

Best Use of Pinking Shears

Jaime got a pair of pinking shears for her birthday. Help her choose the best way to use them. Rank her choices from best to worst.

1. To finish seams on firmly woven fabric
2. For cutting fabric pieces from paper pattern pieces
3. For trimming and notching curved seams on fabric craft projects and lightweight fabrics
4. For cutting paper shapes for scrapbooking

Rank: 1 3 2 4

Cuts: 3 4 8

(Hornel scores, for online score calculations see:

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

References: *Sewing Skills Checklist*, Fun with Clothes (for ages 5-8)

Reasons:

1. This is the best way for Jaime to use pinking shears. When she makes garments, she needs to finish the seams of fabrics that ravel. Pinking shears can be used to quickly finish the seams of tightly woven fabrics.
3. This is the second best way to use pinking shears. It is better than using them to cut out the fabric pieces when she is getting ready to sew. Pinking shears can be used to finish and trim curved seams on craft projects and lightweight fabrics, as they will notch the curve, allowing it to curve smoothly. On heavier fabrics, it is best to grade the seams and clip or notch the curves.
2. This choice would be better than # 4. Jaime should use the pinking shears on fabric but using them to cut out her fabric pieces would not give her a very accurate and smooth edge to follow with the seam guide on the sewing machine.
4. Jaime should not use a good, new pair of pinking shears to trim paper for scrapbooks. She should buy a pair of scissors that make fancy cuts on paper for scrapbooking or use an old pair of pinking shears.