

## **Fast Finished Seam for Shorts**

Jessie is making a pair of shorts from woven fabric. He wants a fast and strong seam with a finished edge. Jessie has a 4 thread serger that he may use to construct his shorts. Help him select a seam that will be fast and strong. Rate the samples from best to worst for his project.

Seam samples to construct and mount for display as numbered. Displays may include written description.

- 1. Seam Sewn on Standard Sewing Machine with a 3 Thread Serged Edge Finish**
- 2. 2 Thread Serger Seam**
- 3. 4 Thread Serger Seam**
- 4. Seam Sewn on Standard Sewing Machine, Pinked Edge Finish**

**Rationale: Fast Finished Seam for Shorts**

**Rank: 3 1 2 4**

**Cuts: 4 7 2**

(Hornel scores, for online score calculations see:

<http://www.worldaccessnet.com/%7Enormans/hornel.html>)

3 Sample 3 is made with a 4 thread serger seam. This is the fastest and strongest seam because the serger seams and finishes in one fast step. The 4 thread finish has two threads that make a double-stitched seam plus additional 2 threads that over-edge the raw edge of the seam allowance for a clean finish. The seam has some give for the crotch area and the double needle will make it strong.

1 Sample 1 is made with the seam edge finished separately on the serger and seamed on a regular machine. It will take a little longer to serge the edge of the seam, but this will finish the seam. The straight stitch seam does not give so it may pop in the crotch

area. The serged edge finish will offer some extra protection if this happens. A three thread serger finished seam is stronger than a 2 thread serger finished seam. It has stretch and if the tension is balanced, the seam will not show excessively when stressed. A 2 thread overcast edge will easily show ladder-like stitching when pulled apart.

2 Sample 2 is made with the seam and edge finished with a 2 thread serger overlock stitch. This is a very fast seam and it has a finished edge. It is a weak seam as it will pull apart too easily to reveal ladder-like stitches from the right side. A two thread overlock stitch should not be used as a seam for most garments, especially shorts. The two thread overlock is best used for a seam finish with regular straight stitched seams on the conventional sewing machine in low stress areas. This seam was placed over sample 4 because it has a bit more stretch than a straight seam done on a conventional sewing machine and it takes very little time.

4 Sample 4 is made with a pinked seam finish and seamed on a regular machine. This seam may pop in the crotch area but there is no extra protection as in Sample 1 plus the pinked edge will take a little longer to do than the serged edge alone in sample 2. It is rank last because it is not quite as strong as sample 2 and it takes longer to do.