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Tricia Waddell and Katrina Loving demonstrate how to reinforce seams using stitch in the ditch and top stitch.



Reinforced Seams:

[Display projects: *Loopy Elephant* designed by Heidi Boyd (double-stitched seams for loops) and *Vintage Tablecloth Dress* designed by Paula Corley (topstitched/edge stitched seams) for *Stitch* magazine]

There are several ways to reinforce seams on children's clothing, accessories, and/or toys for a more secure seam that is less likely to weaken with wear and tear.

1. **Topstitched Seams:** Topstitched seams can be used as a decorative element as well as reinforcement. Simply press both seam allowances to one side, then topstitch on one side of the seam, catching both seam allowances. This type of topstitching is usually done toward the back of the garment (so if you are stitching near a side seam, press seam allowances toward the back of the garment and then topstitch on the back piece of the garment).

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2. *Edge stitched Seams:* Edge stitching is another reinforcement option that can also be used decoratively, if desired. Edge stitching is often seen around the top edge of handbags or totes, where it helps to reinforce the seam between the shell and lining and/or adds a second line of stitching to secure handles, flaps, or tabs. Edge stitching can also be used on garments to reinforce seams near straps or sleeves, on princess seams, hems, or any other area where stress may be placed on a seam.
 3. *Double-Stitched Seams:* Double-stitched seams are often used on stuffed toys, blankets, or other accessories for young children. These are especially useful in areas where there may be things like loops of ribbon sewn into an edge for little fingers to play with. The reinforced seam helps prevent the seams from pulling apart and keeps loops or tags from being pulled out during play. To make a double-stitched seam, simply sew the seam as normal, then sew another seam, parallel to the first, and about 1/8" (3 mm) away, within the seam allowances (make sure the second seam catches any elements that will protrude from the seam, like tags).

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