight stitch, zigzag and all the decorative stitches on your machine



5. Buttonhole Foot

Yours may look slightly different, but they all do the same thing. Create a buttonhole! Your manual will be invaluable in helping to use this foot.



2. Zipper/Piping Foot

Used to sew close to the edge of a zipper or when piping. You can move the needle to either the right or left side of the foot, in order to get closer.



6. Walking Foot

Also called an Even Feed Foot. Great for sewing through many layers of fabric, like when quilting, and for sewing knit fabrics.

It keeps the layers from slipping and puckering and keeps knits from stretching out.



3. Invisible Zipper Foot

Used specifically for installing invisible zippers, there is a groove on the back side where the zipper teeth fit.



7. Teflon Foot

Great for moving over "sticky" fabrics like leather, pleather or vinyl.



4. Straight Stitch Foot

Only sews a straight line, but does it really well! Good for quilting



8. Pintuck Foot

Used to make narrow pintucks when used in conjunction with your double needle.

Your homework:

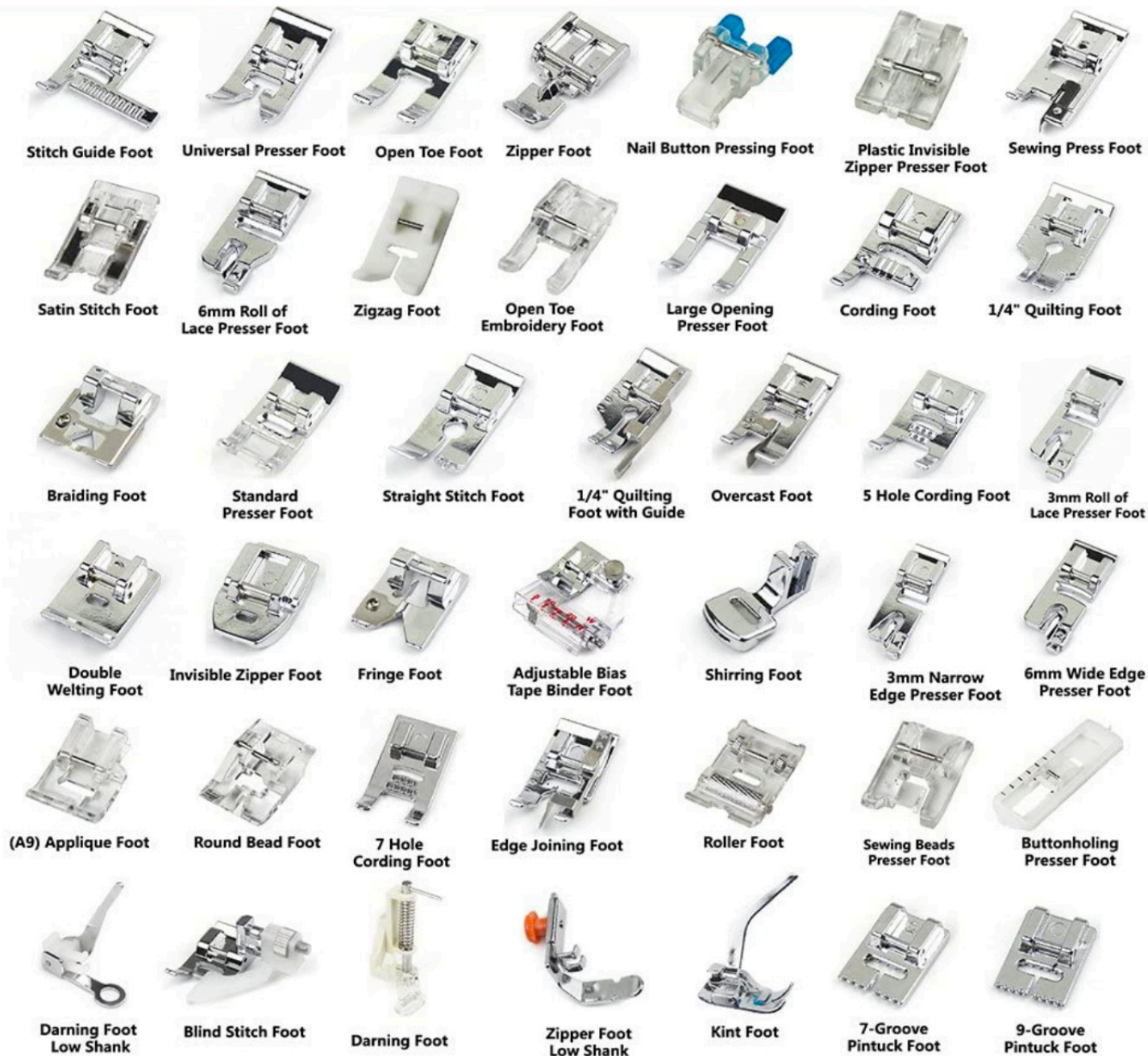
- Look over the presser feet that you have. Determine what they do. Maybe try them out!
- Practice sewing a zipper on fabric. Use a zipper foot, or if you have an invisible zipper, use the invisible zipper foot. Bonus, try installing both.
- Practice sewing buttonholes with your machine and buttonhole presser foot...make sure to reference your manual. Bonus, use your manual to learn how to sew a button onto fabric using your machine. (yes, you can do that too!)
- Practice gathering fabric, using the three basting stitches method.
- Practice applying bias binding as a finishing technique and practice finishing your seams with a variety of finishing methods. Use the Seam Finishes handout and video on the webpage.

For next week:

- We'll be making a zippered and lined pouch. Assemble the materials needed! (see the materials list for specifics)

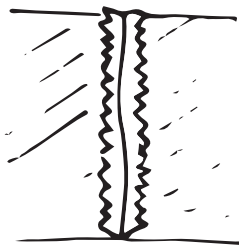
Getting to Know Your Sewing Machine

More Presser Feet (as well as some we went over on the 1st page)



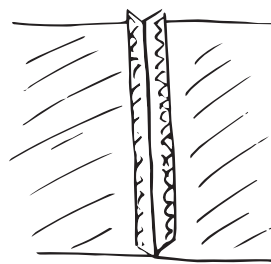


Seam Finishes



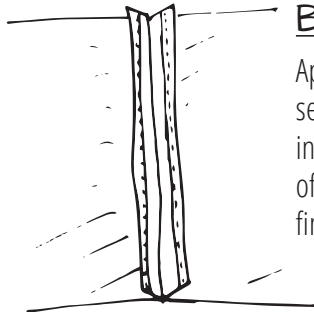
Pinked Seams

Simply cut the edges of the seam allowance with pinking shears. You see this method on a lot of vintage dresses



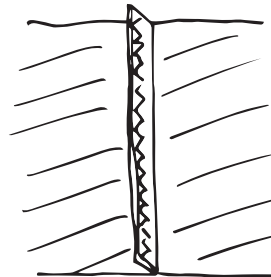
Zig Zag or Serge Seams

After sewing the seams, stitch a wide zig zag or mock overlock stitch along each edge or serge them.



Bound Seams

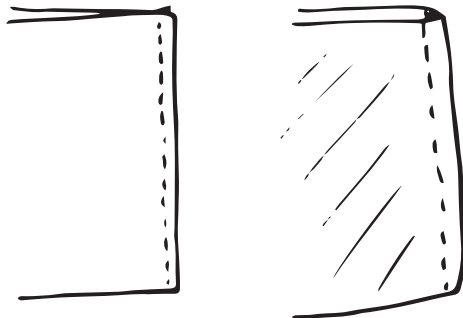
Apply bias tape to both seam edges, sandwiching the unfinished edges of the seam inside the finished bias tape.



Or on lighter material you can bring the seams together and use a zig zag, mock overlock stitch on the edge or serge them together. This is too bulky for thick fabric

French Seams

Sew the seam with the wrong sides of the fabric together, using a 1/4 inch seam. Trim any rogue threads and even out the seam. Press the seam open and flip the garment around so that right sides are together. Sew an additional seam (using a 1/4 or 3/8 inch seam allowance (depending on your pattern) , sandwiching the raw edge in between the two seams.



Mock French Seams

Particularly useful on the sleeve hole, as a french seam can be difficult to do there. After sewing the seam normally, fold the edges of the seam allowance inward and bring both seam allowances together.

Stitch a zig zag seam through both seam allowances, encasing the raw edges inside.



Flat Felled Seams

Grade one seam allowance to half the width of the other. Press the wider seam allowance in, towards the other seam allowance, 1/4 inch. Wrap the wider seam allowance around the narrow seam allowance, with the raw edge of the wider seam allowance behind. Press the seam allowances in place and stitch a straight stitch through the seam allowance and the garment. You can fell the seam on the inside of the garment or sew you grament together with wrong sides together and fell the seams to the front...like with blue jeans.

